

THE STORY PERSONAL DEVOTIONS CHAPTER 30

Journal your answers as you read through the chapter this week. You may read one day and journal the next, or spread the questions over the whole week.

Day One

1. Paul said to the elders in Ephesus, “Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood,” (Acts 20:13-35, p. 440). List several ways a shepherd is a good metaphor for the role of an elder and why it’s important to remember that the church belongs to God. Even if you are not an elder, how do the passages apply to you?
2. Review Paul’s personal testimony that he gave to the Jews from the steps of the barracks (Acts 21:37-22:21, p. 442-443). What pattern in Paul’s example might help you articulate your own testimony?

Day Two

1. Paul was wrongly accused by his enemies, just as Daniel and Jesus had been. How did each of these men respond to false accusations and what can you learn from them? How might you respond when confronted with anger about your Christian beliefs?
2. Which unlikely situations did Paul use as opportunities for evangelism in this chapter? What are some unlikely situations in your own life that can be used as opportunities to evangelize?

Day Three

1. Review Ephesians 2:1-10 page 452. Make a “before and after” list of those things that are true of all people before salvation and after salvation. Name at least three outwardly observable ways that you can apply these truths to your life because you are in Christ. *Now that I am in Christ, I am no longer* _____.
2. What did Paul’s letter to the Ephesians teach about family relationships and why would he include this as part of living “*a life worthy of the calling you have received?*” (Ephesians 4:1; 5:22-32, p. 455)
3. Look up Acts 9:15-16, Philippians 4:11-14 and 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. Paul asked Timothy to join him in suffering for the gospel (p. 456, 2 Timothy 1:8). What does Paul’s life teach you about suffering? If Paul had asked you, like Timothy, to join him in suffering for the gospel as he had, what might have been your response?