

Forging A Head Boot Camp

Facilitation Framework

The Facilitation time is the heart of the entire boot camp. This is where men will interact with one another most intently. This is where they are most likely to hear ideas that challenge them to action. This is where clarity can be attained. This is where the men commit to take action.

Goals of Facilitation

Clarification of Content

- Want to make sure that the teaching was understood correctly.
- Want to address questions that help clarify meaning of biblical texts.

Consideration of Impact

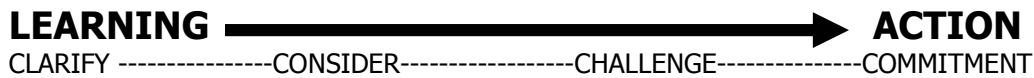
- What do these truths mean for a man seeking after God?
- What do these truths mean for me – with where I am in my life?
- Is there anything I need to confess to God?

Challenge to Change

- What can I do with the truths we have discussed?
- What will I do with these truths?

Commitment to Action

- What one thing will I commit to do to apply this session? The focus is on men assertively pursuing change – not getting overwhelmed with a huge list of actions.
- What is the very next action I will take to see it accomplished?
- Write down the commitment and next action in the Road Map.



Discussion Outline

Session One: Man and His God

Passages in Session

1. **Psalm 128**
2. **Luke 12:1-10**
3. **2 Peter 1:2-4**
4. **2 Timothy 5:10-17**
5. 1 Thes 4:11-12, 1 Tim 5:8, Acts 20:34-35, James 1:27, Deut 6:5-9, Eph 6:1-4, Eph 5:22-33, 1 Pet 3:7, Matt 28:19-20, Rom 12:10
6. Col 3:23-24
7. **Deut 6:5-7, 13-15**
8. **Eph 6:4**
9. 1 Thes 4:11-12, Acts 20:34-35, Col 3:23-24, Deut 6:5-9, Eph 5:22-6:4, Acts 20:18-20, Rom 12:10, 13:8, 14:19, Gal 5:13, Eph 4:2, 32; Phil 2:3; Col 3:9,13,16; 1 Thes 3:12, 4:9, 5:11-15
10. Titus 2
11. Mark 12:28-31
12. **James 1:2-6**

Passages in Reading

1. Deuteronomy 6
2. Psalm 103; Psalm 111:10
3. Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10; Proverbs 2:1-6
4. Malachi 3:13-18
5. Ephesians 3:14-21; Ephesians 6
6. Philippians 3:1-14
7. I Corinthians 1:18-31
8. James 4:1-10

Facilitation Guidance – PRAY AS YOU BEGIN!

Tell your group to turn the facilitation section of their notebooks for this session.

CLARIFICATION

ICE BREAKER – for men to get to know each other a bit. Have each take a minute to do the three things below...

1. **Introduce yourself – name, family, where from**
2. **Introduce your heart – why are you here this weekend?**
3. **And the challenge – take the blue sheet of paper in your notebook - use scissors or simply rip the sheet – in a manner that represents how much your spiritual life integrates with your entire life.**
 - If someone's spiritual life permeates ALL of their life, they will not cut anything – the whole sheet is correct.

- Consider asking the person to indicate what areas the spiritual does permeate and what areas it does not – and why.

Did the teaching time or reading passages raise any questions in your mind that we should spend a few minutes discussing?

- There may be questions about the fear of the Lord or perhaps how freedom in Christ and walking according to the Word go together.

Ask – since Psalm 128:1 is fundamental to what we are talking about this weekend - what is the fear of the Lord? What does it look like?

- We often tend to use the term REVERENCE, but the connotation of the Hebrew is much stronger than that – the word “terrible” and “awesome” – a serious response to a God whose greatness is so far beyond our understanding and who is so imminent and personal that we cannot possibly avoid His gaze! What a fearful Being to be faced with!
- as a comedian said with his best Clint Eastwood imitation, “God is the God of the Universe and He can blow your head clean off.”
- It is a fear/reverence so focused and committed that the fear of anything else is laughable – it is single-minded – it is humble – our lack of it is so evident in our church, in our lives...
- HUMILITY is a key word!

CONSIDERATION

What/Who do you fear? How does it affect your life?

