

**IRON
SHARPENS
IRON**

STEVE MURRELL

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by Steve Murrell



EVERY NATION
P R O D U C T I O N S

IRON SHARPENS IRON

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HOW TO USE THIS MATERIAL

This booklet is designed for small group discussion and discipleship among men. The goal is not just to teach a lesson but to apply truth in our lives. This material works best in a discipleship group. Each lesson has five parts: **Get Started**, **Get in the Word**, **Get the Point**, **Get Real**, and **Prayer**.

1. **Get Started**

Most lessons have two to three questions provided to get the discussion going, very much like warm-up questions. Pick the question that will relate best to the group. If you think of a better question, feel free to use it. Remember, a good warm-up question is not controversial, should require no Bible knowledge, and should have no right or wrong answer. Good **Get Started** questions ask for a person's opinion and experience, and should be related to the topic in the **Get in the Word** section. Everyone is encouraged to talk during this time.

2. **Get in the Word**

Each lesson has several key points followed by Scripture, brief comments, questions, and blank lines. The questions are there to help you think of ways to understand and communicate the point. These questions are not designed to be read out loud and answered individually during the meeting. Small group members may answer these questions on their own outside the meeting.

During **Get Started** and **Get Real**, everyone is encouraged to talk, but during **Get in the Word** time, only the leader talks. Use the extra lines and margins to record additional comments, cross-references, illustrations, and other thoughts that might help communicate the point.

3. **Get the Point**

Each lesson has a concluding statement or summary to help bring home the lesson. Use this part to conclude the **Get in the Word** time.

4. **Get Real**

Maturity is not about how much we mark or read the Bible, but about how much we obey it. The goal is for truth to be absorbed into our lives, not just into our heads. Ending each lesson with a **Get Real** time gives men an opportunity to open their lives to other men in the group and choose to hold themselves accountable. Personal application is at the very heart of discipleship and spiritual growth. Everyone is encouraged to speak during the **Get Real** time.

5. **Prayer**

It is recommended to end each small group discussion with a time of prayer. The prayer time may begin with a brief reporting of answered prayers to encourage and build the faith of each one present. If your group has more than eight men, it may be a good idea to break into two or three smaller groups during the prayer time. Everyone should be encouraged to participate in the prayer time. Expect God to answer your prayers.

INTRODUCTION

The Ironman Triathlon, the most famous of all triathlons, is a grueling sporting event that consists of a two-mile rough water swim, a hundred-mile bike race, and a twenty-six mile marathon, all in one day.

To prepare for the Ironman, the average competitor swims seven miles, bikes 230 miles, and runs forty-eight miles every week, for seven months!

That's a lot of work for a one-day event.

The pathway to becoming a Spiritual Ironman, however, is much more demanding than countless miles of swimming, biking, and running; it requires a lifetime of discipline, not a mere seven months of training.

While triathlon training can be an individual discipline, spiritual training cannot. In fact, it is impossible to become a Spiritual Ironman without the help of other men.

The foundation of becoming a Spiritual Ironman is found in Proverbs 27:17—

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

This verse teaches us that:

we should be spiritually sharp;
we cannot sharpen ourselves;
we need others to sharpen us.

Iron Sharpens Iron is designed to help men get in the Word and into each other's lives. By participating in a discipleship group and embracing the five commitments of a Spiritual Ironman, you will remain sharp, and you will help sharpen others.

The following five commitments are the foundations of effective biblical discipleship, and essential to staying spiritually sharp.

Speak the truth in love.

Hold one another accountable to biblical moral standards.

Accept correction.

Read and obey the Bible daily.

Pray for and with each other.

Before filling in the blanks in this material, make a commitment to God that you will open your life up to other men in these five areas.

Once you have decided to do what it takes to stay SHARP, you are ready to start your training to become a Spiritual Ironman.

