

Five Questions that Must be Answered

Lesson 3—What is Your Life Objective?*

OVERVIEW

Background Bible Passage: Acts 26:12-18

Key Verse: Philippians 3:7-11; Matthew 6:33

BEFORE CLASS

Preparation: *Your preparation will determine the direction your class will go.*

- What is your life objective?
- Since you were saved, how has Jesus changed your life objective?
- Study and prepare your lesson so that you are familiar with the teaching outline.
- Pray for each student by name.
- Use the Contact 1-2-3 system to the right to follow up on students who have recently missed on Sunday morning.

CONTACT 1-2-3 SYSTEM

CONTACT 1--The first time a student is absent, give him a call.

CONTACT 2--Following the second absence, send him a postcard.

CONTACT 3-- The third week they are absent, pay him a visit.

THINK ABOUT IT: What does it say to a student when they miss multiple weeks in a row and are never contacted? It says, "It really doesn't matter if you're here or not." Small things communicate great messages. Let the three "small" things above communicate that you care and miss your students when they are absent.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Opening Questions

- *What are some goals that you have for this school year? (Go around the room)*
- *What are some of your goals in life? (Go around the room)*
- *Imagine yourself 10 years from now. What does your life look like? What will you be doing?*
- *In your dreams/goals, how does God fit into the picture? Is your whole life wrapped up in Him, or does He have just a part? Does He have any place at all, just an afterthought?*

BIBLE LESSON

SAY: We are going to take a look at the life of the Apostle Paul and his life objectives.

Have everyone turn to Acts 26:12-18

Background: Paul has been arrested and is now standing before Herod Agrippa. Paul is giving Herod Agrippa an account of his life, both before and after meeting Jesus on the Damascus Road.

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Acts 26:12-18

- *What was Paul's life objective/purpose? (v.18)*
- *Who gave him this purpose? (God commanded it; look at what Jesus says to Paul – “for this purpose I have appeared to you...”)*

SAY: God had a specific plan for Paul's life; He saved him for a purpose. In the same way, God has a specific plan for your life.

SAY: The moment Paul met Jesus, his life objective changed. Before meeting Jesus, Paul's life objective was to persecute Christians and stop the spread of the Gospel (v. 9-11). It was completely against the cause of Christ. But after Jesus appeared to him on the Road to Damascus, Paul's life objective changed.

- *When we meet Jesus, what sort of change should there be in our life objectives? Does your life objective reflect that of a person who is following Christ?*

SAY: I want you to notice another thing about Paul's life objective. As we said before, Paul was on trial for preaching the Gospel. Obviously, Paul's life objective didn't match the rest of the world's.

- *Does the way you are living your life look more like Paul's life or more like the world's?*
- *Before Jesus appeared to Paul, he spent his life trying to pull people away from Christ. After becoming a Christian, Paul spent his life trying to lead people to a personal relationship with Christ. Is the way you are living your life right now leading others to Christ or is it pushing them away?*

KEY VERSE

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Philippians 3:7-11

- *In this letter to the people at Phillipi, what does Paul say is his goal in life? (Knowing Christ)*

● *How does his life reflect that he truly wanted to know Christ? (He put his relationship with Jesus before everything else – “I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ...” v.8)*

Listen to the following story:

One night, after a grand performance, a reporter interviewed the featured violinist, saying, “Ms., you undoubtedly are the world’s greatest concert violinist! How did you become the world’s greatest concert violinist?”

“Planned neglect!” she quickly answered.

“Planned neglect? What do you mean?” he pressed.

“I mean that throughout my entire life, I have planned to neglect everything that didn’t help me become the world’s greatest concert violinist.”¹

● *What are some things in your life (these could even be good things such as friends or sports) that you know you need to “plan to neglect” in order to have a closer walk with Christ?*

SAY: Everything in life is either pulling you away from Christ or pulling you into a closer walk with Him.

● *Are the things that you are doing (specific friends, activities, etc.) pulling you closer or pushing you away?*

SAY: When you get to Heaven and stand before God, He won’t ask your GPA or your track record or the amount of money in your bank account. The Bible is clear about what God wants for our lives. Listen to what Jesus says:

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Matthew 6:33

● *What do you think Jesus meant by “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness”? (To seek first His kingdom – to put building up God’s kingdom first – the Great Commission, the Great Commandment; to seek first His righteousness – to strive in all things to be like Jesus.)*

Listen to this comparison between two students:

Susan is a Christian, but she tries to squeeze in a quiet time or share her faith with a friend as long as it doesn’t conflict with a date or studying for a test. Dan, on the other hand, seeks God first and has blocked out major chunks of his schedule to focus on those things the Lord has been clear about. He then uses wisdom about how to use his other time. He studies (and makes pretty good grades!), plays sports, and goes out with his friends, but even those pursuits he engages for the glory of God and the opportunity to share Christ.²

● *Which of these two students are you most like?*

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- *Which one do you want to be like? Why?*
- *What things are going to have to change in your life in order to have that kind of relationship with God?*

WRAP IT UP

SAY: This week, take some time to think about God's purpose for your life and decide how to put that purpose first during this next school year.

Prayer Time

Pray specifically that your students would live a life of purpose that is focused on the things of God.

List prayer requests below and on the back of this page and pray for your students throughout the week. *Ask if any of your students want to pray today.*

Prayer Requests

*This Lesson was written and developed by Sarah Underwood, August 2006.

¹Steve Shadrach, *The Fuel and the Flame: 10 Keys to Ignite Your College Campus for Jesus Christ* (Waynesboro, GA: Authentic Media, 2003), 81.

²Ibid., 79.