- Some men won’t know where to go with this question.
- We often fear our boss (losing our job), our wives (she leads or avoid her wrath), loss of financial security, our parents, losing, being wrong – these fears are always an indication of sin – sins we committed and sins committed against us – where we take our eyes off the Creator and give power to the creation
- When we walk in the fear of man – we are NOT walking in love or wisdom – we often are selfish, self-focused, depressed –
- we often fail to take up our God given responsibilities when we fear man – how many wives are essentially leading their homes because men are afraid to lead? How many men don’t take a stand because of what others will think?
- Does “I fear the Lord” describe you? Why or why not?

If not addressed in the above two questions, ask...

What does the fear of the Lord have to do with Blessing, Wisdom...good things? Why is this true?

Well, if we fear the Lord...

- We do not fear men – thus we have the possibility of seeing things clearly from God’s perspective without being swayed by the will of man.
- We are humble before God – therefore, we are usable by Him for His good pleasure.
- We will take His Word seriously – and diligently seek to pursue it.
- We are moldable in God’s hands – we have no agenda
- We will have courage – if God is for us, who can be against us?
- We will walk in His designs/His ways – as Psalm 128 says
- We can gain wisdom – we will be ready to listen and follow, regardless of the world’s perspective – and He has promised to give us wisdom!

What keeps you from fearing the Lord (more)?

- It may not happen here, but thru this first session, you want to make sure that the World, the Flesh, and the Devil are all identified as key foes in our pursuit of godly manhood.
- We either do not see/understand God as He is – and therefore, do not fear Him.
- Or we are too prideful to humble ourselves before Him – to bend the knee deeply!
- Or we are fearful of man – confused and distracted by that which is not worth fearing!
- Our flesh craves sin too much – we cannot bring ourselves to fear the Lord when sin is in control.
- The Enemy will seek to distract, confuse, hinder our walk. He wants to induce a commensurate fear of him – not God. Brings us back to the Luke passage!

If not addressed in the question above, ask...

What does it mean practically to walk in His ways? How do we know what His ways are?

- Ken mentioned numerous passages and points that flesh this out! Be sure to bring up a focus on the three responsibilities mentioned – work, family, and loving others.
- Closeness to God – a life of abiding (John 15) - Jesus Christ Himself – as He leads us.
- And God’s word – as Ken mentioned – Commands, Testimonies, Statutes
- We must be diligent to study – to pray for wisdom.

How do we gain the strength to walk in His ways? Where is our source of strength?

- God’s word – as indicated above
- God’s Spirit of Grace – God Himself is at work in us to accomplish His good will (Galatians 5)
- God’s people – God has given us shepherds, helpmates, brothers to help.

Should we really be questioning the culture? Do God’s ways REALLY contrast the ways of our culture? If so, how?

- “Come on – isn’t a lot of the stuff in the bible culturally irrelevant today? Shouldn’t we focus on principles? Is the culture really that far off? Isn’t this more about preferences rather than right and wrong?
- As they share, you want the men to move toward categories – areas of life where the world system is off – particularly the three responsibilities that Ken noted – Work, Family, and the Loving Others.
- Hopefully, the idea of the integrated life comes up here, if not in earlier questions. Our life has become so fragmented in our culture.

“It is easy to go against the culture to walk in God’s ways.” TRUE or FALSE?

What makes this hard? What keeps us from walking in His ways?

- Can we really do the Desert Challenge? I think that in reality, we will always bring our cultural baggage along – BUT we must strive to carry as little baggage as possible!!!
- Hopefully, the men can begin to clearly identify ways in which the culture is counter-God. – homosexuality and obscenity will be obvious.
- But they may not readily look at things like how we lead our homes, how we train our children, how we treat work, how we treat entertainment, how we view God’s word – you may want to explore some of these.

What opposes us in our effort to fear the Lord and walk in His ways? (optional)

- Ask this only if you feel that this question has not been adequately addressed via other questions.
- The world (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Cor 1:18-31; James 4:1-10)
- The flesh (Romans)
- The devil (Eph 6)

CHALLENGE

Ken described the various life approaches – the biblical patterns and our modern pattern. Open your notebooks to the Facilitation Activity One on page 16. Take a few minutes with the scissors and the glue – and create your pattern. Cut out and arrange the paper to reflect the amount of focus and relationship that you have between the various aspects of your life. See the pages just before this notebook page to see the illustrations Ken showed. In a few minutes you will have opportunity to explain your life to us. Remember – they have already created their ‘Spiritual’ cutout.

- Have men share their sheets – this exercise gets them to think about how they truly have the areas of their lives related. If time is short, you may want to have them share in pairs.

