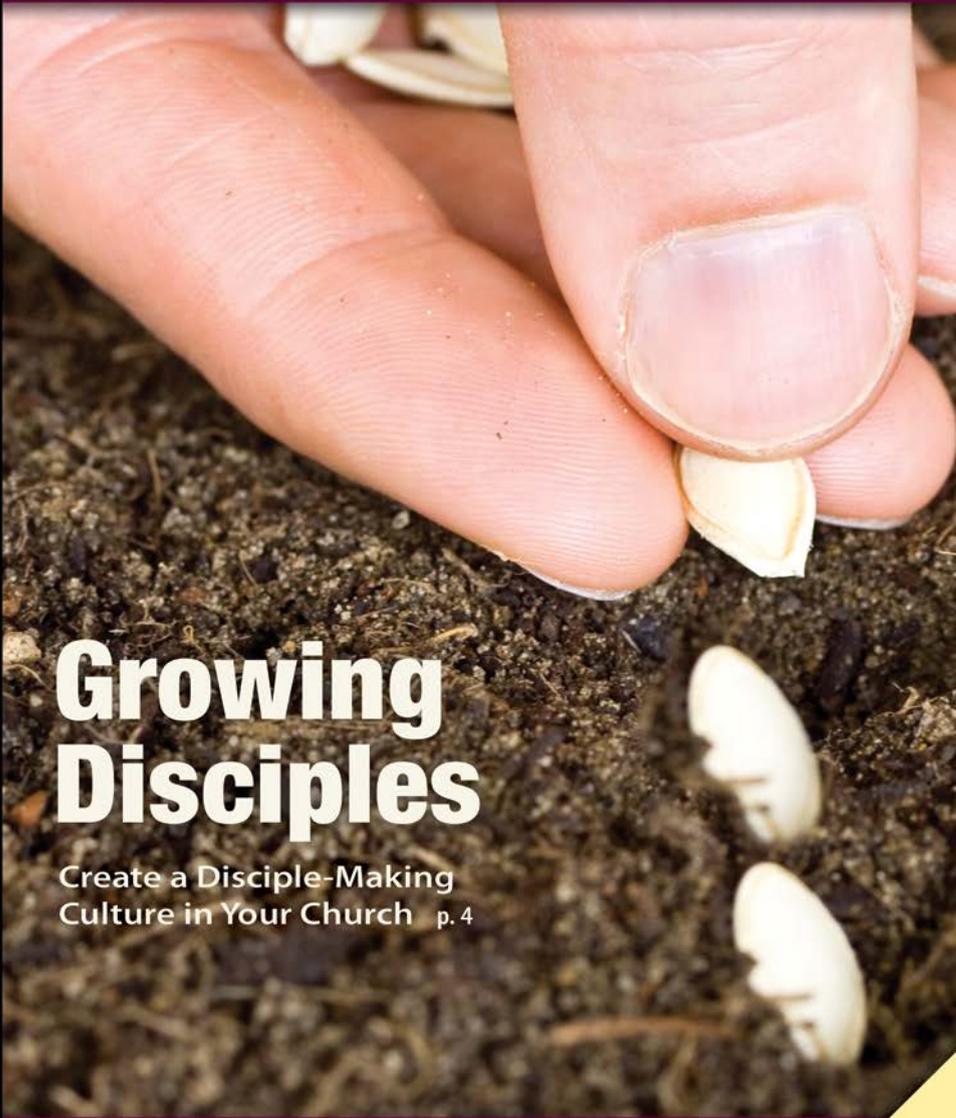


equipping the man in the mirror

daily devotions, helpful articles and more

July/August/September 2015 • Volume 10, Number 3 • \$5 (US) • ISSN #1942-3306



Growing Disciples

Create a Disciple-Making
Culture in Your Church p.4

**ALSO
INSIDE** >

Self-Made Men (p.8)

The Way of Discipleship (p.60)

The Purpose of the Church (p.61)

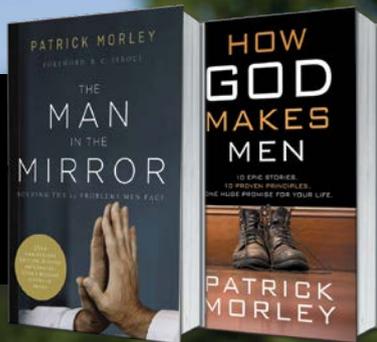
Devotions on
page 15

Table of Contents

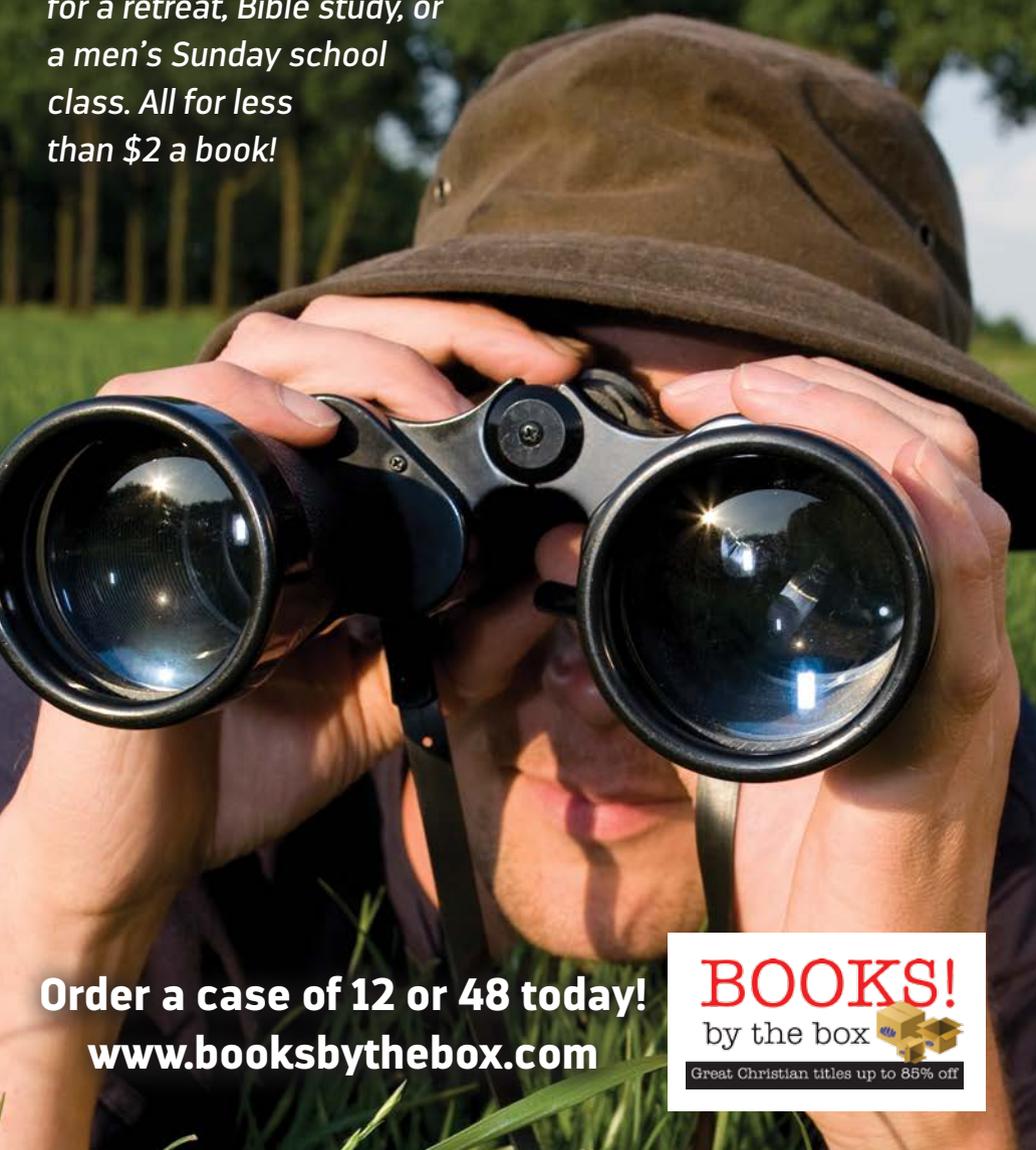
July/August/September 2015

Looking for Great Small Group Resources?

We have two new ones for you! ▶



Start new small groups, use for a retreat, Bible study, or a men's Sunday school class. All for less than \$2 a book!



Order a case of 12 or 48 today!
www.booksbythebox.com

BOOKS!
by the box 
Great Christian titles up to 85% off

Featured Articles

- ❑ First Things First by David Delk 3
- ❑ Create a Disciple-Making Culture by Morley, Delk, and Clemmer 4
- ❑ Create and Capture Momentum 7
- ❑ Self-Made Men Will Self-Destruct by Pete Alwinson 8
- ❑ Field Staff Speaks Out: Connecting with Men in the Community 9
- ❑ The Way of Discipleship by Mike Whitesell 60
- ❑ The Purpose of Church Quotes 61

Resource Tools

- ❑ Equipping Your Men's Small Group 11
- ❑ How to Use This Devotional 14
- ❑ Resource Catalog 30

Devotions

- ❑ July 2015 Devotions 15
- ❑ August 2015 Devotions 28
- ❑ September 2015 Devotions 44

Follow the *One-Year Bible* plan by reading the daily Scripture at the end of each devotion. To see the complete reading plan, go to oneyearbibleonline.com. At the end of many of the devotionals you will find an abbreviation for a resource that expands on the devotional material. For more information about the Man in the Mirror Bible Study (MIMBS) go to maninthemirror.org/archives/categories.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ❑ MIM 25—(25th Anniversary) The Man in the Mirror, Chapter 2: An Unexamined Life | ❑ MIMBS 4—Hanging Out with God—Materialist (8/29/08) |
| ❑ MIM 25—(25th Anniversary) The Man in the Mirror, Chapter 7: Broken Relationship | ❑ MIMBS 5—Hanging Out With God—Keeping Our Word (7/25/08) |
| ❑ MIM 25—(25th Anniversary) The Man in the Mirror, Chapter 15: Time Management | ❑ MIMBS 6—Doing Business God's Way—Integrity (1/5/07) |
| ❑ MIMBS 1—A Man's Guide to the Bible (7/2/10) | ❑ MIMBS 7—MIM Remix—Significance (5/25/07) |
| ❑ MIMBS 2—Call to Repentance (9/18/09) | |
| ❑ MIMBS 3—Communicate with Confidence (1/10/03) | |

Equipping the Man in the Mirror: July/August/September 2015, Vol. 10, No. 3
Publisher: Man in the Mirror, Inc. • **Co-CEOs:** Patrick Morley and David Delk
Executive Editors: David Delk and Brett Clemmer **Publication Manager:** Lucy Blair
Art Director: Cathleen Kwas • **Writers:** Lucy Blair and Ruth Ford
Office: 180 Wilshire Blvd., Casselberry, Florida 32707
Phone: 800-929-2536 • **Fax:** 407-331-7839 • **Website:** maninthemirror.org

Copyright © 2015 by Patrick Morley and Man in the Mirror, Inc. All rights reserved.

Subscription Information: One year—\$25. Two years—\$43. For reprint requests or bulk subscriptions call 407-472-2100 or send an email to EQMIM@maninthemirror.org and ask for reprint permissions.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, Copyright 1996, 2004. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. Scripture marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture marked as NASB are taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

There are 3 qualifications to join the Man in the Mirror Field Staff:

- ✓ A heart for Christ
- ✓ A heart for the church
- ✓ A heart for men's discipleship

Join our Field Staff as a Field Representative or Area Director. Become a part of the team that is helping churches across the country disciple every man.

Man in the Mirror Field Staff members receive:

- Extensive training—online and live
- Expert support from the home office and a National Field Director
- A proven model that churches can use to dramatically increase their effectiveness
- A team of like-minded leaders across the country

Interested?

Go online to mimfieldstaff.org and check out this incredible opportunity. Watch the video, read about the opportunities and pray for God's leading.



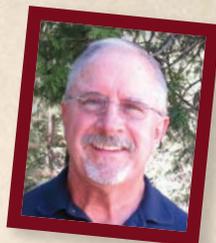
Dale Redder, Michigan

"Living as a disciple, being a disciple maker, and developing disciple makers, isn't easy; but the rewards are out of this world!"



Ron Crawford, Pennsylvania

"Walk onto the front lines of the cultural and spiritual battle for men's souls."



Jim Boetjer, California

"Impact the lives of men for the Kingdom of God and leave a lasting legacy."

Make an impact in the lives of men!

Call us at 407-472-2100 or go online to mimfieldstaff.org

Growing Disciples

by David Delk, President and Co-CEO of Man in the Mirror

When I was young I never lived in the same state as my grandfather. We lived in suburban areas of Georgia and Florida; he lived on a farm in South Carolina. Because of this, we were only able to be with him for a few weeks a year, so that made it even more special that my grandfather grew watermelons. Almost every year, at least one of the times we were with him was during the summer when the watermelons were ripe.

As a young boy, there was nothing better than picking several watermelons off the vine, carrying them to the stream on the edge of the property, going off to work or play, then coming back in the afternoon to enjoy the cool sweet heart of a perfectly ripe watermelon.



Because we only visited occasionally, I never actually saw everything it took to grow the watermelons. I never saw him prepare the soil of the garden, plant the seeds, water the young vines, pick the weeds, or any of the other hard work it took to get the fruit to grow.

As a young child, I basically thought that watermelons just magically appeared when we arrived for a visit.

I'm afraid that too often we treat discipleship in the church the way I treated watermelons. We know there are leaders who are doing a lot of activities and programs in the church. The pastors preach some sermons and teach some classes. And then most of us hope that one day we will show up and there will magically be disciples.

Unfortunately, discipleship doesn't work that way. It takes a real plan and real effort. Jesus himself was very intentional in living with and teaching his disciples. Paul demonstrates the same thing in his mission work and church planting, then urges Timothy (and, by extension, us) to approach it the same way (2 Timothy 2:2).

We've had 70 years to learn that throwing information and activities at people in the church doesn't produce mature disciples. Maybe it's time for us to become disciple-makers who make disciples who become disciple-makers.

In this issue, we'll encourage you to create an atmosphere in your church where the Holy Spirit inspires men to engage in life-on-life discipleship. Who is God calling you to connect with this week to help grow closer to Christ? Who could you help begin to invest their life in others for the glory of God?

Discipleship is way too important to leave to chance; the fate of the world hangs in the balance. Let's all renew our commit to submit to and follow the way of Jesus.

Discipleship is way too important to leave to chance

David Delk

Create a Disciple-Making Culture

By Dr. Patrick Morley, Chairman and Co-CEO of Man in the Mirror
David Delk, President and Co-CEO of Man in the Mirror
Brett Clemmer, Vice President of Man in the Mirror

There are many churches across the country who have mildly effective programs and events for men. But there are only a few where the majority of men are in discipling relationships (the regular study of God's Word and authentic relationships with other men). What is the one thing that makes the most difference? Having a disciple-making culture.

We all know that what God really wants is churches who make disciples. This is why we describe our work as helping churches create an environment where the Holy Spirit inspires men to engage in life-on-life discipleship. Yet we can talk about the importance of men's discipleship until we are blue in the face, but without a disciple-making culture we'll never get any real traction.

We see this with striking clarity in the field—churches with great momentum because they already have a disciple-making culture, compared to churches that even with great men's leaders can't keep the momentum going because the church in general does not have a disciple-making culture that supports their work.

One leader asked, "Since many/most churches would say they *are* creating such a culture, what would you define as the tangible characteristics of a church that truly is creating a disciple-making culture?"

Good point and a great question. How can you create a disciple-making culture? The best answer we've seen is to continuously highlight the discipleship nature of your activities and the discipling relationships that are making a difference in men's lives.

Communicate through testimonies, emails, videos, and announcements that God is at work because people in our church care enough to help other people grow in Jesus.

To tell this story well, you'll need to have nailed down the answers to three simple questions: *What is a disciple? What is discipleship? And what is a disciple-maker?*

First, create a clear understanding about the "end product" you are trying to produce.

