

# GRAFFITI



study and do

# Graffiti Study and Do

## INTRODUCTION TO THE ACTION GUIDE

This is a six-week challenge for individuals or groups, intended to motivate you to step out of your comfort zone and look for ways to serve others that are less fortunate than you. Don't get nervous, we'll start with baby steps.

In these few weeks we will focus more on the "do." I've taught studies for years and I'm beginning to see how many of us live within the walls of our study groups and don't live out the uncomfortable truths that Jesus calls us to. It's as if living a life studying scripture makes us holy, but Jesus says "Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. *Act on what you hear!*" (James 1:22 MSG)

Looking at the life of Moses, reading the words of Rick - a homeless sojourner - in *Graffiti*, and reading Jesus' words, I know an incredible adventure waits for you. It will require bravery and a step out of your comfort zone, but you'll be blessed beyond measure if you follow the process.

Each week we will apply what we see corresponding to that week's chapter out of *Graffiti - stories from different sides of the street*. Then there will be a challenge presented that you need to step out and do before you move on in the *study and do*. Do not skip this challenge! This is where your adventure with God begins and you do not want to miss out.

I'm here for you every step of the way as a challenger, encourager, and motivator. If you are in need of resources, please do not hesitate to ask.

I can't wait to see the world-changer you will become as you study and act upon the graffiti on your heart!

Alene Snodgrass

# Graffiti Study and Do

## INTRODUCTION



### Part One: Introduction

**Prepare:** Grab a Bible and journal, as they will be your best tools on this journey. Writing out the graffiti on your heart and each thought or doubt you have will bring clarity to your next step.

**Peruse:** Make sure you have a copy of *Graffiti – scribbles from different sides of the street*. Purchase at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or at [graffiti.thebook.com](http://graffiti.thebook.com). Read the *Introduction*.

**Process:** Write down the thoughts and emotions that are stirring through soul as you read. There is no right or wrong feeling. Capturing your hearts graffiti will help lead you forward.

**Ponder:** Think about what is stirring in your heart and write it out. Ask yourself: Have you been called to step out of your comfort zone lately? If so, in what way? Do you go or did fear of the unknown stop you? What do you hope to get out of this *Study and Do*? Why is that important to you?

While *Graffiti* is partly written by a homeless man, it seems natural that we would look at how to serve the homeless. We will, but when you step out to be a world-changer there are countless ways to serve in different areas. We will explore many options as we journey together. There are opportunities galore right on your own street and in your own community.

**Pray:** *Dear Heavenly Father, I don't know where you are leading me. I know I am ready to experience you in a whole new way. Open my ears to hear your call. Give my heart a vision to how I can help others. Amen*

## Part Two: Study

### Your Story is Unique

Read *Unique Journeys* in *Graffiti*.

If you are anything like me, you are quick to compare yourself and your calling to others. Then after comparison, you sit around idle because it seems you and your calling “aren’t good enough.”

On this journey, especially if you are doing this in a group, it is important to realize that God will speak to each of us differently. Not only will He speak in different ways to us, but He will lay different people to serve on our hearts.

This can be intimidating. We want everyone to hear what God spoke to the core of our hearts so that they will understand. And we certainly don’t want to take a step out of our comfort zones *all by ourselves*. No, we’d rather step out as an army. It seems safer that way, doesn’t it?

God never calls the army first; He calls the leader! [\[tweet that\]](#)

#### **STUDY:**

Write out YOUR story. Get familiar with the details of what you have to share – your testimony. Be bold – this is your story! No one else on earth can tell your story as you’ve experienced it. That’s how unique you are.

Reflect and write about your childhood, teen years, and adulthood. When did you feel your lowest? When did you feel your best? When did you come to know God? What has been your biggest trial to overcome? What is your biggest blessing?

Too often we avoid looking at our own life, because it can be painful to examine ourselves. But in reality, that’s all we have to offer to another person to be relatable. Stretch yourself to be vulnerable. You will realize that your message will play into your mission.

God wants to use that mess you want to hide as your message of hope.