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1 MAN AND HIS GOD

How to be a Man after God's Heart

GET STARTED

1. What is the first thing you think about when someone mentions King David?

2. What does it mean to be a man after God's heart?

GET IN THE WORD

"And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'" ACTS 13:22

David started out as a nobody. The youngest of Jesse's sons, he was so insignificant that Jesse did not even bother to introduce him to the prophet who would anoint the future king. Through his fearless faith, David killed Goliath and in the process, became a national hero and King Saul's son-in-law. He eventually became king. All was well until he committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her righteous husband killed.

After confession and repentance, David's relationship with God was restored. Years later he was remembered not as an adulterer, not as a great military leader, not as a mighty king, but as a man after God's heart.

Whoever desires to be a man after God's heart must follow David's example in the following ways.

1 Do everything God wants you to do: OBEDIENCE

"For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep . . ." ACTS 13:36

(Read also **ACTS 4:18-20.**)

David did everything God wanted him to do. Do you know what God wants you to do with your life? What is it?

Are you neglecting some things God wants you to do? Name a few.

The Bible tells us that David *served the purpose of God in his own generation.*

How did David serve the purpose of God in his generation?

What does it mean to serve the purpose of God in your generation?

What is the difference between serving the purpose of man and serving the purpose of God?

What did Peter and John say about serving God or man?
(Acts 4:18-20)

2 Desire nothing but God: **PASSION**

²⁵Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. ²⁶My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

PSALM 73:25,26

(Read also **JAMES 1:14,15; PSALM 42:1,2.**)

What is *desire*?

Are there desires in your heart that compete with your desire for God?

What is the fruit of evil desire? (James 1:14,15)

How did David describe his spiritual desire? (Psalm 42:1,2)

What is thirst? What does it mean to thirst for God?

3 Deal with sin in your life: REPENTANCE

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. PSALM 51:1-4

(Read also **PSALM 51:10-12**; **LUKE 22:42**.)

David sinned against God when he committed adultery and tried to cover it up with murder. What did David ask God to do to his *transgressions, iniquity, and sin*?

In his prayer of confession and repentance, what did David ask God to give him? (Psalm 51:10-12)

What is a *right spirit*? Do you have a right spirit?

What is a *willing spirit*? Do you have a willing spirit?

Did Jesus want to die on the cross? Was Jesus willing to die on the cross? (Luke 22:42)

4 Develop spiritual habits: DISCIPLINE

Being a man after God's heart does not happen by accident. It takes deliberate effort. If we are serious about our walk with God, we must develop the following five spiritual habits:

- Bible reading
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Giving
- Serving

Which of these spiritual disciplines are you good at? Which area do you need help developing?

Rate yourself on each of the five disciplines based on the following statements:

Strong = I am consistent.

Okay = I am working on my consistency.

Weak = I desperately need help.

Check the box which best describes you.

	STRONG	OKAY	WEAK
Bible Reading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prayer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fasting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Giving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GET THE POINT

Even though David had major failures in his life, because he repented, he was remembered as a man after God's heart. We can be remembered as men after God's heart if we follow David's example of obedience, passion, repentance, and discipline.

GET REAL

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. I have read my Bible and prayed every day this week. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I have controlled my tongue this week in a way that honors God (e.g. no gossip, cursing, outbursts of anger). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

	YES	NO
3. I have been completely biblical and above reproach in all my financial dealings this week, including cheerfully giving my tithe and offerings to God.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I have honored biblical standards and have avoided relating to or communicating with women in ways that are inappropriate or misleading.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I have guarded my heart and eyes by avoiding sexually explicit images this week (e.g. from TV, movies, internet, magazines).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I have spent quality time with my wife this week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. I have spent quality time with my children this week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I have been completely honest in answering the first seven statements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PRAYER

On the space provided below, record prayer requests and answered prayers.

2 MAN AND HIS WORK

How to Serve God in a Secular Job

GET STARTED

1. What is the most important decision you have ever made?

2. What is the most difficult decision you have ever made?

3. What is the worst decision you have ever made?

GET IN THE WORD

*¹⁹And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. ²⁰And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. **DANIEL 1:19,20***

Daniel was a God-fearing man working in a pagan culture. When compared with others, Daniel and his Hebrew friends were found to be *ten times better* than anyone else. How did he do it? What made Daniel so much better than the others? Personally, how can we stand out in the crowd in our profession? In this lesson, we will examine three keys to Daniel's success in an ungodly and secular culture.

