

# Lesson #4

## ***A Life Message Speaks the Loudest***

It has been said, “A message prepared in a mind reaches minds, but a message prepared in a life reaches and changes lives.” The strongest voices for the gospel in our world today aren’t necessarily the most articulate, but rather, the most authentic. That’s why a life message is so important to fulfilling the mission God has in mind for us. The lifestyle we maintain will either validate or cast doubt on the gospel we share.

### **CURIOSITY QUESTIONS**

Who is one of your favorite historical or public figures to learn about? What about that person is compelling or interesting to you?

Closer to home, who has been one person in your life that you see as an example to follow? What about him or her is worthy of emulation?

### **MOVING INTO GOD’S WORD**

**2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-17** - Timothy was one of the most influential first-century Christian leaders, mentored directly by Paul. His life was transformed by the ongoing influence of the Scriptures, of course. But where did his strong faith come from? Why was he so confident in the Bible?

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This text also showcases for us the way God uses the Bible to construct our life message. What are the four ways Scripture guides us, and continues us on the path of saying yes to God in the long run? (As you note each way in verse 16, share with the group any examples of how Scripture has played that particular part in your own life.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 17 assures Timothy that he will be ready for every aspect of his future mission with God because the Scriptures will equip him. How is it that the Bible can prepare us for our own specific mission today, even though it was written long ago?

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**1 Thessalonians 1:2-10** – We find here that just as Paul, Silas, and Timothy had been positive examples to the church at Thessalonica, in turn this church had become a positive example to the whole world (v. 8). Their life message was traveling quickly! One of the things Life Action celebrates in their events is when God works in someone's life and they share a testimony of that impact with others. The glory should never go to Life Action, or to the church, but to God!

During and since our Life Action event, what stories have we heard of people who have been impacted or changed by the encounter they had with God?

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Take a few minutes to share how God touched your life during the days of the Life Action event, and what has changed since then. What positive steps forward can you be celebrating, and what accountability or encouragement would help you continue?

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## MAKING IT PERSONAL

What is the next step of faith God is asking me to take? What is my next "yes" to the Holy Spirit?

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A life message isn't something I can "put on." That's the game the Pharisees were playing (see Matthew 23:25-28). Instead, a life message is born out of my honest repentance and faithful obedience to God's Word. Is there any aspect of my public Christian faith that is not in alignment with what is really happening in my heart? If so, what could I do about it?

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## PRAYER TIME

If anyone has shared a personal story during this session, take time to pray with them about it and to give thanks for God's grace in that individual's life.

Pray for each other as you consider your next "yes" to God, and as you aim to live authentic, non-hypocritical lives. If there is hypocrisy or compromise lurking in your heart, confess and repent of it during this time.

Consider using Psalm 51:10-13 as an outline for your prayers together.