



FINGERPRINT  
YOUR SPIRITUAL I.D.

## Week 1 - Day One

Let's Read Psalms 139.

Did you know we are all marked uniquely? There is not a single person in the world that is just like you. Even identical twins are different. Their personalities are different, and their moles are in different places. Psalms 139:13 says... "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." He knew us before we knew ourselves... and in the womb, we have been touched by God.

Did you get a fingerprint card? If not, take a look at your thumb... ok really... the thumb print! Have you thought about why the police fingerprint everyone that commits a crime? It's because every thumb print is unique. No two thumb prints are exactly the same. Past, present and future... no fingerprint is going to be the same. WOW! To really think about how God made every person to have a different fingerprint is amazing. You are unique!

Take a moment and put into words how you feel about being unique.

Prayer: Lord. Today, help me to understand that you have created me unique. As I walk through my day I will not try to compare myself to others and just live with a peace in knowing that everyone is unique. AMEN.

## Week 5 – Day Five

Walk in freedom today! Walk knowing that you are forgiven, and Christ has restored you life! This is the whole reason for the story of this blind man! We need the touch of God on our lives so we can live our lives in freedom.

As you look at your life thus far...do you see the fingerprints of God on your life? Is He trying to do a work in your life? Are you submitting to His work? Today is your day to experience freedom. Have you experienced freedom from your sin? If not, then salvation is waiting on you. Confess your sin today. Repent and know that Jesus died on the cross for your sin so you can have eternal life. Know that in trusting Christ, not only do you experience salvation, but hope too! Today is the day for you to believe God can use you to do great things! Let Him fingerprint your life today!

In the space provided... write a couple of thoughts that you have learned as a part of this study.

Prayer: God, thank you for your fingerprint on my life! My life is different because of this experience and from this day forward I'm going to do my best to for more opportunities for you to fingerprint my life. Thank you for creating me unique. Thank you for freeing me from my sin. Thank you working in my life and most of all thank you for Jesus! Amen.

## Week 1 - Day Two

Let's read John 9:1-7

Why did God make this man blind?

Historically when a man had an infirmity or disease he was considered an outcast by society. He couldn't get a job nor could He spend any time in the synagogue. So the only way He could make any income was to beg for it. So this blind man is sitting by the gates of the city hoping someone will drop some money in his basket.

As Jesus and His disciples walk past the gates of the city, they ask Jesus, "Who sinned, this man or his parents?" The disciples are trying to figure out why the religious leaders treated people who are sick this way.

I believe God is pretty smart, don't you! He knows what He is doing, and He is always at work.

Why did God make you?

This is a question many of you don't know how to answer. Great! You really don't need to know the answer yet, BUT as a teenager, you are in the perfect place to begin the journey of trying to figure it out.

Prayer. Lord, open my eyes as I begin this journey of discovering your plan and purpose for my life. Show me why you created me. Show me your plan as I commit to seeking you.

## Week 1 - Day Three

How would you describe your relationship with God right now?

When it comes to understanding why we are created, the first thing to realize is we are created for a relationship. Let's read Genesis 1, and let's watch how God interacts with Adam and Eve.

God created each of us for a relationship with Him. He desires this more than anything else. He longs to walk with you as you journey through life. All throughout scripture, we see that He created life to be abundant and full.

Read John 10:10, and write it out in your own words.

How much time do you spend with God on a daily basis? Is it seconds? Minutes? Maybe an hour? The amount of time we spend with the Lord is directly related to how we view our relationship with God. If you are in a dating relationship and you don't spend any time with that person then he/she will probably dump you pretty quick. In the same way, if you don't spend any time in the Word and in prayer on a daily basis, then it should tell you that your relationship with the Lord needs some work.

Different question... Are you going to change some things in your day to spend some time in a right relationship with God?

Prayer. Lord, I'm sorry for how I treat you. Please forgive me. I am coming to you today as a new creation, and I want to be more faithful in my relationship with you.

## Week 5 – Day Four

Freedom is found in the eyes of Jesus! Praise God! Knowing that, what are some of the thoughts and feelings that come to mind?