“We all have so much in common no matter what side of the street we live on.” [\(click to tweet\)](#)

## Part Three: Do

### Different Sides of the Street

Read *Rick's Side of the Street* and *My Side of the Street*

It's time to open your eyes to the differences around you. Different cultures, socio-economic statuses, languages, appearances, and religions are around every corner. When we walk through life with blinders on seeing only what we are comfortable with, we miss those that God puts in front of us who need love and attention.

Sometimes that very someone could be your neighbor across the street or it could be the man standing on the street corner that you avoid eye contact with. Either way needs abound.

Through Rick's story, and mine, I hope you see that although there are many differences in those across the street, there are actually more similarities than what you once perceived.

#### **DO:**

I long for you to realize that the graffiti on your heart comes from all aspects of life and from different sides of the street. This is God's graffiti that He is scribbling hoping that you will open your eyes to the beauty of His design.

Your DO assignment for the *Introduction* is to drive around town with your eyes and heart open. Ask God to reveal what you need to see and experience.

Go to the *other* side of town. What do you see? How is your neighborhood different? Is the transportation system different in that area? How do people get around? Where are the children?

Look the man in the eye's standing at the corner asking for money. What do you feel? Did he look back? Did you smile? Where do you think he eats?

Or walk across the street and visit with a neighbor you do not know. Were they surprised you came to visit? Did you know their names?

Drive to where you would find the worse poverty in your city or town. What are the needs there? Are the businesses thriving? How is the city responding?

After your trip around town, spend time writing what God revealed to you. Hop over to our Facebook page [\[click here\]](#) and tell of your experience.

# Graffiti Study and Do

## A GOD-GIVEN DESTINY



### Part One: A God-Given Destiny

**Prepare:** Grab a Bible and journal. Let's examine the story of Moses and see a man who knew all about graffiti from different sides of the street. Read Exodus 1:15 – 2:10 and let your mind put you in Moses place and time.

**Peruse:** Read *A God-Given Destiny - heart graffiti*.

**Process:** Jot down notes as you read. What words, phrases and scenes of Moses life are standing out to you? What are the cultural differences? Family situations? Religious and political tones?

**Ponder:** As we move forward we will see that Moses was a world-changer. Are you ready to be one? Are you ready to step out using your heart's passions and be different? The world is counting on you and if that is too overwhelming then think *one person is counting on me!* And that person is probably someone you do not even know.

"If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that." (Matt. 5:47 NLT)

Digging in this week you will be challenged to accept that you are different. Until you do that, you will continue to conform to this world, your friends, and those around you. You will be living your life to please them and missing out on your God-given talent and purpose.

Will embracing that you are different be easy? No. No one wants to stand out from the crowd, but that is what it is going to take for you to serve others with passion and purpose. To stop and serve the one needy soul, you have to step away from the ninety-nine. Living for yourself and what everyone else thinks will no longer be your normal.

**Pray:** *Lord Jesus, help us on this journey. Lord, we know you never conformed to the world or your family. You were always more interested in others – us. Lord, give us a heart that is bold for this journey to be more like you. Let us learn through the example of Moses. Amen.*

## Part Two: Study

### Be Different

Read *A God-Given Destiny: Different in Graffiti*.

No one sets out to be different. But those that God calls to use for greater purposes are different. They are the people who are willing to go where the everyday person will not want to go, they will talk to the people that others will not converse with, and they will give resources and money to help others in need.

That's being different in this society. American culture has convinced us that we should live our lives for bigger houses, more expensive cars, and shop 'til we drop. It's a notion that has force-fed us a big plate of selfishness that we eat off of daily. The more we look to fulfill our bigger and better mentality, the less we see the real needs of the world around us.

### STUDY:

Look again at the story of Moses in Exodus 1:15 – 2:10. Can you see how even Moses was stuck between two cultures? The haves and the have-nots. Those who were free and those bound by slavery. There was a different language, religious practice, dress, and sense of belonging across the cultures.

Being adopted Moses spent time in both cultures. What do you think was running through his mind? Would traversing two different cultures have you feeling like you were always “different?”

If you are like me, I am always aching to “fit in.” As you read the stories out of *Graffiti* were you struck by a story of when you felt “different?”

