

Spend five days this week living with the weekend message.

Touchdown! Sept. 22–23, 2007

How do people and churches score points in God's economy?

- 1) Surrender their lives to Christ!
- 2) Take courageous steps of obedience to God's truth!
- 3) Share Christ's love in their communities through acts of kindness!

Acts 2:40-41

³Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!" ⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.

1 Peter 1:21-23

Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. ²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-20

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

1 PETER 4:9-11

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

DAY 1

Read Acts 2:40–41. This early church scene is about people making a faith commitment to Jesus. Have you made this same commitment to Christ? Write down the main points of your salvation story. If not, what is keeping you from trusting Jesus?

Who do you know that needs the love of Jesus? List 3–4 people. How can you be used by God in these relationships? List these beside each name.

God uses His people in the lives of non-believers to help them know how much they are loved by Him. Spend some time talking with God and listening for how he wants you to influence your H.I.T. (hearts in transition) list. Commit to step out and do what God tells you.

DAY 2

Read I Peter 1:21–23 Great verses on salvation and its result (obedience). What correlation do these verses make between your obedience to Christ and your impact on community? How can your personal steps of obedience to Jesus affect your relationships with others?

Are there relationships in your life that are broken to some degree because of someone not following what God wants them to do? Spend some time listening to God asking Him what He wants you to do in each situation.

DAY 3

Read II Corinthians 5:17–20. What are your initial thoughts from these verses? Who took the initiative in your relationship with God (check out verse 18)?

You are an ambassador with the ministry of reconciliation. How can this fact, help give you confidence? Inherent in being an ambassador is leaving your home country. How can you step out and help lost people experience God's love for them?

DAY 4

Read I Peter 4:9–11. Peter gets real practical in his advice. Re-write the verses in your own words.

Serving others is a key principle throughout scripture. Why does God want us to serve others? List 2–5 skills, talents, or spiritual gifts that God has given you. (Stumped? Ask a trusted friend for help)

He doesn't give you these to have them remain dormant (v. 10). List 5 ways you can serve others that line up with how God has equipped you to serve. Ensure that they stir your passions. Commit to do 1 in the next month. Make the plans today!

DAY 5

Re-read all the verses for this week and look back over your answers from Days 1–4; what comes to your mind as you re-read these scriptures and your previous thoughts? What might be one (or more) thing(s) that you could do in response to His Word? Be specific.

What specific plan can you make as a next step? (Think actions like: Call Discoveryland to check out serving opportunities or discuss with your family ways you can join Southside Mission in serving the poor . . .)

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