

Week 7: Impact - *How am I impacting my realm of influence?*

My Story

In 2011, the Lord spoke *clearly* to me that I was going to be a Foster Mama. I was about to turn 40, I had a very busy social life, I was single with family living out of town, I lived on a school teacher's salary – and I had no desire to be a Foster Mama. Zero, zilch, nada.

Rewind back to 2009. As I was spending time in prayer one evening, God said to me “you will preach to thousands.” Uhm, excuse me? I immediately pictured Beth Moore on a stage with *thousands* of people in the audience. I assumed “preach to thousands” meant that I was going to be Beth Moore, Jr. – literally preaching on a stage with thousands of women in the audience. I had no desire to be Beth Moore, Jr. Zero, zilch, nada.

Fast forward to 2014. So far, I have had the honor of being Mama Steph to two beautiful daughters and one handsome son. Once I put aside my fear, my selfishness, my anxiety – and stepped into obedience and said YES to God – He began to write the most beautiful story. When I started my Foster Mama journey, I decided to “live out loud” and share my heart and my hurt and my struggles publicly, mainly through a blog and Facebook. Recently, my foster son unexpectedly went back to his birth mama. It was then that the Lord showed me what He meant by “preach to thousands”. I received countless messages and texts, telling me how my story and my faith have touched them - how my story clearly points to Jesus. He didn't need me to be Beth Moore, Jr. He just needed me to be Mama Steph, a woman after God's own heart, living out loud for the “thousands” to behold.

Ladies, we live in a very dark world – a world that is desperate for the light of Jesus. The Bible is clear that we are to live out loud, to shine the light of Jesus wherever we are.

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16.

Wherever the Lord has you – that is your sphere of influence. Go shine!

Questions to Ask Yourself

- Where is your sphere of influence? Is it at your job? Your child's play group? Your home?
- What are some practical ways that you can “let your light shine before others” in your sphere of influence?
- What does the phrase “live out loud” mean to you?

Final Thoughts

This week is about going and doing. And the Bible clearly says faith without works is dead (James 2:20)! Is there anywhere in your realm of influence you could be more prayerfully intentional to shine? The acts of kindness cards are

perfect way to get you started! You have more influence than you realize and your life makes big difference. Plus, it will bring so much to joy to YOU in return to love and serve! Let our life be like a stone dropped in the pond whose ripples reach out far and wide!