In other words, what *is* a disciple? A disciple is someone "called" to live *in* Christ (salvation, abide), "equipped" to live *like* Christ (spiritual formation and growth), and "sent" to live *for* Christ (neighbor love, bear fruit).

These three tangible results will be happening all the time in a disciple-making culture: men (and women and children) will regularly be coming to Jesus by faith (calling), growing in their faith (equipping), and serving the Lord through love and deeds, especially in discipling others (sending). We like this three-part definition because it is first and foremost *biblical* (2 Timothy 3:14ff). And secondly, because it is also *actionable*. In other words, you can build ministry initiatives around it, and you can measure progress. People in discipling relationships can know that these are the priorities they should be focused on.

Second, create a clear picture of the "process" by which disciples are made. In other words, what is discipleship? Discipleship is not a "program," although discipleship curricula can be part of the process. Here's a better way to think of it—a more organic way, similar to the process Jesus used.

When God puts someone in your path who is stuck, discipleship means finding out why and then helping them solve that problem.

What are those problems? Here are the seven top reasons from my book *Man Alive*: men will feel they are stuck "I feel like I am in this alone, I don't feel like God cares about me personally, my life has no purpose, I have destructive behaviors that keep dragging me down, my soul feels dry, my most important relationships are not healthy, and I don't feel like I'm doing anything that will leave the world a better place." When a man walks into your church, it's usually for one or more of these seven reasons.

Use testimonies to introduce people in your church who are helping others "get unstuck" and grow to be more like Christ. Use these true stories to highlight the process of discipleship in your church and to encourage more men to care enough about other men to enter into their lives. And that leads to the next point.

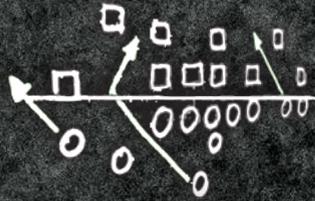
Third, create a disciple-making culture by raising up many "disciple-makers." What do these disciple-makers look like? Let's say a man walks through the front door of your church for the very first time with his wife and children. Imagine squads of men trained to mobilize and take



Event for Your Men

THE PLAYBOOK

A GAME PLAN FOR EVERY SEASON



What seasons are YOUR men in? At this event, they'll discover how to experience grace and victory through Christ in seasons of...

Success Building
Reflection Crisis
Suffering Rebuilding
Renewal

Ready to give your guys a game plan?
Call Roddey Roberts for details about bringing
this event to your church: 407.472.2110.



Create and Capture Momentum

Field staff around the country are supporting churches with men's events and small groups as part of a larger strategy using the Journey to Biblical Manhood (JBM), a long-term framework to disciple every man. They're kicking off their discipleship efforts and helping men join follow-ups groups before they leave the event. Men are getting connected with each other and God's Word so that lasting change can take place.



From John Williams, First Coast Coalition for Men's Discipleship (CMD)

ROCK SOLID MEN I have had two regional seminars: **Success That Matters (STM)** and **Rock Solid Men (RSM)**. Statistically, we had 208 men from 13 churches attend STM and 200 men from 10 churches attend RSM— of those who filled out comment cards, 92 percent and 91 percent (respectively) joined the follow-up groups. Even more important are the numerous testimonies from the men who attended these seminars about the **life-changing impact** it had on their lives. Needless to say, I would highly recommend taking advantage of a Man in the Mirror seminar and JBM.

"I gave up my Saturday for this seminar. I don't give up my Saturdays, but if I do, it had better be worth it. But that last session (on my relationship with my wife) was worth every minute. Thank you." —Seminar Attendee

From Clark Miller, Miami Valley CMD

We held a one-day and two-day **Success That Matters (STM)** seminar. Eighty percent of those men rolled into the Capture Momentum follow-up small groups (and those numbers actually *grew* in the six weeks that followed); 80 percent of *those* rolled into the Sustain Momentum phase. Reports are coming in of **marriages being healed**; the journey to find **freedom from porn** and men are learning how to **live out their faith** and enjoying the journey together with other men.



From Ron Crawford, South Central Pennsylvania CMD

REWired In January 2014, New Guilford Church held a **Rewired** seminar as the Create Value step of JBM Challenge 2. Thirty-three men from five churches participated in the seminar. Two churches stayed in contact through their Capture Momentum follow-up study with the discussion guide. New Guilford had 12 men at the seminar and more than 20 in follow-up groups. Grace Brethren Church brought 7 men and had 24 men in follow-up groups. This process was helpful for bringing churches together, modeling the NMLB principles, offering a level of value and expertise, and aiding churches in launching a process to engage more men. **MIM**

Bring a men's event from Man in the Mirror to your church. Historically, 1/3 of those attending will make a life-changing decision, and over 2/3 will join the follow-up groups! Go to www.maninthemirror.org.

Self-Made Men Will Self-Destruct

By Dr. Pete Alwinson

Grace Discipleship Focuses Men on Christ Alone

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” —Jesus (Matthew 28:18–20)

“To disciple a person to Christ is to bring him into the relation of pupil to teacher, ‘taking his yoke’ of authoritative instruction, accepting what he says as true because he says it, and submitting to his requirements as right because he makes them.” —John A. Broadus

“Disciples are those who hear, understand, and obey Jesus’ teaching.” —D. A. Carson

It seems clear, with our Lord’s words and these definitions, that our joyful endeavor as disciples following the first disciples, is to proclaim the gospel so that others will respond in repentance and faith. Faithful disciple makers must tell the whole truth about a man’s truly lost and hopeless condition before God (sin), about all that Jesus has done in His death, burial and resurrection (atonement), and about God’s unconditional favor (grace) He bestows on those who will place their trust in Jesus alone for salvation. *Grace discipleship* tells the whole story so that the response of the new disciple is to desire to be baptized and instructed, all because of God’s favor, not earned by them but by Christ.

As we disciple men, *grace discipleship* emphasizes that we keep our friend’s focus on Jesus’ accomplished work of love and grace, with the result that they willingly cooperate with Him in growth and are transformed: “I appeal to you *therefore* brothers, *by the mercies of God*, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship” (Rom.12:1). Grace and mercy motivates and changes men! That’s why most of Paul’s letters begin with extended teaching on *what* Jesus accomplished (the indicatives), and end with the *so what* (the imperatives) or specifics as to how that changes men’s lives.

Self-made men eventually self-destruct. If we hammer men with self-effort or “can-do” or moralism, they will fail, and their enthusiasm for Christ will wither. If we focus on God’s grace in Christ and how that changes us, men are fueled by grace to grow every day. Thus a man discipling another man constantly focuses attention on the gospel to new life and is himself a grace model, not a demanding older brother. Grace-built men survive and thrive! 



• PETE ALWINSON

Pastor Pete founded and led Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, Winter Springs, Florida for 27 years, and now serves as Vice President of Leadership and Men’s Discipleship at Key Life Network as well as the Man in the Mirror board of directors. For information about Pete’s ministry, go to www.freedomsege.org.



Field Staff Speaks Out:

Connecting with Men in the Community



Northland Church sends groups of men to serve in a prison. They read, discuss and disciple each other on the 45-minute ride to the prison using the book, Man Alive. Then they use what has been read and discussed with the men at the prison. On the way back, they discuss the impact of their ministry both in the lives of the men they serve and in their own hearts.

The New Life Church of God is located almost right across the street from a large university (UCF) amidst a lot of student housing. They hold a tailgate party before football games to attract students. This small church of about 75–100 now attracts 25–30 college-age students during the year.

—Pat Leupold, East Orlando Coalition for Men’s Discipleship (CMD)

From the simplest of church or community work days, to the high-threshold of short-term mission trips or emergency relief trips, I’ve found new men are more likely to get involved in hands-on experiences than a retreat or a study group. Once men have had a chance to get acquainted “shoulder to shoulder,” they are much more likely to accept an invitation to a breakfast or seminar.

—Ronn Read, Northwest Chicagoland CMD



Many churches here in Alaska send short-term mission and construction work groups to churches in our remote native Alaskan villages. There’s a bit of logistics with having the building materials shipped and coordinated with the arrival of the mission team. If the nails don’t show up, you need to concentrate on the Bible studies.

—Rob Hunner, Alaska’s Frontier CMD

I have been working with a church in my area that reaches families through the outdoors. They use camping, boating, and cookouts to reach families, with weekly meetings to shoot indoor archery, study hunters’ safety, and learn about nature, all wrapped around a biblically themed message. Men are engaged with kids in a way that is natural and based on their passion for the outdoors.

—Steve Basht, Susquehanna & Delaware Area CMD



One church has a Serve Sunday where everyone serves in various projects in the community. The firemen really love when dads bring their kids and share cupcakes with them. Another incredible opportunity is men mentoring young people in their schools.

—Mark Cobler, Heart of Iowa CMD

Help Your Men Become ROCK SOLID

★ **NEW** Event from *Man in the Mirror!*

ROCK SOLID MEN includes:

- ★ Content ideal for a Friday night/Saturday morning event or a weekend retreat
- ★ An in-depth look at five attributes of Biblical manhood and an easy introduction to the spiritual disciplines
- ★ Planning manual and promotional materials
- ★ Powerful invitation to surrender to Christ
- ★ Curriculum for six-week follow-up groups



Call Roddey Roberts at 407-472-2110 to bring this event to your church.



This event is the recommended kick-off event for Challenge 5 of the Journey to Biblical Manhood, centered around the spiritual disciplines. Visit www.journeytobiblicalmanhood.org for details.

Equipping Your Men's Small Group



Get all your men engaged in the regular study of God's Word by using this magazine as a small group tool. At the end of each week's devotions, you'll see a box containing discussion questions and exercises. These can form the basis of your time together. These pages supplement those questions with additional steps. If you use this magazine with your men this quarter you will have:

- ✓ Given God praise for His workmanship in your life.
- ✓ Prayed on a daily basis before spending time in God's Word.
- ✓ Examined the differences between a Christian and a secular worldview.
- ✓ Evaluated your own worldview to see if it might be secular or Christian.
- ✓ Planned an event to build relationships among your group members.
- ✓ Prayed for and shown some important people in your life how much you value them.
- ✓ Lifted up in prayer one another's hurts and struggles.
- ✓ Scheduled a time with a special person to just be with them and listen to their heart.
- ✓ Taken a step of faith to see how God provides for you.
- ✓ Forgiven or have sought forgiveness from someone as a step towards restoration.
- ✓ Written a statement declaring God's purpose for your life.
- ✓ Memorized Proverbs 16:3: "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."
- ✓ Found at least one way to serve or show love to a colleague at work.

Continued on page 12 ▶

□ **7/1–7/5:** These devotions teach you about **the importance of knowing you are a child of God, made for His purpose.** **SAS (Suggested Action Step):** Make a list of some men you most admire. Do those men have anything in common? How did those men live out what they were created to do? Throughout this next week, memorize Ephesians 2:10 and give God praise for His workmanship in your life.

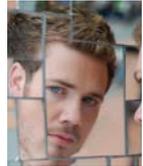


□ **7/6–7/12:** In this week of devotions **you'll learn about the impact that prayer and Bible reading can have on your life.** **SAS:** Spend a few minutes writing a prayer that you could pray before you read God's Word. Share those prayers with one another. Throughout this next week, are you willing to pray that prayer on a daily basis before you spend time in the Bible? Come back next week ready to share how that prayer impacted your time in God's Word.

□ **7/13–7/19:** This week **you will see the major differences between a secular worldview and a Christian worldview.** **SAS:** Consider a time in your own life or someone else's life when a worldview clearly showed itself. Ask the group to consider the consequences of the worldview on those people's lives. From last week, share about the impact of your prayer time before reading God's Word.



□ **7/20–7/26:** Throughout this week **you'll examine your own worldview and the impact it has on your daily life.** **SAS:** Look back over the decisions you've made over the last 2–3 years (kid's college, vacation, investments, jobs, etc.). What did those decisions reveal about your personal worldview? Are you satisfied with your personal worldview?



□ **7/27–8/2:** This week **your men will learn the important balance of work and relationships.** **SAS:** In order to build relationships, people need to spend time together. Spend a few minutes discussing how the men of your church can spend more time together. Decide on one of those times (fishing trips, ballgame, weekend retreat, etc.) Begin to plan that event.



□ **8/3–8/9:** Our devotional theme this week is **the value you place on the people in your life.** **SAS:** Ask each man to make a list of the 7 people you value most. Make a commitment to pray for one of those people every day next week and decide on a specific way to let them know how important they are to you.



□ **8/10–8/16:** In these devotions **you will learn the true meaning of repentance, restoration and healing.** **SAS:** Ask a couple of your guys to share about a healing or restoration that has taken place in their life. In groups of 2–3, take a few minutes to share hurts or struggles that need God's healing touch. Close in prayer and lift those needs up to God.



□ **8/17–8/23:** Throughout this week **you will see the importance of good communication.** **SAS:** On a whiteboard or sheet of paper, list the attributes of good communication. Choose one person in your life to work on communication with this week (children, parent, wife, friend, etc.). Schedule a time to be with them and listen to their heart.



□ **8/24–8/30:** This week **you'll be considering where you're storing your treasure—on earth or in heaven.** **SAS:** Think about one area of your finances that would change if you were completely convinced that God provides for you. This week, take a step of faith and see how God provides. Next week, share your experience with the group.



□ **8/31–9/6:** This week your men will see **the importance of being a man of your word.** **SAS:** Ask each man to write down the name of someone that has let them down or the name of someone they have let down. Then ask them to pray for a way to forgive that person or seek forgiveness from that person.



□ **9/7–9/13:** Through these devotions **your men will focus on God's purpose for their lives.** **SAS:** Ask the men to write one sentence that might describe God's purpose for his life. Take those statements home, pray daily about them and ask God to reveal more of His purpose to you. At the end of the week, rewrite your statement of purpose and share it with the group next week.



□ **9/14–9/20:** The theme of these devotions is that **prayer should always precede a plan.** **SAS:** Read aloud this verse of Scripture. "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." (Proverbs 16:3) Ask the men to meditate on and memorize that verse this week. From last week, share your statements of purpose.



□ **9/21–9/30:** In this week's devotions you'll focus in on **what it means to serve God in your work place.** **SAS:** How would your coworkers or employees describe you? Share with the group a few words that come to mind. Is that how you want to be known by your colleagues? Throughout this next week, examine how you are perceived at work. Look for at least one way to show God's love to a coworker.



How to Use This Devotional

To make the most of *Equipping the Man in the Mirror*, we have dissected a devotional so you don't miss any aspect of the magazine (see below).

☐ **Thursday—July 23 • The Two You's**

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind.
Jeremiah 17:9–10

Completion checkbox →

Correlating Scripture →

In high school, I was involved in three different peer groups. When I worked out with athletes, I talked tough and wouldn't smoke or drink. When I encountered academic friends, I discussed the importance of science to mankind's future. Then on weekends I hung out with the "hell raisers," smoking and drinking beer and cruising drive-in restaurants looking for girls. Frankly, when I walked the halls with one peer group, I feared seeing a friend from another peer group. I didn't want to be exposed as an imposter. I was a walking identity crisis.

Similarly, you also have at least two identities—the *visible* you known by others, and the *real* you known only by God. The real

you exists in your heart and mind, shaping your speech and actions. But self-deception is easy. Too many of us are unwilling to prayerfully examine our thinking processes in light of God's Word. We trick ourselves into believing we understand who we are, but Scripture reminds us that we can't even know our own desires and thoughts without God's help. [MIM25, Chapter 2](#)

Source material →

Discussion/journal questions →

One-year Bible daily reading →

Are you willing to let God reveal your real self to you? What are some things you might find out about yourself?

Daily Reading: *2 Chronicles 8:11–10:19, Romans 8:9–25, Psalm 18:16–36, Proverbs 19:26*

☐ **Wednesday—July 1 • Correctly Handling the Word**

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
2 Timothy 2:15

Thousands of years ago, when God inspired various people to write the books that now make up our Bible, He knew you would be reading it. He intended it to have meaning beyond the time in which it was written. He intended that it would have meaning to you. Anytime you read a portion of Scripture, you have opportunity to handle it correctly or incorrectly. For me, because I want to make sure I am handling God's Word as a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, that involves looking at the text through the lenses of three questions:

1. What did it mean when it was written?
2. What does the text mean today? What is its timeless message?
3. How does God want me to apply this message to my life?

