

don't forget to **live**



“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

(James 1:2-4 - English Standard Version)

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST **Bible Class Study Guide**

Prepared by Ray Reynolds



Lesson #1 **Make Your Life Count**

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST
Lesson by Ray Reynolds

Text: Ephesians 2:4-10

Introduction: Are you fulfilling your destiny? You have only one life to live. You've been given your life as a gift. No one else has your version. No one else has the same qualities, characteristics, and life experiences. You are unique. One of a kind. But, life passes by quickly. A Christian should seek to live life to the fullest. If you are a Christian, you have been given a new life, so don't forget to live! Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Love The Life God Gave You

Ephesians 2:4 says, "But God's mercy is great, and He loved us very much."

II. Live The Life God Wants For You

Ephesians 2:5 says, "Though we were spiritually dead because of the things we did against God, He gave us new life with Christ. You have been saved by God's grace."

III. Look To The Future God Wants To Write About You

Ephesians 2:6-7 says, "And he raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with him in the heavens. He did this for those in Christ Jesus so that for all future time he could show the very great riches of his grace by being kind to us in Christ Jesus."

IV. Learn To Embrace The Gift God Has Given You

Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "I mean that you have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God. It was not the result of your own efforts, so you cannot brag about it."

V. Listen To The Plan God Has For You

Ephesians 2:10 says, "God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing."

Conclusion: Everyone is given an opportunity to live their life to the fullest. Sadly, we often settle for mediocre. James says, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (James 1:2-4). Nothing should get in our way! We have been called to fulfill our destiny. We need to leave a legacy that last for generations. Are you ready to make your life count? Are you ready to live?



Lesson #2 **Help Those In Need**

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Text: Deuteronomy 14:28-29

Introduction: Are you fulfilling your destiny? You have only one life to live. You've been given your life as a gift. No one else has your version. No one else has the same qualities, characteristics, and life experiences. You are unique. One of a kind. But, life passes by quickly. A Christian should seek to live life to the fullest. If you are a Christian, you have been given a new life, so don't forget to live! One of the things we should be doing is helping those in need. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Christians Should Help The Strangers

Leviticus 19:33-34 says, "Do not mistreat foreigners living in your country, but treat them just as you treat your own citizens. Love foreigners as you love yourselves, because you were foreigners one time in Egypt. I am the LORD your God."

II. Christians Should Help The Poor

Luke 4:16-21 says, "Jesus traveled to Nazareth, where he had grown up. On the Sabbath day he went to the synagogue, as he always did, and stood up to read. The book of Isaiah the prophet was given to him. He opened the book and found the place where this is written: 'The Lord has put his Spirit in me, because he appointed me to tell the Good News to the poor. He has sent me to tell the captives they are free and to tell the blind that they can see again (**Isaiah 61:1**). God sent me to free those who have been treated unfairly (**Isaiah 58:6**), and to announce the time when the Lord will show his kindness' (**Isaiah 61:2**). Jesus closed the book, gave it back to the assistant, and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue was watching Jesus closely. He began to say to them, 'While you heard these words just now, they were coming true!'"

III. Christians Should Help The Hungry

Matthew 25:34-40 says, "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

IV. Christians Should Help The Orphans & Widows

James 1:27 says, "Religion that God the Father accepts as pure and without fault is this: caring for orphans or widows who need help, and keeping yourself free from the world's evil influence."

V. Christians Should Follow The Example of Their Mothers

Consider the **Proverbs 31** woman (**Proverbs 31:10-31**).

Conclusion: Everyone is given an opportunity to live their life to the fullest. Sadly, we often settle for mediocre. We could meet these needs if we followed the example of our mother (**Proverbs 31**). We need to find our place in the kingdom. We have been called to fulfill our destiny. We need to leave a legacy that will last for generations. Are you ready to live?



Lesson #3

Break Down The Walls

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Lesson by Ray Reynolds

Text: *Ephesians 2:12-16*

Introduction: Are you fulfilling your destiny? You have only one life to live. You've been given your life as a gift. No one else has your version. No one else has the same qualities, characteristics, and life experiences. You are unique. One of a kind. Don't forget to live! One of the things we should be doing is breaking down walls. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Consider the Samaritans

Acts 1:8-9 says, "When the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world."

II. Consider the Ethiopians

Acts 8:27-29 says, "On the road he saw a man from Ethiopia, a eunuch. He was an important officer in the service of Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians; he was responsible for taking care of all her money. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship. Now, as he was on his way home, he was sitting in his chariot reading from the Book of Isaiah, the prophet. The Spirit said to Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.'"

