



LIFE

**MY
STORY**

**DANNY CURTIN
& TOM CALUORI**



Published by **Redemptorist Publications**

Alphonsus House, Chawton, Hampshire, GU34 3HQ, UK

Tel. +44 (0)1420 88222, Fax. +44 (0)1420 88805

Email rp@rpbooks.co.uk, www.rpbooks.co.uk

A registered charity limited by guarantee

Registered in England 3261721

Copyright © Redemptorist Publications 2015

First published September 2015

Text by Tom Caluori & Danny Curtin

Edited by Caroline Hodgson

Designed by Emma Hagan

Cover design by Louise Hilton

ISBN 978-0-85231-432-6

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission in writing from Redemptorist Publications.

The moral right of the authors to be identified as the author of this work has been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Every effort has been made to trace copyright holders and to obtain their permission for the use of copyright material. The publisher apologises for any errors or omissions and would be grateful for notification of any corrections that should be incorporated in future reprints or editions of this book.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

The publisher gratefully acknowledges permission to use the following copyright material:

Excerpts from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible: Anglicised Edition, © 1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

J. John & Mark Stibbe, *"A Short Course in Human Relationships", A Barrel of Fun* (2003: Monarch).

Printed by Bishops Printers Limited, Portsmouth PO6 1TR

CONTENTS

1 **HOPES AND DREAMS**
PAGE 4

2 **CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE**
PAGE 18

3 **TRUE VALUES**
PAGE 24

4 **UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL – IN TOUCH WITH GOD**
PAGE 36

5 **RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND ALL THAT**
PAGE 48

6 **WHEN WE'RE STRUGGLING**
PAGE 58

7 **LEADING LIFE!**
PAGE 70

8 **REACH OUT AND LIVE LIFE!**
PAGE 80





1

HOPES AND DREAMS

PRAYER

Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
your sons and daughters.

May we see with your eyes,
judge all things in your light
and act with love in our hearts.

Mould us into your apostles,
full of joy and hope,
so that we can be the difference
and your kingdom come
and keep us under your protection.
Through Christ Jesus our friend and Saviour.
Amen.

GETTING STARTED

- Why have we come here today?
- What are our hopes for this group?

NOTES



ENQUIRY

SEE

- What are our hopes and dreams for the future?
- What gets in the way of us achieving our dreams?

NOTES



GIFTS

- What are the good things that your friends or family would say about you?
- What gifts can you identify in yourself? Look at the list below to help you.

Loving

Leadership

Humour

Courage

Beauty

Fun

Inspiring

Inquisitive

Decisive

Helpful

Creative

A good listener

Reliable

Wise

Imaginative

Caring

Popular

Confident

A good friend

Intelligent

Close family ties

Loyal to others

Generous

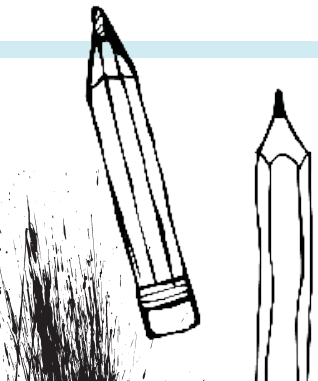
Brave

Athletic

Musical

Artistic

Honest



NOTES

- How can these gifts help you to achieve your dreams?

"Whatever you are, be a good one."

Abraham Lincoln

JUDGE

1

- Do our hopes and dreams for ourselves also contribute to the good of others?
- Does it matter if some of our dreams are "selfish"? If so, why? If not, why not?

GOSPEL ENQUIRY

MATTHEW 25:14-30

For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to

him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

- *Who is in this story and what happened?*
- *What was said? How do you think the people present would have reacted? Why?*
- *Jesus’ parable invites us to consider how we use our gifts for others, rather than keeping them to ourselves. Do you use your gifts unselfishly and to the full? How can you use them for others?*
- *Look back at the gifts you identified in **SEE**. Which gifts has God given you? How could you use them better to achieve God’s hopes and dreams for you?*
- *Can you think of other gifts which God has given you? If you have been confirmed, do you remember the gifts of the Holy Spirit?*
- *Are God’s hopes and dreams for us the same as our hopes and dreams for ourselves?*

BEING CONFIRMED

Look at the gifts of the Spirit below which are received at the sacrament of Confirmation.

