

THE 49-DAY JOURNEY

A Higher Perspective To Living A Biblically Based Life



SESSION 7 - Seeing Above - Living Beyond




We have arrived at the final week of our Periscope experience. We want to close by considering our purpose on this earth from an eternal perspective. We know that it will be far better for us to depart and be with Christ, but God has a purpose for us remaining on earth for a brief period.?

FAST FACTS

Let's consider one final area of information gathered from our 2020 survey of religious beliefs and behaviors. Consider the following question: How does Christianity relate to other world religions? Select from the following options.?


- Serves the same function with only minor differences.
- Focuses on living after the example of Jesus Christ
- Teaches that reconciliation with God is a gift of God accessed by faith not by works
- Promotes love for other people more deeply than other religions.
- Differs based on misconceptions about God and/or history.
- Not sure how it relates.

The primary distinction of Christianity from other world religions is that the only way for people to be reconciled to God is not through any works we can do, but only by turning to the mercy of God to “be born



SESSION 7 THEME

Living in community, we are to proclaim the wonders of Him who has saved us and called us into His marvelous kingdom. We proclaim Him through excellent behavior, right relationships, and our verbal testimonies to our hope in Christ.



again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Pet 1:3). In our survey only one in three born-again Protestants under 40 selected this third answer as the primary difference between Christianity and other religions. The second and fourth answer may be true, but the heart of Christianity is our eternal salvation through faith in Jesus.

PRIOR TO THIS WEEK'S SESSION

- Participate in the experience by reading a chapter a day in your Periscope book. This week the assignment is Chapters 43 through 49.
- Read/Listen to the daily email messages you will receive from Periscope this week.
- Read this week's Facilitator's Guide Session 7 in preparation for leading the session. Mark the time you want to start each major part of the outline. Within each activity, mark the questions that you want to have your group discuss.

LEADING THE SMALL GROUP SESSION

Begin with whatever fellowship time (if any) you normally include in your small group time. Begin the session by asking a member of the group to lead in a prayer specifically asking for God's presence and leadership during this time. Pray that we will be ready to respond to God's purpose for our lives; that we will respond with an attitude of obedience and joy at the opportunity to serve our Heavenly Father.



Press **Play** on this Thought Tickler Video – *Once Captive Sketch*. About 3 min. Once it starts press **Pause** when you reach the questions at the beginning.

The Questions below in **Blue** appear exactly as they do in the videos. The Material in brackets are additional information to help you lead the discussions.

Opening Warm Up Questions - Session 7

1. Let's think about the purpose for different professions in life. What about a doctor? A policeman? A Navy Seal? An accountant? Is it possible to be in these professions and adopt a different purpose?

Press **Play** to continue the video. At the end the Discussion Questions will appear.

Group Discussion Questions

1. How can we be freed from the domain of darkness and yet still be living as captives?
2. What aspects of our lives could have a truly lasting impact on the lives of others?
3. What are some specific things you have done that you feel will make an eternal difference?

BODY OF SESSION

35 - 55 minutes



Play the teaser video for Session 7 entitled *Work Out Your Salvation*. Press **Pause** for the Questions. It lasts about 3 minutes.

Opening Group Discussion Questions

1. Our host looked the part of a fitness fanatic but was not really keeping fit.
 - Can you think of other activities where people may be more interested in looking the part rather than actually living it?
2. Can we be reading the Bible, praying, going to church and still be missing out on living a purposeful life in Christ?
 - Are you likely to accomplish your purpose without having any idea what it is?

Close the Video Window



Press this **Play Button** to start the Teaching Video for Session 7 entitled *Our True Purpose*. **SEEING ABOVE – LIVING BEYOND**

WARNING: 1) **Be prepared to Press Pause when the First Set of Discussion Questions appear after the 4 minute mark. (There are 2 sets of Questions)** 2) **Press pause at the Second.** 3) **When you complete PRESS PLAY and let it run to the final set of Questions near the end (also 2 sets of Questions)** **Rewind if necessary.**

Group Discussion Questions

1. God has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. • How can we act as ambassadors for Christ where we live, work and play?

