

Lesson 9 / January 31, 2010

# What Will You Do With Your Life?

for use as

## STEP 1

### Lesson 9 Focus:

We carry out our mission by following Scripture.

### Lesson 9 Bible Basis:

Luke 4:16-22

**Students will think about their life missions and consider life-situations that might interrupt those missions.**

#### Materials:

Before class, write several short phrases on slips of paper describing events that could happen in your students' lives in the future. (For example, "You graduate from college," "You decide not to go to college," "You need surgery and have to pay huge hospital bills," "You get married when you are 21," "You get married when you are 35.") Be as creative as you wish, and perhaps throw in some funny or outrageous circumstances to make your opening activity more interesting.

- ▶ **When you think of your mission in life, what's the first thing that comes to your mind?** (*Allow a few minutes for several volunteers to share. If some students don't feel like they have a mission in life, you might ask them if they have any goals that they would like to accomplish.*)
- ▶ **How do you determine your mission in life?**
- ▶ **What will happen to your mission in life if something unexpected happens to you?**

We don't always know what is going to happen in the future. Consider how you would respond if one of the following events happened to you.

Have each student blindly pick one of the slips of paper you prepared before class. Give students an opportunity to comment on how that circumstance would affect their mission in life. If time permits, ask for volunteers to create an unrehearsed skit that includes each of them reacting to their unforeseen circumstance and predicting how it will affect their life's mission.

Throughout life, many of us will experience all kinds of circumstances that are unexpected. If we don't have a clear idea of what's important in life, we can get thrown off track. Today, we'll take a look at what Jesus used to guide his life's mission, and we'll learn how we can do the same.

Lesson 9  
**Memory Verse**

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

—Matthew 6:33

(Optional idea for starting class: Download the Game of Life to play on your mobile phone. This attention-getter will help illustrate some of the unexpected circumstances that students might face along the path of life. This game will work best if your class is small enough for students to gather around and see what you are doing. Better still if you pass the phone around and let them join in.)

To download the game,  
visit <http://www.eamobile.com/mobile-games/the-game-of-life>  
For a demo/review of the application, go to  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6eUm2XHCdg>

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *Middle School Teacher's Guide*. Your Step 4 appears below.)

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# What Will You Do With Your Life?

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## STEP 4

### Lesson 9 Focus:

We carry out our mission by following Scripture.

### Lesson 9 Bible Basis:

Luke 4:16-22

**Students will internalize some big-picture guidance straight from Scripture and apply it to their lives.**

It's amazing to think that when Jesus stood up to read Scripture in the synagogue that day, He was reading about Himself, even though the prophet Isaiah had written those words hundreds of years before.




But wait. You can do the same thing! There are words in Scripture that are written for you and to you, even though they were written hundreds of years before you were born. These words will help you to know what God wants you to do with your life. And when circumstances come your way that you didn't expect, the Scriptures can help you keep on course and accomplish the mission for which God made you.

Have two volunteers read the following verses out loud:

**Matthew 22:34-40:** Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

And, today's memory verse:

**Matthew 6:33:** "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

-  **How do you think these verses can help you fulfill your life's mission?**
-  **If you face some unexpected things in your life, how could these verses help keep you on track toward accomplishing your life's mission?**
-  **Can you think of any other verses in the Bible that might also help you figure out and carry out your life's mission?**

Lesson 9  
**Memory Verse**

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

—Matthew 6:33

OPTIONAL APPLICATION SECTION:

If you haven't yet addressed the devastation that occurred in Haiti after a 7.0 earthquake rocked that island nation a few weeks ago now is a good time to do so.

We have been talking about the direction that Scripture gives us for carrying out our life's mission. If it's true that God's Word applies to every area of our lives, then now is a good time to put it into practice.

▶ **How might the verses we have studied today apply to the situation in Haiti? How can we seek God's kingdom there? How can we love our neighbors as ourselves?**

Close by praying for the people of Haiti and for the students in your class.

Additional resource:

Dan Woolley was following his life's mission when he unexpectedly found himself in the middle of an earthquake in Haiti. To read about the goodbye letters that he wrote to his sons and his amazing rescue, go to the following link.  
[http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/34933053/ns/today-today\\_people/](http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/34933053/ns/today-today_people/)

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