

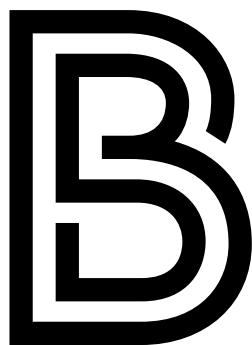
BETTERMAN DEFINED

A Real Man Betters
God's World



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A special thanks to Dr. Bryan Hurlbutt,
Bill Eubanks, and Dr. Chris Harper for their
effort in creating this curriculum.



SESSION 1



**A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S
WORLD: *HIS CHARACTER***



A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S WORLD: HIS CHARACTER

01

BETTER MEN ARE WORLD-CHANGING MEN

A. What does it mean to be a world-changing man?

- A world-changing man:
 1. Is a _____ kind of man.
 2. Is a particular kind of man who _____ affects others for good.
 3. Is a particular kind of man who intentionally affects others for good in their immediate _____.

B. You can only be a world-changing man if you are a man who is

_____.

“The most important thing about a man is not what he does,
it is who he becomes.” - DALLAS WILLARD

2 Timothy 2:20-21:

“Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.”

- In Scripture, we meet a man who had the character to be a world-changing man in the world around him:

[Nehemiah was called by God to leave a great job (Nehemiah 1:11) and rebuild the city walls of his hometown, Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:3-8a; 2:9-3:32). Nehemiah knew God was with him (2:8b). He also found out that it wouldn't be easy, and he would face strong opposition (4:1-32). With that in mind, through Nehemiah's life we see four vital traits a man must have as he changes the world around him...]

02

WORLD-CHANGING MEN LISTEN TO THOSE WHO ARE HURTING

- A. A real man pays attention to the hurting people in his life and doesn't _____ them.

Nehemiah 5:1-6:

"Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives...I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words..."

“When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen.”

- ERNEST HEMINGWAY

- Our love for God is reflected in our ability to have an open heart to the needs of hurting people around us.

1 John 3:17:

“But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?”

B. A real man lets himself _____ the pain of others.

Romans 12:15b:

“...weep with those who weep.”

“*I do not ask the wounded person how he feels, I myself become the wounded person.*” – WALT WHITMAN

- Practicing empathy can evoke feelings of anger. A real man has righteous, not _____, anger.
- The Hebrew word for “*angry*” also means “*to burn*.” Nehemiah shows us that there is a place for righteous anger:

Nehemiah 5:6:

“I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words...”

“*A vigorous temper is not altogether an evil. Men who are as easy as an old shoe are generally of as little worth.*” – CHARLES H. SPURGEON



- C. Righteous anger is not based on personal offense or inconvenience. That kind of anger is _____. Archbishop Desmond Tutu said:

“Righteous anger is usually not about oneself. It is about those whom one sees being harmed and whom one wants to help. In short, righteous anger is a tool of justice, a scythe of compassion, more than a reactive emotion. Although it may have its roots deep in our fight-or-flight desire to protect those in our family or group who are threatened, it is a chosen response and not simply an uncontrollable reaction. And it is not about one’s own besieged self-image, or one’s feelings of separation, but of one’s collective responsibility, and one’s feeling of deep, empowering connection.”

- Righteous anger is directed at injustice because God’s creation and glory are despised. This is the kind of anger that Jesus had as people were defaming God’s temple:

Matthew 21:13-14:

“And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, ‘It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”

- Righteous anger is not an _____. Paul David Tripp says it well, righteous anger:

“is a calling for people who claim to be living for something bigger than their own happiness, who are committed to ministry, and who profess to do what’s right, true, loving, and good. You can’t be like God and be free of anger as long as you live in a sin-broken world.”

03

WORLD-CHANGING MEN CONFRONT THE WRONG AROUND THEM AND IN THEM

A. All confrontations with injustices must be self-controlled. Like Nehemiah, we need to _____ before we _____;

Nehemiah 5:7-13:

"I took counsel with myself... I also shook out the fold of my [own] garment..."

- Unfortunately, our anger as men is usually the wrong kind of anger.
- Proverbs warns us that *"A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls."* – Proverbs 25:28
- Men and women both get angry, but studies show that men tend to act out in more _____ ways. According to a 2003 St John's University study,

"...men scored higher on physical aggression, passive aggression and experiences of impulsively dealing with their anger. They also more often had a revenge motive to their anger and scored higher on coercing other people."

B. If you are willing to confront the wrong in others, you must be willing to confront the wrong in _____.



- Nehemiah admits his own complicity in oppression. He teaches us to be equal opportunity offenders in our correction, even if the offender is ourselves:

Nehemiah 5:10:

“Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest...”

- Jesus reinforces this practice of self-assessment before we look at the sins of others:

Matthew 7:3-5:

“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

- Personal _____ is necessary when confronting someone else’s sin. Before you judge the sin of another, first repent of the sin in your life.

“When God shows us a particular sin that we are guilty of, He doesn’t tell us to take our time dealing with it. No, He says, ‘deal with it NOW!’ When we realize what we are doing wrong, now is the time to stop it.”

– CHARLES SWINDOLL

04

WORLD-CHANGING MEN SACRIFICE THEIR LIVES AND RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS

- A. Putting your needs _____ the needs of others is a mark of a world-changing man.

Nehemiah 5:14-18:

“Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor... Moreover, there were at my table 150 men, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us. Now what was prepared at my expense...”

- Such sacrifice shows that you are different than the rest of the _____.

“*I think that the good and the great are only separated by their willingness to sacrifice.*” - KAREM ABDUL JABBAR

“*Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’*” - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

- Such sacrifice shows that you are _____ like Jesus.

Philippians 2:3-5:

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus”

“We are called to be world changers, not world chasers.” - JARED WILSON

B. Using what God has blessed you with to bless others is a mark of a world-changing man.

- The early church modeled what many of us miss: _____.

Acts 4:34-35:

“There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.”

“Giving is the highest expression of potency.” - DALLAS WILLARD

C. Communal living should ultimately be driven by a reverence for the God who created you and those you are sacrificing for. Nehemiah said,

Nehemiah 5:15b:

“Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God.”