When we look at any biblical text through those three viewpoints, we are moved beyond the point of reading it simply for information. Instead, we seek application that enables us to lead a more powerful life, because we will be transformed by Jesus' power. [MIMBS 1](#)

When God inspired people to write the Bible, He intended it to have meaning beyond the time when it was written. In fact, He intended it to have meaning to you. How does that affect your desire and willingness to study Scripture?

Daily Reading: *2 Kings 18:13–19:37, Acts 21:1–17, Psalm 149:1–9, Proverbs 18:8*

☐ **Thursday—July 2 • Bring It to God**

When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.
Psalm 73:21–24

Today's text comes from a Psalm outlining the author's struggles to understand why wicked people sometimes seem to prosper more than those who are faithful to God. This writer didn't come empty handed to his interaction with God. He brought all of his knowledge of God's Word and his experience with God, but he also brought those negative emotions. And he notes, "When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God" (Psalm 73:16–17).

When we study Scripture, in a sense, we are entering God's sanctuary—His holy place. And we don't come empty handed, either. We have a certain worldview, certain experiences, and certain emotional responses. All of those issues can impact

how we interpret Scripture. To the best of our ability, we need to be aware of what is happening in our minds and hearts, so we can bring it to God and ask Him to help us make sense of it. Through prayer, we can come into Jesus' presence, inviting the Holy Spirit to tutor our hearts. [MIMBS 1](#)

How can you be more aware of what is happening in your mind and heart, so you can ask God to help you make sense of it? What about the issues that you're not aware of? How can you trust Him to bring them to your attention? Share your thoughts with another man.

Daily Reading: *2 Kings 20:1–22:2, Acts 21:18–36, Psalm 150:1–6, Proverbs 18:9–10*

WHAT MIGHT GOD DO IF YOU SAID A SIMPLE PRAYER EVERY DAY FOR YOUR SPOUSE?

TAKE THE **MARRIAGE PRAYER CHALLENGE!**

Guys, this one's for us. Remember, pray it every day.

Ladies, here's ours. Pray it daily for your husband.

The Marriage Prayer
Father, I said, "Til death do us part" —I want to mean it.
Help me love You more than her/him,
and her/him more than anyone or anything else.
Help me bring her/him into Your presence today.
Make us one, like You are three in one.
I want to hear her/him, cherish him/her, and serve her/him—
So she/he would love You more and we can bring You glory.
Amen

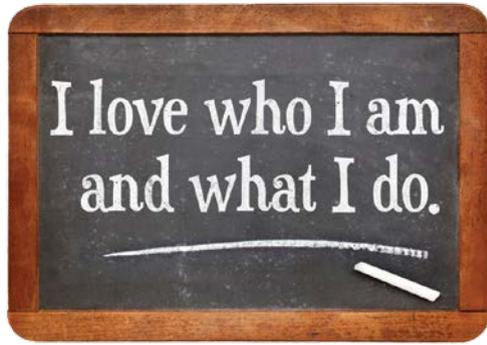
We'll give you ideas of how to make it **resonant for your couples!** After the event, **capture the momentum** with small groups, using the book.

To schedule The Marriage Prayer Challenge at your church, call Man in the Mirror at **800-929-2536**.

To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' . . . He must become greater; I must become less."

John 3:27–28, 30

While John the Baptist's disciples saw Jesus as a competitor, John understood Jesus' supremacy and accepted the place God assigned to him. This passage had great meaning when it was written, but like all Scripture, it also has a timeless application for every individual. Ephesians 2:10 says each of us was "created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." That means that, like John, we also have God-assigned roles. Our peace and joy are greatly enhanced in finding and accepting that assignment.



A couple of years ago I heard a man speak. He had a tremendous presence. After his presentation, I was surprised to learn he had a middle management job. I said, "Why aren't you the CEO of a Fortune 500 company?" Clearly, I touched a tender part of

his life. He was experiencing pain, because his life had not turned out as he anticipated. I used this passage to encourage him that there is great joy in learning to accept your lot in life as part of God's overarching plan.

To be honest, I used to think I would be the next Billy Graham, but over the years I've learned to be happy that I am Pat

Morley. I quit wishing to be what I'm not, and I accepted who I am. The simple truth is John the Baptist's words, recorded thousands of years ago, still apply to each of us. "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven."

MIMBS 1

Have you found and accepted the role God has for you? Explain your answer.

Daily Reading: 2 Kings 22:3–25:30, 1 Chronicles 1:1–2:17, Acts 21:37–23:35, Psalm 1:1–3:8, Proverbs 18:11–15



For Your Small Group

For July 1–5: From several easy-to-understand versions (New Living Translations, New King James, etc.), read aloud Ephesians 2:10.

- Do you believe you are God's workmanship?
- List a few good works you are uniquely created to do.
- Are you doing those good works? Why or why not?

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed.

Acts 17:11–12a

Charles Spurgeon once lamented that for every 10 men who are willing to die for the Bible, only one is actually willing to read it. Many of us start with the best of intentions, but we get bogged down and don't persevere.

Today's Scripture passage implies that reading and studying the Bible shows character, and it also builds our belief. Our knowledge of God's Word also becomes our primary weapon for spiritual warfare. Ephesians 6:17 tells us to take "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." And Hebrews 4:12 describes that weapon even more fully, when it says God's Word is "sharper than any double-edged sword." This passage says



it "judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." That's a pretty incredible weapon.

The timeless message in those verses can be summarized in this statement: God's Word is the primary weapon that protects my salvation and activates the Holy Spirit in my life. If I want to be a warrior for God, I must discipline myself to read and study His Word. MIMBS 1

Describe your plan for daily Bible reading. If you are not already, become accountable to another man.

Daily Reading: 1 Chronicles 2:18–4:4, Acts 24:1–27, Psalm 4:1–8, Proverbs 18:16–18

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 5:11–14

This writer's message is just as true today as it was in the first century. By constant use, the Bible prepares and trains mature men to distinguish good from evil. I read my Bible on a regular basis for two reasons: 1) It helps me understand God's heart so I can commune more fully with Him. 2) It helps me mature in my discipleship, by growing my ability to interpret life from God's perspective. It helps me figure out what is true in this life, so I can interpret present circumstances in light of eternity. The Bible teaches me right from wrong, even in those situations that seem to be "gray areas."

I encourage you to schedule time for reading your Bible. For me, the time is early in the morning. I stretch while the coffee is brewing, and then I sip my mug while I read Scripture. I also have a comfortable place where I sit every day for my devotions. My goal is to get to the point where I don't own my Bible, but rather it owns me. MIMBS 1

Do you own your Bible, or does it own you? Explain your answer.

Daily Reading: 1 Chronicles 4:5–5:17, Acts 25:1–27, Psalm 5:1–12, Proverbs 18:19

Be good to your servant while I live, that I may obey your word. Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.
Psalm 119:17–18

Like the Psalmist, I pray for inspiration and revelation when I come to God’s Word. When I begin my daily Bible reading, I start with prayer. For me, that prayer pertains to my twofold purpose: communion and discipleship. I invite God into my time. I ask Him to meet with me over His Word. I thank Jesus for the love He has poured upon me, and I thank Him for forgiving me and re-establishing my relationship with God. On a regular basis, I surrender my life to Jesus, expressing my desire to live under His lordship. And I also ask the Holy Spirit to be my Counselor as I read. I invite God

to tutor me, to reveal what is inside of me, and to show me how to align my life with His Word.

Why do I do that? I want my Bible reading to be more than an educational exercise. I don’t just want to read the Word—I want to obey it. I want my reading to be a sacred act that changes my life and makes me more and more like Jesus. [MIMBS 1](#)

Outline the points you would like to include in a prayer that precedes your Bible reading time.

Daily Reading: 1 Chronicles 5:18–6:81, Acts 26:1–32, Psalm 6:1–10, Proverbs 18:20–21

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.
Psalm 1:1–3

Many of us would like the rewards of regular Bible reading without the effort. But the Psalms open with this entry reminding us that God blesses the person who delights in and meditates on His law. For me, that requires a plan. Let’s face it—reading through the Bible can be a daunting task. Depending on the version that you choose, the Bible includes about 77,000 words. In a book with normal-sized print, that would be about 2,500 pages. That means, if I want to read through the Bible in a year, I must read the equivalent of one “normal sized book” each month.

I give myself some flexibility on a daily basis, but I do have the overarching goal



of reading my Bible from cover-to-cover each year. There are lots of plans available online and elsewhere, delivering Scripture in smaller portions so you can read daily and work your way through the whole Bible. You don’t have to follow *my* plan, but I do encourage you to follow *a*

plan. [MIMBS 1](#)

Describe the cause-and-effect link in today’s Scripture passage, and explain how you’ve found that to be true in your own life.

Daily Reading: 1 Chronicles 7:1–8:40, Acts 27:1–20, Psalm 7:1–17, Proverbs 18:22

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.
Romans 15:4

Just about any Christian can tell you the benefits of reading Scripture. But that knowledge doesn’t necessarily prompt them to read their Bibles. A friend named John Smith asked a simple question: “What would happen if I said I’d give you \$10 million if you would read your Bible from cover-to-cover in the next year?” External motivation might very well accomplish what internal motivation does not. If you want to be a good member of the Marine Corps, or a good doctor, musician, cabinet maker or athlete, you have to understand that it will cost you something in terms of time, commitment, dedication, and training. Sometimes you have to substitute discipline for a lack of natural interest. If you want to be a warrior for God, then you need to use the main weapon He has given you. The Bible is the weapon of choice for a man who dares to be a warrior for God. But you have to know the Word in order to use

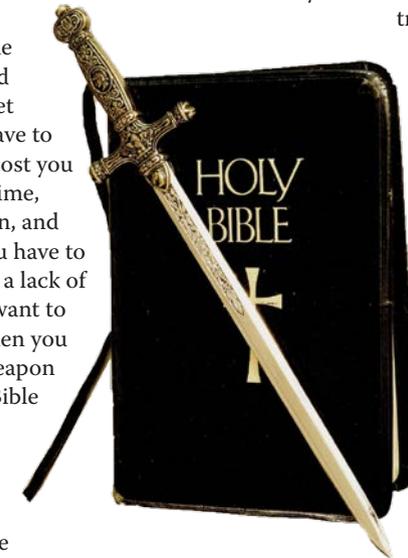
your weapon effectively.

So, what if your mind wanders? When I catch my mind wandering, I consider four possibilities: it might be a problem with my will, or with the influence of my flesh. Or it might be an attack from the devil, or the leading of the Holy Spirit. I try to figure out which it is, so I know how to respond. If I’m being convicted or prompted to some good activity, I run with it. If I’m just being distracted from the text, with

no good purpose, I try to rein it in. I need the will to be a warrior, so I can discipline my mind. [MIMBS 1](#)

Do you have the will to be a warrior? How is that exhibited in your daily lifestyle, specifically in reading God’s Word? Discuss with your group.

Daily Reading: 1 Chronicles 9:1–14:17, Acts 27:21–28:31, Romans 1:1–17, Psalm 8:1–9:20, Proverbs 18:23–19:5



For Your Small Group

☐ **For July 6–12: Is reading the Bible a “have to” or “want to” for you?**

- Do you pray and prepare your heart for reading God’s Word?
- Do you think that would make a difference in what you gain from your time in God’s Word?
- Are you willing to pray each time before you read His Word this next week?

Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.
Lamentations 3:40

Several decades ago, the crime-fighting duo of *Dempsey and Makepeace* came alive in a British TV show. Dempsey was a tough New York cop transferred to London. His colleague Makepeace was a very feminine, proper English policewoman. On the lead-in to each week's show, this police pair ran from exploding cars. They dove to the pavement to avoid machine-gun fire. They rolled across the ground and shot at bad guys. Then the camera zoomed in on Dempsey's knotty face. Glaring straight into the camera, he matter-of-factly summarized his personal philosophy: "Life is hard, and then you die."

Dempsey took life one episode at a time, never considering what the next day might

bring. Many of us live in a similar way, reacting to daily life without contemplating why our lives follow certain patterns. Yet we were made for so much more than this. God's Word suggests a different path, calling us to examine and test our ways so we make intentional and purposeful choices that reflect God's priorities. [MIM25, Chapter 2](#)

What would you like to have carved on your tombstone to describe your life? How does that summarize the philosophy that drives your choices?

Daily Reading: *1 Chronicles 15:1–16:36, Romans 1:18–32, Psalm 10:1–15, Proverbs 19:6–7*

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?
2 Corinthians 13:5

Many of us stay too distracted to consider life's important questions. We reach goals we thought would satisfy, and instead we find we're still empty. Then the questions come. "Who am I? Is this all there is?" And if we *don't* reach our goals, the list grows even longer. "How could this happen? If God really loves me, where is He when I need Him?"

Ghandi said, "There is more to life than increasing its speed." Yet most men simply react to an endless list of options that vie for attention, time and money. Even among men who claim to follow Jesus, too many pay half-hearted observance at worship services, not allowing God's truth to penetrate their lives. By Monday afternoon, the memory of Sunday is as distant as the memory of last year's vacation. We readily accept that a lawyer or electrician is no

better than the effort he puts into keeping up with his profession. Similarly, the Christian is no better than the effort he puts into self-examination, especially in light of the life-changing questions that face us every day. [MIM25, Chapter 2](#)

Describe a time when your life circumstances caused you to consider some important questions about the direction you were heading. What answers did you find for your questions? If you haven't faced this yet, go to someone whom you respect and ask him to share his experience as it relates to this application.

Daily Reading: *1 Chronicles 16:37–18:17, Romans 2:1–24, Psalm 10:16–18, Proverbs 19:8–9*

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.
Romans 8:5

An admired businessman astonished me one day at lunch with a comment that revealed his underlying philosophy. He suggested it was better to kill unborn children rather than allowing them to be born unwanted. He did not argue that the unborn are not human beings. Rather, since they might be neglected and possibly abused, he reasoned the unwanted are mercifully spared when terminated before birth. This wealthy and influential friend was making important commercial decisions shaping our community. Yet of all the reasons I've heard supporting abortion, his stands alone as the most patently absurd.

Why do men think what they think, say what they say, and do what they do? Each of us has an underlying philosophy or worldview that is heavily influenced

by our birthplace, parents and education. Our worldview influences every thought, every word and every action of our lives. Scripture calls Jesus' followers to proactively pursue God, allowing Him to conform our thought patterns to His desires, rather than mindlessly allowing our culture to shape our worldview. When our worldview deviates from scripture, we are destined to get off track in devastating ways. [MIM25, Chapter 2](#)

List some ways you can proactively pursue God, allowing Him to conform your thought patterns to His desires.

Daily Reading: *1 Chronicles 19:1–21:30, Romans 2:25–3:8, Psalm 11:1–7, Proverbs 19:10–12*

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
Romans 12:2

Today's America is ruled by two predominant worldviews. The *secular* worldview sees man as the central figure shaping all events. The secularist believes man is intrinsically good, determines his own boundaries of achievement and knowledge, and is unconstrained by moral standards apart from those he chooses on his own. By contrast, the *Christian* worldview believes in an all-powerful God who created and sustains the universe. This living, omnipotent God possesses all knowledge, and because of His great love for us, He established absolute moral standards for our protection. He is holy, loving and personal.

Those two worldviews lead to very different choices and behaviors. Unfortunately, Christians often concentrate on the individual behaviors rather than the overarching

worldview that drives daily decisions. We have sounded alarms over the breakdown of the family, pornography, gun violence, racism, poverty and abortion. But as Dr. Francis Schaeffer pointed out, we "have not seen this as a totality—each thing being a part, a symptom, of a much larger problem." In order to solve cultural problems like those I've listed, we need to correct our worldview. [MIM25, Chapter 2](#)

Describe one way that a secularist's worldview might be revealed in his daily decisions, and contrast that with how a Christian's worldview might be revealed in the same situation.