1 The Power of Individual Resolutions

But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.

DANIEL 1:8

What does *resolve* mean?

What does *defile* mean?

Daniel made a decision long before he faced temptation. The issue was resolved before the royal food and wine were offered. Why is it important to decide beforehand what you

will and will not do? What is the danger in waiting until the temptation is upon you before deciding how to respond?

Do you need to make certain resolutions? What are some specific decisions you need to make before you face the temptation to compromise?

2 The Power of Covenant Relationships

¹¹Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹²"Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see." ¹⁴So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. ¹⁶So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

DANIEL 1:11-16

Daniel did not face the test alone. He was with his three covenant brothers. In these verses, notice the words *us*, *our*, *they*. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah did not volunteer for this test; Daniel dragged them into it. We all need friends like Daniel who will challenge us to go beyond our comfort zone.

Is it easier to do what is right when we are alone or when we are with our brothers? Why?

Have you ever been dragged or pushed into a deeper commitment than you would have made if you were alone? When?

Whom do you have in your life who challenges you to a deeper commitment and a higher standard? Who are you challenging into a deeper commitment and a higher standard?

3 The Power of God

As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. DANIEL 1:17

Ultimately, these guys needed God's help. And in their greatest time of need, God came through for them by giving them supernatural learning and skill.

Are there situations in your job that you feel are too much for you to handle, and you need God's supernatural help? What are these?

How has God come through for you in the past in a supernatural way?

GET THE POINT

If we want to be successful in the secular world without compromising our faith, then we must predetermine the standards we will live by. We must surround ourselves with others who have the same values, beliefs, and standards. And, we must call on the power of God for help. If we do this, we can be ten times better, like Daniel.

GET REAL

	YES	NO
1. I have read my Bible and prayed every day this week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I have controlled my tongue this week in a way that honors God (e.g. no gossip, cursing, outbursts of anger).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I have been completely biblical and above reproach in all my financial dealings this week, including cheerfully giving my tithe and offerings to God.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I have honored biblical standards and have avoided relating to or communicating with women in ways that are inappropriate or misleading.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I have guarded my heart and eyes by avoiding sexually explicit images this week (e.g. from TV, movies, internet, magazines).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I have spent quality time with my wife this week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. I have spent quality time with my children this week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I have been completely honest in answering the first seven statements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PRAYER

On the space provided below, record prayer requests and answered prayers.

3 MAN AND HIS FAMILY

How to Serve God and Save Your Family

GET STARTED

1. Name someone you have great respect for. Why do you respect this person? How well do you know him or her?

2. What causes people to win your respect? What causes people to lose your respect?

GET IN THE WORD

*By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. **HEBREWS 11:7***

It is quite common for men to succeed at work and fail at home, to be respected at the office and disrespected at home. Lot was such a man. He was an elder who sat at the gate in the city of Sodom (Genesis 19:1). While he held a position of respect in the community, his own family showed little respect for him, laughing at him as if he was joking when he warned

them of the coming judgment. So Lot went out and tried to convince his sons-in-law. But they thought he was joking (Genesis 19:14).

Before we think we could never be like Lot, we need to be reminded that Lot was not an ungodly pagan. Actually, the New Testament tells us that Lot was a righteous man (2 Peter 2:7). There are many Lots in church today—men who are respected in the business community, but not at home.

On the other hand, Noah was mocked by the community as he built his huge boat. Everyone thought he was crazy; everyone except for his family. As soon as Noah warned them to get on the boat, they dropped everything and got on the boat (Genesis 7:7).

Why do you think there was such a difference in the responses of Noah's and Lot's families? Because Lot was respected most by those who knew him least (the community), and was respected least by those who knew him best (his family). Noah was respected most by those who knew him best (his family), and was respected least by those who knew him least (the community).

Eli is another example of a man who was successful in his career (the priesthood), but was a failure as a father. Eli disciplined Samuel, who turned out to be one of Israel's greatest prophets, and at the same time he failed to discipline his own sons (1 Samuel 2:22-26).