- A great example of sacrificial living is seen in the churches of Macedonia commended by Paul in 2 Corinthians. We read in 2 Corinthians 8:3-5, “For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves **first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.**”

- Generosity starts with an orientation to _____ and then produces a generous heart toward _____.
-

05

WORLD-CHANGING MEN GIVE THE GLORY TO GOD

Nehemiah 5:19:

“Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people.”

- A. God is your great _____.

Matthew 6:1-4:

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

- Real men are content to do what is right without the applause of man.
- Real men focus on living _____ (before the face of God). They want to live for God—they are not worried about the approval of man.

- Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for being more concerned about getting approval and praise from others rather than God:

John 12:43:

“For they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.”

- The true test of a man’s _____ is what he does when no one is watching.

“ Character is what a man is in the dark.” - D. L. MOODY



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Empathy is the ability to step into someone's pain—to share the feelings of another. Why do you think men (generally) struggle to exercise empathy? Are you very empathetic? Explain.
2. In two or three sentences, explain the difference between righteous and unrighteous anger.
3. Eugene Peterson said the secret to the Christian life is "congruency." Congruency is when what we profess to believe [say] reflects how we live [act]. In other words, our actions and words line up! Where is your life congruent? Where is it not?

YOUR BETTERMAN REFLECTION:

Before our next session, take a moment this week to sit and listen to someone. As they open up, do not offer advice, do not interject your own story, do not try to fix anything—just listen. What did you learn about that person that you might have missed otherwise? Write your answer in the space below.





MY IMPACT STORY

AN INVITATION

Before coming back for Session 2, we invite you to spend some extended time with your table group members this week, talking about “*making an impact on God’s world*” with one another.

Today, your table leaders will help you schedule a meeting time. This gathering is a unique opportunity to strengthen your table relationships and add depth and context to your future weekly BetterMan discussions.

WHEN YOU MEET

- Have your gathering in a private, comfortable, undisturbed setting. Provide light refreshments. A table leader’s home is an excellent option for this gathering.
- Allow at least two and a half hours for this gathering.
- Your table leaders will lead you through this time together.
- This is a time for everyone to have the opportunity to talk about his vocational journey. Each person will have up to 15 minutes to share. (Table leaders will keep time and give you a “heads up” when you need to begin wrapping up your story after 14 minutes.)
- To help prepare you for sharing your story, you will be given 5 minutes at the beginning of the gathering to write down your thoughts and answers under the three categories listed on the following page. You can prepare to share your story in advance by writing down your answers before you get there. These written reflections will help to focus and guide you as you share your story with your table-mates.
- Table leaders will share their stories first. After everyone has shared his story, take a few minutes for the group to reflect and comment on what they’ve just heard. What stood out in these stories? Did any common themes emerge? What was most impactful?
- Enjoy this unique time together!



MY IMPACT STORY

- Briefly share about the person who most impacted your life. Who was he/she? What was he/she like? If the impact was positive, what did you admire most about them? If the impact was negative, what made it so?

- When you think about your life [as of today], where have you made the most meaningful impact? What makes the impact meaningful? Who are the people, and in what areas could your impact be greater? How?

- It was Neil Gaiman who said, *"Everybody is going to be dead one day, just give them time."* When you die, what do you want to be remembered for? What are you doing today to ensure this is your legacy?

SESSION 2



A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S WORLD: *HIS CHURCH*



A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S WORLD: *HIS CHURCH*

01 A REAL MAN IS PRESENT IN A LOCAL CHURCH

A. He _____ his presence in the local church.

Hebrews 10:24-25:

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

- According to a recent PEW research poll, less than a quarter of men attend a church service weekly.
- According to Lifeway research, on average, Father's Day is the least attended Sunday in the Christian church. [Source: <https://research.lifeway.com/2012/05/11/mothers-day-church-attendance-third-among-holidays-fathers-day-last/>]

“Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man.” - D. L. MOODY

“The disciple is one who, intent upon becoming Christ-like and so dwelling in his 'faith and practice,' systematically and progressively rearranges his affairs to that end.” - DALLAS WILLARD



B. He _____ his presence in the local church.

- A man who loves Jesus cannot say “*I love Jesus*” and then neglect Jesus’s Bride, the church.

Psalm 122:1:

“I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

“ *A sign of a healthy church is crying babies and **singing men!***” - UNKNOWN

C. He _____ in his presence in the local church.

“ *The people who stay are the ones who make a difference.*” - HOWARD HENDRICKS

- Simply put: Don’t be a church _____! Yes, being in a doctrinally and morally healthy church is important. But remember, no church is perfect, and no church is always preferential.

“ *Declining church loyalty—or what is sometimes referred to as ‘church hopping’—is becoming a common feature of churchgoing. Just because somebody might attend church doesn’t mean they attend the same church every time. While a majority of churchgoers tend to stick with a single congregation (63% churched adults, 72% practicing Christians), a sizable minority is at least occasionally attending other churches, including nearly two in five churched adults (38%) and one-quarter of practicing Christians (27%).*”

- BARNA GROUP, [HTTPS://WWW.BARNA.COM/RESEARCH/CURRENT-PERCEPTIONS/](https://www.barna.com/research/current-perceptions/)

02

A REAL MAN PLUGS INTO HIS LOCAL CHURCH

A. A man who is “plugged in” is a man that is actively being

_____ in his local church.

- Paul wrote to a young pastor, Timothy, in the local church [at Ephesus] that he was to establish a pattern of disciple-making. He said... “what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.” – 2 Timothy 2:2
- Four generations and three exchanges of disciple-making are seen in 2 Timothy 2:2:
 - Paul to Timothy
 - Timothy to faithful men
 - Faithful men to others
- Every man should ask himself a series of important _____:
 1. Who have I placed myself under in a relationship where they regularly pour godly wisdom into me?
 2. Who am I regularly accountable to?
 3. What am I regularly learning from other men that I can apply in the crucial areas of my life as a man?
 4. How do the relationships and environments I place myself in make me feel safe and stretched?