Change can be contagious! The life that Jesus offers to every one of us is abundant. (John 10:10) Jesus came to this blind man and provided a new life for him. (verse 37)

Think with me about something. The man who stood at the gate everyday begging for money, wasn't there anymore. He was freed from the bondage of begging everyday. Also, there were a lot of people that saw him and knew him (verse 8.) Do you think they noticed a change in this man? YES! He was different. Not only could he see but also he had experienced freedom from sin! I'm sure that the blind man could not help but to tell every one of those friends and neighbors he had about what had happened to him. I know that every conversation he had for the next couple of weeks, revolved around the point that he was healed by Jesus! He became the talk of the town. This man was giving glory to God for the freedom he now experiences!

What about you? Are you walking through your days declaring the work of freedom from sin on your life? Are you different because of the touch of God on your life? If not, why not now? Why not start today new. Begin to make some changes in your lifestyle that reflect the change that God has made in your life.

Prayer: God today I realize that I need to live my life reflecting the change that you have made in my life. Today is a new day and I am going to try my best to live like a free man! Amen.

## Week 5 – Day Three

Now we are getting to my favorite part of the story. Yesterday we learned about how the blind man got kicked out of the meeting with the Pharisees. Today we are going to discover the rest of the story.

Let's read John 9:35-38.

The man walked out of the meeting with the Pharisees rejected. He has been thrown out (kicked to the curb!) Feeling rejected and unloved, he is wondering the streets of Jerusalem. I want you to see this...look in verse 35. Jesus found him. Jesus heard that the Pharisees kicked him out and Jesus found him! Knowing that the man was feeling rejected and unloved, Jesus looked him in the eyes and declared him loved! Wow! The only place that this man found freedom from his handicap and freedom spiritually was in the eyes of Jesus! Yes, Jesus was the only place he discovered acceptance and unconditional love!

Are you tired of seeking the approval of men in your life? Are you sick of trying to find your acceptance and self-esteem in the eyes of your friends and family? It can be pretty stressful and many times it can cause chaos in your life, but we can understand a profound truth in this story. You are loved and accepted in the eyes of God! No where else will you find true love and true acceptance. Oh you can certainly try, and many of you will try to seek it in the eyes of your friends, your jobs and your family, but why try and end up hurt when we feel rejection. There is no rejection in the eyes of God. You are loved unconditionally. You are accepted! Praise God! Now that's freedom!

Prayer: God thank you for the reminder that a friend is not going to provide the love and acceptance that I am looking for. Friends are an important part of my life but help me to have the right perspective. I am not going to seek their approval, but rather find love and acceptance in you. Amen.

## Week 1 - Day Four

Read Jeremiah 29:11-13

So what is God's plan for you? I mean it's got to be good! So what is it? I understand the struggle! Wondering what God is doing in your life? What does the future hold? Is it good? How good? Rich? Poor? Oh so many questions when it comes to the future. What's the question you have about your future?

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When it comes to seeking His plan for your life, what are the top 3 things every Christian needs to do in order to find out?

Your Top Three

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

When God created you, He knew exactly what He wanted to do with your life! It's a unique plan for each individual. No one has the same plan. Does that blow your mind? It does mine, because there are currently 20 billion people on the planet, and on top of that, the number increases dramatically when you add all the people that have died before us. Wow!

So how do we find out that perfect plan for our lives? As I have walked through the past couple of years, the thing that has helped me the most to figure out His plan is spending quality time in His Word. The Bible has been described as His roadmap for our lives. So, if I'm looking for some direction in my life... I need to read the map. There is a peace that comes when we are seeking God through His Word.

Prayer. God my prayer today is that as I read your Word, please give me peace in knowing your plan for my life. I rest my life in your hands today and I will do my best to live by your Word.

## Week 1 - Day Five

I have a 5 year old daughter. She loves to play chase. Did you play chase when you were a kid? You probably played this afternoon and loved it! I loved it too when I was a kid. Did you like being it? Nobody does, and every time we get tagged, we try our hardest to chase the closest person next to us. We run as fast as we can and as hard as we can to catch them.

How hard do you pursue God? Do you long for a relationship with God so bad that you are willing to pursue Him with all your might? Do you long for the next time you get to spend reading His Word? When you go to church, are you intently listening to hear His voice or sing His praise? Are you chasing after Him?

Let's read Hebrews 12:1-3.

This is one of the great pictures we have in scripture about how we are to pursue God every day! It tells us to "fix our eyes on Jesus" and to "throw off everything that hinders." Now that is a picture of a runner who is serious about winning the race. So, how hard are you pursuing God?

In the space below, write down some things that must do to pursue God today. If you are reading this devotional right now, believe it or not, you're pursuing Him!