How can a man save his family while he serves God? In this lesson, we will look at three simple biblical foundations for being successful at home.

1 Leave your father and mother.

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. **GENESIS 2:24***

What does it mean to leave your father and mother?

Why is this a good idea?

What are some complications that can occur when a married man does not leave his father and mother emotionally, financially, or physically?

2 Love your wife.

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . . **EPHESIANS 5:25***

Describe how *Christ loved the church*.

What are some of the practical ways you can show love to your wife this week?

3 Lead your children.

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. **EPHESIANS 6:4**

Notice that Paul tells the fathers to bring up their children in the *instruction of the Lord*. Some Christian fathers act as if child *discipline* is the exclusive domain of wives.

Are you doing your part in providing spiritual discipline for your children? Or are you expecting your wife to be the spiritual leader in the home?

In what ways can fathers bring up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord?

GET THE POINT

We do not have to sacrifice our families in order to be successful in our careers. If we allow the Bible to be the final authority on our relationships with our parents, spouses, and children, we can have success at home.

GET REAL

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. I have read my Bible and prayed every day this week. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I have controlled my tongue this week in a way that honors God (e.g. no gossip, cursing, outbursts of anger). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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- | | YES | NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6. I have spent quality time with my wife this week. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. I have spent quality time with my children this week. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. I have been completely honest in answering the first seven statements. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

PRAYER

On the space provided below, record prayer requests and answered prayers.

4 MAN AND HIS INTEGRITY

How to Resist Sexual Temptation

GET STARTED

1. Cite a situation where you overcame temptation.

2. Which areas in your life need more self-control and discipline?

GET IN THE WORD

⁶So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. ⁷And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me."

GENESIS 39:6,7

Joseph was not looking for an immoral relationship. It came looking for him in the form of Potiphar's wife. Joseph was simply doing his job when she tried to seduce him. This happens every day to someone. Modern day versions of Potiphar's wife will attack when we least expect them. They are lurking in magazines, books, TV, movies, the internet, and even in flesh

and blood. Joseph sets an example for all men who want to walk in victory over sexual temptation. If we follow Joseph's "four Rs" in this lesson, we too can deal with temptation, walk in victory, and maintain our moral integrity.

1 Refuse the temptation.

But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge."

GENESIS 39:8

(Read also **HEBREWS 11:24-26.**)

There was nothing subtle about the temptation and there was nothing subtle about Joseph's response. *He refused.* What does refuse mean?

When have you refused something you knew was harmful?
Is there something you need to refuse this week?

What did Moses refuse? What did his refusal cost him?
Could he have fulfilled his calling if he had not refused?
(Hebrews 11:24-26)

2 Reject the object of temptation.

And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her. **GENESIS 39:10**

(Read also **PROVERBS 5:3-14**.)

Why do you think Joseph refused to *be with her*?

What was the harm in being with her even though he did not lie with her?

Was Joseph more concerned about his moral integrity or with the possibility of making her feel rejected? Should we be more concerned about our moral standards or the possibility of rejecting someone? Why?

Should he have spent some time with her to minister to her about the spirit of lust in her life? Is it wise for us to minister to people who are attempting to seduce us? Why or why not?

What is the end result of a man who will not stay away from immorality? (Proverbs 5:3-14)

3 Run from the scene of temptation.

¹¹But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, ¹²she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.

GENESIS 39:11,12

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. **2 TIMOTHY 2:22**

Temptations that fall under the label of *youthful passions* are not limited only to young men. What are some youthful passions that all men, no matter what age, must flee?

What did Paul tell Timothy to do besides fleeing youthful passions?

Paul told Timothy to flee temptation and *pursue righteousness* along with the people of God. He did not expect Timothy to walk in victory alone. Why can't we fight the battle for moral integrity alone?

Who are you pursuing righteousness with? Who is holding you accountable to God's moral standards?

4 Resist the source of temptation.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. JAMES 4:7

What does *resist* mean?

What are some ways you can resist the devil this week?