B. A man who is “plugged in” is a man who actively engages other men in his local church in meaningful _____.



- Men are becoming more, not less, isolated, and that is not a good thing.
- According to a 2021 study from the Survey Center on American Life:
“The percentage of men with at least six close friends fell by half since 1990, from 55 percent to 27 percent. The study also found the percentage of men without any close friends jumped from 3 percent to 15 percent, a fivefold increase.”
- We need _____ to be able to thrive amidst the difficulties of life.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10:

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!”

- Some reasons to make your local church the place to seek out male friendships:
 1. You are worshipping the Lord together weekly.
 2. You are both heading in the same direction in life.
 3. You are both learning the same stuff.
 4. You will see each other regularly.
 5. You can both easily get to know one another's family.
 6. You are both accountable to the same leadership.
 7. You can experience life on mission together through mutual ministry and service.
 8. If the relationship is ever strained, you can't hide from each other if you are committed to attending your local church.

Proverbs 13:20:

“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”

Proverbs 27:17:

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”

- C. A man who is “plugged in” is investing his _____ in the ministry life of his local church.
- Nothing is _____ him.

“ *There are no menial jobs, only menial attitudes.*” - WILLIAM J. BENNETT

- Everything is a privilege for him.
- A real man invests his energies in the church because he GETS TO, not because he has to.
- A “get to” _____ is evidenced by a man’s five key choices:
 1. He must choose gratitude over groaning.
 2. He must choose appreciation over _____.
 3. He must choose enthusiasm over entropy.
 4. He must choose _____ over obligation.
 5. He must choose resolution over resentment.
- Everyone is honored and valued by him.

Romans 12:10:

“Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

- He looks to serve as much as he can in areas of _____, _____, and _____ for the good of God's kingdom.

- Women tend to volunteer more than men, at a rate of nearly 30%.

[Source: <https://research.lifeway.com/2018/07/26/data-paints-a-picture-of-volunteerism-across-the-nation/>]

D. A man who is “plugged in” gets his family plugged into his local church.

- The church is not the enemy of the family but is, itself, a FAMILY of families.
- A man's biological family is important, but men need to remember that the church is the _____ family of God.

“ Blood family is not ultimate. The Christian's first family is the church.”

- RODNEY CLAPP

E. A man who is “plugged in” uses his financial resources to advance the kingdom of God through his local church.

- He meets the needs of people through his local church. The early church exemplified a generous and selfless attitude in giving to meet people's needs.

Acts 2:44-45:

“And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”

- He materially blesses those who spiritually _____ him.



Galatians 6:6:

“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.”

- He gives with an attitude of generosity and joy.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7:

“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

- F. A man who is “plugged in” regards and _____ his church leadership.

Hebrews 13:7:

“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.”

Hebrews 13:17:

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13:

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.”

G. A man who is “plugged in” eventually looks to _____ other men.

- Men in the church have a responsibility to pour into others.

Colossians 3:16:

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

03

A REAL MAN PRAYS FOR HIS CHURCH

A. Prayer is _____ work for a real man to do.

“*I have never seen many men work without praying, though I have never seen any good come out of it; but I have never seen a man pray without working.*”

- HUDSON TAYLOR

“*...prayer is work, not a sport.*” - R. KENT HUGHES



B. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul models what we should pray for the local church. These prayers are seen in Ephesians 1:15-23 and 3:14-21. Paul teaches us that we should pray for our local church to have the following:

1. The wisdom, hope, riches, and power of the Gospel
2. Strength for life as a church
3. Love for one another
4. A regular experience of Christ's love

“ *I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach.*”

- C. H. SPURGEON

C. God plans, directs, and _____ His church. So He is the One to be sought as it looks to take new ground.

“ *Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between his will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer.*” - ELISABETH ELLIOT

Be Present!

Plug In!

Pray!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Does the thought of spending time at/in church excite you? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever been intentionally disciplined by anyone? Have you ever intentionally disciplined someone? Explain.
3. How many close friends do you have? What makes them a “close friend.” Why do you think it is difficult for men to form meaningful friendships? Explain.

YOUR BETTERMAN REFLECTION:

Before our next session, take a moment this week to reflect on your notes and then answer the following question: “*What is one thing you can do to move toward a deeper relationship with the men in your church this week?*” Write your answer in the space below.



SESSION 3



**A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S
WORLD: *HIS COMMUNITY***



A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S WORLD: *HIS COMMUNITY*

01

WE BEST LEAD BY SERVING OTHERS

A. Jesus came as a servant—He came to give His life. As men, our mission is to serve one another to give of _____.

1 John 3:16:

“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.”

Mark 10:43-44:

“...whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.”

- We are to give our lives not only in service to Him but to our fellow man, including those in the church and _____ it.

Mark 12:31:

“The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

“God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.”

- MARTIN LUTHER

“Christians are called to be an alternate city within every earthly city.”

- TIM KELLER

- A good definition of servant leadership is *putting others _____ and seeking their welfare above your own.*

“Loving the first place is not fitting to us, even though it may be among the nations. Such a passion becomes a tyrant. It continually hinders even great men.” - JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, *HOMILIES ON THE GOSPEL OF SAINT MATTHEW*, 65.4

- B.** Unfortunately, leadership today is equated with power and authority. However, Jesus Christ flips this model on its head.
- Jesus's life and teachings show us that we are to lead with love, compassion, and a servant's _____.
 - Sadly, we have many celebrities but very few servants in the church today. We have a few men who want to take the towel and basin and wash their feet.

“Everyone wants to be a servant until it's time to act like one...”
- ANONYMOUS

- Paul reminds us that our attitude is to be like Christ in that we consider others better than ourselves.

Philippians 2:3-5:

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...”

- The hallmark trait of Philippians 2:3 leadership is _____.
Servant leadership begins and ends in _____. So, what does this look like?

02

PRACTICE COMPASSION

A. We demonstrate humility through courageous _____.

“There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.” - JOHN HOLMES

- Showing compassion means being willing to listen, care for, and help those in need.
- When we show compassion to hurting people, we serve them just as _____ did.

Matthew 25:35-36:

“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in, I needed clothes, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you looked after me, I was in prison, and you came to visit me.”

B. Compassion is _____ in action. Compassion without action is pity and is a telling sign about the depth of our faith.

“Don’t tell me I have a friend in Jesus until you show me I have a friend in you.” - KEN MEDEMA

- When we demonstrate compassion, we demonstrate the reality of our faith in a life-changing way.
- Not exercising compassion is a sign of a cold heart and a lack of _____.