Daily Reading: *1 Chronicles 22:1–23:32, Romans 3:9–31, Psalm 12:1–8, Proverbs 19:13–14*

*Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.
I will praise you, LORD my God, with all my heart;
I will glorify your name forever.*
Psalm 86:11–12

American culture has moved away from traditional Judeo-Christian values and toward a worldview that suggests we can simply select values based on whether they serve our self-interests. Understanding the differences between secular and Christian worldviews provides a first step toward choosing God's thought processes, rather than simply defaulting to the way our society thinks.

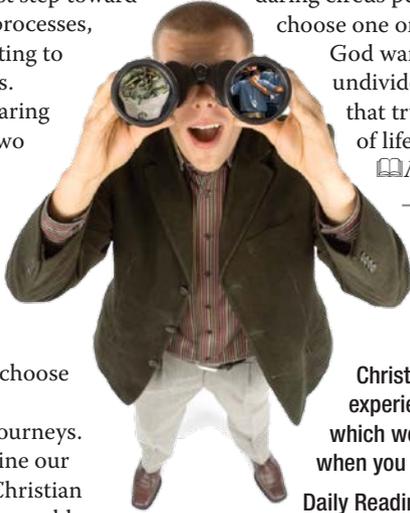
I'm sure you've seen a daring circus performer riding two horses at the same time. He has one foot firmly planted on the back of each horse. He can do this, because they stay close together. But if the horses begin to separate, the performer must choose to ride one or the other.

So it is in our spiritual journeys. Unless we carefully examine our lives, we tend to see the Christian worldview and the secular worldview close together, like two circus

horses. When we take a closer look, though, we begin to notice how dramatically different—even opposite—these two philosophies are. As they come into sharper focus, they move farther and farther apart, and eventually we reach a point, like the daring circus performer, when we must choose one or the other.

God wants His followers to have undivided hearts—not hearts that try to combine His view of life with the world's view.

📖 *MIM25, Chapter 2*



Describe one issue in your life where you have seen the greatest separation between the secular worldview and the Christian worldview. What life experiences helped you determine which worldview you will follow when you faced that issue?

Daily Reading: *1 Chronicles 24:1–29:30, Romans 4:1–5:21, Psalm 13:1–15:5, Proverbs 19:15–19*



For Your Small Group

☐ **For July 13–19: From the devotional, “Why Does a Worldview Matter?” on page 21. On a whiteboard, list some ways you can proactively pursue God and some ways you can attempt to avoid God.**

- Do you see any ways on the “pursue” list that you have done or are doing?
- Do you see any ways on the “avoid” list that you have done or are doing?
- Why would someone pursue or avoid God?

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.
Matthew 6:24

John and Betty began like most Christians. For seven years I watched them struggle with lifestyle and worldview issues. They sought contentment from knowing Christ personally, yet their material appetites created constant tension. Although John worked hard, Betty saw him as unambitious. They lived in a comfortable home, but like many of us, they clutched the hope of buying their dream house. John knew the payments weren't manageable, but Betty seemed eager to take the leap. Eventually they bought a real showplace.

Still, Betty just wasn't satisfied. One summer she went to visit her parents for a few weeks. She phoned home. “I've taken a job,” she explained. Betty didn't respond to John's follow-up questions in terms of relationship, but she spoke only of her ambition

to earn more money. They eventually filed for divorce and lost their beautiful house to the mortgage company.

How can a Christian couple go so far astray? The Bible warns repeatedly that we can't serve two worldviews. In the end, we will choose one or the other, and many consequences in our lives will rest on that decision. 📖 *MIM25, Chapter 2*

List three consequences you've observed in the lives of people who chose to live by a secular worldview rather than Christian. Now contrast that with three results you've observed in the lives of people who chose to live by a Christian worldview rather than secular.

Daily Reading: *2 Chronicles 1:1–3:17, Romans 6:1–23, Psalm 16:1–11, Proverbs 19:20–21*

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.
Colossians 2:6–8

Secularists have been doing a much better job than Christians in the area of influencing our culture. School prayer was banned in 1961, abortion was legalized in 1973, and major networks stopped censoring their programming in 1989. Since those watershed decisions, nearly every other valued institution has experienced significant erosion.

Today in America, Christians are a minority. In fact, Christians are such a minority that their values and views are as impotent as any minority group in modern history. Why? Frankly, it's because in general, we lead unexamined lives. Many good, Christian men have been taken captive “through hollow and deceptive philosophy,

which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world.” In other words, many of us are Christians in our spirits, but secular in our practice. We have become a generation of cultural Christians. God calls us to build our lives on Christ rather than culture, and in the process, we will find freedom and contentment. 📖 *MIM25, Chapter 2*

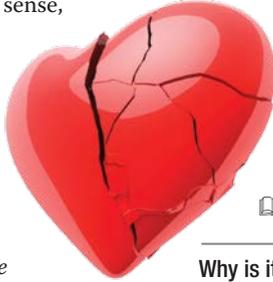
In your own words, explain how choosing “human tradition” over scriptural principles can lead to captivity. Discuss this with other men.

Daily Reading: *2 Chronicles 4:1–6:11, Romans 7:1–13, Psalm 17:1–15, Proverbs 19:22–23*

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

As archaeologists search the ruins of long-forgotten civilizations, they often find pieces of broken pottery called shards. From those broken pieces, they visualize the appearance of the object from which the shards came. In a spiritual sense, we also should examine every shard in our minds—every idea and theory we discover hovering there—to see if it represents an internal thought process that is more influenced by Scripture or by surrounding culture.



but rather presses adherents to be “open to all kinds of men, all kinds of lifestyles, all ideologies.” The secularist’s openness results from relying on his own “best thinking,” without referring to absolutes.

He thinks beliefs don’t matter, as long as the person is sincere. By contrast, Scripture calls those who follow Christ to build their lifestyle choices and their daily decisions on the truth and absolutes as defined by God.

📖MIM25, Chapter 2

Why is it important to examine your “meditations” and make sure they are pleasing to God, rather than just analyzing your actions?

Daily Reading: 2 Chronicles 6:12–8:10, Romans 7:14–8:8, Psalm 18:1–15, Proverbs 19:24–25

In his book *The Closing of the American Mind*, Dr. Allan Bloom points out that our culture discourages this type of self-examination. Instead he sees an “openness of indifference” that does not pursue truth with dogged determination,

☐ Thursday—July 23 • The Two Yous

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind.

Jeremiah 17:9–10

In high school, I was involved in three different peer groups. When I worked out with athletes, I talked tough and wouldn’t smoke or drink. When I encountered academic friends, I discussed the importance of science to mankind’s future. Then on weekends I hung out with the “hell raisers,” smoking and drinking beer and cruising drive-in restaurants looking for girls. Frankly, when I walked the halls with one peer group, I feared seeing a friend from another peer group. I didn’t want to be exposed as an imposter. I was a walking identity crisis.

Similarly, you also have at least two identities—the *visible* you known by others, and the *real* you known only by God. The real

you exists in your heart and mind, shaping your speech and actions. But self-deception is easy. Too many of us are unwilling to prayerfully examine our thinking processes in light of God’s Word. We trick ourselves into believing we understand who we are, but Scripture reminds us that we can’t even know our own desires and thoughts without God’s help. 📖MIM25, Chapter 2

Are you willing to let God reveal your real self to you? What are some things you might find out about yourself?

Daily Reading: 2 Chronicles 8:11–10:19, Romans 8:9–25, Psalm 18:16–36, Proverbs 19:26

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

James 1:22–25

A pastor wanted to get to know a visitor who happened to be a sports enthusiast. Since the pastor enjoyed watching boxing, he invited the man to a match. The visitor had never witnessed an event like this. Just before the fight started, one of the boxers made the sign of the cross.

“What does that mean?” the visitor asked.

The pastor quickly replied, “It doesn’t mean a thing if the guy can’t box.”

Similarly, a visual or verbal ascent to Christianity doesn’t mean much apart from the evidence that we live out our commitment on a daily basis. Today’s Scripture reminds us of the ease with which we can deceive ourselves. The process of understanding our identity as Christians, and then living it out, begins as we examine ourselves in the

mirror provided by Scripture. As we submit our thinking processes to Him and to His Word, we see ourselves and the results of our decisions more clearly.

The natural outcome of this commitment should be revealed in our attitudes and actions.

This passage from the Book of James promises a blessing for the person who “looks intently into the perfect law” and refuses to forget what he’s learned. James says that person will experience freedom and will enjoy God’s blessing.

📖MIM25, Chapter 7



What did your words and actions yesterday reveal about your worldview and your internal thought processes?

Discuss your answer with another man.

Daily Reading: 2 Chronicles 11:1–18:34, Romans 8:26–10:13, Psalm 18:37–20:9, Proverbs 19:27–20:3



For Your Small Group

☐ **For July 20–26: Read aloud the devotional “Looking at the ‘Shards’” on page 24.**

- What does an “openness of indifference” mean?
- What is the difference between relying on our own “best thinking” rather relying on the truths and absolutes defined by God?

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the LORD.

Psalm 128:3–4

My children were young when my business finally started doing reasonably well. When I was just getting started, I tried introducing myself to a bank president at a Chamber function. He only spoke to me after he looked around and saw that no one important was available. When I started enjoying success, that same bank president acted like we were long-lost buddies. People suddenly knew who I was, and our mail brought invitations to join organizations and attend functions. For a long time I said yes to everything.

“We’ve arrived!” I told Patsy.

“Yes,” she said, “but at the wrong place.”

She was the first to realize we were buying into a network of shallow relationships built on the sole foundation of commercial

gain. Time with our kids, who needed us most and whom we loved most, was getting buried under an avalanche of avarice.

One evening we reviewed our calendar and decided to prioritize our commitments based on one simple question: *Who will cry at our funerals?* Prioritizing this way focuses us on biblical priorities in our relationships. [MIM25, Chapter 7](#)

Did you experience a situation like this from the other end, when you were a child growing up? How can that experience help you understand God’s design for healthy relationships?

Daily Reading: *2 Chronicles 19:1–20:37, Romans 10:14–11:12, Psalm 21:1–13, Proverbs 20:4–6*

☐ Tuesday—July 28 • Pursuing Work at the Expense of Relationships

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?

Isaiah 55:2

The workplace holds two great attractions: it offers a place to escape from uncomfortable situations at home, and it holds “the thrill of the deal.” In pursuit of “the good life,” most men leave a trail of broken relationships. Only in hindsight do some realize that no amount of success at work can compensate for failure at home. We often wound those we love the most, and our own spirits are wounded too, but we don’t know how to stop the bleeding.

Our secular culture has incited man’s natural, selfish inclination to pursue fame and fortune. That tendency has become a strange unstable cauldron of ambition. All too often this concoction explodes in a man’s face, scattering what should be



his most treasured possessions—his relationships—like the irretrievably shattered fragments of a precious vase, an heirloom that was destined to bring joy as it linked one generation to the next. What we need most is not a sticky glue to repair

the shattered pieces of our broken relationships, but a cool resolve to catch the vase, now tumbling through the air, before it bursts into a thousand little bits.

[MIM25, Chapter 7](#)

Most men are silently hurting in their relationships. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer. Share your thoughts with another man.

Daily Reading: *2 Chronicles 21:1–23:21, Romans 11:13–36, Psalm 22:1–18, Proverbs 20:7*

The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.

Proverbs 12:15

As a young businessman, I made it a habit to always ask older men what their greatest regrets were, hoping I could glean some wise tips for my own life. While their regrets varied all over the map, two showed up on virtually every man’s list. First a man would say, “I was so busy taking care of company business that I never put my own financial house in order. Now I’m fifty-five, and I have to do in ten years what I should have done in forty.”

Then he would add, “I was so busy trying to improve my family’s standard of living that, before I knew it, my children



were grown and gone, and I never got to know them. Now they are too busy to spend time with me.” What will your regrets be? Are you willing to pay the price for running the rat race? The simple reality is that no amount of financial success or career prestige can adequately compensate for failure at home. [MIM25, Chapter 7](#)

One primary reason for broken relationships among men is their pursuit of an ever higher standard of living. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer.

Daily Reading: *2 Chronicles 24:1–25:28, Romans 12:1–21, Psalm 22:19–31, Proverbs 20:8–10*

☐ Thursday—July 30 • Task Oriented

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Genesis 2:15

From the beginning of time, God offered men fulfilling tasks. He even told Adam and Eve to “fill the earth and subdue it” and to “rule over” His masterpiece (Genesis 1:28). Theologians refer to this monumental task as the *creation mandate* or *cultural mandate*.

Many people observe that men tend to be task-oriented, while women are more likely to pursue relationship. When someone asks me to lunch, my first question is, “What do you want to discuss?” I’m usually thinking, *If I can figure out the agenda, maybe I can handle it with a five-minute phone call instead of a one-hour lunch.* By contrast, when one of my wife’s friends invites her to lunch, she doesn’t ask questions—she just says yes. Women get together because they

simply enjoy each other’s company. Men generally work from an agenda. Still, even in the midst of that task orientation, when a man’s relationships are out of balance, his insides ache. Most men must make an intentional effort to keep relationships and task in balance, but achieving that balance ultimately brings peace. [MIM25, Chapter 7](#)

Prayerfully list some habits that might help you maintain a healthy balance between tasks and relationships. Discuss your ideas with a group of men.

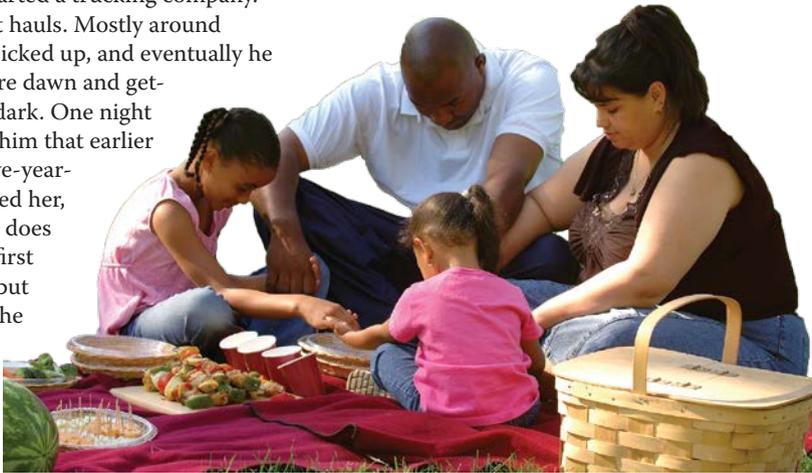
Daily Reading: *2 Chronicles 26:1–28:27, Romans 13:1–14, Psalm 23:1–6, Proverbs 20:11*

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

Mark 8:35–36

Most men start chasing the good life with clear thinking and pure motives. We really do desire to improve the standard of living for our family, and we see our employment as the way to make that happen. The task begins as a *means to an end*. But often we get so involved with the task—and it can be exciting—that we lose sight of why we are working so hard. We become confused, and what originally began as a means to an end takes on its own life, becoming *an end in itself*.

For example, to improve his family's income, Brian started a trucking company. One truck. Short hauls. Mostly around town. Business picked up, and eventually he was leaving before dawn and getting home after dark. One night Brian's wife told him that earlier that day, their five-year-old son Sean asked her, "Mommy, where does Daddy live?" At first Brian chuckled, but then he realized he had gotten the means and the end mixed up. What was



supposed to be the *means* to a better life had become the *end*. To his credit, Brian made the adjustment, although it took him a couple of years of vigilance to get his schedule back to a normal work week. *MIM25, Chapter 7*

Have you found the pursuit of a higher standard of living to be worth the price extracted? Explain your answer.

Daily Reading: *2 Chronicles 29:1–33:13, Romans 14:1–16:9, Psalm 24:1–25:22, Proverbs 20:12–18*



For Your Small Group

☐ **July 27– August 2: Describe the relationships your dad had with co-workers, teammates, neighbors, and family.**

- Did he have a good balance between work and relationship?
- How has his example impacted your relationships?
- Are you satisfied with the balance you have with work and relationships?

Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:11

Our culture places a higher value on possessions and accomplishments than on people and relationships. Our society does little to dissuade our confusion about the desired end result. Instead of encouraging and nurturing family relationships, our culture suggests professional achievement and financial success are the measure of a man.

