

REDLINED • WEEK 1: OVERLOAD

Men's LIFEGROUP

STEP 1 FIND YOUR TABLE AND ANSWER THE ICEBREAKER

Go around the table. One quick answer each.

What is something you were sure you had to have, and then barely used?

STEP 2 SERMON RECAP

Watch the recap video together, then read the summary below.

Sunday launched Redlined, a series about lives running too much, too fast, for too long. Like an engine held in the red, a lot of men are wearing out their families, their health, and their walk with God trying to keep up. Here is the sermon in five lines:

1. **The Big Idea:** We redline our lives when we demand more than God asks and more than this world gives.
2. **Problem 1: Demanding more than God asks.** "No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits" (2 Timothy 2:4). When nice-to-haves become have-to-haves, the extra demands redline your life.
3. **Solution 1: Trade your demands for His design.** Jesus' yoke is His authority and teaching, and it is kind, not crushing (Matthew 11:28-30).
4. **Problem 2: Demanding more than this world gives.** God put eternity in your heart, but your life is a mist (Ecclesiastes 3:11; James 4:13-14). You cannot cram eternity into eighty years.
5. **Solution 2: Eternal life with the Person you were made for.** What you are really longing for is found only in Jesus (John 3:16).

STEP 3 ACCOUNTABILITY AND CHECK-IN

Go around the table. Keep each answer to about one minute.

- How did it go with the "I Will" statement you made last week? What were the key ingredients of success or failure? (1 minute)
- What is one thing you are thankful for this week? (1 minute)
- What is one challenge you are facing right now? (1 minute)

STEP 4 ONE PERSON READS IDEA 1 ALOUD

Do not discuss until the end. While this is read, circle or star anything God points out (John 16:8, 13).

IDEA 1: Good things become entanglements when they become have-to-haves

2 Timothy 2:3-4

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

Civilian pursuits are not sins. A truck, a hunting trip, a rental property, and a promotion are all fine things. The problem starts when a nice-to-have becomes a have-to-have and begins taking the time, money, energy, and focus that belong to the specific mission Jesus enlisted you for. A soldier tangled up in side projects has radically reduced impact in the fight.

WHAT GETTING ENTANGLED LOOKS LIKE:

- **Negative:** One man buys a second rental property for his kids' college fund. Now his Saturdays are clogged toilets, drywall repair, and chasing late rent, and his boys have stopped asking if he is coming to their games because they already know the answer.
- **Positive:** Another man is offered a regional manager job with a big raise and three nights a week on the road. He talks it over with his wife, counts what he would miss at home, and turns it down.
- **Easy to justify:** A third guy has not bought anything new. His entanglement is elk season: weekends of scouting, gear on the credit card, and a wife who has quietly stopped planning anything for the family to do together in the fall.

SAMPLE "I WILL"

I will sit down with my wife by Friday night, go through every commitment on my calendar this month, and cut or postpone one that God has not asked of me. I will tell her which one I cut.

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STEP 5 A SECOND PERSON READS IDEA 2 ALOUD

Do not discuss until the end. While this is read, circle or star anything God points out (John 16:8, 13).

IDEA 2: Jesus trades your demands for His design

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

A yoke was the wooden beam that put an animal's strength under its master's direction. Jesus is telling you to take His yoke instead of the ones culture, your peers, and your own ambition keep putting on you. "Easy" does not mean effortless; it means kind and good. His design still has work in it: loving God, loving your family, serving your neighbor starting with the church, and working hard and honestly at your job.

WHAT TRADING DEMANDS FOR DESIGN LOOKS LIKE:

- **Positive:** One man realizes his side hustle is eating the two evenings a week he used to spend with his kids. He shuts it down for the school year and puts those nights back on the calendar.
- **Negative:** Another guy says, "His yoke is easy and His burden is light," then uses that as a reason to skip serving on Sunday and dodge his share of the load at home. Easy never meant effortless. That is not a yoke. That is a hammock.
- **Easy to justify:** A third man works fifty-five hours a week and tells himself it is for his family. When his wife says she would rather have him home than have the bigger house, he has to decide whose design he has been following.

SAMPLE "I WILL"

I will draw the four circles from Sunday (God, family, neighbor, work) on Wednesday night, write my actual week inside them, and show my wife or a friend one thing I am carrying that does not belong.

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STEP 6 A THIRD PERSON READS IDEA 3 ALOUD

Do not discuss until the end. While this is read, circle or star anything God points out (John 16:8, 13).

IDEA 3: You cannot cram eternity into a mist

Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

James 4:14

yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

God built you for forever, but you get about seventy or eighty years on this side of the grave (Psalm 90:10). A man who forgets that timeline tries to squeeze eternity into the years he has, and that pace will redline him. The longing is not wrong; it is simply aimed at the wrong place. What you were made for is eternal life with Jesus (John 3:16), and it starts the moment you give Him your allegiance.

WHAT CRAMMING ETERNITY INTO AN 80-YEAR MIST LOOKS LIKE:

- **Negative:** One man is fifty-two and panicking about retirement after years of spending without a plan. Instead of changing his habits or selling off any of the toys he has accumulated, he takes every overtime shift, snaps at his kids, and keeps telling himself he will slow down once they are set.
- **Positive:** Another man still keeps a bucket list, but it no longer runs his calendar. When a big hunt lands on the same day as his daughter's recital, he goes to the recital.
- **Hard to admit:** A third guy is not chasing stuff. He is chasing his dad's approval, trying to prove he made something of himself before his father dies. It is costing him sleep, and it will never be enough.

SAMPLE "I WILL"

I will read John 3:16-21 on Thursday morning before work, write down one thing I have been trying to get out of this life that only Jesus can give me, and share it with a man in this group next Tuesday.

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STEP 7 NOW DISCUSS

Go around the table.

Which item that you circled or starred stood out to you most and why?

STEP 8 WRITE YOUR "I WILL" STATEMENT

Make it specific: a real action, a real day, and a real person if possible.

STEP 9 PRAY

Pray for the man on your right by name, and for the "I Will" he just wrote.