Prayer. Lord, I know now that the pursuit of you needs to be a priority in my life. I'm going to chase you as hard as I can today. Please make yourself easy to catch!

## Week 5 – Day Two

When you walk into the halls of your school, what is the one thing that you are most afraid of? \_\_\_\_\_

Can I guess? You're hoping someone is going to recognize you and call you by name. Within everyone of us, there is a desire to be accepted and wanted. In this story of Jesus healing the blind man, we see a classic picture of what everyone of us desires. To be accepted and loved.

Let's read John 9:13-17.

The blind man is standing before the Pharisees a new man. He has been healed from his blindness. I want to remind you of an important point to the history of this story. In the culture of the day, if you had a disease or a handicap you were an outcast by society... especially the religious leaders. You were designated a sinner and destined for hell. This blind man, who once had a handicap doesn't anyone. He has his sight. So, standing before the religious leaders of the day, and is seeking the approval of these leaders, hoping the Pharisees will accept him... but let's read on in verses 24-34. What happens to the man? He was thrown out. He didn't find what he was looking for in the eyes of man (the religious leaders.)

So, how many of us walk into the halls of our schools hoping that everyone will find us cool and accept us? I think everyone of us do that, even adults. We journey through life trying to impress those around us, hoping for their approval. I believe that many of us need to quit stressing out our lives because we jump through all these "hoops" hoping someone will love us or accept us. This is not the type of life God calls us to live. Nobody needs this kind of stress in their lives.

Prayer: Lord, today the only person I going to seek approval from is you. Today is a new day for me. I love my friends but they are not the ones that determine the direction of my life. You do. God help me to live for you today... not them.

## Week 5 – Day One

Freedom is a word that is tossed around a lot in our nation. When we think of this nation's history, it's a portrait of freedom. Freedom from the British, freedom for the slaves and now we are trying to further the cause of freedom in other countries.

What about your life? Are you free? Are you free to pick and choose what happens in your life? Are you free to be who you think you ought to be? Are you free to believe what you want to believe? Yes, but what about your sin? Are you free from your sin? Have you sought freedom from the wrong things you have done in your life that have hurt God's heart? Sin is the one thing that blocks freedom for the Christian. Sin and the constant lifestyle of sin shackle the Christian. We can never experience true freedom in our lives as a Christian unless we seek the Lord's forgiveness and make conscious choices to not live in that sin again. Freedom is found in saving work of Christ on the cross.

You aren't truly free are you? Your heart is torn right now, and you realize that there are some sins you haven't deal with. You are chained to your sin like a prisoner chained to the cell wall. Your sin is preventing you from knowing God fully and it's hindering your relationship with Him.

Let's read Galatians 5:1.

In this verse, slavery is a reference to the sinful way of living life. Our sin puts us in bondage. It shackles our feet and hands and prevents us from living a life of freedom, but this verse also tells us why Jesus came... Freedom! It came to set us free from the bondage of our sin.

Are you experiencing freedom today?

Prayer: Lord, please reveal to me my sin. I confess this to you, free me from the bondage of sin and allow me to really experience true freedom today. Amen.

## Week 2 – Day One

Let's read John 9:1-7 and 35-41 together today.

How does Jesus heal this blind man? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a good spitter? I'm not. I'm always hitting my shoes or worse yet, hitting my best friend. That's not good... but how good is it to know that Jesus spit too! Do you think he hit his sandals or his best friends? Na... he was right on target every single time... I mean... he's Jesus! And in this story, he uses some very uncommon material to heal this blind man.

I want you to put yourself in this man's shoes. You're blind. You hear the clearing of a throat and the sudden splat of water hitting the ground. A tug on the shoulder tells you to stand and then you fell the smearing of wet dirt on your face! How gross! I have to admit this is pretty creative and definitely an attention getter. There is a big truth each one of us needs to come to grips with here. When Jesus touches your life... you cannot be the same! What God touches, changes!

Have you ever had an encounter with God that changed your life or meant a lot to you? Describe it here.

What changes have you made since that time? Are those changes still in place, or have you slipped back into some old habits? To be honest, our lives need to be different, especially if God has touched our lives. This blind man we are studying really experienced a radical change, and we are going to learn a lot more about him this week.

Prayer: Lord, help me this week to live out the "change" in my life. You have touched my life and I desire to live it out this week. Amen.