How do you introduce yourself to others? When a man introduces himself to me for the first time, if he gives information beyond his name, it's usually related to his vocation. When is the last time you met a man whose first inclination is to describe himself in terms of the way he loves his wife, or the impact he has on his children? As someone who works with men I can tell you that not many do, though we're steadily seeing more and more men putting

family over career. Still, most men describe themselves in terms of work and financial achievements, because that's what they value most. Our culture has persuaded most men that significance is related more to our balance sheet and our title than to teaching our children and cherishing our wives. *MIM25, Chapter 7*

Today's Scripture was written by a man whom many believe was the wisest to ever live. In your own words, explain how his words relate to a Scriptural warning about defining ourselves in terms of professional accomplishment.

Daily Reading: *2 Chronicles 33:14–34:33, Romans 16:10–27, Psalm 26:1–12, Proverbs 20:19*

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3–4

Every person ever born has been naturally self-centered. The apostle Paul reminded the Philippians: "Everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 2:21). Yet in the same chapter, he exhorted believers to "do nothing out of selfish ambition" and to "value others above yourselves" (Philippians 2:3–4). Clearly that's a cultivated skill.

If we don't look out for our own interests, we're crazy. No one else will take responsibility for our lives. The problem comes when we give in to sinful desires, looking out *only* for "number one." This develops a circular pattern. If no one else looks out for my interests, then I must. And if I spend all my time looking out solely for my own

interests, then I don't invest time helping anyone else. That creates a big mess, where every person is an island of self-interest. Thank God for the millions of people who break that pattern, intentionally developing the same mindset as Christ Jesus, so they can look out for the interests of others and not just their own. *MIM25, Chapter 7*

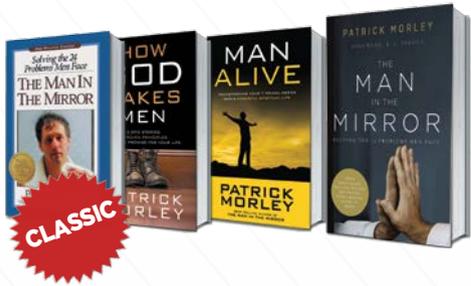
Who in your life has given you the great gift of looking out for your interests as well as their own? What specific steps can you take to do that for others?

Daily Reading: *2 Chronicles 35:1–36:23, 1 Corinthians 1:1–17, Psalm 27:1–6, Proverbs 20:20–21*

Man in the Mirror Featured Resources

MAN IN THE MIRROR GREAT BUNDLE OFFERS!

THE PAT MORLEY BOOK BUNDLE

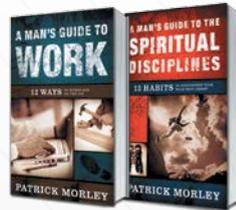


Get 4 of Pat's Books! Get 4 great titles from Patrick Morley at nearly 60% off the retail price! The 4-pack includes: *The Man in the Mirror 25th Anniversary Edition*, *How God Makes Men*, and *Man Alive*. With a bonus copy of the Classic Edition of *The Man in the Mirror* Hardcover! A great keepsake for any man's library or to give away to a friend. **\$25**

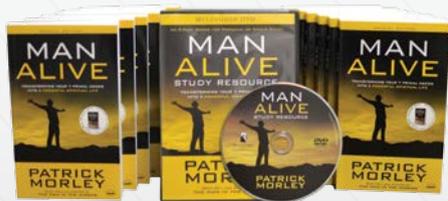
THE MAN'S GUIDE BOOK BUNDLE

Get the Man's Guide book bundle! Someone once said, "Life is in the details." This certainly holds true when it comes to matters of faith and how to turn your working life into an adventure in *A Man's Guide to the Spiritual Disciplines* and *A Man's Guide to Work*.

\$15 each or \$25 for both



MAN ALIVE BUNDLE



Discover Pat's biblical, practical, and motivating plan to leave spiritual mediocrity behind and live a life of purpose and power, to become a **Man Alive!** Plus a great DVD! Contains 8 vignettes (5 minutes long) that go with each chapter!

Box of 12 for \$22, Box of 48 for \$79, and Man Alive DVD for \$20

MAN IN THE MIRROR APPAREL

GREAT SHIRTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS!



SHORT-SLEEVE SHIRTS

Callaway Dry Core Polo (available in Blue) **\$40**

Raglan Sport Polo (available in Burgundy) **\$32**

Camp Shirts (available in Red and Black) **\$40**

LONG-SLEEVE SHIRTS

Long-Sleeve Twill Shirts (available in Navy, Red, and White) **\$35**



MIM COFFEE MUG

Ceramic mug, black matte (16 oz). On the back are great words of encouragement, "Get a cup of coffee, close the door, and enjoy a time of prayer for the men of your church." **\$10**



1-800-929-2536 • maninthemirror.org/store

Prices do not include shipping and handling.

And much more! Check out
maninthemirror.org/store • 1-800-929-2536

Prices do not include shipping and handling.

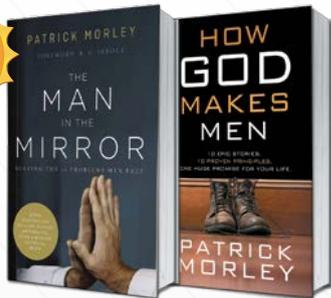
Books! by the Box

All Books Under \$2 Each!

BOOKS FOR MEN!



\$1.50 \$1.65 \$1.44 \$1.08 \$1.67



\$1.65 \$1.73

TWO NEW BOOKS!

BOOKS FOR WOMEN & COUPLES!



88¢ \$1.71 \$1.13 \$1.44 \$1.50

Prices shown are for cases of 48, does not include shipping and handling. *Case of 12 for this title.

Check our website for additional titles and specials or give us a call!
1-800-929-2536 • booksbythebox.org

Wednesday—August 5 • Grumpy Men

Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.
Luke 6:44–45

Our behavior behind the closed doors of our own private castles shows how we really are. We can fabricate an image for work associates and friends, but when the shades go down at home, the men we really are comes out of the shadows. We trap ourselves into thinking our grouchiness with wives and children is excusable. “If they only knew what I have to endure in my work day, they would break their necks to make my life more bearable at home!” But Dr. David Brandt, a Christian psychologist, reminds us, “Other people don’t create your spirit; they only reveal it.” That sounds kind of like today’s scripture: “The mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”

Let’s face it: if we’re grumpy, it’s not the fault of our wives and kids. Rather, we are grumpy people looking for a place to grump. It’s time to stop blaming our families for our bad attitudes, confessing that they are the scapegoats for our inner character issues that we haven’t yet addressed.
MIM25, Chapter 7

Think about your recent stressful conversations with the people who are closest to you. What do your words reveal about what’s flowing from your heart?

Daily Reading: Ezra 1:1–2:70, 1 Corinthians 1:18–2:5, Psalm 27:7–14, Proverbs 20:22–23

Thursday—August 6 • The Key to Relationships

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.
Proverbs 31:10–11

When I acknowledged that my wife was not the cause of my anger, I unlocked the door to her friendship. When I disciplined myself to quit taking out my frustrations on her, and instead I began valuing her by sharing my deepest thoughts and hurts, I started finding a new friend when I arrived at home each day.

Many men struggle in the area of relationships, yet the key that unlocks the door to deeper companionship isn’t that hard to find. People know whether or not a man is for them. They discern this from his actions if not from his words. If his behavior and his words

contradict one another, people will believe his actions. If we tell our wives we love them, and then we spend Monday night at softball practice, Wednesday night at church, Saturday on the golf course and the rest of the time watching TV, they know the truth. Our lives are pretty much about ourselves, and not very much about them. Because time and attention express value, they mean everything in a relationship.
MIM25, Chapter 7



List three people with whom you have a close relationship. How have you communicated to those people the value that you place on them?

Daily Reading: Ezra 3:1–4:23, 1 Corinthians 2:6–3:4, Psalm 28:1–9, Proverbs 20:24–25

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4–7

Many men tilt their priorities toward work at the expense of relationships. Sadly, most are blind to the effects of their choices. I know I'm not alone in getting so focused on the ground immediately ahead of me that I forget to glance ahead to determine if I'm even going in the right direction. Men can get intoxicated with work, and in our light-headedness, we hurt the people we love the most.

Today's Scripture outlines the apostle Paul's description of godly love. This passage is often

quoted at weddings. When you really read these wonderful words, you find that every facet that Paul described requires an act of the will. Real relationships don't just happen, because love is intentional. We all decide how we spend our time—that also is an act of the will. Frankly, I believe every husband and father needs to do a gut check and answer this question: Do my choices for how I spend my time communicate to my wife and children that I am for them? In many ways, we are the sum of our decisions. We decide who has first priority in our lives, and second and third, and so on. No amount of career success will compensate for relational failure. If you don't have enough time for your family, you can be 100 percent certain you are not following God's will for your life. [MIM25, Chapter 7](#)

What are you communicating to the people who are closest to you by how you spend your time? Explain your answer to your group.

Daily Reading: *Ezra 4:24–9:15, 1 Corinthians 3:5–5:13, Psalm 29:1–31:8, Proverbs 20:26–21:2*



For Your Small Group

☐ August 3–9: Who do you consider to be your best friend (dad, neighbor, wife, colleague, etc.)?

- How would that person know you are their best friend?
- What ways do you show each other the importance of the relationship?

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Psalm 51:1–2

In 1857 a recession began in America. A bank in New York City failed, railroads went bankrupt, land speculators lost all their money, and unemployment numbers spiked. Just four years later, the Civil War broke out, and by the time the war was over 620,000 Americans were dead. One might expect big changes to occur in the midst of crisis, and that can happen. But looking back at our country's short history, crisis does not necessarily bring real change.

Today our country is facing another difficult financial time with businesses going bankrupt, homes being foreclosed upon, double digit unemployment, etc. So, will change happen this time?

When God is ready to do something He puts that thought into the hearts and minds of His children. He challenges our thoughts, lifestyles and habits to open us up to seek His heart. He works in the lives of individuals to make changes in our hearts. True life changes are always the result of true heart changes. [MIMBS 2](#)

Has God touched your heart about areas that need His attention? What would it look like if you allowed God to make a change in that area? How would your life change?

Daily Reading: *Ezra 10:1–44, 1 Corinthians 6:1–20, Psalm 31:9–18, Proverbs 21:3*

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place

Psalm 51:4–6

King David was a man after God's own heart. God would use him mightily in His kingdom and his lineage would produce the King of kings, Jesus Christ. David was also a man who sinned greatly in a very visible way.

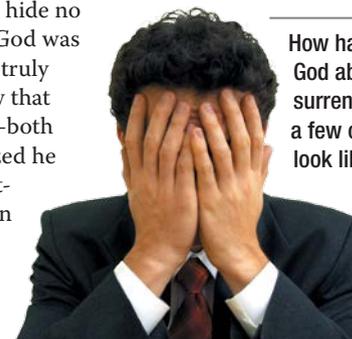
In Psalm 51, David gives great insight into his own status as a sinner—a sinner who was seeking a clean heart, a restored life and a deeper relationship with God. David recognized that sin separated him from God, that he could hide no sin from God, and that God was the only One that could truly change him. David knew that God was seeking truth—both inside and out. He realized he couldn't clean up his outside appearance and then fool God. What God

wanted was for David to have an authentic life.

Have you tried to fool people about your sin? I have. Like me, you've probably even had thoughts of fooling God about your sin. But as David reminds us, God knows the full extent of our evil and He has all the facts about us. Because of this, He can conceive in you and me "a new, true life." [MIMBS 2](#)

How have you tried to fool people and God about your sin? Are you willing to surrender that sin to God today? Talk with a few other men about what this would look like.

Daily Reading: *Nehemiah 1:1–3:14, 1 Corinthians 7:1–24, Psalm 31:19–24, Proverbs 21:4*



When your people Israel have been defeated by an enemy because they have sinned against you and when they turn back and give praise to your name, praying and making supplication before you in this temple, then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them back to the land you gave to them and their ancestors.

2 Chronicles 6:24, 25

King Solomon opens this prayer to God in 2 Chronicles with the word “when.” He didn’t pray to God and say if Your people ever sin and turn against You. He knew that it was inevitable that God’s chosen people would sin and turn their backs on God. Sin is a part of every human’s life and every nation’s existence.

Solomon made a request of God: “Forgive, and deal with everyone according to all they do, since you know their hearts (for you alone know the human heart), so that they will fear you and walk in obedience to you all the time they live in the land you gave our ancestors.” 2 Chronicles 6:30–31



In his wisdom, Solomon took for granted that people sin. He knew that God would admonish them—in this case, through a military defeat. He asked God to listen, forgive and reward, if the people would repent. Let’s pray for the church, our nation, and ourselves that it will not take such a drastic measure to turn our hearts towards Him.

☐ MIMBS 2

When you failed or sinned as a child, what reaction did your parents have? Is that the same reaction you expect from God? How does Solomon’s prayer change your thinking about God’s reaction to your sin?

Daily Reading: *Nehemiah 3:15–5:13, 1 Corinthians 7:25–40, Psalm 32:1–11, Proverbs 21:5–7*

So don’t worry about these things, saying, “What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?” These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Matthew 6:31–33 (NLT)

Just as Solomon knew that the nation of Israel would sin, parents know that kids are going to sin. Suppose your children play a video game that they know they are not allowed to play. They get caught and you take that video game away. They apologize and then ask to play the game again. Did they get the big picture?

We can do the same thing with our sin. We get caught in our sin and we turn it over to God and ask for His forgiveness. He forgives us and then we go back to our sin. Do we get the big picture? No!

God says humble yourself and turn from your wicked ways and I will forgive you

and heal your land. God wants us to be satisfied with nothing but Him. If you are seeking Him and are truly repentant, you will be happy and satisfied with Him. Your desire for your sin will gradually go away. Repentance involves a healing that can only come from Him. ☐ MIMBS 2

Have you experienced healing from your sin? What did that healing look like and how did your life change?

Daily Reading: *Nehemiah 5:14–7:73, 1 Corinthians 8:1–13, Psalm 33:1–11, Proverbs 21:8–10*

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

2 Chronicles 7:14, 15

In 1857, when other churches were moving out of New York City, the North Dutch Church decided to remain. New York was in shambles and mobs of people had immigrated to the city. There were riots, gangs, weapons of every sort, crime on every corner, and the city was on the brink of catastrophe.

The church hired Jeremiah Lanphier to be an urban missionary. He would call on people and pass out Bibles and tracts, hoping to have some impact or change on the environment around them. Jeremiah became very discouraged. Even though the city was in crisis, there was very little spiritual interest.

In his discouragement he called out to God and pleaded, “What would you have me do?” He sensed that God was leading him to have a prayer meeting at noon at the church. On September 23, 1857, he held the first meeting and six people showed up to pray. They cried out to God in a 2 Chronicles 7:14 style. They prayed, sought God and repented and turned from their sinful ways. The next week they had another prayer meeting and 20 people showed up, and then 40 people. They were so encouraged they decided to

have daily prayer meetings. Soon groups were praying throughout the city. Businesses began shutting down to give people the opportunity to go and pray. At the height of this revival 50,000 people a week were coming to Christ. Over a million people came to Jesus Christ during this revival. A million people in 1857 would be like 10 million Americans coming to Christ in one year. It all happened because one man said, “Lord, what would you have me do?” The answer was 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Revival occurred in New York because one man was open and willing to do what God wanted him to do. He was discouraged and needed revival in his own soul. God restored his soul and thousands of others were changed in the process. ☐ MIMBS 2

Recall a time in your life when you experienced discouragement. How did you try to deal with that discouragement? How were you healed and restored?

Daily Readings: *Nehemiah 8:1–12:26, 1 Corinthians 9:1–10:33, Psalm 33:12–34:22, Proverbs 21:11–16*



For Your Small Group

- ☐ **August 10–16: From the devotion for August 14, 15, 16, have someone share the story of Jeremiah Lanphier.**
- What would you have been tempted to do if you were in Mr. Lanphier’s shoes?
 - What have you done during times of discouragement with your family, job, church or country?
 - What would change during those times if you were willing to ask the question, “Lord, what would you have me do?”