Ask them to describe what is GOOD and BAD about their diagram.

Ask them to identify the biggest problem spot for themselves.

Ask, “how are you going to begin to address this?”

These next THREE questions may or may not be addressed in the exercise – ask them if they are not touched on by some of the men.

- Without a realization that we must seek after/fear the Lord and a need to follow His ways, men will make little progress – God is our focus, our strength, our hope for change.

What do we need to do to grow in the fear of the Lord?

- Any sin to repent of? Especially PRIDE.
- Need to simply HUMBLE yourself before the Lord?
- Is there any known fear to deal with?

What do we need to do to walk more in His ways? How do we grow to see the world system for what it truly is – set against the Lord’s ways? [If we are wet fish, how do we get out of the water long enough to know it?] Where do we need to be more counter-culture (and walk in His ways)?

- Are men getting an inkling of where they may be thinking wrongly?
- Are they seeing that this integrated pattern is nothing more than an expression of God’s ways according to His word? –not some fundamentalist tripe designed to create legalistic sons of hell.

COMMITMENT

Think through specific actions you know you need to take to make your spiritual life fill up your whole life – to grow in your walk with the Lord. Jot down any actions you need to take at some point in the Action Items Sandbox in your notebook.

- the focus is now personal – what will the individual MAN do?
- encourage them to think about BOTH relationship and responsibility.
- encourage men to share some of what they write during this COMMITMENT section
- men should focus on what THEY do, not on what they need to get others to do

NOW – looking at your Action Items Sandbox, what is the most important thing for you to tackle when you leave this event – over the next year? Turn to page 11, and write it down in your Road Map – be as specific as you can be.

- we want men to focus on one main action – the top priority!

NOW – Is there something you need to deal with (particularly around repentance, forgiveness or restoration) to accomplish this? Do you need to make something right?

- Men may need to make a phone call before the next talk!

NOW – to accomplish what you wrote down, what is the very first step you must take when you leave this event? What first step? Turn to page 11, and write it down in your Road Map – be as specific as you can be.

- men need the next concrete step – it needs to be clear to the men exactly what they can do
- if the action or step is too abstract, then there is a tremendous hurdle to determine what practically needs to happen in the future – it becomes an unconscious excuse to not change – we want to encourage change in any way we can

ASK MEN TO SHARE WHAT THEY WROTE DOWN AS THE KEY STEP TO TAKE!

- You want to make sure that the men are focusing on practical actions – not pie-in-the-sky concepts.
- You also don't want them to think too small either – it shouldn't be an action that they'll complete within an hour of being home – though their first step might be simple and fast (like confessing to their wives)?
- The general idea of the action is something they will focus on for the next year – something to get to or something to have firmly implanted.

Session Two: Man and His Work

Passages in Session

1. **Psalm 128**
2. **Matthew 25:14-30**
3. **Prov 14:23**
4. **Acts 20:35**
5. **2 Thess 3:10**
6. **1 Tim 5:8**
7. Psalm 127
8. **Eccl 2:24**
9. **Eccl 9:10a**
10. **Acts 20:17-20,33-35**
11. 1 Tim 3:3, Titus 1:7
12. **Gen 1:28**
13. **Gen 9:1-2**
14. **Matt 28:18-20**
15. **Ex 20:9-11**
16. **Lam 3:27**
17. **Psalms 144:12**
18. **Psalm 128:3**
19. Prov. 31
20. **Deut 6:7**
21. **Titus 2**
22. **1 Corinthians 7:17-24**
23. 1 Thes 4:11-12, Acts 20:34-35, Col 3:23-24, Deut 6:5-9, Eph 5:22-6:4, Acts 20:18-20, Rom 12:10, 13:8, 14:19, Gal 5:13, Eph 4:2, 32; Phil 2:3; Col 3:9,13,16; 1 Th 3:12, 4:9, 5:11-15, Titus 2, Col 3:23, Mark 12:28-31

Passages in Reading

1. **Colossians 3:18-25**
2. **Matthew 6:19-24**

Facilitation Guidance – PRAY AS YOU BEGIN!

Tell your group to turn the facilitation section of their notebooks for this session.

CLARIFICATION

Did the teaching time or reading passages raise any questions in your mind that we should spend a few minutes discussing?

- Men may have questions on the nature of Dominion, amount of time to work, what constitutes work, the Sabbath, etc.