GET THE POINT

Maintaining his moral integrity cost Joseph his career and landed him in prison (Genesis 39:20). Eventually his integrity paid off, the blessing of God caught up with him, and he was back in business as the second-in-command in the kingdom.

GET REAL

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. I have read my Bible and prayed every day this week. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I have controlled my tongue this week in a way that honors God (e.g. no gossip, cursing, outbursts of anger). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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5. I have guarded my heart and eyes by avoiding sexually explicit images this week (e.g. from TV, movies, internet, magazines).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I have spent quality time with my wife this week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. I have spent quality time with my children this week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I have been completely honest in answering the first seven statements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PRAYER

On the space provided below, record prayer requests and answered prayers.

5 MAN AND HIS MONEY

How to Honor God with Wealth

GET STARTED

1. Who is the most generous person you know? How does this person show his/her generosity?

2. Describe a time when you gave sacrificially. Do you regret it?

GET IN THE WORD

*⁹Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. **PROVERBS 3:9,10***

Solomon was extremely wealthy and wise. While some religious traditions teach that wealth is evil and poverty honors God, Solomon taught us to honor God with our wealth. If wealth is evil, then it can not be used to honor God. In this Bible study, we will learn from the writings of Solomon that we can honor or dishonor God with our wealth, based on the following four factors.

1 The Way We Earn Money

It is possible to earn money in a way that dishonors God and violates His Word. God's way of accumulating wealth includes patience, hard work, and integrity. The latest "get-rich-quick" scheme that promises no hard work and requires little integrity is not from God. Why do these schemes have such magnetic appeal?

Accumulating wealth God's way includes the following principles:

Patience

Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it. PROVERBS 13:11

Integrity

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. PROVERBS 22:1

Justice

Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty. PROVERBS 22:16

Hard Work

The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied. PROVERBS 13:4

2 The Way We Spend Money

People who spend way too much end up in debt. The two key principles to avoid debt are self-control and contentment. People who combine discontentment with lack of self-control end up deep in debt.

*The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender. **PROVERBS 22:7***

*²⁶Be not one of those who give pledges, who put up security for debts. ²⁷If you have nothing with which to pay, why should your bed be taken from under you? **PROVERBS 22:26,27***

*The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives . . . **PSALM 37:21***

Have you repaid all you borrowed?

Are you in debt? How did you get in debt? How will you get out of debt?

3 The Way We Save and Invest

A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.

PROVERBS 13:22

An inheritance gained hastily in the beginning will not be blessed in the end. **PROVERBS 20:21**

John Wesley taught his followers to “earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can.” The world’s way is to “grab all you can and can all you grab.”

Do you save and invest? If so, how much do you save and how do you invest it?

If you are not currently saving, then start today with a savings goal. What is your savings goal and plan?

4 The Way We Give

God blesses us so we can be a blessing to others. The more we give to God and to others, the more God gives to us in return. In the kingdom of God, the way to financial prosperity is through radical generosity.

⁹Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. **PROVERBS 3:9,10**

What does it mean to give the Lord your *firstfruits*? What is the difference between firstfruits and leftovers?

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. **PROVERBS 11:25**

What does it mean to *bring blessing*? What happens to someone who brings blessing?

GET THE POINT

When we look at the life and teaching of Solomon, it becomes clear that God's will is for His children to prosper. The Bible also gives us clear guidelines for handling money. When God sees that we can be trusted with money by the way we earn, spend, save, and give, He will gladly entrust us with abundant prosperity.

GET REAL

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. I have read my Bible and prayed every day this week. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I have controlled my tongue this week in a way that honors God (e.g. no gossip, cursing, outbursts of anger). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. I have been completely biblical and above reproach in all my financial dealings this week, including cheerfully giving my tithe and offerings to God. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. I have honored biblical standards and have avoided relating to or communicating with women in ways that are inappropriate or misleading. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. I have guarded my heart and eyes by avoiding sexually explicit images this week (e.g. from TV, movies, internet, magazines). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. I have spent quality time with my wife this week. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. I have spent quality time with my children this week. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. I have been completely honest in answering the first seven statements. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

PRAYER

On the space provided below, record prayer requests and answered prayers.