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.
Luke 6:45

In business, if you want to compliment a man, you say he gets things done. How does he do that? Well, he works hard, and usually he's articulate. He listens, and he responds clearly in conversation. He's an effective communicator, even in situations that require conflict resolution.

But even people who don't think they are good communicators find they can talk about something that is interesting to them. I have three brothers. The youngest, named Bill, is very quiet. His personality does not drive him to compete for attention. But several years ago he developed an interest in aviation. He bought a

small plane and flew to California and back. Suddenly he began talking a lot about his new area of interest.

Even the quietest person can become an effective communicator, if he focuses on the things that interest him. The scripture above applies that principle to all types of communication—good and bad. What's in our hearts, the Scripture says, will eventually come bubbling out of our mouths.  MIMBS 3

Think about your conversations in the last 24 hours. How have they reflected what is in your heart?

Daily Reading: *Nehemiah 12:27–13:31, 1 Corinthians 11:1–16, Psalm 35:1–16, Proverbs 21:17–18*

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.
James 1:19–20

Let's say you go to a business appointment, and you're trying to build a relationship. So you say, "What do you do in your spare time?" And the guy sitting across the table from you says, "Well, I love the ballet." You're probably thinking, "What?" But you say, "That's fascinating. Tell me more."

If this man really is interested in ballet, you probably are going to get an explanation of the intricacies of ballet. You might be doing everything possible to keep your eyelids from closing, and yet for a business appointment, you will invest time in building a relationship by allowing that man to communicate about the thing that holds his interest.

The Book of James notes, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry." We readily act

on that in a business setting, when we are trying to build a relationship for the purpose of making a deal. Are you as willing to invest time listening in the other areas of your life as you are in your work? In the process of building and maintaining relationships—with our families, neighbors and brothers—time spent listening will yield great rewards.  MIMBS 3

Think about your last true conversation. Was it related to business, or was it personal? How much time did you spend? And what percentage of that time did you invest in listening? Ask a few other men their honest opinion of you as a listener.

Daily Reading: *Esther 1:1–3:15, 1 Corinthians 11:17–34, Psalm 35:17–28, Proverbs 21:19–20*

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.
Philippians 2:3–4

These verses describe actions of humility. In context, they refer to choices that benefit others and not just ourselves. In the business world, we often build relationships by paying attention to other people's chosen activities. We may be less likely to do that at home.

If you really want to build your relationship with your wife, don't dismiss her interests as unimportant. Give her the respect of listening to her. This has been a big area of struggle for me.

My love language is quality time. I want to spend every moment possible with Patsy. The problem is we don't like the same

things. I've had to intentionally choose not to put unrealistic demands on her, requiring her to be interested in my hobbies. And I've had to learn to explore her interests. If you want to communicate confidently with your wife, and you want to have a better relationship, I challenge you to discover and participate in the things that are important to her.  MIMBS 3

What are the three activities that your wife most enjoys? When is the last time you participated in one of those activities with her?

Daily Reading: *Esther 4:1–7:10, 1 Corinthians 12:1–26, Psalm 36:1–12, Proverbs 21:21–22*

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.
1 Peter 3:7

Several years ago, at a Man in the Mirror faculty conference, we decided to use bumper cars as a team-building activity. Even the most mild-mannered men attacked me with the cunning of coyotes. I ended up with huge bruises on my hips and shins. When someone shattered the lens on my pocket PC, six men took credit.

Now, a couple of weeks previously, I went to check this place out. The only people there were a couple of high school girls. I kept bumping them. I wanted them to speed up or get out of the way! Instead of bumping me back, they simply motioned for me to go ahead of them. Looking back, I realize our communication styles were

somewhat different.

Generally speaking, men transfer information, while women express feelings. If you want to grow your relationship with your wife, don't shut down her opportunity to unburden her heart through communication. Try this. Ask your wife to tell you about her day. When she stops just say, "Go on." And then, keep listening.  MIMBS 3

Describe a recent situation that shows how you and your wife communicate differently. If you could relive that situation, would you respond in the same way, or would you change your response?

Daily Reading: *Esther 8:1–10:3, 1 Corinthians 12:27–13:13, Psalm 37:1–11, Proverbs 21:23–24*



Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another.
Romans 12:15–16a

Everyone has burdens, and frankly, we all need people with whom we can share those burdens. When someone comes to talk to you about a burden, set your mind to listen without giving advice. The verse above says we should rejoice with those who rejoice, and mourn with those who mourn. It doesn't say we should advise those at either end of the spectrum. People shut down when they hear unwanted advice. And when they hear it repeatedly, they simply quit sharing. That's true for your wife and every other person.

With regard to burdens, try to listen without dispensing your opinion. Remember, communication isn't all verbal. You may think it's a small thing, but your body language can express unconditional love and acceptance. It can communicate that you want to be with this person, and you intend to walk with them through their burdens, rather than simply advising and leaving.

Sometimes, even with the best communication skills we may still run into conflict. There are two dysfunctional responses to conflict: anger



How can you find the balance between being a consoler rather than a consultant, and “speaking the truth in love” in times of conflict?

Daily Reading: *Job 1:1–11:20, 1 Corinthians 14:18–15:28, Psalm 37:30–38:22, Proverbs 21:27–29*

and withdrawal. Neither brings resolution because both interfere with effective communication. Certainly, you may need to delay communication until tempers cool. But Paul Tournier reminds us that a lack of complete frankness is the greatest problem in communication. Over a period of years, he explains, certain areas of your life will become “off limits” for discussion, because you and/or your wife anticipate a negative response. So whole areas of your relationship will become dysfunctional, because your relationship lacks openness and honesty.

Proverbs 16:13 notes, “Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value the one who speaks the what is right.” If husbands and wives are wise, they also will take pleasure in honest lips, as long as those lips speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).

☐ MIMBS 3



For Your Small Group

☐ August 17–23: Read aloud this verse to the group: “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,” (James 1:19).

- What does it mean to be “quick to listen”? Have you mastered that skill?
- Is there a time when you have been quick with your tongue or anger, instead of your ears?

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.
Matthew 6:19

Money is certainly a hot topic these days. God is not against being rich, or wanting or needing more money. He's not against saving money or even against accumulating capital to have money to start a business.

Proverbs 21:20 says: “In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.” Yet Jesus cautions us against hoarding money or possessions. Not because having those things is wrong, but because of the heart attitude that hoarding represents.

In Luke 12:13–21, Jesus tells a parable about a rich man who had a good crop. Jesus didn't say anything bad about him being rich. But when the man had a good

crop, he said, “I am going to tear down my existing barns and build bigger ones to store my grain and other goods. Then I will lay back and take it easy.” In effect he was saying, “What a great job I've done for myself! Now I don't need anyone or anything else to be happy.” He substituted his own provision for dependence on God.

☐ MIMBS 4

Where are you storing up treasures? Talk with some men about the difference between relying on God or on your own ability.

Daily Reading: *Job 12:1–15:35, 1 Corinthians 15:29–58, Psalm 39:1–13, Proverbs 21:30–31*

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.
Matthew 6:24

Notice that Jesus is not saying that it is improbable or difficult to serve two masters. Jesus is declaring that it is impossible to serve two masters. Jesus uses money in this example, perhaps because money is the chief competitor for the affections of God.

Have you ever known someone who loved two women? Talk about a mess! When we try to love God and money we are committing spiritual adultery. God is a jealous lover and does not allow that to happen. He loves so lavishly and extravagantly.

What if you poured the kind of love on a woman that God pours on

you, and that woman responded by loving another man (in addition to you)? What would you do? You wouldn't be able to stand for that to happen!

Money is really important, especially now. But you cannot serve two masters. You cannot love both God and money. Neither one is satisfied with your divided affections. ☐ MIMBS 4



How have you settled whether you will serve God or money? How can you help other men work through this issue?

Daily Reading: *Job 16:1–19:29, 1 Corinthians 16:1–24, Psalm 40:1–10, Proverbs 22:1*

Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

1 Timothy 6:9

Before I met Christ, I decided that I would make a lot of money and be somebody. At that time I was also a moralist, trying to do the right thing by every person I met. I had read in Shakespeare's Hamlet: "This above all: to thine own self be true; And it must follow, as the night the day; Thou canst not then be false to any man." I remember thinking that was the noblest thought I had ever heard. I adopted it as my credo.

But I quickly realized that all moralists have one thing in common: none of them have any money. So, I decided to also become a materialist and pursue a career in business. Finally, I added God to the equation. I



became a religious, moral materialist! It didn't work.

Looking back, I think my error was—since I was materialistic and loved money—I believed that loving God would make me more effective in my loving of money. I thought God would be the genie. That was foolish and harmful. Praise God for His grace that my error did not lead to my destruction. **MIMBS 4**

Are you tempted to be a religionist, a moralist or a materialist? Pray for His mercy and grace.

Daily Reading: Job 20:1–22:30, 2 Corinthians 1:1–11, Psalm 40:11–17, Proverbs 22:2–4

Two things I ask of you, LORD; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

Proverbs 30:7–9

A lot of people have lost a lot of money over the last year. That can be a bad thing. But if God strips you of the thing that has been competing with your affection for Him, it's a blessing. God is unwilling to get into a love triangle with money.

Here are some practical suggestions on how to use money righteously:

1. Don't get engrossed with possessions. On the other hand, take care of your possessions.
2. Give 10 percent of your income to the work of the church. Give above a tithe as God blesses and enables you to do so.
3. Get out of debt and save 10 percent of your income.

Violation of these biblical concepts may be an indication that you are in a love triangle. Think about it, you might have a jealous lover on your hands.

Consider the prayer of Agur in Proverbs 30:7–9. Think about this prayer as a safeguard against a wrong view of wealth, which ultimately leads to a wrong view of God. If you could not pray that prayer, then perhaps money is too important to you. **MIMBS 4**

If you have trouble praying this prayer, make it your prayer request and ask other men to pray it for you.

Daily Reading: Job 23:1–27:23, 2 Corinthians 1:12–2:11, Psalm 41:1–13, Proverbs 22:5–6

The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.

Matthew 13:22

When you have an error in your belief system it influences the way you interpret everything. It influences the way you read your Bible and interpret Scripture. I used to read the Bible like this: I would come to a verse that agreed with the direction I was going and I would say, "I love that verse." I would underline it and memorize it.

But then, I would see on the right-hand page a verse that went in a direction I didn't want to go, and I would say, "Huh! I wonder why He put that one in there?" Then I would blot it out mentally and smudge it off the page. I created a "fifth gospel"—my own—and I started following the God that I was underlining in my Bible. At the 10-year mark in my spiritual journey, I became aware that I was getting different results from my faith than many other men I knew, so I called a time-out.

I began reading the Scriptures in a fresh

way. I asked God to show me what He was really saying. It was only then that I understood what the Scripture taught about money.

At the time, I didn't really know that I was a person addicted to money. I was a refined materialist, not a crass one. I did love God, but I had two lovers. I loved God passionately, but I loved money too.

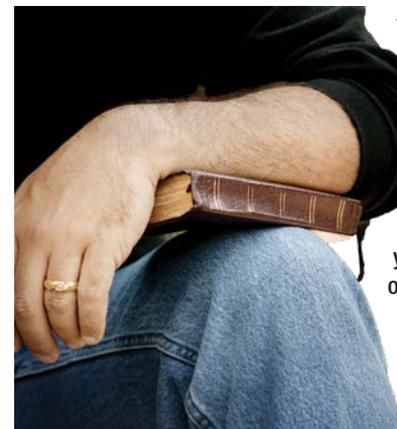
One day, I read Matthew 13:22 and it hit me that it applied to me. I was caught up in the deceitfulness of money, and the Bible says the worries of this life and the deceit-

fulness of money choke the word and make it unfruitful.

"That is my life," I said. I finally got it. **MIMBS 4**

Do you get it? Whom—or what—do you love? Talk with another man about some ways that you keep your love for God at the center of your life.

Daily Reading: Job 28:1–36:33, 2 Corinthians 2:12–4:12, Psalm 42:1–44:8, Proverbs 22:7–9



For Your Small Group

☐ **August 24–30: Make a list on a blackboard or large piece of paper of the last big purchase each man made (a car, big screen TV, boat, etc.).**

- Did you save up for it? Finance it? How did you feel when you finally got it home? How do you feel about it now? Was it a want or a need?
- What do you think it means to put your faith in the things of this world?
- What do you think it means to "store up your treasure in heaven"?

Do not lie. Do not deceive one another.
Leviticus 19:11b

I was upstairs working in my home office when four people from the United States Department of Agriculture knocked on my front door.

It turns out that there are 56,000 traps set out around the state of Florida in order to catch Oriental Fruit Flies. The trap down the street from my house had trapped two male Oriental Fruit Flies. So the USDA officials asked me to answer a questionnaire: Have you traveled out of the country? Did you bring fruit back from another country?

Their ability to protect the food supply depends on people giving honest answers. Our social structure is fundamentally

built on trust. It's built on the concept that people do keep their word.

Straightforward honesty brings order and stability into a sin-crazed world. Why does God put so much emphasis on meaning what we say? The whole effectiveness of the world order, the foundation of everything, is trust. Without honesty the whole system falls apart. ☐ *MIMBS 5*

What would it mean if people couldn't trust you?

Daily Reading: *Job 37:1–39:30, 2 Corinthians 4:13–5:10, Psalm 44:9–26, Proverbs 22:10–13*

Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, “Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.”
Matthew 5:33

Here Jesus references Numbers 30:2 where Moses teaches the Israelites about oaths.

What is an oath? An oath is a promise or commitment; an oath is giving our word. A politician takes an oath of office. Jury members take oaths every day. Oaths are taken in marriage and in the military, and by boy scouts and doctors. When you sign a contract or a mortgage, you are making an oath.

There are day-to-day oaths, too. For instance, when you tell your wife you will take out the garbage. Maybe you told your children that if they do their chores and homework, then on



the weekend you'll take them to the park. Maybe it is a deadline at work. Truth be told, we don't always keep our oaths.

What about a pledge made to a church? You might find this shocking, but about 30 percent of the people that make pledges to their local church don't fulfill them.

Christians should be known for keeping their word in all things—big and small. ☐ *MIMBS 5*

Do you consider your promises to be oaths? Would this change your perspective? Talk about this with some other men.

Daily Reading: *Job 40:1–42:17, 2 Corinthians 5:11–21, Psalm 45:1–17, Proverbs 22:14*

As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, . . . no one who seeks God. . . Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips.”
Romans 3:10–11, 13

It is impossible to keep the Law apart from grace.

You can't always keep your word. The Bible tells us that inside of us we have the Spirit of the living God to empower us. The Bible also tells us that we still have the old man (flesh). The Bible says the flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh.

What does that mean to us as men? There is no possible way not to have murderous, angry thoughts. There is no possible way not to have adulterous thoughts. There is no possible way to keep our oaths, our vows, and

our promises unless we are in dependence upon the grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit that is living within us.

We won't always be the men we want to be. But when we do fall, because of grace, we can come to the Father and ask for forgiveness, and we can try again by faith. ☐ *MIMBS 5*

Spend some time thanking God for His grace. Are you convinced you can't live without it?

Daily Reading: *Ecclesiastes 1:1–3:22, 2 Corinthians 6:1–13, Psalm 46:1–11, Proverbs 22:15*

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.
Ephesians 5:25–26, NLT

Read the Marriage Prayer:

Father, I said, “Til death do us part”—I want to mean it. Help me love You more than her, and her more than anyone or anything else. Help me bring her into Your presence today. Make us one like You are three in one. I want to hear her, cherish her, and serve her so she would love You more and we can bring You glory. Amen.

We all go through times in our marriages when we just don't like her much, and when she doesn't like us. So, what is the moral glue that keeps us together?



It is meaning what we say or said. We have already said what we meant; now it is time to actually do that and repeating our yes is one way to help solidify that.

I have been praying this for some time and it has changed me. It reminds me of the vows we took many years ago and reminds me of how I am to love her. If you're married, I encourage you to pray it, too.

The “Yes” or vow of our marriage is so important to our love for Christ and the love for our wives. ☐ *MIMBS 5*

What does this prayer teach you about your relationship with your wife? What might it teach you about other relationships in your life?