How did you feel? Alone or empowered? I think if we are honest, you and I would say being different makes us feel more alone than empowered. But the truth is our uniqueness empowers us. It's what separates you and I from others that God will use to bless his people with.

Spend time journaling about a situation you experienced that left you feeling different. Write out how that has affected you?

“Don't let what others consider “being different” derail you, let it empower you.”  
([click to tweet](#))

## Part Three: Do

### **Be Different**

Read *A God-Given Destiny: Mocked by Friends in Graffiti*.

While being different can sometimes hurt, it is time we set our fears aside and step into the beauty of our differences. Had I not been willing to be different and befriend a homeless man this story of *Graffiti* would not have come to be.

There are blessings that come when you embrace the differences. World changers actually go where the differences are because it's hard to change a group of comfortable status-quo people.

One of the most important things to remember is that when others ridicule you it actually is saying more about them and their insecurities. You see hurt people hurt people while comfortable people want to hang around comfortable people. So when you step into a different place, it will make the comfortable people uncomfortable. And if they are great friends, they will make sure you hear about it. Sad, but so true!

### **DO**

Lace up your tennis shoes and let's be different. All right, you can wear your heels if you'd like. Think back on when you drove to the other side of town. Remember all the differences you saw? What were the fast food places there? Was it hot or cold? What was that neighbor in need of?

I'm so excited. We are actually going to DO some serving. You are I are going to bless someone different from ourselves. I'll lay out three options. Feel free to do them all, but at least do one. If you need help or encouragement, please email me at [alenesnodgrass@gmail.com](mailto:alenesnodgrass@gmail.com).

1. Buy a \$5 gift card to the fast food restaurant that was in that area. Put it in your pocket and the first time you see someone in need bless them with it.
2. Depending on whether you weather is hot or cold put cold bottles or water or warm blankets in your car. When you see someone in need bless them.
3. Bake a batch of cookies and take to your neighbor to let them know you are their neighbor and are there for them if they need anything.

Once you've done your DO. Check in on the Facebook group ([click here](#)) and let us know how it went. Were you uncomfortable? Did you notice or forget about your differences? Were you blessed by stepping out?

# Graffiti Study and Do

## *BROKEN FOR OTHERS*



### Part One: Broken for Others

**Prepare:** Grab your Bible and journal and let's peak further into the story of Moses. Read Exodus 2:11 – 4:17 and experience the emotions just as if you were there with Moses.

**Peruse:** Read *Broken for Others - heart graffiti*.

**Process:** Glance back over the story of Moses. Write about who you think his heart was broken for and why? What changed when God called Moses? Where do you think his spirit of fear and inadequacy came from?

**Ponder:** Moses lived between two cultures – his own and then later Pharaoh's. Having the “gift of perspective” since he had experienced both lifestyles, his heart broke now for his own people – those caught in slavery. (Ex. 2:11-15)

Therefore his anger got the best of him when he killed the Egyptian beating up on his fellow man. He felt compassion on them. Of course, responding the wrong way led him running for his life. While he obviously had a passion for his people, he ran the other way.

When God calls, Moses is quick with a line of excuses. I'm not good enough. I don't know enough. I can't speak well. They won't listen to me. Can't you relate? Speaking for myself, every time God calls I'm quick to argue and lay out my list of excuses of why I am not the one for that specific calling.

God already knew the compassion that was embedded in Moses heart. He knew how the injustices angered him. God sees what angers you. He knows your heart. He is calling you to step out and do something.

As with Moses, God calls us to an area or person and we freeze. Maybe we've experienced something there and our hearts don't want to go back. But with your gift of perspective, now God can lead you back to help others see freedom.

Moses didn't want to go back. He had legitimate concerns. He had just killed somebody there and the King was asking for his life. That seems like concern enough to me to lay those arguments out before God. But realize the arguments did not good. God's will prevailed. I'm always reminded that our God can be a bossy God when he wants something done and people freed.

**Pray:** *Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us a heart of compassion that longs to help others. Forgive us when we argue with you and do not step out when you call. Lord, help us lay our inadequacies down. Help us realize that if you called, you will equip us for that call. Open our eyes to see the needs, Father. Amen.*

## Part Two: Study

### Broken for Others

Read *Broken for Others: Words Tear Down*.