“ You have no right to preach the gospel to a hungry person. If we won't meet their felt need, we don't have the right to meet their spiritual need...”

- DR. RANDEL EVERETT

- Compassion starts with love and results from the Spirit at work in our lives. It's something God does in us and through us. It's not something we can do for ourselves.
- C.** How do we grow in _____? We pray for God to give us his heart for the lost, the hurting, the poor, and neighbors. We pray, *“Lord, break my heart for what breaks your heart.”*
- When we meet somebody in need or hurting, pray this prayer:
“Lord, help me to feel what you feel for them. Give me the compassion they need and that I can't have otherwise.”
 - We pray for God to do through us and in us what we cannot do apart from his grace.
 - God, who is good to hear our prayers, will _____, and then we must _____!
-



03

BE KIND

A. Kindness is _____.

- The Bible commands us to be kind:

Ephesians 4:32:

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

- The Bible says love is _____:

1 Corinthians 13:4:

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant.”

- The Bible tells us that kindness is a benefit to ourselves:

Proverbs 11:17:

“A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself”

- The Bible tells us that as followers of _____, we are to “*put on kindness.*” – Colossians 3:12.

“ There are three ways to ultimate success:

The first way is to be kind.

The second way is to be kind.

The third way is to be kind.”

- MR. ROGERS

B. We are to _____ the kindness of God.

- A good definition of kindness: *kindness is a supernaturally charitable orientation of our hearts toward other people, especially when they don't deserve it and don't love us in return.*

- God himself is kind in this way. His kindness is meant to lead people (those who have rejected Him) to repentance (Romans 2:4).
- We imitate God's kindness by loving not only those we want to love but our _____ as well.

“ Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.” - JESUS

- Our kindness reflects the heart of God:

Ephesians 4:32:

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

C. Being kind is not the same thing as being _____.

- At times, kindness may not be pleasant. In fact, it may feel more like a blow to the head:

Psalms 141:5:

“Let a righteous man strike me — it is a kindness; let him rebuke me — it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it”



- Peter told his listeners that they had *killed the Messiah*. He exposed their sin and desperately wanted them to repent. His message wasn't pleasant, but it was kind. Peter was pointing them to life.

Acts 2:36-38:

"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified... Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins..."

- Remember, a _____ physician often must cut deep to get the cancer.

“ Say what you mean. Mean what you say. Just don't be mean when you say it.” - CHRIS HARPER

04

TAKE ACTION

- A.** Compassion is kindness in _____. Professing Jesus but not living like Jesus is a dead faith.

James 2:26:

"For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead."

- The key here is _____. What the Bible calls “*building one another up.*” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- When we _____ someone else, we encourage and support them to use their gifts and talents to make a positive difference in the world.

“As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others.” - BILL GATES

“Leading well is not about enriching yourself- it’s about empowering others.” - JOHN MAXWELL

B. Jesus is our model. It is His love that compels us to love and empower others. He told His disciples,

John 13:34:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

- Jesus lived and died as the supreme example of humble, self-sacrificing action (Luke 22:27; Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2:6–7; 2 Corinthians 8:9; John 13:1–17).

Phil 2:6–8:

“Christ served others by emptying Himself of His exalted position and empowering others (His disciples), *“taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”*

C. Imitating Christ means not seeking our own good but the good of others:

Romans 15:2:

“We should all be concerned about our neighbor and the good things that will build his faith.”

- Our freedom in Christ allows us to build up and _____ others (1 Corinthians 10:24). Paul did not seek his *“own benefit, but the benefit of many, so that they may be saved.”* – 1 Corinthians 10:33
- Will you take Paul’s challenge to heart and empower those around you?

Philippians 2:4:

“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

““ If our churches shut their doors tomorrow, would our cities even know we were gone?” - DARRIN PATRICK



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On a scale of 1-10, 1 being “*not at all*” and 10 being “*supremely*,” how selfish are you? What makes you this way? Explain.
2. Are you a compassionate man? Why or why not? Share about a time when you RECEIVED compassion from someone.
3. Good leaders delegate responsibility. Great leaders delegate responsibility and authority (think Jesus). This is how you empower others: you give them responsibilities and the power to succeed. Who was the last person to empower you? Who have you recently empowered? Explain.

YOUR BETTERMAN REFLECTION:

Before our next session, take a moment this week to reflect on your notes and then answer the following question: “*Who is that person in my life I need to be kind towards that I have not?*” Write their name below and take action! Call, text, or invite them to coffee, apologize, and show them the kindness of Christ.



SESSION 4



**A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S
WORLD: *HIS CHILDREN***



A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S WORLD: *HIS CHILDREN*

01 WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR CHILDREN MATTERS

- A. What you teach your children will govern your impact on God's world as much as anything else.

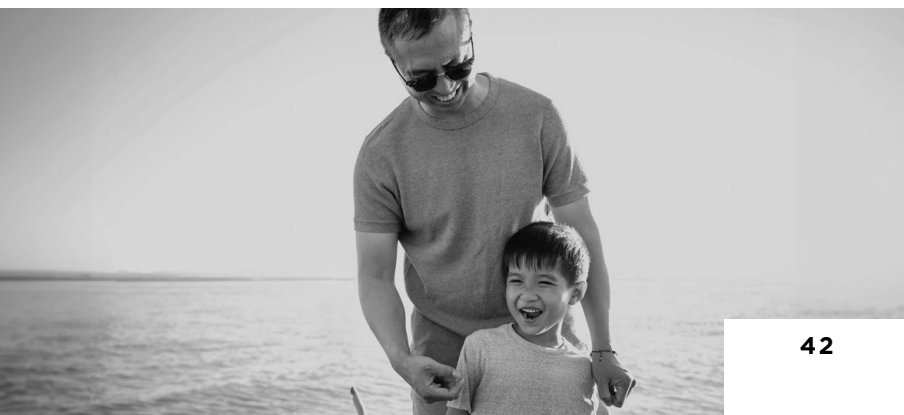
“Can anyone tell me anything more important than this? What man shall marry what woman, and what shall be the first things taught to their children?” - GK CHESTERTON

- The Bible teaches that children are like arrows in the hands of a skilled archer. As dad, we fire these arrows. The metaphor gets at the _____ aspect of raising a child.
- God wants us to love and enjoy our children, but He has commanded us to train them so they can impact the world wherever they go.