## Week 2 – Day Two

Have you tried walking around your house blindfolded? You ought to try it right now. Its ok, your mom already thinks you're weird.

What was it like to experience complete darkness? Were you unsure of where you were walking? Did you stub your toe? Being blind is not easy. The blind man we have been studying in this passage had been born blind for his entire life. Then suddenly for the first time, when Jesus healed him, he saw light! Brilliant colors! All of the sensations he had are now turned completely upside down. It was a whole new world for him! He was healed!

I need you to do some thinking with me on this one. Yesterday I asked you to write down an encounter with God that changed your life. Now I want you to think about life before that experience and how life is different now. In the space below write down some of the ways you are different now.

We experience a whole new world too, just like the blind man. When God touches our lives, things change. Our perspectives about our troubles change. We see life differently. We can never be the same. For many of you, you have allowed the pressures of the world to ruin the change that happened through your experience with God. You have gone back to your old ways. Slowly over time you have turned away from the work of God on your life. Today I want you to remember. Remember what the Lord has done in your life and begin the process of getting back to where you were right after you experienced God.

Prayer: Father, I'm sorry for forgetting. I'm sorry I have turned my heart from the change you produced in me. I commit today to begin the process of getting close to you. Amen.

## Week 4 – Day Five

What makes you smile? I know! When someone picks you out of a crowd or when one of your friends complements you? That makes me smile every time. Sometimes it's an outward smile but many times it's an inward smile. It means a lot when someone takes the time to recognize you or when someone does something for you without you asking for it.

What do you do to make God smile? I mean are there things you do for God that make Him smile? Are there moments when you stop and look to Him for hope and purpose for your day? It's during those moments in our day that God looks at us and smiles.

Now, there isn't a moment in scripture that says, "God smiled," but we do see a moment in this story when Jesus smiled. It was the moment when the blind man, saw Jesus as His Savior. It was in the moment when Jesus raised this man's head after being rejected by the Pharisees and his parents. Jesus saw a heart that was searching for the truth of the moment and in Jesus' eyes He found it. The blind man didn't find hope for life in the rules of the religious leaders, but rather in the eyes of Jesus.

What about you? Are their moments when your actions and attitudes make God smile? Making God smile comes from a deep desire within us to please Him. To glorify Him in all we do and say. Just like when a friend does something that makes us feel special, I know it's the same way between us and God. When we do something with our lives that brings Him glory, He smiles! I love that!

Prayer: God, I want you to smile at me. I want you to be so proud of my heart for you. I'm going to do my best today to make you smile. Cheese! Amen.

## Week 4 – Day Four

How long have you been a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you remember what when you asked Jesus to come into your life? What were some of the thoughts and feelings that you had?

Now, has there been a time in your life since your salvation experience that you have felt the Lord doing a work in your life? What was it?

In this story of the man born blind, Jesus healed him and then sent him to the pool to wash. Remember, the man has never seen Jesus. As the events of the story unfold, the Pharisee's kick the man to the curb, and Jesus finds him. During this second encounter the man sees Jesus for the first time and in that discussion between them Jesus heals him spiritually.

Many of you are walking through life believing that salvation is enough and are choosing to miss out on more experiences that God has for you! By your choices to "miss" church or not go to camp this summer, you are intentionally missing out on a blessing the Lord has for you. My point is, do not miss another opportunity for God to find you! Remember God is always at work, and He seeking those who can be found faithful! (2 Chronicles 16:19) If you truly desire to see God work in your life, don't be a Pharisee, and miss out of God! The Pharisee's miss it but the blind man didn't!

Prayer: Lord, help me to be sensitive to your leading in my life. I want to experience everything you have for me and don't let me be a Pharisee but a person who has a close relationship with You.

## Week 2 – Day Three

This week we are learning about how our actions need to line up with our faith. Let's take a look at James 2:14-25.

The phrase I want you to look at is in verse 22... "You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did."

This verse is so good at describing how our faith in Christ needs to be shown by our actions. Our faith is made complete by how we act.

So this begs the question... do your actions and habits make your faith complete?

Circle one..... Yes or No.

The world around us is looking for some one to live what they believe. So many of your non-Christian friends are looking at your life and wondering if you are going to be the one who really lives up to what you talk about. Your character, integrity, and faith are on the line.