Rick reminds us that words spoken by others can tear us down. But there are words that tear us down even further, and those are the words that rush through our minds daily. Have you ever stopped to realize what phrases are rolling through your head? Did you know that psychologists have studied and presume about 70 percent of what's in your self-thoughts are negative?

Long before Moses laid out his excuses to God, they were forming in his mind. He was putting himself down. What excuses and negative thoughts are you constantly feeding yourself? How are those stopping you from taking that bold step to where God is calling you? How could your own negative self-talk be keeping you from serving God's people?

#### STUDY:

As you read Exodus 2:11 – 4:17 earlier, what thoughts came to your mind? Through the story of God calling Moses, did you sense God laying a message on your heart? Or maybe like Moses, you've heard the calling but you're still questioning and procrastinating?

Either way, God is challenging us just as He did Moses not to worry or fret over the calling. None of our arguing will change a thing or erase the calling. I know, I've tried for years. What God is asking of us, is the same thing He asked of Moses when he said, "What's in your hand?" (Ex. 4:2)

God doesn't want us tripping out over how we can fulfill what He is asking of us. He wants us to make a brave move and start today by using what is in our hand. All Moses had was a staff. I can almost hear the chuckle as Moses probably thought, "Seriously, you've asked me to free these people from the death grips of the King and this is all I have to use?"

What we see as insignificant, God sees as mighty when used for His purpose. Ask yourself, *what's in my hand?* Don't focus your thoughts on the big picture of what or where you think God is leading you; focus yet on the smaller thing you have in your hand. Raise that to God and step across the street.

"Reach out and love the broken, don't condemn them like the rest of the world." ([click to tweet](#))

## Part Three: Do

### **Broken for Others**

Read *Broken for Others: Jail House Rock*.

This hurting world is looking for brave people who are ready to get messy with them and help them see a new way to live. But we're too comfortable and routined. Many of the lost souls we pass by daily, as we are too engrossed in our own schedules to see. Sometimes we don't want to look, because we know if we see we are responsible for doing something.

We talk ourselves out of serving another because we are afraid and think we are not relatable. But the sun rises on both sides of the street; meaning if you would but serve another you'd soon see many similarities between you.

There are broken people all around us. It's time we stop for a moment and notice what is in our hand that we can use. Are you comfortable with prayer? Then pray for your neighbor who is struggling. Do you have a loaf of bread? Then prepare a few sandwiches and distribute them to those who are in need. Do you have extra money? Donate it to a women's shelter who is in need. Do you have extra time? Volunteer with the Salvation Army and go feed the hungry.

The fact that we live in America means we have much in our hands. We have excess in many areas that can benefit those across the street struggling.

### **DO**

Grab loaves of bread and peanut butter. Make as many sandwiches as you can and place them in sandwich bags. Then head to your area of town where those who are in need might be.

Stop to hand them a sandwich. Spend a minute visiting. Ask them their name. Ask them if you can pray for them.

If God has laid another way to serve the broken on your heart during these messages of "Broken for Others," then please serve as you see need. The main thing is that you DO something. It's time to quit questioning and act!

This is summed up perfectly in Luke 16:9-10 NIV, *"Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home. If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones."*

How can you serve the broken with what's in your hand?

# Graffiti Study and Do

## OPPOSITION TO VICTORY



### Part One: Opposition to Victory

**Prepare:** Read Exodus Chapters 6 –14. Take a few days to do this if necessary.

**Peruse:** Read *Opposition to Victory - heart graffiti*.

**Process:** As you read through the chapters, write out each conflict that Moses encountered. What resistance do you see? From Moses own doubts to confrontations with others?

**Ponder:** There was no denying that God had called Moses to set the Israelites free. Moses reluctantly agreed and you would think that since the Lord had

commissioned him things would have gone smoothly. But that's not what we read.

But as you read in chapters 6 –14, Pharaoh did not release the people. Moses ended up having to go back ten times to no avail. And each time his journey to the palace of Pharaoh was met with a resounding “no” and a horrific plague.