Daily Reading: *Ecclesiastes 4:1–6:12, 2 Corinthians 6:14–7:7, Psalm 47:1–9, Proverbs 22:16*

Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.

Matthew 5:33–35

Is Jesus lowering the standard here? In the Old Testament oaths are very important and common. Abraham had his servant take an oath to find a wife for his son. David made an oath to Jonathan. The Israelite spies made an oath with Rahab, the prostitute, to not destroy her family.

Making and keeping vows is certainly biblical. So what is the problem that Jesus is trying to solve?

The Pharisees would make an oath to God that they would keep, but other oaths, not made to God, they didn’t keep. There were two standards. If they said they would do something but not in the name of the Lord, they would not feel obligated to do it. If they just said, “Sure, I will have it to you by Thursday,” they might not keep that oath because it wasn’t made in the name of the Lord.

Jesus says you don’t have to swear by anything spiritual to keep your word. Simply let your yes be yes and your no be no. Jesus’



standard is not really lower; it is higher. You have to keep your word in everything.

There are not two standards for our word. There is one. This is another example of confusing the Letter of the Law and the Spirit of the Law. Jesus once again says it is not the Letter of the Law that is important, it is the Spirit of the Law; and the Spirit of the Law raises the standard.

Jesus is not changing the Law. He is simply restoring the original intent of the Law that has been corrupted. [MIMBS 5](#)

How many standards for your word do you have? Think about your spouse, your employer, your kids, your co-workers: does your yes mean the same thing to each of them?

Daily Reading: *Ecclesiastes 7:1–12:14, Song of Solomon 1:1–4:16, 2 Corinthians 7:8–8:24, Psalm 48:1–50:23, Proverbs 22:17–23*



For Your Small Group

☐ **August 31–September 6: Read the following definition of “oath” aloud: “To witness one’s determination to speak the truth, to keep a promise.”**

- Have you had a relationship with someone who was not truthful? How did it affect your ability to completely trust that person?
- What does it take to rebuild trust after you let someone down? Is there someone that you need to rebuild trust with in your life? What one step can you take this week to begin that rebuilding?

My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not stumbled.

Psalm 17:5

Dr. Bill Bright influenced millions of people to pursue relationship with Jesus Christ. In one seminary, 75 percent of the students became Christians through Bill Bright’s ministry called Campus Crusade for Christ. Many years ago, my wife Patsy and I hosted a conference where Bill Bright spoke. I’ve never forgotten a comment from his opening address: “I try to prioritize everything I do in light of the Great Commission.” He referred to Jesus’ mandate that His followers should tell others about His offer of new life (Matthew 28:18–20).

I pictured Dr. Bright speaking to thousands and sharing the gospel with heads of state. But later that night, while financial donors waited to meet him, Dr. Bright chatted with one hurting man for over an hour, eventually helping that man renew his commitment to Jesus. Dr. Bright’s influence reflected his ability to manage his

time wisely. But he didn’t become a great leader by performing monumental tasks. Instead, he chose to take many small steps in a single direction. He didn’t set a goal of being great, but he focused instead on being faithful. [MIM25, Chapter 15](#)

Nido Quebin, a well-known businessman and motivational speaker, said, “One of the greatest reasons people cannot mobilize themselves is that they try to accomplish great things. Most worthwhile achievements are the result of many little things done in a single direction.” Can you give an example where you tackled a project so big that it never got off the ground? How would you respond to that situation differently today?

Daily Reading: *Song of Solomon 5:1–8:14, 2 Corinthians 9:1–15, Psalm 51:1–19, Proverbs 22:24–25*

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Isaiah 26:3

When I conducted a written survey among men related to issues they face in their daily lives, their answers revealed that they consider time management to be their number one problem. We all struggle



to find enough time to meet all of our responsibilities. All men have the same limits of time. Bill Bright, Rick Warren, Martin Luther, Abraham Lincoln, you and I—we all have the same 168 hours per week to work with. Since each of us is gifted with the same number of hours, other factors must explain why we get different results.

I don’t think we will solve this time management problem with more *tips and techniques*. Rather, we need to gain

perspective by sharpening our strategic focus. We need to gain a clear understanding of God’s *purpose* for our lives. That will help us live by biblical priorities, making plans that reflect God’s will. We

need God’s help to develop the larger perspective, understanding where He wants us to invest our time, and how we can convert God-given priorities into a plan of action. [MIM25, Chapter 15](#)

Do you clearly understand God’s purpose for your life? How does that influence where you will invest your time?

Daily Reading: *Isaiah 1:1–2:22, 2 Corinthians 10:1–18, Psalm 52:1–9, Proverbs 22:26–27*

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

A couple traveling in unfamiliar countryside spotted an old man beside the road. “Where are we?” they asked.

“Where are you going?” The couple couldn’t name their destination. “Then it doesn’t really matter where you are,” he wisely answered.

On life’s journey, when we lose a sense of where we’re going, knowing our current location doesn’t mean much. Focusing on an intended destination helps us filter competing demands. Purpose helps us prioritize. Priorities form solid ground for planning and setting goals. Time management is nothing more than strategically “engineering” the steps from purpose to priorities to plans and goals.

God always provides enough time to accomplish His plans, but we need to use

His gifts productively. In football terminology, we need to stop always going for the “long bomb” and run more dependable short yardage plays. We need to block and tackle better. If we do, we will have all the time we need. If we don’t, we’ll have to punt. The best way forward is in choosing to take little steps, all in one direction, for a focused purpose. [MIM25, Chapter 15](#)

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1–8. Many of us push hard all the time, trying to put two tons of fertilizer in a one-ton truck. In this passage we see a sovereign God in control of an ordered world. Do we or do we not have enough time to do everything God wants us to do? How should we approach our days if God is, in fact, in control?

Daily Reading: Isaiah 3:1–5:30, 2 Corinthians 11:1–15, Psalm 53:1–6, Proverbs 22:28–29

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

Ephesians 5:15–17



No period of time is longer than the 48-hour wait for biopsy results. No period of time is shorter than the renewal date on a 90-day note. The flow of time is constant, yet circumstances affect how we view its progression. The dictionary defines time as a nonspatial continuum in which events occur in apparently *irreversible succession* from the past through the present to the future. In other words, time marches on without providing “do-overs.” The irreversibility factor grabs us. If we could only repeat our lives—retrieve the angry word, or the lie, or the misspent time with our kids. If only we could correct our wrongs, but our lives happen in irreversible succession.

The dictionary defines management as the act, manner, or practice of supervising or controlling. Since the flow of time is constant and irretrievable, a wise man will supervise his schedule so he can make the most of every opportunity. By treating time as a God-given resource, and by tapping into His wisdom, a man can choose to invest his time rather than simply spending it. [MIM25, Chapter 15](#)

Describe the difference between investing time and simply spending it. Share your thoughts with another man.

Daily Reading: Isaiah 6:1–7:25, 2 Corinthians 11:16–33, Psalm 54:1–7, Proverbs 23:1–3

Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.

Proverbs 19:21

Sometimes I just figure God has a lot on His mind, like wars in the Middle East and famines in Africa. Rather than take His valuable time on something minor by comparison, I’ve been known to make plans without consulting Him, intending to inform Him later. I plan, and then I pray. I did this once when we opened an office in Tampa. Only later did I mention this to the Lord: “By the way, we’re opening an office in Tampa. Please bless us.”

A few months later, the anchor tenant in our Tampa building became insolvent, and our office there began spending money like it grew on trees.

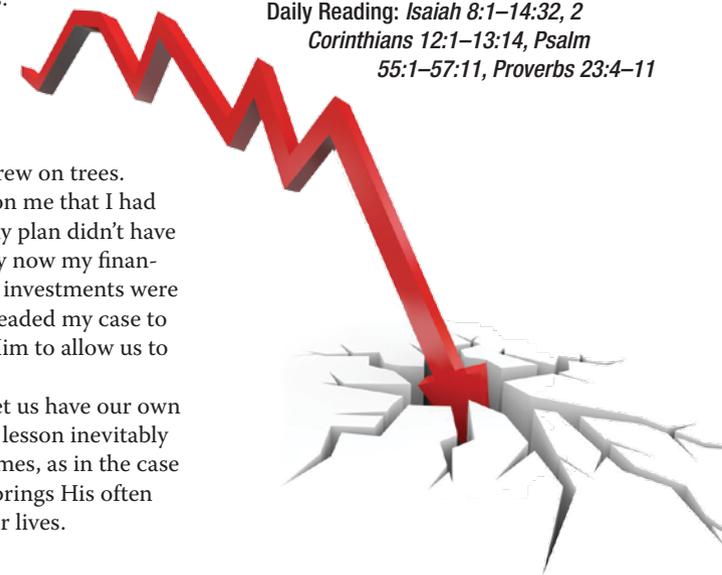
Only then did it dawn on me that I had run ahead of God, and my plan didn’t have His stamp of approval. By now my financial, emotional, and time investments were pretty substantial, so I pleaded my case to God in prayer, begging Him to allow us to succeed in Tampa.

Sometimes God does let us have our own way, even though a great lesson inevitably lies ahead of us. Other times, as in the case of our Tampa office, He brings His often painful discipline into our lives.

We had to shut down our Tampa office at a major financial loss. Even though God forgives, sometimes He allows us to bear the consequences of our decisions. [MIM25, Chapter 15](#)

Describe a time when you made a major decision without consulting with God or seeking the advice of Godly people. What was the result?

Daily Reading: Isaiah 8:1–14:32, 2 Corinthians 12:1–13:14, Psalm 55:1–57:11, Proverbs 23:4–11



For Your Small Group

☐ **September 7–13: Read aloud this quote from Nido Quebin, “One of the greatest reasons people cannot mobilize themselves is that they try to accomplish great things. Most worthwhile achievements are the result of many little things done in a single direction.”**

- Name a historical event where this quote was proven true.
- Name a personal event or project where this quote was proven true.

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

Proverbs 16:3

When I made that decision to open an office in Tampa. I prayed and asked God to bless the endeavor, but I didn't consult with Him before I made the plans. Despite my tremendous investment of finances and time, the office failed.



shouldn't have done in the first place. Instead of wasting limited time by making plans without God's direction, we can make our plans by first listening for His voice. When we don't hear His voice, we should wait patiently for Him to

act, because His timing is always perfect.

📖 *MIM25, Chapter 15*

Read Proverbs 16:1–3. How can you apply the wisdom of these verses to a specific plan you've been considering? Discuss this with your group.

Daily Reading: Isaiah 15:1–18:7, Galatians 1:1–24, Psalm 58:1–11, Proverbs 23:12

Through this experience, I put God in charge of my life in a deeper way. I asked God to crucify my ambitions, and I prayed, "However I spend my time from this day forward will only be how You direct me, and only after a period of patient listening."

I graduated from "plan, then pray" to "pray, then plan." Nothing wastes time and energy more than having to undo what we

But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has opened to me.

1 Corinthians 16:8–9

Three junior executives had very different approaches. The first followed his own plans, rarely checking with his boss. He often had to redo work or scrap half-finished projects. He was both inefficient and ineffective. The second mapped out plans and updated his boss without actually asking for direction, so he often worked on projects at the bottom of the boss's priority list. He was efficient, but not effective. The third asked for advice and adjusted his plans to match the boss's desires. He was both efficient and effective. Efficiency is doing a job right. Effectiveness is doing the right job correctly.

In our spiritual pilgrimage, we can be efficient without being effective. We may read the Bible and pray daily, attend church and

tithe our income, and still see our spiritual life as some independent activity, unrelated to the details of daily living. To be effective with our time, we must bridge the spiritual life to our home and workplace. Our motto should be "one life, one way." When we realize all of life is spiritual, we translate God's will into the minutiae of our lives.

📖 *MIM25, Chapter 15*

On a scale of 1–10, with 1 meaning minimal agreement and 10 meaning you're "all in," how close do you come to living by the motto "one life, one way"? Explain your answer.

Daily Reading: Isaiah 19:1–21:17, Galatians 2:1–16, Psalm 59:1–17, Proverbs 23:13–14

Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

Proverbs 23:4–5

Success generally does not come to lazy men, but we can't conversely assume that hard work always assures success. Scripture encourages us to be diligent, industrious and creative, but it reminds us that God brings increase as He sees fit. The best time management tip is to not be overly serious about the importance of our contribution to our own success.



repeat business was slow. By contrast, the owner of an insurance agency refused to work nights and weekends. Since his home life was balanced, he was warm and concerned about his customers. His business blossomed, because he managed to communicate that people were important to him. Hard work is a virtue, and it has dignity, but only when it's part of a balanced schedule. 📖 *MIM25, Chapter 15*

A gift store owner arrived at his shop by 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday. He was there till 9:30 every evening. To make more money, he didn't hire part-time help for the evening shift. Still, after 15 years, he lived week-to-week, and he was growing bitter. His customers sensed his hostility, so

Identify an area where you've been pushing too hard. What changes could you make to acknowledge and better enjoy God's plan for your life? Share your thoughts with another man.

Daily Reading: Isaiah 22:1–24:23, Galatians 2:17–3:9, Psalm 60:1–12, Proverbs 23:15–16

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

The cardinal question of time management is this: Have you carved out time for activities that contribute to eternity? Or are you too consumed with supporting a lifestyle or pursuing personal ambitions that have no value beyond this world?

In *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, Dale Carnegie described too many of us: "His toothache means more to him than a famine in China that kills a million people. A boil on his neck interests him more than forty earthquakes in Africa." The only part of life that crosses the threshold between this world and the next is the human soul. To contribute to eternity, we must engage in activities that introduce

people to Jesus and help them grow in relationship with Him. Too often we don't share our faith in Christ because we don't want to offend people. Frankly, my experience indicates that 99 out of 100 people will respond favorably, wanting to discuss the question, "Where are you on your spiritual journey?" When planning your schedule, be sure to include time for things that have potential to last forever. 📖 *MIM25, Chapter 15*

What activities in your regular schedule have potential to last forever? Ask another man for his answer to this question.

Daily Reading: Isaiah 25:1–28:13, Galatians 3:10–22, Psalm 61:1–8, Proverbs 23:17–18

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.
1 Corinthians 15:10

Don't you marvel at the accomplishments of some men? How do they get so much out of their time? Consider the apostle Paul. He didn't set out to accomplish incredible feats. He wasn't considered great in his generation. In fact, at the end of his life no one had heard much about him (see Acts 28:21–22). Yet Paul took consistent, obedient steps, and when seen in retrospect, we understand his greatness.

The Book of Acts gives a travelogue of Paul's life. When he first arrived in Corinth, he divided his time between making tents and speaking in the synagogue. Later, friends joined him, and he was able to devote all of his time to preaching. When the Jews became abusive, he started preaching exclusively among the Gentiles. He just

kept doing God's will. Paul stayed about 18 months, then moved on to Ephesus, Caesarea, Antioch, Galatia, and Phrygia, strengthening the disciples wherever he went. He did the little things right. He didn't pursue glamor or prestige. He had no international organization beyond the few friends who stood by him. He understood that God always gives enough time and resources to accomplish His plans through us.  *MIM25, Chapter 15*

Write your own prayer, asking God to help you be consistently obedient in your steps on life's journey, trusting Him to help you make decisions that will invest in eternity by honoring Him and giving Him pleasure.

Daily Reading: *Isaiah 28:14–36:22, Galatians 3:23–5:26, Psalm 62:1–64:10, Proverbs 23:19–23*



For Your Small Group

September 14–20: List some plans or some decisions that the men in your group are in the process of making right now.

- What are important considerations in making those decisions?
- How could prayer help as you make those decisions?
- How can you be prayer warriors for these men's decisions?

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also... You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:38–39, 43–45a

Researchers have concluded that the top reason why CEOs fail in their positions has to do with their people skills. They can be tremendously talented in other areas, but if they lack people skills, they face a limitation that is very difficult to overcome. Basically, on any given day, every person you meet is a confluence of complexity and an amalgam of inconsistencies. And in business, we must deal with people in so many different categories. We have dissatisfied, unappreciative customers. We have non-performing employees. We have over-reaching, controlling bosses. In that context, how does faith affect our relationships?