Psalm 127:4:

“Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.”

- One of the foremost texts on training children is Deuteronomy 6.





Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as front-lets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

B. God’s plan for your children is generational _____ and _____.

- God intends for your children to learn from you to be obedient to His Word and consequently to experience the prosperity of covenant blessing.
- In other words, God intends for your children to be a blessing to His world.

Deuteronomy 6:2-3:

“that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.”

02

YOUR CHILDREN NEED AN EXAMPLE—DAD, YOU'RE IT!

A. Men, leadership begins with being an _____.

1 Peter 5:2-3:

"Peter tells the elders, 'shepherd the flock of God that is among you,... not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock'"

- Parenting begins with _____. Modeling has priority over telling. We must live out certain things before our children.

“If you want to improve the child, consider first improving the parent.”

- HOWARD HENDRICKS

B. Moses tells the men of Israel to be examples of two things. We are to be the visible, bodily example of two loves. Let's make that more personal. Men, you and I are to be an example of two things – two loves:

- Love the _____...

Deuteronomy 6:5:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

- This means you love God with:
 - Your _____. This is your desires, affections, and choices.
 - Your Soul. This is your mental and emotional capacities; your thinking and attitudes.
 - Your _____. This is all your activity, what you put your hand to.

- We are to love the Lord with all, all, all of our being.

"Men, let me ask you something. Do your children look at you and see a great love for our Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Do they see a love for our Lord Jesus Christ? Do they look at you and see what it is to love Him more than anything?"

- And love His _____...

Deuteronomy 6:6:

"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart."

- As fathers, we must be the incarnation of, or example of, a love for God's Word – showing that it is written on our hearts – the seat of affection and choices.
- The Psalmist said,

Psalms 119:97:

"Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day"

- Notice that the Psalmist appears to say that love for God's Word translates into meditation on it all day.
- Do you meditate on His Word? Do you read it? _____ it? Study it and share it?
- Do your children see how your mind is frequently consumed with God's Word?

"As fathers, we are to model two loves – the love of God and the love of His Law before the eyes of our children. And that must precede our instruction. We are to live the very principles we want to teach our children, beginning with loving the Lord and loving His Word."

03

YOUR CHILDREN NEED A TEACHER—DAD, YOU'RE IT!

Deuteronomy 6:7-9:

"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

A. What does the author mean by "*teach them diligently*?" The word "teach" means to "impress." It was often used of an artist or engraver, with hammer and chisel, etching a text or image into the face of a granite slab. Fathers, we are to similarly chisel the principles of God's Word onto the hearts and minds of our children.

- This "impressing" is both _____ and _____.
- Systematic impressing requires planning, good materials, and diligence.
- Spontaneous instruction demands sensitivity to _____.
Those opportunities are many!

B. This systematic and spontaneous impressing, or teaching, largely takes place in the _____.

Deuteronomy 6:7-9:

"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down,

and when you rise... You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

- Notice that the spiritual formation of our children is a _____ activity. You talk to them:
 1. When you sit.
 2. When you _____.
 3. When you lie down.
 4. When you _____.
- The spiritual formation of your children is a constant, daily activity. When you start the day – when you rise. When you end your day – when you lie down. When you walk or sit. These things encompass your entire day.
- Moses is assuming close _____ to our children. He assumes we are with our children throughout the day.

C. There is greater distance in the home today in the American culture than there ever has been anywhere.

- The drive for more and better things has mom and dad occupied. Conformity to education norms has children stressed, anxious, and occupied.
- We must remember that error increases with _____.
- You cannot parent effectively from a _____. If I am going to be a good father, I must be with my children early and often.

“ *The curse of fatherhood is distance, and good fathers spend their lives trying to overcome it.* ” - JAMES CARROLL

- As men, we must figure out how to minimize that distance. No one else in this world will _____ that distance for your family. You must do it.

“ *A man who doesn't spend time with his family can never be a real man.* ” - DON VITO CORLEONE IN *THE GODFATHER*

04

YOUR CHILDREN NEED A GUIDE—DAD, YOU'RE IT!

Deuteronomy 6:8-9:

“You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

A. Moses ends where he began—modeling the truth we are to teach to our children. Your life is the most important part of the spiritual formation of your children. Your modeling must be consistent.

- The key here is _____.
- In verse 8, Moses references our “*hand*” and “*forehead*.” What does he mean?
 1. Hand = _____
 2. Forehead = _____
- In verse 9, Moses references our “*doorpost*” and “*gate*.” What does he mean?

1. Doorpost = _____ Life
 2. Gate = _____ Life
- Notice the consistency Moses calls for...
 1. Your _____ and _____ must both conform to God's truth.
 2. Your _____ and _____ life must be consistent with God's truth.
 - The same Scripture you teach your children, you must also live out in your public and private lives.

B. Our word "*integrity*" stems from the Latin word '*integer*' which means whole and complete (an integer is a whole number – no fraction). Integrity requires a 'wholeness' or consistency of character.

- A fragmented or broken character is a lack of _____.
- Moses is saying there must be _____ (or wholeness) in your life with respect to God's Word.
- God's Word must govern your private and public attitudes and actions.
- Inconsistency in these is _____, and it sends a twisted message to your children.



- What does hypocrisy in the Christian life look like? Do as I say, not as I do...
 1. Preaching _____ but practicing greed.
 2. Preaching kindness but being _____ and mean.
 3. Preaching servanthood but practicing selfishness.
 4. Preaching _____ but practicing worldliness.
 5. Preaching forgiveness but harboring resentment.
- Almost 70% of young adults who attend church in their teens no longer attend. When asked, "Why?" The top response was, *"I never saw my family actually practice what they professed to believe..."*

- C.** God's plan is for generational prosperity. He intends our children to learn from us to obey His Word and experience the prosperity of covenant blessing.
- Men, that begins and ends with you. Your example. Your _____. Your proximity. And your integrity. You're just the man for the job.
-

05

YOUR CHILDREN NEED YOUR BLESSING—DAD, YOU'RE IT!