My heart wants to scream, “No, God! You called him. Why didn't you make Pharaoh release the people? Why wasn't the journey easy?” My mind wants easy answers, because my journey feels like Moses'. And maybe your specific call was met with resistance too? Don't you wonder why?

Exodus 7:2 The Lord says, “You are to say everything I command you.” And from what I can see Moses does as the Lord says each time he is positioned to speak to Pharaoh. But Pharaoh doesn't free the people, plagues fall on the land, and Moses is prompted to return again. This is not what I would call the perfect ministry plan.

But as I dig further what I see is the character of Moses being built up. When God first calls Moses doubts, argues, and suggests God send someone else. In other words, he was lacking in confidence. Not only confidence in himself; but also confidence in the Lord.

In Chapter 14 Moses leads the people through the Red Sea, which ultimately frees them. There we see where the opposition Moses experienced eventually led to victory. Through the oppositions Moses not only has confidence, but the leadership skills to lead the people. He had earned their trust. (Ex. 14:31)

**Pray:** *Lord Jesus, forgive us when we cry out because our journey is not easy and free of obstacles. Lord, help us be as persistent and determined as Moses. May we not forget the calling you placed in our hearts. Thank you for the journey ahead, Lord, as it will grow in us confidence, leadership, and earned trust.*

## Part Two: Study

### **Opposition to Victory**

Read *Opposition to Victory: Falsely Accused*.

Being accused of something you did not do is gut wrenching. This is what so many Biblical characters experienced. And of course, Jesus' false accusations landed him on a cross for each of us. Although there is Biblical story after story of those who faced hard times while following Jesus' call, somehow I still want mine to be free of conflict. I want easy street.

One thing to note is that hard times will come in our lives. There is no escaping it. But if we allow God in those dark moments, He will refine us for the path ahead. As crazy as it sounds, our hard times prepare us for where God is leading us.

When we walk with the light of God through our darkest moments, we become stronger. And it's here where we have to learn to persevere as Moses did. Fight through the opposition because others are counting on us.

There's a tug-of-war going on in life. It's good fighting evil, freedom fighting slavery, Moses fighting Pharaoh, and you and I fighting our own adversaries. As we fight through our battles with God on our side, we gain a new freedom. That freedom is priceless: and once you gain freedom, you can give freedom.

### **STUDY:**

Glance back to Exodus 14:13-15. The Lord asks Moses, "Why are you crying out to me?" Oh my, I can't even imagine how many times God wants to speak that in to my soul. When hard times hit, I want to freeze and complain. What I've learned is that's the sure fire way to stay stuck.

God gives Moses and us three easy steps to follow to find victory:

1. Stand firm. To claim our victory we have to stand firm on the promises and calling that God has given us – despite our circumstances. What is going on in our lives does not change what God wants for each of us.
2. Be still. This is not "doing nothing", which is what most of us do when faced with a devastating situation. It's rather finding stillness and peace in our soul knowing God is there and his promises remain.
3. Move on. God cannot do anything through you and I as long as we are sitting idle. He expects us to do our part, which is get up and move on regardless of what we are going through.

What is stifling your journey? Note: "You have got to claim victory over your opposition before you can step into God's plan for your life." (click to tweet)

## Part Three: Do

### **Opposition to Victory**

Read *Opposition to Victory: Let Your Secrets Go*.

For some reason hitting adversity makes us want to curl up in the corner of a dark room and hide from the world. We surely don't want everyone to know what we are going through.

But we are ineffective when we are alone hiding from our fears. We are more powerful when we are vulnerable, real, and authentic with what we are going through. You've probably read the scripture before in 2 Corinthians 12:9 when Jesus tells Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." But did you take it to heart? Do you believe what it says?

For most of us to step out and change the world, we are going to have to realize that world-changers change the world despite the struggles they are going through. (click to tweet that) Despite hardships, we are called to serve others.

For those of us who put on a mask and act like everything is fine when we are around others, do we really realize how much damage we do by doing that? Our churches are full of people who are pretending life is grand and perfect. When others face hardships, they turn away from the church because they think, "only perfect people are here and they wouldn't understand." What a travesty!