These next three questions may be good to review with the men...

What does it mean for us to take Dominion? (Genesis 2)

- “dominate” – control – be over
- implies stewardship over creation

- implies spreading God's glory and reign
- implies that we live in such a way so as to perpetuate the move toward (or maintenance of) dominion with our offspring.
- NOTE: I think that when a man is being moved to make so many changes he does not need encouragement to "build his estate to become influential in the land" ... it is so easy to take that the wrong way or make it an idol.

How has the Fall affected our perspective on work?

- It became much harder – by the sweat of our brow (Gen 3)
- We don't rely on God – don't fear Him, don't walk in His ways
- Did it affect our "dominion" mandate? - No – God didn't say it didn't apply any more. But perhaps it would now take on a more "redemptive" than merely "stewardship" aspect.

To review, what is the goal of work in our culture/world versus the biblical view of work?

- CULTURE: Work to provide, work to have stuff, work to get to entertainment/recreation, work to build your nest egg
- GOD: Work to provide, work to bless your family and those in need, work to accomplish God's purposes, work to glorify God,

CONSIDERATION

Which view (culture or bible) is closest to how you really live? Why do you say that?

- Every man will be a mix
- Areas to explore where men may not be thinking include... how much they work, who they work with, where they work, when they work, what type of work they do

Does your employer support a biblical perspective on work? How? (for the self-employed, is your business structured according to a biblical perspective?)

- Most are NOT. They have no concept of the family working together- no sense of a men mentoring their sons and daughters. Most are inflexible on schedule. Most force you to work away from home and family.
- Some encourage learning and growth.

Are you truly "free"? Are you ready to walk away from a job if necessary (or God calls you to something else)? If not, why not?

- Some men may feel trapped by their skills, lack of skills, demands of the job, etc.
- Men need to realize they must take steps to become free, if they are not free.
- This would also be a great place to bring up the issue of debt – debt often drives us to the kinds of work and work situations that we are in.

How is your wife a helpmeet to you in your work?

- For many men, there will be no direct relationship – the wife may be a keeper at home, which is crucial.
- It may be worth asking, "can or should our wives be more directly involved in helping us with our work?"

"Our wives should not be another man's helpmeet." Agree or disagree? Why or why not?

- This may be a bit controversial – but the heart is to focus on the fact that the work of the man and the home require the WHOLE family to function together – not be fragmented into little compartments.

Do you view your children more as consumers of or contributors to family finances? Defend your answer.

- No wonder men do not want many children – if all they are is a cost and then we send them off to “life” hoping they remember dear ole dad.

How are your children being trained for a life of work? (or How do you anticipate training your children for work?)

- An ancillary question is “WHEN?” When do you start to prepare them for work?
- Issues of mentorship, use of free time, an entertainment mentality versus and work mentality
- Bring up “how can we train them, if we are not there!?”

How does a biblical perspective on work affect our views on issues such as:

- Retirement
- Taking care of our parents in their old age
- How we educate and train our children.
- Supporting the work of our local church body
- Paying for children’s college
- Work Ethic
- The Sabbath (rest)

“These passages about work and keepers at home and submission and who teaches who just all culturally bound – just Jewish culture that we need to appreciate, but need not emulate.” Agree or disagree? Defend your answer.

- You may not have time to bring this is up – and perhaps you only need to bring it up, if you sense resistance to the ideas of this session – the “What’s wrong with that?” attitude.
- If people tend to want to make it culture bound, ask them how they make that determination – almost always it will come back to “it doesn’t fit with MY culture.”

CHALLENGE

As we consider God’s perspective on work...

Earlier, we discussed your view of work, what steps can you be taking to move your life (and/or financial circumstances) more toward a biblical model of work?

- Men might focus on reducing debt, getting more time at home, getting their wives out of the work force, thinking about new ways to make income and engage the family, etc.

If you are not FREE, what do you need to start doing to be more FREE?

- For men who specifically realize that they are in a bad position, there may be some need to take strong steps to get free – and some may want to and not have any good ideas how.

What steps do you need to take to ensure that your helpmeet is really your helpmeet?

- Most men probably have wives at home, but they may still realize that they do not have “family” perspective on work.

What can you be doing to train your children to grow up with a firmly grounded view of work?

- The whole consumer vs. contributor perspective may open the eyes of many men – ideas here can range from curbing entertainment binges to starting a family business.