- A.** Fathers can and should bless their children.
- What is a father's _____? A father's blessing is giving authorization and empowering your children to grow in Christlikeness.

- When you receive a father's blessing, you receive the permission and affirmation to become the person God has designed you to be.
- The father's blessing is not only words of affirmation but intentional instruction that will set a child on the right _____.
- IMPORTANT: True blessings are not tied to _____ or a life event!
- Good fathers deliver words of love and affirmation because of who their child is, not because of what they do. This is exactly how God did it:

“and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’” - GOD (MATT 3:17)

B. You see these types of blessings throughout Scripture:

- » God to Abraham (Genesis 12)
- » Isaac to Jacob (Genesis 27)
- » Jacob to his sons (Genesis 49)
- » David to Solomon (1 Kings 2)
- » God to Jesus (Matthew 3)
- » Paul to Timothy (1 Timothy 1; 2 Timothy 2)
- God uses these blessings to shape a person's present and future hopes.
- These blessings were always intended to pass primarily through the _____! Nothing compares to a Father's Blessing!

C. A blessing is not consent.

- Consent is when a father allows his child to do what they want. A blessing is when you have the endorsement of your father to live as you should.

“ Biblically, the blessing is like saying, ‘I love you. I affirm you. I am putting my name on you.’ The blessing gives the child access to everything his/her father has. The blessing gives the child everything they need to live a God honoring life...” - CHRIS HARPER

D. As fathers, we bless our children by...

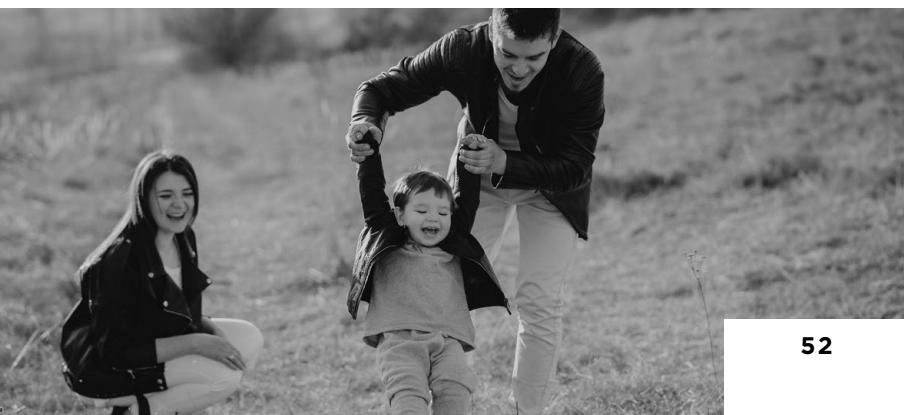
- Sharing words of acceptance and love. Simply being present does not communicate a blessing. A blessing is received when it is spoken verbally.

“ For a child in search of the blessing, silence communicates confusion. Children who are left to fill in the blanks when it comes to what their parents think about them will often feel insecure. Spoken or written words at least give the child an indication that they are worthy of some attention.”

- DR. JOHN TRENT

“ I Love You. Those three words, spoken with sincerity and backed up by behavior, can demonstrate support, encouragement, tenderness, and caring as much as anything else we do as fathers.” - THE NATIONAL CENTER

FOR FATHERING



- Displaying an active commitment. Our actions must match our words (blessing).

“ Words alone cannot communicate the blessing; they need to contain a willingness to do everything possible to help the one blessed be successful. We can tell a child, ‘You have the talent to be a very good pianist’. But if we neglect to provide a piano for that child to practice on, our lack of commitment has undermined our message.” - DR. JOHN TRENT

- Proclaiming a promised future. As fathers, we must help our children see a future that is full of hope and opportunity. Giving our children a sense of security now enables them to grow in confidence to serve God and others in the future.

Job 11:18-19:

“You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety.”

“ They say a person needs just three things to be truly happy in this world: someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for.”

- TOM BODETT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you have a “good” dad growing up? What made him a “good” dad? If not, what made him a poor excuse for a father? Explain.
2. The Puritans often said, “*The father is the chief priest of his home.*” It is dad’s job to usher his family into the presence of God (through singing, Bible reading, prayer, etc.). Are you serving as a *good* priest? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever received a father’s blessing? How did it make you feel? Have you ever given a father’s blessing? Do you think it’s important? Explain.

YOUR BETTERMAN REFLECTION:

Before our next session, take a moment this week to reflect on your notes and then answer the following question: “*What are 2-3 things I can do to better lead my family in worshipping and loving King Jesus?*” Write your answer below.



SESSION 5



**A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S WORLD:
*HOW HE CONCLUDES***

B

A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S WORLD: *HOW HE CONCLUDES*

01

FINISH YOUR RACE

A. Every born-again man starts his spiritual life with measurable handicaps and magnificent spiritual resources available to him, which is helpful because every day is a battle.

- As you age, you must fight against the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. The fight _____ ends this side of heaven.

1 John 2:16:

“For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”

“Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you.” - JOHN OWEN

“Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called...” - THE APOSTLE PAUL

2 Timothy 4:7:

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

B. What does the author mean by run the race?

- The _____ is a metaphor for the life of faith. We are all in the race of the spiritual life.
- The race is set before you. It is not chosen or conceived by you.

- Who sets my race before me? _____. You don't define it. God defines it.
- Everyone's race is somewhat unique. You are not called to run someone else's race. You are called to run your race.
- The race is _____. The Greek term for race is *αγωνα* ("agōna"), meaning agony. The race is something we often agonize in.

“There is always a cross before there is a crown.” - CHRIS HARPER

C. We are to run the race “with _____.”

Hebrews 12:1:

“Run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

- It's not that you run, but that you run with endurance—that you do not quit the race and fall back into spiritual apathy or worldly/sinful patterns of life.
- Spiritual endurance is the power to keep going month after month, year after year, even decade after decade, walking the path of obedience.
- Endurance is what you build up through struggles and trials that test your _____.

“Life is pain... Anyone who says differently is selling something.” - DREAD
PIRATE ROBERTS, *THE PRINCESS BRIDE*

- Why do people stop _____?

1. Personal sin.

“Sin has the devil for its father, shame for its companion, and death for its wages!” - THOMAS WATSON

“First we practice sin, then defend it, then boast of it.” - THOMAS WATSON

Hebrews 11:24-25:

“By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.”

2. Disillusionment with the _____.

“Just as surely as God desires to lead us to a knowledge of genuine Christian fellowship, so surely must we be overwhelmed by a great disillusionment with others, with Christians in general, and, if we are fortunate, with ourselves.” - DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, *LIFE TOGETHER*

3. Discouragement with suffering (yours or someone else’s).



Hebrews 11:35-40:

“Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated – of whom the world was not worthy – wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.”

4. Love of the _____.

2 Timothy 4:12:

“Do your best to come to me soon. For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.”

5. _____ that breeds arrogance or misplaced hope.

1 Timothy 6:17-19:

“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

Revelation 3:17:

“For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.”

D. How do you keep from losing heart and withdrawing from the race? How do you finish strong? The author of Hebrews gives three _____ to finishing strong...

02

LISTEN INTENTLY

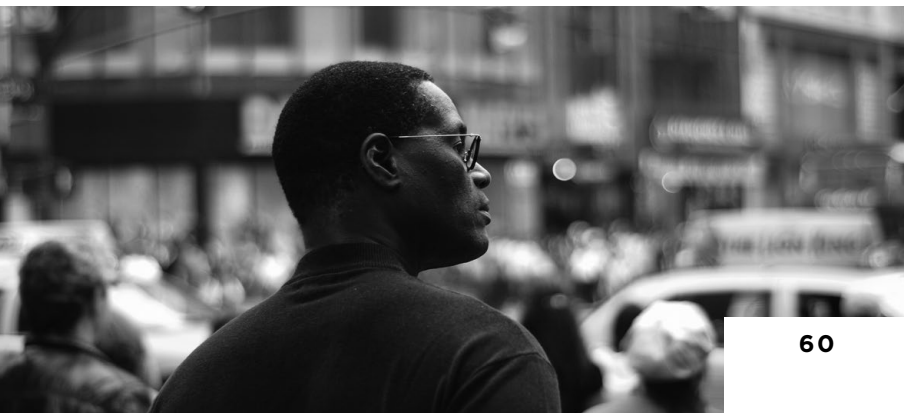
A. The first key to persevering in the Christian life is to give attention to the _____ of the race.

Hebrews 12:1:

“since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses”

B. Who are the “_____?”

- The noun “witness” (martureo) is used over and over in Hebrews 11 (vv. 2, 4, 5, 39) and always refers to a verbal testimony.
- To witness [in this sense] is to speak about something; it means to _____.
- The people of Hebrews 11 (and elsewhere in the Scripture) witness to us by telling us (through their lives and words) the importance of trusting God, facing difficulties, and finishing strong.



C. This means you must listen to and consider the testimonies in Scripture—men and women who, through faith, persevered in serving the Lord.

- Abel: the sacrifice of faith (Hebrews 11:4)
- Noah: the work of faith (vv. 7)
- Abraham: the great obedience of faith (vv. 8)
- Joseph: a forgiving faith (vv. 22)
- Joshua: a conquering faith (vv. 14)
- Daniel: a faith that stands firm against the world (vv. 32)
- The first key to finishing strong is to listen to God in His _____ . Listen to His inspired Scripture.

“*I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible.*”
- D.L. MOODY

03

LAY ASIDE

A. The second key to finishing strong is to _____ aside...

- What do you lay aside? Two things:
 1. Every weight (Hebrews 12:1)
 2. And “*sin that so easily entangles*” (vv. 1)
- Every _____ is anything that might hold you down spiritually. This can include:

1. _____ that cause you to sin.
 2. _____ that can cause you to sin.
 3. _____ that can lead you into sin.
- If you want to finish your race, you must run from, literally, flee from, the things that might cause you to sin.

B. “*Sin that so easily entangles*” means to put away all sin that entangles and trips us up.

- This is a call to live a life of _____.
- Repentance is not limited to one’s conversion experience. It is not a one-and-done kind of thing. It is a _____.

“Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, when He said *Poenitentiam agite* [repent], willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance.”

- MARTIN LUTHER, 1ST THESIS

“Repent: the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” - KING JESUS, MATTHEW 4:17

- Isaiah repented when he saw the glory of God when he saw with clarity the holiness and majesty of God (Isaiah 6:6). That is a great pattern for you. The more you see God’s glory, majesty, and holiness, the more you will recognize your need to repent.
- _____ is the measure of maturity in a believer – an indication that he truly understands God and himself.

“Repentance is a sweet sorrow... the more of this sorrow,
the more pleasure.” - JONATHAN EDWARDS

04

LOOK UP

A. The third key to persevering in the Christian life is to _____
to and focus on Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1:

“looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.”

- This is a call to look to Jesus with the eye of faith—to set your _____ on Christ.
- Look to Him as the author and perfecter of your faith (vv. 2). “Perfecter” speaks of Jesus bringing you to maturity, completion, and perfection.
- This is a call to ask Jesus to help you persevere in the faith. Jesus _____ your faith. It is His work (and pleasure) to mature your faith.
- This is a call to pray to Him: “*Lord, help my unbelief.*”

“Nearness to Christ brings likeness to God. The more you see Jesus the more of Jesus will be seen in you.” - C. H. SPURGEON

B. You focus on Jesus by:

1. Looking to the _____ of Christ.

John 1:14:

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

2 Corinthians 3:18:

“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.”

- A constant view of the glory of Christ will revive our souls and cause our spiritual lives to _____ and _____.

“Herein would I live; herein would I die; hereon would I dwell in my thoughts and affections, to the withering and consumption of all the painted beauties of this world, unto the crucifying of all things here below, until they become unto me a dead and deformed thing, no way fit for affectionate embraces.” - JOHN OWEN

2. Look at the _____ of Christ.

Hebrews 12:2-4:

“Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.”

- Jesus endured the cross, its shame, and hostility from sinners.