Our victory is on the way, but in the meantime let's put in to practice the words of Paul "That is why, for Christ's sake I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

### **DO**

On your way to church or your office, pray that God would reveal the hidden hurts of others? Arriving, find a few people to engage in conversation with. Let the conversation go deeper than you usually would. How will you do that? By opening up and sharing your life experiences and being vulnerable.

Share what you are struggling with, what you have overcome and your authentic emotions that accompanied both. You will be amazed that once you start sharing from a deeper level, you then give others the freedom to share as well.

Write about your experience. Journal about how it felt when you let your secrets go and gained a new freedom, which in turn gave others freedom.

Share your experience at our Facebook page by [clicking here](#).

# Graffiti Study and Do

## FOR YOUR GENERATION



### Part One: For Your Generation

**Prepare:** Moses continues to follow God's leading for his generation. Read Exodus 31:1-6 and Exodus 32.

**Peruse:** Read *For Your Generation - heart graffiti*.

**Process:** Write out the strengths and gifts God has blessed you with. Are you using them to the fullest? Do you think the only time you are required to serve others is when the need falls within your area of gifting?

**Ponder:** It's time to get our eyes off ourselves and on to the hurting world God has placed us in. When we can't step out due to our circumstances, it's because our eyes are fixed on our problems and not on God. When our prayers are

continually that God break us from pride, gossip, anger, etc. it is because our eyes are fixed on our needs.

We live in a world where it is so easy to live a life full of the “all about me” syndrome. Oh how I know this to be true – it’s my life! But to be the servant God needs us to be, we have to keep our eyes fixed on Him.

This journey of leading others really starts with leading ourselves. (click to tweet) Reflect on your heart. Where would you say it is focused the majority of the time?

From our reading above, we see that God gives gifts to get his will accomplished. He gifts each one of us differently so that we can work together for His kingdom purposes. Do you know what happens when we take those gifts and talents and use them only when it is convenient or when it brings us glory? We become an “all about me” generation.

We don’t want to make a sandwich to hand to someone in need because we say our gift isn’t hospitality. We refuse to give money to God’s house because we are saving for that flat-screen TV. We don’t want to stop and visit with a new neighbor because we say that isn’t our personality, we’re shy.

It is so easy to make this world all about ourselves and not this generation. God requires us to serve all, whether that is our specific calling or not. Yes, He expects us to use our gifts as well, but not use them as an excuse not to serve others when needed.

**Pray:** *Lord Jesus, forgive us when we turn our eyes toward ourselves. It is so hard to stay focused in this world that screams “more, more, more.” Lord, focus our hearts on others. Let us see how to serve their needs. Give us eyes to see how we can help, Lord. Amen.*

## Part Two: Study

### For Your Generation

Read *For Your Generation: What Would You Do*.

It always confounds my heart when you step into a city where there are multi-million dollar homes and within a few miles you find such a dark impoverished street. For the most part the two don't mingle. They stay separated on their sides of the street. The wealthy complain that those without jobs should get one. And the impoverished complain that those with wealth should share. Both have their eyes fixed on themselves.

Maybe you don't live in a city such as that. But what I do know about your community is that there is a need. Just as God spoke to Moses in Exodus 31 he says to you too, "I have chosen you, and I have filled you with my Spirit, with skill, ability, and knowledge." Filled with God's love and spirit you can see the need, you just need but take your eyes off yourself and start looking around.

What needs do you see? If you think there aren't any, take another look.

- Look on your suburban neighborhood street – what do you know about your neighbors? What are their needs? How can you help?
- Open your eyes at church – who do you see? The mom who is struggling? The widow who is lonely? A man without work?
- Visit a nursing home – how many there never are visited? Who can you read to, take for a stroll, or paint their fingernails?
- Call your school district – how many children are there from homeless families? What resources and needs do they need?

Needs are everywhere when we open our eyes to see. In a world that is only worried about itself, having discipline to look out for others is a daily struggle.

### **STUDY:**

Read Matthew 25:14-30 and Romans 12:10-16. Write out the key points that have pricked your heart.