2. Read Philippians 3:8-17 What about Paul's example do you want to emulate?
- What did Paul want to encourage others to do also?
 - How does "pressing on to toward the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" lead us to consider life from an eternal point of view?
 - Can we press on toward this goal and at the same time conform to the culture? In what ways?

[Paul's motivation and power is described in Philippians 3:8-17 where he encourages us to join in following his example.]

3. Read Colossians 1:28-29. Paul addresses a similar objective in here where he says he is working to present every person complete in Christ striving according to Christ's power working within him.
- How could we strive according to Christ's power within us?

4. Read Pet. 2:9. What does this passage say happened to us in Christ?

- What are we to do now that we are living in his marvelous light?

[In 1 Peter 2:9, Peter tells us that we are a people called out in accordance with God's plan described in Scripture "*to proclaim the virtues of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*" What does this passage say happened to us? What does that mean to you? What does this passage say we are to do with that knowledge?]

5. Read 1 Pet. 2:5. What does it take for a stone to become part of a house?

- What does it take for a stone to become a house? [make sure people list 'a foundation' and 'other stones' and 'a builder'].
- How does this apply to our lives as Christians?
- Are we called to fulfill our purpose on our own or as part of the body of Christ?

[In 1 Peter 2:5, Peter writes, "*you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*"]

PRESS PLAY on the Video to continue. 1) The questions at the end have 2 sets. 2) HIT PAUSE when you reach the questions near the end. 3) When you complete those questions, PRESS PLAY and let it run to the end. After completing those questions, close the video window. Rewind if necessary.

Group Discussion Questions

6. Read 1 Pet. 2:11-12. • What are two key behaviors listed in these verses that are a part of our proclamation? • How do abstaining from fleshly lusts and keeping our behavior excellent relate to our freedom in Christ? • What are some ways in your life that you feel called to keep your behavior excellent?

[Immediately after stating our purpose is to proclaim the virtues of Christ, 1st Peter 2:11-12 states, *“Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.”* We know these are part of our proclamation because the unbelievers will observe them.]

7. Read 1 Pet. 2:18-20. Is this an area where you find it hard to proclaim Christ?
• How can showing our employers respect and working heartily as unto the Lord be a witness to our bosses, our co-workers, our employees?

[Peter goes on to talk about focusing on right relationships as a part of our proclamation. In 1 Peter 2:18-20, he addresses our relationship with our employer]

8. Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. What do you need to do to be prepared to make a defense?
• Do you have to be a seminary graduate to give a defense? • What if you are asked something you are not prepared to answer? • What does it mean to give a defense with gentleness and respect?

[Our behavior and relationships draw them toward Christ, but we also need to be prepared to give a defense of our beliefs. As stated in 1st Peter 3:15-16: *“Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”*]

9. Read Colossians 4:5-6. How can your speech make people thirsty for the gospel?

[Paul says in Colossians 4:5-6, *“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”* Salt makes people thirsty.]

Close the Video Window

CLOSING THOUGHTS **8 - 15 minutes**

As believers we do not need to be captive to Satan and the world any longer. Instead, we can be truly free by binding ourselves to the one who set us free. In so doing, we can now offer freedom to those who are captive in the domain of darkness and those Christians who are culturally captive

Let's pray that we will daily recognize our freedom through being bound to Jesus Christ. We can fully experience Christ working through us as we devote ourselves to God's purpose for us. Let us join with our brothers and sisters in proclaiming the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Pray that we can understand how to make this mission a part of our everyday lives.

FOLLOW UP TO SMALL GROUP SESSION

Pray for any prayer requests or concerns brought up in your group.

Thank you for your faithfulness in facilitating this group.

Once again, please check out upPeriscope.com for information on follow up activities. Also, you may want to visit probe.org to access a vast resource of articles on apologetic and Christian worldview topics.