6

MAN AND HIS MINISTRY

How to Make Disciples

GET STARTED

1. What is the most important trait a leader must have? Why?

2. Name two or three negative traits that you think would disqualify a person from being your leader. Why?

GET IN THE WORD

¹You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ²and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. 2 TIMOTHY 2:1,2

Paul was discipled by Ananias and Barnabas, and Paul made disciples. Like Paul, we should all be discipled, and we should all make disciples. Paul told Timothy that he was not to be just a good disciple, but he was to *entrust* all he learned from Paul to others. Paul expected Timothy, despite his youth, to make disciples. In this lesson, we will identify the five keys Paul mentions to make disciples with.

1 Be a disciple.

... and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. **2 TIMOTHY 2:2**

It is common for “super spiritual” people to claim they do not need human discipleship because they are disciples of Jesus. Notice that Timothy was not being disciplined by Jesus, but by Paul, who was a fallen, finite, fallible human.

Are you a disciple? Who is discipling you?

When are you being disciplined? How?

2 Be strong in grace.

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus . . . **2 TIMOTHY 2:1**

Grace, not the law, is the power which transforms a human heart and a person’s lifestyle. Paul’s message to Timothy was that grace is the starting point of effective discipleship.

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." **JAMES 4:6**

(Read also **TITUS 2:11,12; ROMANS 7:5; COLOSSIANS 4:6.**)

What is grace? What does grace train us to do?

(Titus 2:11,12)

What arouses the sinful nature? (Romans 7:5)

What does *seasoned with salt* mean? (Colossians 4:6)

3 Disciple reliable people.

... and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. **2 TIMOTHY 2:2**

Jesus disciplined twelve men in a small group setting. While He did minister to large crowds and individuals, Jesus' priority was small group discipleship. Likewise, Paul told Timothy to disciple *faithful men*, not just one faithful man.

(Read also **LUKE 6:12,13.**)

What did Jesus do before choosing His twelve disciples?
(Luke 6:12,13)

Why do you think Jesus chose a small group, rather than fifty or 100?

What are the benefits of small group discipleship, as opposed to a large setting?

4 Teach disciples to make disciples.

Paul told Timothy that those he discipled must be *able to teach others*. One mark of a disciple is fruitfulness in making other disciples.

What kind of people did Paul tell Timothy to disciple?
(2 Timothy 2:1,2) What is a *faithful* person? What is an unfaithful person?

5 Teach disciples to obey God.

The simplest definition of a disciple is a follower of Jesus. We make disciples by teaching people how to follow and obey God.

¹⁹“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:19,20

What are we to teach disciples? What is the difference between teaching knowledge and teaching obedience?

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples . . .” **JOHN 8:31**

What does it mean to *abide* in Jesus’ teaching?

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. **1 CORINTHIANS 11:1**

Paul told the Corinthians to imitate him. Why is it important for us to have someone to imitate?

GET THE POINT

After his dramatic conversion, Paul became a disciple, and he spent his life making disciples. Discipleship is the pattern God gave us to build His kingdom. We are not to simply make converts. We are to make disciples who will make disciples. This is the way God's kingdom advances.

GET REAL

	YES	NO
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PRAYER

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Steve Murrell is the cofounder and president of Every Nation. He is also the founding pastor of Victory in Manila, Philippines, one church that meets in thirty-six locations across Metro Manila. He is the author of several books including *The Multiplication Challenge*, *100 Years From Now*, *WikiChurch*, and *My First, Second & Third Attempts at Parenting*, and is coauthor of *The Purple Book* — Every Nation's foundational Bible study with over one million copies in print. After living in Manila for over thirty years, Steve and Deborah now split their time between Nashville, Manila, and Delta Airlines. They have three sons and two grandchildren.

To learn more about Steve, visit stevemurrell.com.

**IRON SHARPENS IRON,
AND ONE MAN SHARPENS ANOTHER.**

PROVERBS 27:17

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How to Serve God and Save Your Family

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How to Honor God with Wealth

MAN AND HIS MINISTRY

How to Make Disciples



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