Jesus calls us to live with an attitude of non-retaliation and tolerance. He calls us

to be thermostats in the world around us, rather than simply being thermometers. He doesn't want us to simply record and mirror emotions around us. He wants us to live so that people identify us as disciples, altering our environment by demonstrating love and respect, even when it seems to be undeserved.  *MIMBS 6*

Think of one person at work who is easy to get along with, and one who is difficult. How do you treat them differently? Does that difference reflect the attitude recommended by today's Scripture? Get input from men in your group.

Daily Reading: *Isaiah 37:1–38:22, Galatians 6:1–18, Psalm 65:1–13, Proverbs 23:24*

If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
Matthew 5:46–48

There are situations in our workplace that are out of our control. We may have to work with bosses or clients who are difficult. We may work alongside people who don't like us or coworkers with whom we've had conflicts.

This passage reminds us of a Christian's duty in the workplace. Don't get the mistaken idea that Jesus intended us to grin and bear difficult situations. A lot of Christians succumb to that mentality as it relates to their circumstances, but then they hold grudges against the people involved. Those grudges affect how they see all customers, or all employees, or all bosses. They assume that *all* customers will take advantage of them, or *all* employees will not

perform well, or *all* bosses will behave like jerks.

Jesus didn't call us to ignore conflicts. He called us to be agents of grace in difficult situations, so we can bring about change. With every person you meet, you can extend grace *or* you can hold a grudge. You cannot do both.  *MIMBS 6*

Describe the most difficult situation you faced with people within the last week. Did your external and internal responses extend grace, or did they expose a grudge? Explain your answer.

Daily Reading: *Isaiah 39:1–41:16, Ephesians 1:1–23, Psalm 66:1–20, Proverbs 23:25–28*

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.”

Matthew 18:15

Businesses depend on customers, yet dealing with those customers can be difficult. Sometimes they hold a deal open indefinitely without actually committing to anything. Sometimes they refuse to pay. We can wrongly assume that Christian forbearance requires us to ignore those types of issues. In contrast, Scripture actually calls us to approach even those relationships with honest communication.

I once had to call a customer who had been negotiating a deal with me for six months. I said, “We’ve been at this for a long time. I think it would be smart for both of us if we bring this to a conclusion, unless there is some compelling reason that I don’t know about.”



I chose words that invited a legitimate response. Each situation requires a different action, but without honest communication, you won’t know how to proceed.

At some point, every person in your life will irritate you. You must choose whether you will have the courage to live by grace, pursuing honest communication. If you choose instead to ignore difficult issues, you’ll have a hard time avoiding bitterness.

☐ MIMBS 6

Describe a “worst case scenario” for you, as far as an unresolved issue with a customer or client. Now write what you would say to introduce an honest discussion about that issue. Share your thoughts with another man.

Daily Reading: *Isaiah 41:17–43:13, Ephesians 2:1–22, Psalm 67:1–7, Proverbs 23:29–35*

☐ **Thursday—September 24**
Grace for Bosses and Other Authority Figures

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

Ephesians 6:7–8

Today’s Scripture addresses slaves and masters, but it also calls believers in contemporary workplaces to serve as if God is our boss. That should raise the quality of our work. However, it also is true that some bosses aren’t very much like our loving God. Bosses can be completely unfair. If you’re in that situation, and you choose to stay, make sure you have the attitude that you will respond to your boss with grace.

When I was in school, I had a class with a specific professor whom I felt had been unfair. I discovered he had a real-life hero, and by chance in my travels, I ran across a photo of that hero. I bought the picture and gave it to him. He said, “I appreciate this so

much. I never had a father. Even though this man is dead, I’ve looked to his example for guidance.” I learned a lot about the professor that day, because I chose to grace him rather than holding a grudge. It changed our relationship, and today we are friends. Grace can change situations that seem impossible. ☐ MIMBS 6

Recall a time when an expression of grace changed the attitude of a superior toward you. What lessons can you apply from that experience?

Daily Reading: *Isaiah 43:14–45:10, Ephesians 3:1–21, Psalm 68:1–18, Proverbs 24:1–2*

Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning. If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you.

Proverbs 9:9, 12

Peter Drucker, the foremost management consultant of the 20th century, said that, even among those excelling in hiring, about one-third of their employees will be excellent. Another third will be average, and a third will fail. Clearly, if you are a Christian leader in business or in another venue, you will need to graciously confront those who simply aren’t meeting expected standards. Sometimes honest communication will correct the situation.

A friend approached me for advice. He had hired a young man fresh out of college. “He has a terrible work ethic,” my friend said. “He comes to work late at least once a week, and he takes long lunch breaks. He takes personal calls at work.”

I asked three questions:

1. Did you give this young man a written job description?
2. Have you established a written policy for your entire workplace, related to these types of issues?
3. Did you communicate to this employee the method in which you prefer to receive performance reports?

At the most basic level, a good boss mentors employees to understand expectations. Only rarely can an employee hit a bull’s-eye

if he doesn’t even know where the target is.

On the other side of the coin, a good boss recognizes the efforts of good employees. Several years ago I sought out our warehouseman. He had been in charge of a staff of 120 in the corporate world before coming to our ministry. I had never heard of any warehouse problems since he came on staff. I stopped by one day to thank him, and I believe I saw a tear in his eye. A simple “thank you” means a lot. Whether we are dealing with performing or non-performing employees, as Christians we should extend grace.

☐ MIMBS 6



If you are a boss, have you done an effective job of communicating expectations to your staff members? If you are not a boss, can you recall a time when you benefitted from someone mentoring you?

Daily Reading: *Isaiah 45:11–53:12, Ephesians 4:1–5:33, Psalm 68:19–69:36, Proverbs 24:3–7*



For Your Small Group

☐ **September 21–30: Ask the men in your group to name their three priorities at work.**

- What were the most popular answers? (Possible responses: make money, please the boss, be productive or serve God?)
- What gets in the way of serving God at the work place?
- What change of heart and mind do you need to better serve the Lord at your job?

I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

Psalm 119:15–16

Occasionally an email list of “ironies” arrives in my in-box. I saw one that asked:

- Why do sick people have to walk to the back of the pharmacy to pick up prescriptions, while healthy people buy cigarettes at the front counter?
- Why do we have answering machines to screen our calls, and then call waiting so we don't miss anything?
- Why can a pizza delivery person arrive at my house more quickly than an ambulance?

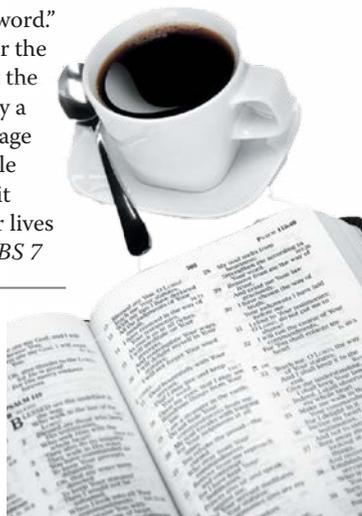
Life is full of ironies, even when it comes to spiritual choices. Charles Spurgeon lamented that, for every 10 men who are willing to die for the Bible, only one actually reads it. King David was a man after God's own heart, but he didn't grow into that stature by fighting for the Bible. His heart became more and more like God's as he read and meditated on God's ways. In today's passage, David wrote, “I will not

neglect your word.” People all over the world respect the Bible. But only a small percentage of those people actually read it and base their lives on it. ☐MIMBS 7

If you are reading this devotional, you probably already have a deep respect for God's Word.

Are you reading it regularly? And are you basing your life on it? Explain your answers.

Daily Reading: Isaiah 54:1–57:14, Ephesians 6:1–24, Psalm 70:1–5, Proverbs 24:8



Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:17

In today's passage, the apostle Paul compared God's Word to a sword. The Book of Hebrews supports this saying, “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

These passages clearly present God's word as a weapon against our spiritual enemy. God's Word will expose the things within us that need to change, so we can align with His character. We can easily fool ourselves if we aren't anchored in God's Word. Through

the prophet Jeremiah, God reminded us that our hearts are “deceitful above all things.” But He added, “I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind” (Jeremiah 17:9, 10). A man cannot legitimately judge his own actions and motivations. To reflect God's character we must rely on the standard of God's Word. ☐MIMBS 7

How do the Scriptures outlined in today's devotional apply to you?

Daily Reading: Isaiah 57:15–59:21, Philippians 1:1–26, Psalm 71:1–24, Proverbs 24:9–10

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed...

Acts 17:11–12

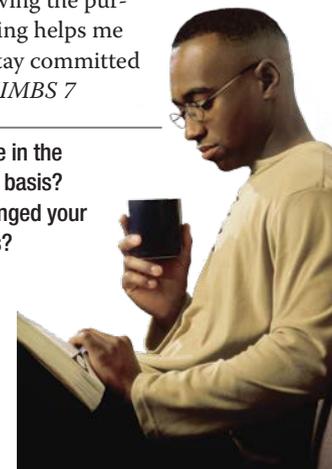
Most of us will not invest regular time in Bible reading if we do not understand and appreciate its purpose. I have two reasons for committing to a regular time of study. The first is communion with God. I enjoy discovering new things about God's character and His desire and purpose. As these things are revealed to me, I feel like I know Him better and love Him more. I also read so I can mature in my ability to distinguish right from wrong, and in my ability to choose what I know to be right. I am striving to reach a point where I don't own my Bible, but rather it owns me.

One thing that helps me stick to this regular commitment is that I've set aside a specific time. Early morning works best for me. I get up, pour a cup of coffee, and then

sit in a comfortable chair where I won't be distracted. Knowing the purpose of my reading helps me plan for it and stay committed to the task. ☐MIMBS 7

Do you spend time in the Word on a regular basis? Has that time changed your life? In what ways?

Daily Reading: Isaiah 60:1–62:5, Philippians 1:27–2:18, Psalm 72:1–20, Proverbs 24:11–12



A proven event to reach your men's hearts that includes:

- A complete planning manual for your leaders, based on our experience in more than 1,000 events
- A clear Gospel presentation (1/3 of men attending commit or recommit their lives to Christ)
- Promotional materials, including graphics, bulletins, posters and more
- Six-week follow-up group curriculum (more than 2/3 of men join groups)

Christianity is not about behavior modification; it's about heart transformation.

Use this event to kick off **Challenge Two in The Journey: The Gospel**
Contact National Ministry Consultant Roddey Roberts at
407-472-2110 or RoddeyRoberts@maninthemirror.org.



action—men who have sat around a table and wrestled with the questions, “Why did he just do that? Why would a man visit our church? What is the problem he is trying to solve?” They understand what a big step it is for a man to walk through your door.

Those men are your disciple-makers. Disciple-makers are the ones who will take other men under their wings and show them the ropes—the spiritually mature men who will show the new guys how to become godly men, husbands, and fathers. They care, because someone once cared about them.

We also call these men allies, the men who really get your vision for discipleship and make it a priority in their lives. Instead of focusing on how many men come to events and activities, make it a point to identify and grow the number of allies willing to engage in life-on-life discipleship with other men. And encourage them to do this through all the ministries of the church, not just “men’s ministry.” The most important thing to do is to pray to the Lord of the harvest that He would raise up workers to disciple others.

In addition to prayer, God often creates a new ally when we give him a concrete step and ask him to connect with another man. For example, you may ask him to lead a short-term follow-up group for a few men after an event. Or you may equip him with an invitation business card and ask him to invite disconnected men from a church picnic to be part of the adult class he and his wife attend. These concrete directions give him a chance to step up and find out that God really can use him in the life of another man.

So how are you doing? Here are three questions that can help you assess the degree to which your church has a disciple-making culture:

- 1 Disciples:** Are we regularly calling, equipping, and sending people?
- 2 Discipleship:** When God brings us people who are stuck, do we have a process to find out why, and do we have people who are stepping up to help them solve their problems?
- 3 Disciple-Makers:** Are we consistently growing the number of men (and women for the women) who are intentionally making disciples who will, in turn, disciple others.

If you prayerfully implement good answers to these three questions, we believe God will give your church a disciple-making culture, for His glory. 

 **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19–20)**



ONLINE TRAINING IS HERE

It’s easier than ever before to get the training you need to reach all your men. Man in the Mirror’s proven leadership training, **No Man Left Behind**, is now available online!

Subscribe your church today and receive:

- Unlimited, annual access to training
- Easy-to-use interface
- 16 teaching sessions on video
- Downloadable workbooks and facilitator tools
- Access to a consultation option with faculty

Together, your leadership team will **build a custom plan** to leave no man behind.

NOMANLEFTBEHIND.ORG

The Way of Discipleship

by Mike Whitesell, Associate Pastor
Men's Ministry at Grace Church in Noblesville, Indiana

It is important to keep the Portal Priority of making disciples at the forefront. Grace Church is a large church with ample resources and talented people that holds many activities and events. It's tempting to see attendance at these events and ongoing activities as an indicator of success. *Yet, what really matters is how effective we are at moving people along as devoted followers of Jesus.* In *No Man Left Behind* language, are we consistently moving people from Wide to Deep in their faith?

Our ministry to men, Men of Grace, has developed a highly visible and active presence over the last several years. We put on well-organized, well-attended events impacting more and more men. However, we have a criteria at Grace Church that focuses our efforts called *The Way of Discipleship*. Envisioned by our Lead Pastor Dave Rodriguez, this is "a time-bound, intentional (one on one) relationship focused on learning and embracing eleven practices essential to following Jesus Christ." The focus is on development of godly character and an understanding of our unique calling from God.

The Way of Discipleship permeates the vision and language of the church and helps every ministry to be connected with a common purpose—a Portal Priority. All ministries are evaluated by their effectiveness at moving people along this path. In Men of Grace we call our table discussion groups at men's events "fishing ponds." We encourage men to listen closely to what men at the table are saying and be sensitive to God's prompting. With the help of the small group leaders, our ongoing men's groups have become great places for men to connect with other men in an intentional relationship—discipler and disciple—outside of the group.

It is very gratifying to see two men from our events meeting somewhere around the church or at a local restaurant and finding they are involved in the Way of Discipleship together. Since one of the requirements is a commitment to discipling another man before all eleven practices are completed, we know that momentum will be sustained and the Portal Priority will stay at the forefront. I thank God for the vision of our Senior Pastor and encourage all others to make intentional discipleship the highest priority for every ministry in their church. 

Ordinary disciples of Jesus Christ develop the practice of:

1. Surrender and Trust
2. Communion with God
3. Self-Denial
4. Seeking the Call of God
5. Moral Integrity
6. Justice and Mercy
7. Material Generosity
8. Studying the Word of God
9. Leading Others to Jesus
10. Loving Others Well
11. Spiritual Community

“Wherever we see the Word of God purely preached and heard, there a church of God exists, even if it swarms with many faults.
—John Calvin

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
—Ephesians 4:4-6

“The difference between listening to a radio sermon and going to church... is almost like the difference between calling your girl on the phone and spending an evening with her.
—Dwight L. Moody

“One hundred religious persons knit into a unity by careful organization do not constitute a church any more than eleven dead men make a football team. The first requisite is life, always.
—A. W. Tozer

“What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men.
—E. M. Bounds

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.
—Ephesians 2:19-22

“The True Church can never fail. For it is based upon a rock.
—T.S. Eliot

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.
—1 Corinthians 12:12

THE
PURPOSE
OF THE
CHURCH

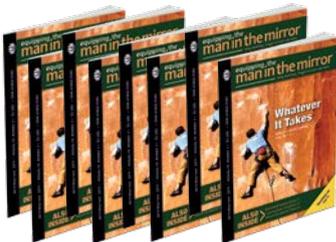


man in the mirror
180 Wilshire Boulevard
Casselberry, FL 32707

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Tampa, FL
Permit No. 995



*Build a strong spiritual foundation for
your generation and generations to come.*



Start a new small group for men of all ages!

All you need is an 8-pack or 20-pack of
Equipping the Man in the Mirror.

There are daily devotions, a one-year Bible
reading plan, inspiring articles, discussion
questions, small group ideas and more!

Call **800-929-2536** or go to **www.maninthemirror.org**
and order your bulk subscription!

I will bring honor to your name in every generation.

—Psalm 45:17a, NLT