Those six verses can easily sum up how Christ expects us to live – loving others and playing second fiddle. Why is this so hard? While honoring others we are afraid that somehow we will be lost in the process. But Christ tells us that the least shall be greatest, as the world shouts all the louder "live for yourself!"

Scripture tells us to share with God's people in need and to associate with people of low position. With all the blessings and gifts that God has given us, why do you think this is so hard to accomplish?

## Part Three: Do

### **For Your Generation**

Read *For Your Generation: Seeing a Miracle and Injustice*.

Before we get busy doing, let's reflect a moment on Exodus 32. Here we see all the people that God had gifted with extreme talents and abilities living in community. They were a strong group, but were growing ever impatient with what God was going to do among them.

Because of their impatience they decided to use their own resources and talents for themselves. With eyes focused on their own needs, what God had gifted them to do they used to make a golden calf to worship. They truly lost sight of what God was doing in them for that generation.

But not to point fingers just at Aaron and his community, we are also guilty of doing the same thing. Let's be honest, because I think we've all experienced this to some degree. Maybe you sense a direct calling from God and as you set out to walk into that calling, you find yourself met with opposition and hard circumstances. You know the blessing is upon you, so you set out to find other ways to fulfill that impatience that is stirring within you.

Note sure what we're referring to – maybe you know God has called you to start an organization. It will take money and time. You step forward to bring it all together and are met with resistance after resistance. Your impatience and frustrations are overtaking you. You decide you need a breather – you take off on a shopping trip with the money you had saved. The giftedness of money and vision has now become your whimsical shopping trip.

Are you doomed forever? No! Thankfully we worship and serve a God of second and third chances, but the generation that you are to serve will have to wait a little longer until you are back on track.

### **DO**

It's time we take responsibility for our actions. If you are a Christ follower, he is counting on you for this generation. He has blessed you beyond measure to fulfill what he has placed on your heart. Hurting people are counting on you!

Have you grown impatient in the wait of seeing what God has prepared for you? The way to overcome this is to step out and meet someone else's need.

Read Isaiah 61:1-2. You are anointed. Take that verse to heart and serve someone. Write the experience for all to remember for generations to come or share on the Facebook page [here](#).

# Graffiti Study and Do

## *SILENCE BIRTHS VISION*



### Part One: Silence Births Vision

**Prepare:** Read Exodus 33:7-18.

**Peruse:** Read *Silence Births Vision - heart graffiti*.

**Process:** Moses longed for intimate time with God and had designed a special place where they could meet together called “tent of meeting.” Do you have a special place to meet with and hear from God?

**Ponder:** Despite all the crazy that had taken place in Moses life, he knew no one else could help him fulfill this calling but God. Reflecting back on all we’ve pointed out through this study, it’s a wonder Moses didn’t call it quits.

Moses not only being frustrated with his own journey and the impatience of freeing the people, he had to listen to complaining and arguing continually. He was probably wondering when he could catch a break. Oh how I can relate to Moses!

But for some reason I find myself so often wanting to run to friends or coworkers to help me along my journey. I search here and there for someone who has the answers that I need. The more I search for the answers, the more it seems God is more silent and the noisier the world gets.

While we seek big ways to serve God, God just quietly whispers to our soul to come away to a secluded place with him. No big fanfare. No noise. Just Him!

While we neglect our secret times with God and run around in this noisy world the specifics of our calling are prolonged. It's in the quiet that God will reveal each baby step we are to take.

And sometimes we might spend a season in the quiet before God speaks the next step. He is loving on us, preparing us, and ripening our heart for the next step of obedience. Seasons of silence can become frustrating, if we don't keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. (Heb. 12:2)

Has this study overwhelmed you? Are you growing impatient with the season of silence that you are in? Are you eager to know the next street you are to travel? Write it out. Lay your frustrations and requests before God.

**Pray:** *Lord, give me a holy hunger for quiet moments with you. Help me be focuses at stepping out of the noisy world and into a secret place with you where we can fellowship. I want to know you more. I long to hear from you. Lord, help me find peace while I wait in expectation of what you will reveal. Amen.*

## Part Two: Study

### **Silence Births Vision**

Read *Silence Births Vision: His Love*.