III. Consider the Jews

Acts 9:17-19 says, "So Ananias went to the house of Judas. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road on your way here. He sent me so that you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he was able to see again! Then Saul got up and was baptized. After he ate some food, his strength returned."

IV. Consider the Gentiles

Acts 10:44-48 says, "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 'Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days."

V. Consider the Pagans

Acts 17:16-22 says, "While Paul was waiting for Silas and Timothy in Athens, he was troubled because he saw that the city was full of idols. In the synagogue, he talked with the Jews and the Greeks who worshiped God. He also talked every day with people in the marketplace. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers argued with him, saying, 'This man doesn't know what he is talking about. What is he trying to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be telling us about some other gods,' because Paul was telling them about Jesus and his rising from the dead. They got Paul and took him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said, 'Please explain to us this new idea you have been teaching. The things you are saying are new to us, and we want to know what this teaching means.' (All the people of Athens and those from other countries who lived there always used their time to talk about the newest ideas.) Then Paul stood before the meeting of the Areopagus and said, "People of Athens, I can see you are very religious in all things."

Conclusion: Everyone is given an opportunity to live their life to the fullest. Sadly, we often settle for mediocre. Have you noticed any consistency with our study today? We need to find our place in the kingdom. We have been called to fulfill our destiny. We need to leave a legacy that will last for generations. Are you ready to live?



Lesson #4 **Do The Right Thing**

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Lesson by Ray Reynolds

Text: Acts 6:1-7

Introduction: Are you fulfilling your destiny? You have only one life to live. You've been given your life as a gift. No one else has the same qualities, characteristics, and life experiences as you. You are unique. One of a kind. Don't forget to live! We need to start doing the right thing. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Right Heart

Acts 6:1 says, "The number of followers was growing. But during this same time, the Greek-speaking followers had an argument with the other followers."

II. The Right Mission

Acts 6:1 says, "The Greek-speaking widows were not getting their share of the food that was given out every day."

III. The Right Action

Acts 6:2-4 says, "The twelve apostles called the whole group of followers together and said, 'It is not right for us to stop our work of teaching God's word in order to serve tables. So, brothers and sisters, choose seven of your own men who are good, full of the Spirit and full of wisdom. We will put them in charge of this work. Then we can continue to pray and to teach the word of God.'"

IV. The Right Leaders

Acts 6:5-6 says, "The whole group liked the idea, so they chose these seven men: Stephen (a man with great faith and full of the Holy Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas (a man from Antioch who had become a follower of the Jewish religion). Then they put these men before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them."

V. The Right Result

Acts 6:7 says, "The word of God was continuing to spread. The group of followers in Jerusalem increased, and a great number of the Jewish priests believed and obeyed."

Conclusion: Everyone is given an opportunity to live their life to the fullest. Sadly, we often settle for mediocre. We need to find our place in the kingdom. We have been called to fulfill our destiny. Will you have the strength to do what is right? We need to leave a legacy that will last for generations. Are you ready to live?



Lesson #5 **Don't Ever Give Up**

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST
Lesson by Ray Reynolds

Text: *Hebrews 12:1-3*

Introduction: Are you fulfilling your destiny? You have only one life to live. You've been given your life as a gift. No one else has the same qualities, characteristics, and life experiences as you. You are unique. One of a kind. Don't forget to live! And, don't ever give up! Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Find Your Purpose

Hebrews 12:1 says, "We are surrounded by a great cloud of people whose lives tell us what faith means. So let us run the race that is before us and never give up."

II. Eliminate Your Excuses

Hebrews 12:1 says, "We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way and the sin that so easily holds us back."

III. Accept Your Responsibility

Hebrews 12:2 says, "Let us look only to Jesus, the One who began our faith and who makes it perfect."

IV. Develop Your Stamina

Hebrews 12:2 says, "He suffered death on the cross. But he accepted the shame as if it were nothing because of the joy that God put before him. And now he is sitting at the right side of God's throne."

V. Know Your Incentives

Hebrews 12:3 says, "Think about Jesus' example. He held on while wicked people were doing evil things to him. So do not get tired and stop trying."

Conclusion: Everyone is given an opportunity to live their life to the fullest. Sadly, we often settle for mediocre. James says, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (James 1:2-4). Nothing should get in our way! We need to find our place in the kingdom. We have been called to fulfill our destiny. We need to leave a legacy that will last for generations. Are you ready to live?