Some of you don't have jobs where you can include your children. What can you do to help your children learn more about work with/from you? For those of you who do have work you can include your children, what can you do to help your children work more with you?

- Going further than the previous question, men should consider how to include children in their work – it may as start as simple as teaching their children about what they do for a living – and go up to starting to mentor their children in a trade – or ensure that their children are being mentored in a trade.

COMMITMENT

Think through specific actions you know you need to take with aligning your work with God's perspective on work. Jot down any actions you need to take at some point in the Action Items Sandbox in your notebook.

- the focus is now personal – what will the individual MAN do?
- encourage them to think about BOTH relationship and responsibility.
- encourage men to share some of what they write during this COMMITMENT section
- men should focus on what THEY do, not on what they need to get others to do

NOW – looking at your Action Items Sandbox, what is the most important thing for you to tackle when you leave this event – over the next year? Turn to page 11, and write it down in your Road Map – be as specific as you can be.

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- The general idea of the action is something they will focus on for the next year – something to get to or something to have firmly implanted.

Session Three: Man and His Helpmate

Passages in Session

1. Psalm 128:3
2. Genesis 2:18
3. Genesis 2:21-22
4. Genesis 2:24-25
5. John 2:1-4
6. John 2:5
7. John 2:11
8. Revelation 19:7-9
9. Ephesians 5:25-29

Passages in Reading

1. Genesis 1:26-31
2. 1 Peter 3:7
3. Matthew 9:14-17

Facilitation Guidance – PRAY AS YOU BEGIN!

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CLARIFICATION

Did the teaching time or additional passages raise any questions in your mind that we should spend a few minutes discussing?

- some may miss the fact that...

Since God created a woman to be a helpmate (Genesis 2), what is she helping with?

-

And if things don't seem to be working out with this helpmate that God has given, then what is the problem?

-

Review Ephesians 5:25-33:

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body. 31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. 33

Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

Who has the harder job and greater responsibility – the husband or the wife? Why do you say that?

-

What does it mean to love your wife as Christ loves the church?

- Sacrifice (the cross) and Service (as in John 13)
- Nourish and cherish – as you would take care of yourself (v. 30)

What does it mean to sanctify your wife and present her spotless?

- Get at the heart of being responsible for the spiritual growth and purity/maturity of your wife.
- This is a key aspect of leading – of being a head.

CONSIDERATION

Would our wives say that we love them as Christ loves the church?

- Are our wives flourishing or floundering?
- You are wanting men to seriously consider the state of their wives emotional and spiritual health.

Are YOU actively sanctifying your wife? How?

1 Peter 3:7 -You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Listen to this statement: My wife would say that I live with her in an understanding way. Would that statement be accurate for you? Why or why not?

Listen to this statement: My wife would say that I show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life. True or false? Why or why not?

Honestly, guys, is this worth it? Is it worth sacrificing and serving to seek to love our wives, sanctify our wives, understand our wives, and honor our wives? Why?

- It is God's design!
- It brings God glory!
- We need our wives!
- God has commanded!

Why do we need to work so hard, if they are our helpmates?

- Our wives are under our care – even if they help – just like the church serves Christ, but Christ is our head, our leader, our strength.

Are you leading your wife? Really? How?

-

Is your wife carrying any burden that she should not be carrying? Explain.

- E.g., a responsibility- like the discipline of the children or she is making decisions because you fail to
- Is she burderned at all? Are you sure she should be carrying it?

CHALLENGE

OK, if they are our helpmates, what are they helping us with? Where are we leading them? Are you actively leading your wife? Explain.

- This should tie back to the fundamental point we make – that God wants us to live an integrated life – our wives help us in the various aspects of our life in Christ – they help with our family, our work, our education, etc.

What is hindering you from loving and sanctifying your wives? From nourishing them and honoring them? (if this hasn't come out already)

-

What do you need to be doing to grow as a leader of your wife? What concrete steps can you be doing?

-

What do you need to be doing to grow in loving your wife, in sanctifying, nourishing and honoring her? What concrete steps can you be taking?

-

COMMITMENT

Think through specific actions you know you need to take with your helpmate – whether in loving and/or leading her. Jot down any actions you need to take at some point in the Action Items Sandbox in your notebook.

- the focus is now personal – what will the individual MAN do?
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Session Four: Man and His Children

Passages in Session

1. Psalm 128:3
2. Malachi 4:5-6
3. Deuteronomy 6:4-9
4. 1 Cor. 13:11
5. Eph. 2:10

Passages in Reading

1. Ephesians 6:1-4
2. Deut 6:1-15
3. Psalm 78: 1-8
4. Psalm 127

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CLARIFICATION

Did the teaching time or additional passages raise any questions in your mind that we should spend a few minutes discussing?

- some may miss the fact that 1) fatherhood is SUPER-VITAL 2) fatherhood is VERY ACTIVE, 3) fatherhood is A BAROMETER OF SPIRITUAL HEALTH, and 4) fatherhood has GODLY ADULTHOOD AS THE GOAL

Why do you think God says fathers' hearts turning to their children is an indicator of the coming of Christ?

- seeking to get at the incredible importance of fatherhood that had been lost, and is evidence of when God is at work in men! Active fatherhood reflects a healthy church!

Based on your reading, how high are the stakes with this topic of children? I.e., why are we spending time on this topic?

- the four passages only enhance the ideas of Malachi. God commands our action. It is tied to multiple generations and glorifying God.

CONSIDERATION

Do your children really need a relationship with you, dad? We have so much good info out there today. We have teachers and preachers and youth pastors and online talks and books, etc. Our children have their friends and their moms.

Would your children say they have a good relationship with you? Why or why not? And a related follow-up question: Do you have their hearts? How do you know?

- do the men perceive their children well?
- "have their hearts" = the children respect, admire, and love daddy to the degree that they will trust and follow him fully with a willing heart
- do the men think that their children's perspectives are right and valid? If not, you may want to probe some more – it may be a sign of a harsh spirit.

What should that (good) relationship look like? What should characterize your relationship with your children?

- this question will help you see how men conceive of "good relationship"
- some men may have a BUDDY approach
- some men may have the RESPECT & OBEY ME approach
- having their heart is fundamental to a truly good relationship with a child

How well are you leading your children to the Father? How are you leading your children to the Father?

- is the church doing the lion's share of the work – or the father?

What are YOU raising? (emphasis on YOU – not what is your church raising or your wife raising?)

- few stop to consider this.
- this is a great question to get men to think seriously about what they are raising and forcing them to consider how well their intentions match their actions
- if a man says he is raising a warrior for God, but in the following questions describes actions contrary to his words, then call the man on it!

How are your children learning responsibility? Write down on a list those who are influencing your children in growing in responsibility and how. Are they learning from you at all? If so, how?

- take a brief inventory of where you are at – who is influencing your children?

When are your children learning responsibility from you?

- as in the Work talk, men need to start seeing that life is integrated – the corporate world does not negate the need to teach responsibility!

If we are raising adults rather than children, how does that affect our decisions with our children? What do we do differently? BUT WAIT...

- read the next question which only expands the idea...

Psalm 78:5-7 says:

5 For He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers that they should teach them to their children, 6 That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, 7 That they should put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments...

If not only are we raising adults, but raising adults who will then have the heart and capability to raise their children in a godly manner, how does that affect our decisions with our children? What do we do differently?

- to raise an adult with the heart, wisdom, and skill to raise the following generation takes a completely different perspective than simply raising a child
- men WILL raise children according to the vision/perspective they have of them

CHALLENGE

OK, men, what steps can we take to deliberately build a godly relationship with our children? Is there any healing, repentance, and/or rebuilding needed with our children?

- you want men to start moving to real, practical solutions/steps
- men need to seek to win and keep their children's hearts

Related: How do we capture their hearts, if we don't have their hearts?

What must we as men do to more deliberately and effectively guide our children toward our Heavenly Father? What must change in our lives, our homes, our churches?

(this question may be closely enough related to the next one to simply ask the two together)

What must we as men do to more deliberately and effectively raise children to adulthood? What must change in our lives, our work, our homes, our churches?

- you want men to start moving to real, practical solutions/steps
- men need to think about all aspects of life – including their work and churches to determine if there are fundamental problems with how these are affecting his ability to be DAD.

How do we as men work to overcome our past and current failings with our children?

- men need to be realistic – they may have a mess to clean up – and it may get worse before it gets better – it can take a lot of time
- an emphasis on patience and forgiveness is important – and that may be difficult if there is built up bitterness or simply just relational distance

COMMITMENT

Think through specific actions you know you need to take with your children – whether in building relationships and/or in specific aspects of training them. Jot down any actions you need to take at some point in the Action Items Sandbox in your notebook.

- the focus is now personal – what will the individual MAN do?
- encourage them to think about BOTH relationship and responsibility.
- encourage men to share some of what they write during this COMMITMENT section

- men should focus on what THEY do, not on what they need to get others to do

NOW – looking at your Action Items Sandbox, what is the most important thing for you to tackle when you leave this event – over the next year? Turn to page 11, and write it down in your Road Map – be as specific as you can be.

- we want men to focus on one main action – the top priority!

NOW – Is there something you need to deal with (particularly around repentance, forgiveness or restoration) to accomplish this? Do you need to make something right?

- Men may need to make a phone call before the next talk!

NOW – to accomplish what you wrote down, what is the very first step you must take when you leave this event? What first step? Turn to page 11, and write it down in your Road Map – be as specific as you can be.

- men need the next concrete step – it needs to be clear to the men exactly what they can do
- if the action or step is too abstract, then there is a tremendous hurdle to determine what practically needs to happen in the future – it becomes an unconscious excuse to not change – we want to encourage change in any way we can

ASK MEN TO SHARE WHAT THEY WROTE DOWN AS THE KEY STEP TO TAKE!

- You want to make sure that the men are focusing on practical actions – not pie-in-the-sky concepts.
- You also don't want them to think too small either – it shouldn't be an action that they'll complete within an hour of being home – though their first step might be simple and fast (like confessing to their wives)?
- The general idea of the action is something they will focus on for the next year – something to get to or something to have firmly implanted.

Session Five: Man and His World

Passages in Session

1. Psalm 128
2. Acts 4
3. Psalm 78
4. Matthew 28:16-20

Passages in Reading

1. Deuteronomy 6:1-8
2. Titus 2
3. Philippians 2:1-18
4. Ephesians 5:22-33
5. 1 Peter 4:17; 1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 6:10
6. Nehemiah 1:1 – 2:10
7. Hebrews 10:19-25

Facilitation Guidance – PRAY AS YOU BEGIN!

Tell your group to turn the facilitation section of their notebooks for this session.

CLARIFICATION

Did the teaching time or reading passages raise any questions in your mind that we should spend a few minutes discussing?

- The nature of church, the great commission, relationship of Christ to the church might come up.

We've explored this weekend how the man is related to his God, work, helpmate, and children, but...

How is the family related to the church?

- The family is the fundamental structure of the church – the smallest unit
- Several passages use the idea of the church being God's family/household – Gal 6:10; Eph 2:19; I Tim 3:15 – plus many other family time terms – Father God, children of God
- Eph 5 refers to the church as the bride of Christ in an analogy of how men should treat their wives.
- If the Church is the household of God (i.e., the family of God) and we are also referred to as Christ's bride, is it reasonable to think that the family is the fundamental structure within the Church?

How is a man as the head of his home related to the church? (especially, if he is not an elder or deacon – how should a man view himself?)

- Family shepherd
- Represents his family to the church
- Guides his family in the church
- Responsible to help encourage and provide for the needs of the body

- The heart here is to help men understand that they must be engaged and that the focus of worship and ministry is fundamentally as a family since you as the head are responsible and the primary trainer. Also, you as head are to serve and provide input to others in the body.

What's your work here on earth?

- The idea here is to get men to briefly review the Work session ideas – but now looking at it in light of a session 5 focus on the church and world.
- A huge question- but here is what to get at – as we consider impact, there is summary fact that we are here to love God and love our neighbors (Deut 6). But these are played out in ways such as:
- Making Christ known, Glorify the Lord in word and deed, Do the work He gives, be good stewards of what He gave us, the "one anothers", raise the next generation to continue on in faithfulness, etc.
- And an ancillary – what happens when we take God and His ways seriously?

CONSIDERATION

Is it OK to be a lone ranger man/family, avoiding the authority (protection) and fellowship of fellow believers in a local church body? What will happen over time to a family like this? (see Hebrews 10:19-25)

- No – we are not lone rangers – we were given helpmates because it was not good to be alone, we were put into local churches because as God's family, we work together to support and strengthen one another as we seek to build strong families.
- Over time without any spiritual authority over you, you will begin to slide into error and/or pride. Iron is not sharpening iron and this there will be a dullness of spirit that will not even be recognized.
- Lone ranger families can get caught without the help of the body and may end up resorting to manipulation or end up in crisis situations.

In your church, are you really needed? Why or why not? Does your family need you in the life of the church?

- Men are often spectators in church – no wonder men don't come to church – they think they are not needed – not challenged to take up their role as head.
- Churches often divide and conquer – letting the professional handle the needed teaching for each group in an age/station appropriate manner.
- Follow-up with "what do YOU need to do differently?"

How does an integrated life (with God, work, wife, children) make a difference in the kind of impact a man and family can have on the church and world?

- You are walking in God's design – and God blesses those who walk in His ways.
- God is the center – He is the source of strength and wisdom - Work becomes more purposed and enjoyed.
- You grow TOGETHER as a family. You minister TOGETHER as a family. You work TOGETHER as a family.

How far out should our focus on life be? Our own lives? Our children's lives? Farther? What difference does it make in how we live now?

- This may be a bit of review from the Children session.
- Men need to consider the great difference in single versus multi-generational focus – the stakes are much higher, the work is greater to anchor your children so deeply that they will carry on the faith well.

How do we live as men with holy, integrated lives as heads of our homes within a culture that is so opposed to us? How can we be culturally “irrelevant” and yet reach out to people in our culture? Aren’t we to be all things to all people? Won’t this integrated stuff be too weird? Explain your answer.

- If God be true, then FAMILY will never be irrelevant.
- If God be true, then men who are hard working, full of integrity, and love their wives and children will never be irrelevant.
- And if a culture has strayed from God’s design, we cannot restore God’s design by walking in the culture’s model. We call people to Christ and His ways.
- People will follow true leaders – if God be true, many men who fear the Lord will be able to lead – and people will follow.
- All people need God – we are designed to know Him – God and His Truth is never irrelevant.

CHALLENGE

Take a few minutes to reflect on what you have considered this weekend and the actions you are committing to. **Where do you want to be one year from now? What will your life look like?**

Pass out the colored paper and have the men turn to **Facilitation Activity Two on page 32. Build another model of your life, but this time build it reflecting how you want to be one year from today.**

After the men build it, have them contrast it with the one they built in session 1.
What are the main differences that you see in the two models?

What kind of impact do you believe God wants you to have? How will a more integrated life be a part of that? (What is God’s vision for your family?)

- Who do you want to impact? How do you want to impact them?
- Having Christ be the center of everything and permeating all of your life will allow Him to give wisdom, to guide, to embolden you.
- Having a focus on work that is unto the Lord, focused on freedom, seeks to benefit others in need, and trains up children to be contributors from a young age provides great opportunity to bless others and minister to the needy and lost.
- Having a helpmate who is focused on the work God gives her husband – a helpmate who is loved and nurtured – this helpmate can grow to be a Proverbs 31 – impactful woman.
- Training children deliberately in the Lord from a young age to be godly contributors will create tremendous opportunity for ministry and work.

You’ve identified numerous action items already in previous sessions.

What do you need to take up or start doing to actively pursue God’s vision for you and your family in the church and world?

- Perhaps something along the lines of Family worship, or reevaluate involvement in their church, or discuss how they will reach out to their neighbors or relatives, or how to bring Christ into the workplace, or start keeping the children in the worship service, or
- **(a possible clarifying question) In your family, church, and world, who are you allowing to take responsibilities that belong to you? What experts (or traditional institutions or roles) are doing your job for you? What are you going to do about it?** I.e., where are you being a wimp? . Your church? Your wife? The government?
- Some may say, “what’s wrong with using the wisdom and expertise of others?” There is no problem with using the wisdom and expertise of others. The problem is when we as men “entrust” and “give over” our spiritual life, our families, and our churches over to the experts.

It is an issue of focused responsibility! As the one responsible, I must establish, filter, guide, evaluate, admonish, instruct – regardless of the tools I choose to use.

- God did not make us cookie cutter shapes that should simply find the best thing that works for others and then apply it to ourselves and families
- **(another clarifying/stimulating question)What do you need to give up to ensure you have the time and/or strength to pursue God’s vision for you and your family in the church and world?** Is recreation or entertainment? Is it the huge house? Is it the career? Is it extra sleep? Is it keeping up with the Joneses? Is it the youth group? Is it the “being cool”? The idea here is to consider what encumbrances need to be removed. So often we say, “I don’t have time to ...”

COMMITMENT

Think through specific actions you know you need to take to work within and/or impact your world. Jot down any actions you need to take at some point in the Action Items Sandbox in your notebook.

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