

WEEKLY GAME PLAN

Sleepy Spirituality

Read Acts 20:1-7 NLT

Context: Paul found himself in trial after trouble after trial and yet he was determined to get to Rome. He did not, however, let this single focus deter him from sharing Christ along the way. At every port and every home church, every town and city, he would tell people what he knew to be true of Christ and what Christ had done for him. Instead of taking a nice leisurely trip, he used all of the gifts and skills God had given him in order to spread the gospel.

Reflection Question: How often do you let the goal keep you from taking advantage of the trip? What chains in your life may be decorated, or flavored, in such a way that keeps you rooted to where you are? A comfortable job that is not challenging or using your gifts? A relationship that's not good for you?

Read Acts 20:8-12 NIV, 1 Peter 5:8-9 NIV

Context: It's interesting that there is so much detail in this passage. Often when we read we forget to set the stage in our minds. For a moment, picture what this would have been like. No a/c, a smokey room due to all of the lamps, a young man who just wanted some fresh air while he tried to stay awake listening to Paul preach on and on. We've all been there. We really want to listen to God's word, read our bibles, pray, listen to the pastor, but we just can't keep our eyes open. We need to be careful about this. Sometimes we could miss out on the best part God has for us because we couldn't stay awake/alert just a little bit longer.

Reflection Question: Why do you think it's so easy to stay up binge watching a show or movie, but so hard to stay awake to read our bibles? What do you think we're missing in our understanding of the value one has over the other?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 NIV

Context: While the enemy wants to lull you into a false sense of security and comfort, our good Father is desiring that we stay alert and sober minded. Let's not get surprised by the things we can't control, but let's stay awake to the enemy's schemes and focus on what God can do with, and for, us.

Reflection Question: What are you anxious about today that is not within your control? What could God do with your life and your time if you turned those worries over to Him?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:8-9, 11 NIV

Context: At the end of the day humans are pack animals. Some of us may like our alone time, but we were not made to do this life alone. We were meant for community and friendship. We were meant to be there for each other and to hold each other accountable so that we can become better, and more mature, in this life God has entrusted to us. We are made to encourage others and to let people into our lives who will encourage us to do what God wants us to do.

Reflection Question: How can you ask someone in your life to encourage you when you start to become worried or anxious? Who could you do this for? What kind of dynamic would change in your heart and mind if you had someone to remind you when you start to spin out about the worries in your life?

Read Mark 14:37-38 NIV, Matthew 26:40-41 MSG

Context: God knows us so well. He knows that our hearts are willing, but that our flesh can be weak. He calls us to be aware of the temptations that can arise. Very few people stride boldly into sin because of temptation. More often than not we get complacent and start dozing off spiritually. We know we're sitting in an open window when we try to get as close to sin as we can without actually sinning.

Reflection Question: In what area/s of your have you been dozing off lately? How can you make a course correction today that will help you to be more aware when temptation crops up in your life?

End in prayer. Read all of Acts 20 this week and see how the Spirit moves!