When this blind man experienced the healing touch of Jesus he told everybody! There was not a person near him who did not hear about the healing touch of Jesus (even though Jesus said to keep it quiet.)

So what characteristics display Christ to our friends? The Bible does a lot of talking about how we are to display Christ, but in Galatians 5:22 God gives us the "fruit" our lives need to display. We are going to talk more about that tomorrow.

Prayer: Lord, today I have heard a challenge to live what I believe and today I'm going to try my best. Please help me say what I believe and show others how much I really do love you.

## Week 2 – Day Four

Let's read Galatians 5:16-26.

This is a great passage for us to think about. In verse 16, Paul tells us to “live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.” It’s an encouragement to us that we need to hear. If we choose to live our lives with Christ as the head of it (live by the Spirit), it’s going to be a lot easier to say no to the sinful ways. The more days you live for Christ... the easier it becomes to say no to sin. You get so filled with God that Satan gets frustrated and leaves you alone! Amazing how that works!

In this passage Paul begins to tell us the “fruit” of the life lived by the Spirit (a life in tune with God).

Love..... Joy.....Peace.....Patience.....Kindness.... Goodness.....

Faithfulness..... Gentleness.... Self Control

Now looking over this list of “Fruit” which one of these characteristics is easiest for you? Circle it.

Now go back through it and put a square around the one characteristic you need to work on.

God likes producing fruit in our lives and our lives need to display that fruit to those around us. The world needs to see the healing touch of his hand on your life. Have you ever heard this phrase...  
“You’re the only Jesus this world will ever see.”

You know that’s true, and if you are not living a life that displays the fruit of the spirit, then how in the world are they going to see Jesus in you and actually believe it? Let’s do our best today to let our world see Jesus in us.

Prayer: God, I have been encouraged today to live out my faith! I must live a life lived by the Spirit and bears fruit! So help me today to make decisions that reflect my faith in you. Amen.

## Week 4 – Day Three

Christianity is more than a list of do’s and don’ts! God gave us the Ten Commandments to help us live within God’s laws. Yep, it’s a list of do’s and don’ts, and not only that, if we choose to live outside those laws, then we are sinners and deserve punishment. The Pharisees lived this type of lifestyle. One of the “laws” they enforced was the idea that on the Sabbath you were to do NOTHING, not even take a meal to a neighbor’s house. How ridiculous. They took many of the Old Testament rules of living literally. But when Jesus walked on the scene, He went against a lot of the rules. One of them that really frustrated the Pharisees was the healing of the blind man on the Sabbath. Jesus just broke the rule, because people are more important to God than rules or rituals.

Do the “rules” of Christianity frustrate you? What are some of the ones you don’t like?

Let’s Read John 9:16... do you see how Jesus really frustrated the Pharisees? Jesus just broke all the rules. Why? Love. Jesus wanted to open the eyes of the Pharisees to who He really was, the Son of God. Jesus wanted them to see that He had come to tear down their traditions and to open up a personal relationship with God.

I really believe some of us are running from God, because we don’t like all the “rules.” We struggle with having to conform to the Christian “rules”... my question then to you is... How much do you love God? If Jesus matters to you, then it ought to be easy to live the Christian life. I really believe that when we see Jesus for who He really is, (Provider, Healer, and salvation) we can’t help but devote our lives to Him... just like this blind man experienced. He found healing and hope in Jesus and he fell down in worship.

Prayer: God you are good and I know that you are trying to convince me that you care for me. Help me to work through the rules in such a way that I see you for who you really are, a God who cares about me. Amen.

## Week 4 – Day Two

I think some of us can be Pharisees sometimes. As we have been talking about the Pharisees Jesus was trying to talk to, I can't help but think many of us struggle with some of the same issues the Pharisees struggled with.

1. We struggle with falling into the trap of tradition.
2. We struggle with the arrogance that comes with “knowing it all.”
3. We fall into the pit of making church just another thing to do.
4. We struggle with losing our love for God, because we make church stuff, “just another thing to do on the calendar.”

Let's Read, John 9:35-41

In this part of the story, we hear the discussion that happens between the “man formerly known as blind” and Jesus. Notice Jesus was talking with the man, and the Pharisees just so happen to be close enough to hear the conversation. Jesus was talking to the Pharisees hoping they would see the passion the blind man now had because of the healing of Jesus. What does Jesus say about the Pharisees? (vs. 40-41) They were guilty of knowing too much! They were guilty of coming to God with their rituals and not a genuine love relationship. They didn't see that Jesus was the Son of God and He came to fulfill all the teachings the Pharisees knew and studied constantly.

