



Welcome to the fourth week of **Living Beyond Myself**. These Scrolls are designed to work in tandem with our Sunday services to enhance what God wants to teach us during these four weeks. The Scrolls are best used with a *Spiritual Life Notebook*, which is available Sunday mornings here at FBC. For more information about using the *Spiritual Life Notebook*, see the insert that comes with it. The Scrolls, along with companion materials for small groups, are also available online at www.fbcdavis.org.

You Never Know

Bob, a 70-something children's ministry volunteer, waited one Sunday morning with a little girl whose parents did not show up. "Will you read me Winnie the Pooh?" she asked. Bob patiently read the story to her and then continued to wait for her parents. "Will you read it again?" the little girl asked. After reading the story a second time, Bob was growing concerned about her parents' whereabouts. The little girl asked a third time for him to read Winnie the Pooh, and he agreed despite his worried, furrowed brow. Finally, partway through his third rendition, he spotted the little girl's mom. She stood quietly by the door until Bob finished reading Pooh. Afterward, the mom apologized for being late and thanked him for his care. "I was watching, but I didn't want to break it up," she added. "You are the only man who has read to her since my husband died two years ago." *Living Beyond Myself*, pp. 62-63, Willow Press (2004)

Monday – The Power of Doing Good!

1. This week we are looking at the power of doing "good." Think for a moment about the things we do with our lives that are truly "good." List some.
2. When Jesus set out to teach his followers what true goodness was, he told a story. Read that story in Luke 10:25-37. Jesus shattered formerly held ideas of goodness. Most of Jesus' hearers would have equated goodness with living in accordance with a moral code advocated by the Pharisees. What do we learn about true goodness in this story?

Living Beyond Myself – Close in prayer, asking God to change your way of thinking about goodness to align more closely with his.

Tuesday - Greatness

"Be not afraid of greatness: Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them." *Twelfth Night*, Act II, Scene V, William Shakespeare.

1. Read Matthew 20:20-28. How do Jesus' words about "greatness" clash or coincide with Shakespeare's words?
2. When Jesus describes his life as a "ransom for many" in verse 28, he is referring to his death on the cross. What does this tell you about the nature of true greatness?

Living Beyond Myself – Compare your life to Jesus' words: Are you chasing the world's greatness, or are you on the road to true greatness? Service takes some doing, especially if you're just starting out. Take some time to pray, asking God to guide you and strengthen you. Get ready for great things to happen!

Wednesday – Created with Purpose

1. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Which comes first, salvation or doing good works? From this passage, what do we have to boast about?
2. Look closely at verse 10. The Greek word translated "workmanship" refers to a work of art: You are God's work of art! What does this verse say about God's good, creative work in you? How long has God been planning the good works you were made to do?

Living Beyond Myself – You were made for a specific purpose. Imagine that you were a college basketball coach and one day you saw Michael Jordan displaying his skills in a street game of basketball. How would you feel if you asked him to play basketball for you at North Carolina State and he said, "I'm not going to college – I'm going to work at the corner video store instead?" Or imagine that you were an artist and loved to make beautiful pottery. One day you gave your prized piece, a vase, to a friend. Days later, upon visiting her house, how would you feel if you saw that your prized vase was being used as a doorstop? How do you think God feels when we turn our back on what he created us to do?

Thursday – Bodybuilding!

1. Last week we saw that there are many different roles for people in God's family. This comes up again in Ephesians 4:7-13. Read this passage and look closely at verse 8. Have you ever considered that the opportunity to do good by serving is really a gift from Jesus? What makes service for Christ a gift?
2. According to verses 12 and 13, what is the point of serving people? Why is serving in this way truly good?

Living Beyond Myself – In your *Spiritual Life Notebook*, write down a list of 5-10 gifts (or resources) God has given you that you could share in service to others. Choose one of those gifts or resources and think of one way you could use it today to be a blessing to someone else.

Friday – Good Devotion

1. As you look at Titus 3:8 you will notice that Paul points out that devoting yourself to doing good is "excellent and profitable for everyone." Have you ever benefited from someone who devoted himself or herself to "doing what is good?" Take a moment to thank God for that blessing.
2. This issue was so important to Paul that he returned to it in verse 14 of the same chapter. Why do you think that he repeats himself like this?

Living Beyond Myself – Take a moment to write down Titus 3:8 on a piece of paper and put it somewhere you'll see it throughout your day. Each time you see it, ask God to use you for doing his good.

Over the weekend – Read the story in the box above one more time and the notes you have jotted down in your *Spiritual Life Notebook*. God's Word is absolutely clear: You really are made for doing good by serving others. What ministry at FBC or in our community seems to be a good fit for you? Perhaps you've already found that job. Perhaps you are still looking. Either way, take courage to know that God prepared you well ahead of time and wants you to be strong and steady in him. Great things await you as you venture forth in faith, serving him.