Silence is awkward. I think the noisier our world becomes the more squeamish we become at facing silence. Try sitting in a room with someone being silent for five minutes. It's hard.

Not only is being silent hard, but it also becomes a discipline of our mind. When the world, our friends, or even God is silent we begin to question and doubt ourselves. We fidget wondering what is wrong. Our minds quickly turn on themselves.

The silence quickly leads to self-examination. And for most of us that is a downward spiral to the grave of nowhere. But what if we learned to climb that spiral upward. What if we learned to count our blessings and praise God in our silence? Surely we'd see a different world.

You might feel this awkward silence now as we wrap up this study. Maybe you're wondering why you haven't heard God speak specifics or why stepping out of your comfort zone feels clumsy. But I would challenge you to turn your thoughts around. Instead of focusing on all your questions, focus on the blessings of what you have learned.

### **STUDY:**

Read James 1:2-18. The book of James gives us a guideline for what Christian living is all about. Tough and challenging times will come and go – that's life. But if we remain positive under pressure we are sure to see the blessings.

If it seems God is quiet in your life at the moment, he is preparing you for your journey. He knows that if you seek him and persevere, your work will be accomplished in due season. But when you allow doubt and fatigue to creep in you are sitting yourself up for failure.

1 Peter 5:6-9 is a great reminder that God will lift you up in due time. In the in-between times of impatience remember to cast those cares on him. Go to your "tent of meeting" and give God your frustrations. Let him know His silence feels as if it is deafening your spirit.

Remember always that this journey you are on is not ultimately yours. It is a path that God has called you to. Your path will intertwine with souls that you are to reach. The enemy knows this and will do his best to try to throw you off course. Do not let silence or frustrations get the best of your journey.

## Part Three: Do

### **Silence Births Vision**

Read *Silence Births Vision: All I Want*.

As we have journeyed through this 'study and do' together, my prayer is that you not leave this place frustrated or overwhelmed. For many of us learning how to see with new eyes that are aware of needs around us takes years.

Sometimes, I believe, that God seems silent and that is because we are serving already where he needs us at that given moment. He can use us to love on children, families on our block or even co-workers. While Jesus heart is clearly about the broken, what I've learned is that the broken are everywhere.

But I challenge you, if you are struggling with stepping into the fear of the unknown or even feeling overwhelmed from the suggestions listed here, not to give in and turn your eyes back to yourself. It is so easy to do when things don't readily go our way.

Instead, when you are feeling overwhelmed take a moment to sneak away to your special place and breathe in God's presence. He is there waiting to hear about your fears and frustrations. He leads you with all the grace that you need for this journey, which can be confusing at times.

The key is to embrace the silence and not let it paralyze you on this journey.

### **DO**

While sometimes we need more quiet and silence in our souls to clarify what God is saying, other times we focus on the silence and use it as a excuse to keep from doing. If God has spoken to your soul, He will not speak again until you stop out and do what He has already asked of you.

Your "do" assignment is to glance back over *Graffiti* and think about what God has already impressed upon your heart to do. Then step out and do it!

There are needs on every street in this great country that we live in. Which street is God beckoning you to? The street that leads to your child's school, the cul-de-sac that you live on, the busy intersection where the man stands in need of food, or the highway where a woman in the nursing home is lonely.

If we all decided to be brave and step out of our comfort zones to help another, what a different place this world would be. By making a difference in one person's life, we are making a difference in the world.

# Graffiti Study and Do

## CONCLUSION

This six-week challenge has been an incredible journey. My prayer for you is that this is only the beginning of your life surrendered in living bravely to make a difference in others' lives.

When we learn to listen to the needs of our streets and communities and then step out to serve that need, we love like Jesus did. He went where the needs were. He served the down-and-out with love and compassion.

Please keep in contact and continue to share your graffiti stories on our Facebook page by [clicking here](#). Each one of us is inspired through others' stories of obedience.

If you ever need help or resources, please feel free to contact me at alenesnodgrass (at) gmail (dot) com.

It has been a blessing beyond measure leading you down this street with eyes wide-opened looking for God's graffiti.

Blessings from the other side of the street,

Alene Snodgrass