Has church become a “ritual” for you? When you go, does it mean something to you? God wants to change your life and the one HUGE way He does, is through the church. The teaching we hear and the connection we make at church help develop a deeper love for God. Let's change our perspective and look at God with eyes and hearts that desire his touch.

Prayer: Lord, take away the struggle in my heart. Allow me to see you in a fresh way today, and help me to love the moments that you teach me more about you. Amen.

## Week 2 – Day Five

What God touches, Changes! For the rest of this moment in your day with the Lord, I want you to write a letter to God about what you have heard over the past week. Be honest. Be transparent. Confess some stuff.

Prayer: Lord, this is real. This is me. This is my heart. Help me on this journey of discovering your fingerprint on my life. Amen.

## Week 3 – Day One

When was the last time you stopped what you were doing on a clear night and looked up? Not long ago, I was jumping on the trampoline in our backyard with my 5 year old daughter. We were having a great time, and it was getting pretty dark and almost dinner time. As we were getting off the trampoline, I noticed the first star. You know the star you make a wish on? “Star light star bright. First Star I see tonight. Wish I may, wish I might, make this first wish tonight.” I stopped my daughter and said, “Look up.” She saw it too, and we just stopped and laid down on the trampoline with our heads gazing at the night sky. In the middle of that moment, I felt so small. So many stars and little bitty me. Our God is so BIG and in the vastness of our God, He knows how many moles are on my body!

Let's read some scripture. Psalms 103

Big God. Creator God. My God knows me inside out. He knows the “who’s who” and the “what’s what” about my life. AND our God is at work making me more like His creation. Ephesians 2:10 says “we are His workmanship.”

How does that thought change your mind about your future?

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What do you think God is working on in your life?

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Our God is always at work! He's working on you right now as you read this devotional. He is honoring your dedication in making it to Week 3 of this Fingerprint series.

Prayer: Lord, I am completely aware of your work in our world today. I am coming to you today, submitting to your work in my life. Give me the opportunity to see what you are doing in my life so I can join you. Amen.

## Week 4 – Day One

Does it frustrate you to be one person at home and, when you walk in the doors of school, to act like you have it all together? It does me. I want to impress the people around me and, many times, I exaggerate my life so they will love me more. It's a constant pressure on my life. I know it has to be for you too. I have learned through this tension, I need to settle in my heart, God created me unique and I shouldn't worry about this pressure. Why have I put this pressure on myself to be something I'm not? I don't need that pressure.

Let's read John 9: 13-34

The Pharisees (who we will learn about tomorrow) put the pressure on the blind man to conform to their way of thinking. They kept asking the question of this former blind man, how did you receive your sight? Who did this to you? And the pressure was on. Was the blind man going to tell the truth about his experience, or was he going to conform to the pressure of the Pharisees? Well the former blind man didn't give in to the pressure, but rather told the truth. He accepted what had happened to him and didn't exaggerate anything. He was real with them about what happened. Jesus healed him. “I was blind, but now I see!”

Why can't we be real with our friends about what God is doing in our lives? When under the pressure to conform to our world, why do we deny what God is doing? Our excuse is to live a double standard. To say one thing to a group of people, because it's what they want to hear, and to say another thing to the other group, so they will love us. We need to take some advice from a former blind man and live out the truth of God's work on our lives.

Think to yourself how you can be who God created you to be all day long.

Prayer: Lord, I'm tired and frustrated with the pressure I'm feeling about my life, the double standard. Please help me to be who you created me to be and to accept it. Amen.

## Week 3 – Day Five

Read John 13: 34-35

In this passage of scripture, Jesus has just finished washing the disciple's feet, and Judas has run out of the room to betray Jesus. As he is reclining at the table with the remaining disciples, Jesus gives them a "new command" ... to "love another."

Love is a verb. It's an action word. Many of us might use this word as an adjective describing a relationship. "I'm in a love relationship with him." Jesus in this passage is asking the disciples to do something about their love for Him - to take what they have learned from Jesus and apply it to their everyday relationships.

As we are studying John 9, we see the blind man receive his sight. He couldn't help himself but to share his experience with others. The people around him noticed the obvious change of receiving his sight, but they also couldn't help but notice the new found hope he had. When God does a work in our lives, our response ought to be to share it with others and continue to be a light of Christ continually.

The new command Jesus gives his disciples is a call for action. A call for us to DO SOMETHING! Not to sit and soak or sour, but rather to be "out there" loving those around us with God's love. So what are you going to do for God today? What about fixing a neighbor's fence, if its broken? What about babysitting a single mom's kids for free? What about praying for a friend whose family is going through a tough time? What about making some sandwiches at home, taking them down to where the homeless are, and passing them out? The point is, there are things you can DO to show the love of Christ to others, and it's time to start doing it, not just talk about doing it.

Prayer: Lord, I want to be a person of action today. Help me to see the world around me as an opportunity to show others the love of Christ. Amen.

## Week 3 – Day Two

I love state construction workers. It's amazing what hard workers they are and how fast they work. Of course, you know I'm kidding! Whenever you see state construction workers on the side of the road, what do you see? Yep, 5 guys dressed in all the construction apparel watching 1 guy work!

Now this picture in your mind about state construction workers is the picture I think many Christians have in mind when it comes to doing something for God. Some of the thoughts that go through your minds are, "Oh that's great, I'm glad you're doing that" or "What you are doing for the Lord is amazing. Good Job." Many of you are standing on the outside of God's work just watching it happen. So many Christians are afraid or lazy and are not joining God as He is at work around you. We are all guilty of this way of thinking. Today I want you to take this moment and try to think about how God is working around you. What is He up to in your life? What is He up to in the lives of your friends around you? How can you help? How can God use your talents and resources to impact someone else?

Let's read Phillipians 2:13

Take a minute and write down what that verse says in your own words.

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What is God doing in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

Do your friends around you see God at work in you? Yes or No

How can you take what God is doing in your life and share it with others? \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer: Lord, I submit to your handy work. I know your purpose for my life is good. Help me to allow your hand to guide me through this construction zone. Amen.

## Week 3 – Day Three

Let's begin our journey today by reading Colossians 1:9-11.

Can you hear the heart of Paul as he writes this letter to the church? Can you hear how he desires for us “to live a life worthy?” God is at work to bear good fruit in our lives.

The temptation to please our friends, instead of God is tough. But in this passage of scripture we find a blessing to those who live a life worthy of Christ. The encouragement is to in very “good work” we do for Christ “bear fruit.” In other words, the things we do for God must reflect God.

When was the last time you did something for God? How did it feel? Have you ever thought about what would have happened if you didn't do it? How can God be glorified if we never step up and serve? God is at work in every one of us. Why? For others to see God in you! God uses you and I to get the attention of our friends and family. As we serve others around us, they begin to see God's hand at work. They see Jesus and take notice.

Today, I want you to allow God to “work” on you. Allow Him to mold and make you into an instrument to be used for His glory today.

Read Ephesians 2:10.

You are God's workmanship! He is proud of you and desires to use you to work on others!

Prayer: Wow, I never realized that Your work in me could cause my friends to see God. Lord I need Your hand on my life. Do a work in my heart so I can better serve You. Amen.

## Week 3 – Day Four

Yep. They're watching you! I'll never forget the moment in high school when my friend passed me by and didn't give me a flyer to his party. Brad was known as the “party guy” at our school. He had some of the biggest parties at his house. Just about every Friday he would pass out flyers to his party before class started. One Friday he was passing out the flyers and stopped at my desk and said, “I'm not giving you one ‘cause I know you're not going to come.” How did he know? During my junior year of high school, I realized that my faith needed to take priority in my life. I began making decisions with God in mind. People like Brad took notice of the difference in my life.

The daily decisions you make matter. Especially if you are a Christ follower! Our world is watching our lives, and they are taking notice of the decisions we make everyday, watching to see if we are really going to live the way we talk.

Let's look at John 9.

Who was watching Jesus as he was speaking to the blind man? Yep, the Pharisees. Someone is always watching our actions and our words. Try not to get paranoid right now. You don't have a stalker guy watching right now, but it's a reality for the non-Christians around you. They are watching your actions, your talk, and how you treat others to see if you are really going to display Christ- to see if you are the real deal, truly different from them.

Based on what you just read, are there any changes you need to make in your life to reflect Christ more? Right those down here.

Prayer: My prayer today is simple. Lord, please help me to be a better example of Christ to those who are watching me. Help me to be a reflection of Christ in my world. Amen.