“The cross is the blazing fire at which the flame of our love is kindled, but we have to get near enough for its sparks to fall on us.” - JOHN STOTT

“The Spirit does not take His pupils beyond the cross, but ever more deeply into it.” - J. KNOX CHAMBLIN

3. Look at the _____ of Christ, “Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross” (Hebrews 12:2).

- What joy? Future joy! Jesus’s sacrifice was a present sacrifice for _____ glory.
- Jesus went to the cross for the joy of pleasing His Father.
- Jesus went to the cross for the joy of purchasing a people for His own possession.
- Jesus went to the cross for the joy of providing a covering and cleansing for His people’s sins.
- Jesus went to the cross for the joy of establishing a kingdom of perfect righteousness..

C. God has set a race to run before you. Run it with endurance.

_____ the race.

- Do not return to the worldly pattern you formerly walked in. Instead, finish _____ by:

1. _____ to the testimonies of the Old and New Testament saints. Their races have much in common with yours. They persevered in faith. Read their stories in the Word of God! Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of Christ.
2. _____ aside the sin that entangles our lives. Sin trips us up, weakens us spiritually, and discourages us, making it much harder to continue running the race of the Christian life.
3. _____ to Christ. Look to His person – His virtue, His power, His grace and truth, His mercy and love, and His faithfulness. Look at His perseverance in the face of hostility and violent persecution. Look at His perspective – He endured it all for future joy – the joy of pardoning, possessing, and sanctifying a people.

D. This life is not the end. Listen, lay, and look your way into eternity!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The Apostle Paul describes the Christian life as a *race* and a *fight*. Why do you think he uses these metaphors? Is this how you experience the Christian life? Explain.
2. What sin(s) in your life is hindering you from running your race? What do you need to do to lay it aside? Explain.
3. Love of this world will hinder your race. In what ways do you love the world more than you love God? Where have you elevated His good gifts above the Giver of the gifts? Explain.

YOUR BETTERMAN REFLECTION:

Before our next session, take a moment this week to reflect on your notes and then answer the following question: *"Is there a person in your life who ran his race and finished strong? What do you remember about him? How was he most like Jesus?"* Write your answer below.

ANSWER KEY

SESSION 1: A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S WORLD: *HIS CHARACTER*

1. Better Men Are World-Changing Men

- A.
 - 1. particular
 - 2. intentionally
 - 3. world
- B. changing

2. World-Changing Men Listen to Those Who Are Hurting

- A. dismiss
- B. feel
 - unrighteous
- C. self-centered
 - option

3. World-Changing Men Confront the Wrong Around Them and in Them

- A. think, act
 - aggressive
- B. yourself.
 - humility

4. World-Changing Men Sacrifice Their Lives and Resources for the Benefit of Others

- A. behind
 - world
 - thinking
- B.
 - communal generosity
- C.
 - God, others

5. World-Changing Men Give the Glory to God

- A. rewarder
 - Coram Deo
 - character

SESSION 2: A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S WORLD: *HIS CHURCH*

1. A Real Man Is Present in a Local Church

- A. prioritizes
- B. prizes
- C. perseveres
 - hopper

2. A Real Man Plugs into His Local Church

- A. discipled
 - questions
 - B. relationships
 - friends
 - C. energies
 - beneath
 - attitude
- 1.
 2. apathy

ANSWER KEY

- 3.
- 4. opportunity
- 5.
- passion, capabilities, gifting
- D.
- eternal
- E.
- feed
- F. respects
- G. disciple

3. A Real Man Prays for His Church.

- A. vital
- B.
- C. empowers

SESSION 3: A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S WORLD: *HIS COMMUNITY*

1. We Best Lead by Serving Others

- A. ourselves
 - outside
 - first
- B.
- heart
- humility, humility

2. Practice Compassion

- A. compassion
 - Jesus
- B. kindness
 - love
- C. compassion
 - answer, respond

3. Be Kind

- A. king
 - kind
 - Jesus
- B. imitate
 - enemies
- C. nice
 - kind

4. Take Action

- A. action
 - empowerment
 - empower
- B.
- C.
- benefit

SESSION 4: A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S WORLD: *HIS CHILDREN*

1. What You Do with Your Children Matters

- A.
 - missional
- B. obedience, prosperity.

2. Your Children Need an Example—Dad, You're It!

- A. example
 - modeling

ANSWER KEY

B.

- Lord
- - heart
 - strength
- Word
- Memorize

3. Your Children Need a Teacher—Dad, You're It!

A.

- systematic, spontaneous
- opportunities

B. home

- constant
 - 1.
 2. walk
 - 3.
 4. rise
- proximity

C.

- distance
- distance
- fight

4. Your Children Need a Guide—Dad, You're It!

A.

- integrity
- 1. Actions
 2. Attitudes
- 1. Private
 2. Public
- 1. actions, attitudes
 2. private, public

B.

- integrity
- integrity
- hypocrisy
- 1. generosity
 2. angry
 - 3.
 4. holiness
 - 5.

C.

- instruction

5. Your Children Need Your Blessing—Dad, You're It!

A.

- blessing
- path
- performance

B.

- father

ANSWER KEY

SESSION 5: A REAL MAN BETTERS GOD'S WORLD: *HOW HE CONCLUDES*

1. Finish Your Race

- A.
 - never
 - matters
- B.
 - race
 - God
 - difficult
- C. endurance
 - faith
 - running
 - 1.
 2. Church
 - 3.
 4. world
 5. wealth
- D. keys

2. Listen Intently

- A. witnesses
- B. witnesses
 - testify
- C.
 - Word

3. Lay Aside

- A. lay
 - weight
 1. Relationships
 2. Activities
 3. Places
- B.
 - repentance
 - lifestyle
 - repentance

4. Look Up

- A. look
 - mind
 - authored
- B.
 1. Person
 - flourish, thrive
 2. perseverance
 3. perspective
 - future
- C. Finish
 - strong
 1. Listening
 2. Laying
 3. Looking



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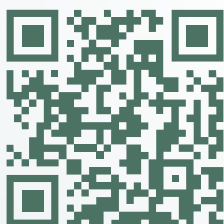


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