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WISDOM and **UNDERSTANDING**

To help us see things through the eyes of Jesus and to understand how to love God and others.

RIGHT JUDGEMENT and **COURAGE**

To make the right choices and to have courage to live the values of the Gospel each day.

KNOWLEDGE and **REVERENCE**

To know God and have a sense of beauty and respect for all God has created.

WONDER and **AWE**

To see God in the world and to value God's plan for us.

- *Are these gifts important in your life? Why?*
- *How might these gifts help you to achieve your hopes and dreams?*

NOTES

ACT

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27

By committing to take action after we finish our enquiry we are saying that we want to make a difference in our lives and the lives of others. We are committing to living as disciples of Jesus.

- What action can we take following our enquiry?
- How will we use our gifts and talents for good this week?

In each chapter we will consider action in three categories:

HELP – *Helping others through service.*

TELL IT – *Making others aware of what we have discovered.*

STAND UP – *Standing up on behalf of others who do not or cannot speak out for themselves.*

*This week we focus on **HELP**—and how you can play your full role in your parish community.*

HELP

Is anyone already involved in the parish in any way? For example as a server, reader, in a sports team or helping at the youth club? It is important that we are all involved members of the parish and have a role.

Think about your gifts and talents. Which of the following would suit you?

- Taking part in Mass as a server or reader.
- Helping with children's liturgy, first Communion preparation, the coffee morning, a fundraising event or a piety/book stall.

- Offering service to those in need – for example in a Justice and Peace group, a Traidcraft stall, visiting older members of the parish, or helping at an older people's club.
- Becoming involved in the parish music ministry.
- Volunteering for the church's welcome ministry.
- Supporting people with learning disabilities, either through a church group or another organisation (the adult companion should be able to advise which one would be suitable).
- Supporting younger people – such as by helping in a children's group or youth club.
- Taking part in charitable sporting activities.
- Becoming involved with your parish council.

Make a note to contact the relevant person before next week, to ask if you can help.

TELL IT

This is about raising awareness, or drawing people's attention to something they should be aware of.

- Do we want to keep meeting as a group? Could you tell other young people about this group and invite them along. If so, make a note of who to contact.

STAND UP

This is about standing up on behalf of others who do not speak out for themselves. You might decide to:

- Speak to the parish priest or to the parish council about the importance of your group and of inviting young people to be involved in the parish.

What action or actions have you committed to? Write them down and ask the adult companion if you need help making contact with anyone.

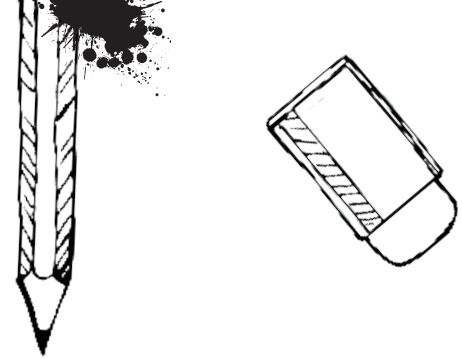
NOTES

REACH OUT AND LIVE LIFE!

At the end of the programme, Chapter Eight will invite you to design a group project to **REACH OUT AND LIVE LIFE!** Over the coming weeks, as a group you should decide what issue or issues you want to act upon. Where can you make a difference as a group? Make a note to return to in Chapter Eight:

- Has this enquiry given you any ideas for your group project?
- Make a note in your book – ideas for group project.
- As individuals, commit to think and pray about your group project between now and the next session.

CLOSING PRAYER



Father, pour out your Spirit
upon your young people,
and grant us
a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power,
a new faithfulness to your Word; and
a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow in us,
and your kingdom come.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

RECORD SHEET





2

CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE