

LESSON 1.1 • WRONG BELIEFS

OUTLINE

- I. Chances are, you are limiting God.
 - A. One area in which you limit Him is through your wrong beliefs.
 - B. Many think that God is in total control and that everything that happens is His will.
 - i. If their marriages fail, they think that He is breaking them or humbling them.
 - ii. If their businesses fail, they accept this as His will.
 - C. People need the Gospel, as well as a set of principles and a moral code, which will cause them to change their belief system.
 - i. Once these things are put in place, they will begin to prosper.
 - D. The way you think in your heart will direct the course of your life (Prov. 23:7 and Rom. 12:2).

- II. We all have something that God wants to accomplish through us.
 - A. Most of us have bought into the lie that there's nothing special about us.
 - i. God has good thoughts toward each of us (Jer. 29:11).
 - ii. We are fearfully and wonderfully made (Ps. 139:14).
 - B. Most of us are living way below God's standard and limiting what He wants to do in our lives.
 - C. There are people we know who will die and go to hell if we just sit around and wait for our pastors or another minister to talk to them.
 - D. We need to rise up and let God use us to touch people and help us reach our full potential!

- III. All of us are leaders.
 - A. Leadership is defined as influence, and all of us have influence over someone.
 - B. Some of us have more influence than others, but all of us are called to influence someone.
 - C. God doesn't just sovereignly make everything work.

- IV. God used Psalm 78:41 to revolutionize my life:

Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

 - A. No one has exhausted God's ability, resources, or power for their lives—He is huge.
 - B. If you can point to your great education, your charisma, or your ability when people ask how you're doing what you're doing and why you're so blessed, then you have missed God.
 - C. If your life isn't supernatural, it's superficial.
 - D. God will call you to do something bigger than yourself.

- E. God called me to preach the Word while I was an introvert—I couldn’t look someone in the face and talk to them when I was in high school, but now I speak to millions and millions of people.
 - F. God had me do things that there’s no human explanation for.
 - G. I don’t have an answer to why God’s blessings are so big on my ministry.
 - H. I’m not doing anything except loving Jesus and holding on to Him.
- V. All of us have missed God at some point in our lives.
- A. None of us are believing God as we should or doing everything we are supposed to be doing.
 - B. He wants us to believe for big things, yet most of us only believe for small things.
 - C. If we believe that God is sovereign and can do whatever He wants, then we might just have to tear Psalm 78 from our Bibles (see Ps. 78:41).
 - D. When the Israelites refused to go into the Promised Land, they limited God because of their fear of man.
- VI. We can apply this principle—fear limits God—to other areas of our lives, such as healing.
- A. According to 3 John 2, God does not want us sick, yet we often limit God in how He can heal us.
 - B. Moses was strong and had perfect eyesight when he was 120 years old (Deut. 34:7).
 - C. If God will do that for a person in the Old Covenant, just imagine how much more He will do for us who are under the New Covenant.
 - D. We limit God by thinking that things have to be a certain way because that’s what others are experiencing.

If thou shalt say in thine heart, These nations are more than I; how can I dispossess them?

DEUTERONOMY 7:17

- E. This verse is exactly what I was saying when God told me I was limiting Him.
- F. God promised the Israelites absolute victory, but they wavered and began to doubt His promise.
- G. When they did that, they limited God and He couldn’t drive the nations out (Heb. 4:2).

LESSON 1.1 • WRONG BELIEFS

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. One area in which you limit God is through your what?

2. True or false: God is in total control, and everything that happens is His will.

3. What are some things that need to be put into place for you to begin to change your beliefs and begin to prosper?

4. The course of your life is directed by what?

- A. The career path you choose
- B. The plan that God has chosen for you
- C. The way you think in your heart
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

5. Everyone has something that God wants to _____ through them.

6. Compared to God's standard, where do most people live?

- A. Just at
- B. Way below
- C. Way above
- D. Comparable to others
- E. On the right path

7. *Discussion question:* How does letting God use you not only help others but also help you reach your full potential?

8. True or false: If leadership is defined as influence, all of us are leaders.
9. Everyone is called to _____.
- A. Be prophets
 - B. The pastorate
 - C. Politics
 - D. The mission field
 - E. Influence people
10. *Discussion question:* What does it mean that God doesn't sovereignly work everything out?
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11. Because God is huge, what can you not exhaust?
- A. God's ability
 - B. God's resources
 - C. God's power
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above
12. If someone asks you why you are so blessed and you point to your education, charisma, or ability, why have you missed it?
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13. *Discussion question:* Why does Andrew say that if your life isn't supernatural, it's superficial?
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14. True or false: Most people are believing God for big things and are doing everything they should be doing.

15. *Discussion question:* Read Psalm 78:41. How does believing that God is sovereign limit Him?

16. What limited God and stopped the Israelites from going into the Promised Land?

17. True or false: According to 3 John 2, God sometimes wants you to be sick if it will help your soul prosper.

18. You limit God by _____ that things have to be a certain way because that's what others are _____.

19. True or false: God promised the Israelites absolute victory in their battles.

20. The Israelites limited what God could do for them when they _____.

- A. Wavered and began to doubt
- B. Believed and began to shout
- C. Fasted and began to pray
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

LESSON 1.1 • WRONG BELIEFS
SCRIPTURES

PROVERBS 23:7

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

ROMANS 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

ACTS 10:34

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.

JEREMIAH 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

PSALM 139:14

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

PSALM 78:41

Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:26

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

3 JOHN 2

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

DEUTERONOMY 34:7

And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:12

For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

DEUTERONOMY 7:17

If thou shalt say in thine heart, These nations are more than I; how can I dispossess them?

HEBREWS 4:2

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

LESSON 1.2 • WRONG BELIEFS

OUTLINE

VII. Many of us use Ephesians 3:20 to say that God is able to do anything, but it's "*according to the power that worketh in us*"—

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

- A. If we are not building ourselves up on our most holy faith (Jude 20), then we limit the power of God that flows from us.
- B. If we're not healed, it's not God who didn't heal us—it's us not releasing the power of God on the inside of us.
- C. When we say that God just sovereignly moved, we are saying that no person had anything to do with His moving.
- D. That is not scriptural, because God always uses people.

VIII. God doesn't move in waves.

- A. That's not the way God operates; He wants every single one of us to walk in His fullness.
- B. He would pour out movements all at one time if we would receive them that way.
- C. If we'll stop limiting Him, He *can* do what He's always wanted.

IX. God wants to move and bring us into our Promised Land.

- A. He has a purpose for us, and when we find it, we will be fulfilled.
- B. Some of us have never experienced this because we are not where we are supposed to be—we are taking the safe route.
- C. We've been taught to be logical and do things according to the way everyone else in our families has done it, but we are limiting God!

X. It is so clear in Scripture that we should not measure ourselves by ourselves or the world.

For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:12, EMPHASIS MINE

- A. Instead we should let the Word of God control and dominate our thoughts.
- B. Many of us look at our parents, grandparents, or the television, and we listen to all the bad things that have happened to other people.
- C. We start expecting these things to happen to us and limit God by comparing ourselves among ourselves.
- D. We look around and see that there's a recession, so we expect this to happen to us.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

- E. Many of us let what happens in the world affect us.
 - i. We may say "Oh, I'm only human," but if we're born again, we are not *only* human: One-third of us (i.e., the spirit) is wall-to-wall Holy Ghost.
- F. We shouldn't limit God by being plugged into the world and concerned about what's going on in everyone else's lives.

LESSON 1.2 • WRONG BELIEFS

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

21. Not building yourself up on your most _____ _____ limits the power of God that flows through you.

22. If you are not healed, it's because _____.

- A. God did not heal you
- B. You don't want to be healed
- C. You are not releasing the power in you
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

23. *Discussion question:* Why is it not scriptural to say that God sovereignly moves?

24. True or false: God moves in waves.

25. God wants you to _____ in His _____.

26. *Discussion question:* What movements of God do you think would happen if people stopped limiting Him?

27. What happens when you find God's purpose for you?

28. What is one reason you may not be where you're supposed to be?
- A. You are taking the safe route
 - B. You don't have a navigation system in your car
 - C. You haven't listened to enough of Andrew's teachings
 - D. A and B
 - E. A and C

29. *Discussion question:* How do logic and family traditions limit God?

30. What should you allow to control and dominate your thoughts?
- A. The Word of God
 - B. The news on television
 - C. The recommendations of doctors
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

31. Why do many start expecting bad things to happen?

32. True or false: If you're born again, you're only human.

33. *Discussion question:* How can being plugged into the world and being concerned about what's going on in everyone else's lives limit God?

LESSON 1.2 • WRONG BELIEFS
SCRIPTURES

EPHESIANS 3:20

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

JUDE 20

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:12

For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

PROVERBS 23:7

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

LESSON 1.3 • WRONG BELIEFS

OUTLINE

- XI. There should be a difference between Christians and those who don't know God.
- A. God made believers for more than what they are experiencing in their lives—He made them for more than average.
 - B. If they are average, that means they aren't good or bad; they are lukewarm (Rev. 3:16).
 - C. This is not only true in health, finances, and the things happening in this world, but it's also true in the spiritual realm.
 - D. Most people aren't truly seeking God and listening to Him.
 - E. They do not have a close relationship with Him, so they start thinking, *Well, most people don't see things come to pass, so it's okay for me not to see total victory either.*
 - F. They limit God by the way they think.
- XII. We as believers should be doing better than the average person.
- A. After all, Jesus died to deliver us from this present evil world (Gal. 1:4).
 - B. But sadly, that is not every believer's experience.
 - C. Do we really want to just be like everyone else with the same diseases and the same financial and emotional problems?
 - D. God's Word will make us far, far, far above, and not beneath (Deut. 28:13).
 - i. We're the head and not the tail.
 - ii. We're supposed to be rejoicing in the midst of problems.
 - iii. God did not create anyone for failure—He created us to be winners!
- XIII. There is something that happens in the spiritual realm when you start believing God.
- A. You've got to see God's purpose for your life and take the limits off Him.
 - B. Believe He has something more for you than you are experiencing in your life.
 - C. When I changed my thinking and started believing differently, I saw the supernatural power of God.
 - D. But you can't have the fruit without the root.
- XIV. You can take the limits off God!
- A. You can start to see God multiply and increase your effectiveness and transform your life.
 - B. Once you make this adjustment in your heart, it's just a matter of time until you see the results in your life.
 - C. Let the Word of God challenge you.

- D. Let the Holy Spirit speak through you and paint a picture of who you're supposed to be and what you're supposed to be doing.

LESSON 1.3 • WRONG BELIEFS

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

34. True or false: There should be a difference between Christians and those who don't know God.

35. *Discussion question:* Read Revelation 3:16. What is the danger of being lukewarm?

36. Most people aren't truly _____ God and _____ to Him.

37. If you don't have a close relationship with God, you might think, _____.

- A. *It's okay for me not to see total victory*
- B. *Most people don't see things come to pass*
- C. *God no longer answers prayers*
- D. B and C
- E. A and B

38. *Discussion question:* Why doesn't every believer do better than the average person, who isn't delivered from this present evil world?

39. What will make you far above the diseases and financial and emotional problems of people in the world?

40. God did not create anyone for _____.

41. When you start believing God, where will things begin to happen?

42. When you take the limits off God, what will you start to see?

- A. God increase your effectiveness
- B. God transform your life
- C. A picture of what you're supposed to be
- D. A picture of what you're supposed to be doing
- E. All of the above

43. If you make this adjustment in _____, it's just a matter of time until you see the results.

LESSON 1.3 • WRONG BELIEFS
SCRIPTURES

REVELATION 3:16

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

ROMANS 2:11

For there is no respect of persons with God.

GALATIANS 1:4

Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.

DEUTERONOMY 28:13

And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them.

ACTS 10:34

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.

LESSON 2.1 • CARES OF THIS WORLD

OUTLINE

- I. It is easy nowadays to let the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things enter in and choke the Word:

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, [19] And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

MARK 4:18-19

- A. When the seed (the Word of God) is planted in the ground (our hearts), it has the potential to produce a hundredfold.
- B. But the seed doesn't determine how much is produced; the ground does.
- C. When things enter into our hearts and choke God's Word, we limit what God can do in our lives.

- II. We cannot really understand the greatness of God without being still and shutting some things out.

- A. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God."
- B. If we are busy and have too much going on in the background of our lives, we will limit our ability to hear God and will miss what He is telling us to do.

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: [12] And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

1 KINGS 19:11-12

- C. God can yell and do things in a spectacular way, but the true nature of God is a still, small voice.
- D. Jesus said, "I'm meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matt. 11:29).
- E. The way that 99 percent of us are going to relate to the Lord is through something subtle and simple.

- III. God is constantly speaking to us, but we need to spend time being still.
- A. Many of us don't like to be still, because when we do, we begin to think, *Is this all there is? Is this all my life is meant to be? Is there something more? Am I really doing what God called me to do?*
 - B. Most of us are uncomfortable with these questions and don't want to deal with them, so we drown them out.
 - C. This keeps us from hearing the voice of God.
 - D. Rather than boasting about our busyness, we need to get to a place that's conducive to hearing God's voice.
 - E. Jesus separated His disciples and told them to come apart and rest awhile (Mark 6:31).
 - F. Jesus Himself stayed up all night praying (Matt. 14), recharging His spiritual batteries by communing with His Father.
 - G. If Jesus needed to separate, then we need to follow His example and do the same.
- IV. God has given us the authority to run our own lives, but we can only reach our full potential when become God dependent and look to Him for leadership.

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

JEREMIAH 10:23

- A. We need to spend time with God and His Word and follow His plan for our lives.

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

DEUTERONOMY 30:19

- B. God gave us a choice, but the right choice is to choose life—to choose God.

- V. You need to keep your mind stayed on the Lord.
- A. The part of you that meditates on the Word is the same part that worries.
 - B. Worry is meditation in a negative form.
 - C. You have the power to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ:

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) [5] Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5

- D. If you are not in perfect peace, your mind is not stayed on the Lord (Is. 26:3).
- E. If you are going to take the limits off God, you are going to have to diminish the junk of this world that is coming into your heart, still yourself, be quiet, and start listening to God.

LESSON 2.1 • CARES OF THIS WORLD

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. According to Mark 4:18-19, what can happen when things of this world choke out the Word of God?
 - A. You can't have children
 - B. The Word becomes unfruitful
 - C. You can lose your job
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

2. *Discussion question:* What are some things that choke the Word and limit what God can do in your life?

3. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be _____, and _____ that I am God."

4. If you are busy and have too much going on in the background of your life, what will happen?

5. What did Jesus say in Matthew 11:29?

- A. "I am the Son of God"
- B. "I am proud and arrogant in heart"
- C. "My yoke is easy and My burden is light"
- D. "I am mighty and awesome, and here is a fireworks display"
- E. "I am meek and lowly in heart"

6. *Discussion question:* Why do you think the main way you are going to relate to the Lord is through something subtle and simple?

7. How often is God speaking to you?

8. Why do many not like to be still?

- A. They begin to think of questions that make them uncomfortable
- B. They hear strange noises
- C. They get telephone calls and need to talk
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

9. *Discussion question:* Why do you think people tend to drown out uncomfortable questions and God's voice with busyness?

10. What did Jesus have to do to recharge His spiritual batteries?

- A. Go on vacation
- B. Exercise His authority and demand His rest
- C. Stay up and commune with His Father
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

11. If Jesus needed to separate, do you need to follow His example and do the same?

12. Your full potential is reached when you become _____, not independent.

13. *Discussion question:* Why do you think God gave you a choice and told you to choose life (Deut. 30:19)?

14. True or false: Worry is meditation in a negative form.

15. According to 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, what do you have the power to do?

16. You have to diminish the _____ of this world that is coming into your _____, if you are going to take the limits off God.

LESSON 2.1 • CARES OF THIS WORLD
SCRIPTURES

MARK 4:18-19

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, [19] And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

PSALM 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

1 KINGS 19:11-12

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: [12] And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

MATTHEW 11:29

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

PSALM 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

MARK 6:31

And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

JEREMIAH 10:23

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

DEUTERONOMY 30:19

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) [5] Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

ISAIAH 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

LESSON 2.2 • CARES OF THIS WORLD

OUTLINE

VI. What would have happened if God had called Ananias and he hadn't been able to listen to God?

And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

ACTS 9:10

- A. It's possible that God would've raised up someone else to minister to Saul.
- B. How many of you has God spoken to but you weren't there because you were too busy?
- C. If you are going to take the limits off God, you are going to have to start spending time with Him.
- D. The Word of God is so important—it will focus your attention on the things of God.
- E. You have to start unplugging from this world and putting your mind on God and giving Him an opportunity to speak to you in that still, small voice.

VII. There are many of you who are so talented that you depend only upon that talent and that you don't feel much need for God.

- A. It's a blessing not to have any great talent, because it makes you dependent upon God.

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:27

- B. The people who make a difference are those who don't have a lot, because they are turning to God and seeking Him; therefore, He can speak to them.
- C. God still speaks to the mighty and the talented, but the vast majority of them don't listen, because they aren't as dependent on Him.

VIII. Proverbs 4:26 says—

Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

- A. You need to meditate on the path you're on and be still.
- B. If you do, your path will be established.

- C. If you are going to remove the limits from God and see His will come to pass in your life, you have to commit yourself to seeking Him with all of your heart.
 - D. You might be looking for something more profound than this, but until you start doing these things, there's no point in going on to the next step.
- IX. “*My sheep hear my voice*” (John 10:27, emphasis mine).
- A. Jesus didn't say, “My sheep *can* hear My voice.”
 - B. Every time we have a choice to make, God is giving us directions.
 - C. If we are not hearing His voice, it's because we are dull of hearing—not because He is not speaking to us.
 - i. We are drowning out His voice with other things.
 - D. We don't need to know everything before we step out; we just need to know that God is speaking to us.

LESSON 2.2 • CARES OF THIS WORLD

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

17. *Discussion question:* What opportunities do you feel you may have missed because you were too busy to hear God?

18. Why is the Word of God so important?

19. True or false: You have to start unplugging from this world and putting your mind on God and giving Him an opportunity to speak to you in that still, small voice.

20. It's a _____ not to have any great talent, because it makes you _____ on God.

21. Why don't the mighty and talented hear God speaking?

- A. He isn't speaking to them
- B. They don't listen
- C. They aren't dependent on Him
- D. A and C
- E. B and C

22. *Discussion question:* What do you think it means to “ponder the path of thy feet” (Prov. 4:26)?

- 23. What will happen if you meditate on the path you're on and be still?
 - A. Your path will disappear
 - B. Your path will be established
 - C. Birds and deer will come to you
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

24. *Discussion question:* What does John 10:27 mean to you?

25. True or false: God isn't always giving directions.

26. You don't need to know everything before you step out; you just need to know what?

LESSON 2.2 • CARES OF THIS WORLD
SCRIPTURES

ACTS 9:10

And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:27

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.

JEREMIAH 10:23

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

PROVERBS 4:26

Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

JOHN 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

LESSON 3.1 • FEAR OF RISK

OUTLINE

- I. Many people fear the unknown because there is risk involved.
 - A. If you really have a dynamic relationship with God, you don't need to fear the unknown (1 John 4:18).
 - B. God is never going to do anything to hurt you.
 - C. He's always going to do things to bless you.
 - D. You don't need to fear starting over again.

 - II. Some people are just afraid to do anything.
 - A. That's why they're failing—they are playing it too safe.
 - B. Second Kings 7:3-9 is a good example of this.
 - i. The Scripture says that the four lepers said to each other, "*Why sit we here until we die?*"
 - ii. They decided to take a risk and go to the enemy, knowing that the worst thing that could happen to them is that they would die.
 - iii. If we looked at this choice from an unemotional, logical standpoint, we would see that this was the smartest thing for the lepers to do.
 - iv. When the lepers got out there, the Lord caused the Syrians to hear the sound of an army, so the Syrians panicked and fled, leaving behind all their possessions.
 - v. Instantly the lepers went from a state of poverty and starvation to being the richest people around.
 - vi. It was all because they took a chance by going out and facing the possibility of losing their lives.

 - III. Fear of failure is a big deal.
 - A. We limit God when we are afraid to step out and do something because we think we might fail.
 - B. I believe that the biggest failure is when we play it too safe because we are afraid of making a mistake, but we will all make mistakes.
 - C. If we're afraid of doing something because we may not do it perfectly, we'll never get anything done.
 - D. It's better to actually step out and believe God and, if we fail, let God pick us up and dust us off so we can get up and go again.
-

- IV. The world is looking for God.
 - A. They are looking in all the wrong places, and one of the reasons is because the people who are born again aren't living in the fullness of their God-given calls.
 - B. Your life should be a testimony.
 - C. If you would catch on fire for God, the world would come and watch you burn!

- V. We need to recognize that God made us for a purpose.
 - A. All of our trophies and achievements aren't going to seem like very much if God says, "I created you for this, and you never did it. You never believed Me."
 - B. We may not have resisted God's purpose for us, but because of a fear of failure, laziness, fear of change, or other reasons, we may not have really embraced it.
 - C. But God wants to do something special in our lives.

- VI. There is no place like being in the center of God's will.
 - A. Any reasons you may have for not doing the will of God are not good enough—they are wrong.
 - B. Being in the center of God's will is the safest, happiest, and most beneficial place to be.
 - C. I am not going to live anywhere else but where I believe God wants me to be, and you should do the same.

- VII. If you feel that God has put something in your heart, do it!
 - A. Maybe you aren't ready to do everything He's told you right now, but at least start moving in that direction.
 - B. If you aren't completely sure of what God told you to do, put some motion to your boat, even if it's not full steam ahead.
 - C. You must find and actively pursue God's purpose in order to have the real joy and peace of the Lord.
 - D. There is a holy dissatisfaction that God places on the inside of you when you're off-track—when you know there's something more.

ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

When you start moving, God will give you direction. Commit yourself to doing something. If nothing else, commit yourself to discovering God's will for your life. I have a teaching entitled *How to Find, Follow, and Fulfill God's Will*. This will be a great tool to help you find God's will for your life. You aren't going to fulfill His will accidentally; you have to do it on purpose.

LESSON 3.1 • FEAR OF RISK

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. True or false: Many people fear the unknown because there is risk involved.

2. Why do you not need to fear starting over again?

3. Why are some people failing?

- A. They aren't trying hard enough
- B. They didn't say the right prayer
- C. They are playing it too safe
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

4. *Discussion question:* What lessons can you take from the story of the lepers and apply to your life?

5. True or false: If you know you will make a mistake, it's better to play it safe.

6. *Discussion question:* Why do you think Andrew says that is it better to step out and believe God and, if you fail, let God pick you up and dust you off so you can get up and go again?

7. Why do people in the world either not find God or look for Him in the wrong places?

8. Your life should be a _____.

9. *Discussion question:* What do you think has kept you from embracing God's purpose for you?

10. Any reason you may have for not doing God's will is what?

11. Being in the center of God's will is the _____, _____, and most _____ place to be.

12. *Discussion question:* Why should you not live anywhere else but where you believe God wants you to be?

13. True or false: If you believe God has put something in your heart, the best thing is to do it.

14. If you aren't ready to do everything He's told you right now, at least start _____ in that direction.

15. When does a holy dissatisfaction come on you?

- A. When you see man's unrighteousness
- B. When you're off-track from God's purpose
- C. When you can't find the right Bible
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

LESSON 3.1 • FEAR OF RISK
SCRIPTURES

1 JOHN 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

2 KINGS 7:3-9

And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? [4] If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. [5] And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there. [6] For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us. [7] Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life. [8] And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid it; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence also, and went and hid it. [9] Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household.

JEREMIAH 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

LESSON 3.2 • FEAR OF RISK
OUTLINE

VIII. People fear making mistakes.

- A. This really comes down to the fact that they aren't secure in Jesus.
- B. They are afraid because their identity and worth are caught up in what they do.
- C. We need to find our security and identity in our relationship with God.

IX. Many of you may be limiting God because you aren't doing what God has put in your heart due to the risk involved.

- A. You're afraid to get out of the boat.
- B. When you get old, will you just sit around and wait on death?
- C. That's where a lot of people are headed—they are afraid to follow what God has told them to do.
- D. But it's exciting to be out there saying, "God, if You don't come through, I'm going to make a huge splash!"

X. If your life doesn't have a little bit of excitement in it, you might as well say, "God, I'll go anywhere or do anything You want."

- A. Follow through on it, and I guarantee that God will make your life exciting.
- B. You might fail, but Proverbs 24:16 says that a righteous man will get up seven times.
- C. Being perfect doesn't mean you are sinless.

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

2 CHRONICLES 16:9

- D. God was referring to people who are committed to Him.
- E. God is looking throughout the whole earth for people like this.
- F. Are you willing to risk it all to follow Him?

XI. You may have some things in your heart that would cause you to live your life differently if you didn't have restrictions.

- A. Fear is causing you to limit yourself and limit what God can do, because you're afraid that you might not prosper as much as you are prospering now.
- B. You are afraid that people might criticize you or that something negative might happen.

- XII. The vast majority of people take their potential to the grave, dying without ever realizing their full potential.
- A. Hundreds of people have dreams and goals that have been set aside.
 - B. They have let life limit them; therefore, they limit God.
 - C. I can't even relate to people who are living their lives and just letting circumstances dictate to them.
 - D. They don't know what God put them here for, they aren't doing what God has equipped them to do, and they aren't reaching their full potential.
 - E. That's not living—that's just surviving.
- XIII. God wants us to be practical.
- A. We need to take care of ourselves and our family.
 - B. But in the process, we need to start dreaming and believing God for those dreams in our hearts to come to pass.
 - C. We need to say, "Father, show me how I can make my life count."
 - D. Our lives should be touching others and making a difference.
- XIV. Another fear that hinders people is the fear of change.
- A. Resistance to change is really strong in our culture.
 - B. One of the reasons people resist change is because they're lazy.
 - C. It takes effort to change.
 - D. God didn't make us to sit and coast through life.
 - E. We will last longer, be happier and more productive, and everything will work better in our lives when we have a purpose.
 - F. We don't need to *rust* out; we need to *wear* out.
 - G. I am so thankful I have a purpose that is going to keep me going until I draw my last breath.
- XV. God will call us to do something beyond ourselves.
- A. This makes us dependent on Him.
 - B. If we're just doing what we can do, we've missed God.
 - C. If we really knew the plans that God has for us and what He wants to do with our lives, we would realize there's more than what we are doing.
 - D. There are a satisfaction and a contentment that come when we know that we are doing what God called us to do.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

ROMANS 12:1-2

- E. This isn't just for full-time preachers or ministers—it's our normal Christian duty.
- F. Jesus died for us, so we should live for Him.
- G. We should commit ourselves without any questions.
- H. Let's take the limits off God, and we'll watch His blessings overtake us!

ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

I have a book entitled *Effortless Change*. In this book, I talk about how we can change effortlessly, but there's even an "effort" in that. The effort is getting into the Word of God and renewing our minds. Then as we think, that's the way we'll become (Prov. 23:7).

LESSON 3.2 • FEAR OF RISK

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

16. Why do people fear that they will make mistakes?

17. *Discussion question:* Why is it so important to find your security and identity in your relationship with God?

18. *Discussion question:* When you get old, will you just sit around and wait on death?

19. By telling God “I’ll go anywhere or do anything You want,” what will you bring into your life?

- A. Excitement
- B. Trouble
- C. Resistance
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

20. True or false: Being perfect means you are sinless.

21. In 2 Chronicles 16:9, God was referring to people who are _____ to Him.

22. What are some fears that may be limiting you and limiting what God can do?

- A. You may not prosper as much as you are now
- B. People may criticize you
- C. Something negative might happen
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

23. For the vast majority of people, where does their potential end up?

24. Why do most people die without realizing their full potential?

25. If you don't know what God put you here for, aren't doing what God has equipped you to do, and aren't reaching your full potential, is that living?

26. *Discussion question:* In what ways should your life be touching others and making a difference?

27. *Discussion question:* Discuss some of the reasons people resist change.

28. What is true when you have a purpose?

- A. You will be happier
- B. You will be more productive
- C. Everything will work better in your life
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

29. You don't need to _____ out; you need to _____ out.

30. True or false: When God calls you to do something beyond yourself, it makes you more dependent on Him.

31. A _____ and a _____ come when you know that you are doing what God has called you to do.

32. Is Romans 12:1-2 just for full-time preachers or ministers?

33. *Discussion question:* What does “Jesus died for you, so you should live for Him” mean to you?

LESSON 3.2 • FEAR OF RISK
SCRIPTURES

PROVERBS 24:16

For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

2 CHRONICLES 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

PROVERBS 23:7

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

ROMANS 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

LESSON 4.1 • FEAR OF MAN

OUTLINE

- I. Fear activates Satan and releases his power the same way that faith activates God and releases His power.
 - A. Fear paralyzes people, yet many people are living their lives in fear.
 - B. One fear that limits what God can do in our lives is the fear of man, also known as persecution.
 - C. Nobody likes to be persecuted.
 - D. God created us for relationship and fellowship.
 - E. It's not normal or natural for us to like people hating or criticizing us.
 - F. But we can cast our cares about it on the Lord (1 Pet. 5:7).

- II. When you start doing what God called you to do, you have a huge target drawn on your back.
 - A. Increased influence comes with increased criticism.
 - B. That's why most people would rather stay in the background.
 - C. They don't want to face the criticism and persecution that go along with stepping out and doing what God called them to do.

- III. The vast majority of Christians are insecure because they are so paranoid about somebody criticizing them.

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

PROVERBS 29:25

- A. If we are so insecure that we can't handle another person criticizing us, we will never see God's fullness in our lives.

And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

1 KINGS 17:1

- B. Elijah stood up in front of a king who was killing all of God's prophets, knowing that he himself could be killed.
- C. He was bold enough to speak the truth.
- D. We will limit what God can do through us if we know something is true but won't stand up for the truth because we are afraid of what people will say.

- E. We have become addicted to everyone's acceptance.
 - F. It's not that we should enjoy the rejection of others, but we should get to a place where if God loves us—which He does—then that ought to be sufficient for us.
- IV. It's amazing how insecure we become when we aren't in a vibrant relationship with God—we need to have everyone else's approval.
- A. For us to debate whether we're going to do what God tells us to do because someone might not like it is a fear of man.
 - B. We have no right to reject the truth for other people.
 - C. We need to give people the right to reject His Word on their own.
 - D. When we don't tell people the truth because we're afraid of how they might respond, we reject the truth for them.

LESSON 4.1 • FEAR OF MAN

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. True or false: Fear activates Satan and releases his power the same way that faith activates God and releases His power.

2. What is another name for persecution?

3. *Discussion question:* Why do you think no one likes to be persecuted?

4. Increased _____ comes with increased _____.

5. Why do most people stay in the background?

6. Proverbs 29:25 says, “*The fear of man bringeth a _____: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*”

7. *Discussion question:* What lessons can you learn from Elijah’s boldness?

8. If God loves you—which He does—then that ought to be what?
 - A. A point on your spiritual scorecard
 - B. Sufficient for you
 - C. Good for a free drink at the coffee shop
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

9. True or false: For you to debate whether you're going to do what God tells you to do because someone might not like it is a fear of failure.

10. *Discussion question:* Discuss why you have no right to reject the truth for other people.

LESSON 4.1 • FEAR OF MAN
SCRIPTURES

1 PETER 5:7

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

PROVERBS 29:25

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

1 KINGS 17:1

And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

LEVITICUS 19:17

Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

LESSON 4.2 • FEAR OF MAN

OUTLINE

- V. Many people are afraid someone is going to criticize them or reject them, so they are paralyzed and unable to do what God tells them to do.
- A. All of this is a fear of man, which will limit God.

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

PROVERBS 29:25

- B. We need to come to a place where, when God speaks to us, nobody else is going to stop us from doing what He told us to do.
- C. We cannot respect or honor anyone else's opinion as much as we honor God's opinion.
- VI. God wanted the Israelites to enter into the Promised Land, but the Israelites focused their attention on the wrong thing (Num. 13:22-33).
- A. They looked at the size of the inhabitants rather than the land that God told them to possess—they saw the people as giants and themselves as grasshoppers.
- B. It doesn't matter how other people see us; it matters how God sees us.
- C. We need to see ourselves as God sees us!
- D. If the Israelites had analyzed their situation properly, it would have been a cakewalk for them to go into the Promised Land (Josh. 2:9-24).
- E. By focusing their attention on the natural instead of obeying God, they delayed His plan from coming to pass for forty years.
- VII. In 1 Samuel 17, David went out to face Goliath and said, "*Who is this uncircumcised Philistine?*" (1 Sam. 17:26).
- A. Goliath was not an Israelite; he was not one of God's covenant people.
- B. We ought to have this same attitude when unbelievers criticize us.
- C. If they don't know God, then our opinion of God is better than their opinion of God.
- D. If we are born again and have the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we are the exception today: We have a revelation of God and an access to Him that a lot of Christians don't have.
- E. Why would we elevate someone else's opinion and put that kind of authority upon someone who doesn't even have a relationship with God?

- VIII. When we take a stand for the Lord, the one who criticizes us the most is under the most conviction.
- A. People try to deal with conviction by tearing us down and discrediting us.
 - B. If a witness appears to have a poor character, then their testimony will be dismissed—that’s what persecution is all about!

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

JOHN 3:20

- C. Immoral people want to dim the light of others so it won’t shine on their sin—that’s the reason criticism comes.

And all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

2 TIMOTHY 3:12

- D. If we aren’t suffering persecution, we aren’t living godly.
- E. Jesus said, “*Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also*” (John 15:20).
- F. When people want the praises of man more than the praises of God, they limit God.

LESSON 4.2 • FEAR OF MAN

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

11. *Discussion question:* In what ways have you let fear of criticism or rejection paralyze you and keep you from doing what God tells you to do?

12. You cannot _____ or _____ anyone else's opinion as much as you honor God's opinion.

13. *Discussion question:* How can focusing on the wrong thing affect God's plan for you, like it did the Israelites in the wilderness?

14. What were the Israelites looking at that kept them out of the land God told them to possess?

- A. The size of their weapons
- B. The size of their wallets
- C. The size of the inhabitants
- D. The size of their problems
- E. The size of the land

15. True or false: If the Israelites had analyzed their situation properly, it would have been very difficult for them to go into the Promised Land.

16. *Discussion question:* Why should David's attitude toward Goliath be the same attitude you have toward unbelievers who criticize you?

17. If you are born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit, you have a _____ of God and an _____ to Him that a lot of Christians don't.

18. *Discussion question:* Why do you think some believers elevate the opinion of others and put that kind of authority upon people who don't even have a relationship with God?

19. When you take a stand, the person who criticizes you is what?

- A. The noisiest
- B. Under the most conviction
- C. Running for political office
- D. One of your relatives
- E. Just being mean

20. For what reason does criticism come?

21. *Discussion question:* How can desiring the praises of man limit God?

LESSON 4.2 • FEAR OF MAN
 SCRIPTURES

PROVERBS 29:25

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

NUMBERS 13:22-33

And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the children of Anak, were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) [23] And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs. [24] The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence. [25] And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. [26] And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. [27] And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. [28] Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. [29] The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. [30] And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. [31] But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. [32] And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. [33] And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

JOSHUA 2:9-24

And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. [10] For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. [11] And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath. [12] Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have

shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: [13] And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. [14] And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee. [15] Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall. [16] And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way. [17] And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear. [18] Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. [19] And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him. [20] And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear. [21] And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window. [22] And they went, and came unto the mountain, and abode there three days, until the pursuers were returned: and the pursuers sought them throughout all the way, but found them not. [23] So the two men returned, and descended from the mountain, and passed over, and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all things that befell them: [24] And they said unto Joshua, Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.

1 SAMUEL 17:26

And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

JOHN 3:20

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

2 TIMOTHY 3:12

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

JOHN 15:20

Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

LESSON 5 • FEAR OF SUCCESS

OUTLINE

- I. Success has destroyed more people than hardship and failure ever has.
- A. People often say things like, “When you’re suffering and everything is wrong, it shows what’s inside of you.”

Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: [8] Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: [9] Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

PROVERBS 30:7-9

- B. A greater indication of what’s on the inside of you is when everything is going well and you don’t have to rely on God—how much do you study and pray then?
- C. Moses told the Israelites to beware that when they came into all of their prosperity, they didn’t forget that it was the Lord who gave them the power to get wealth so He could establish His covenant (Deut. 8:1-20).
- D. Saul’s life is a good example of this (1 Sam 15:17 and 26).
- E. When Saul was little in his own eyes, God could use him, but when he became great in his own eyes, God couldn’t use him.
- F. Humility is necessary to walk with God, but Saul didn’t continue to walk with God because he became proud and did his own thing.
- G. God rejected him from being king because Saul limited what God wanted to do in his life.

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

PROVERBS 16:18

- II. In 2 Samuel 11, we see that David had become so prosperous, he decided to send other people to do what God had called him to do (2 Sam. 11:1-4).
- A. David started out God dependent but became independent of God because of prosperity.
- B. These scriptures made me aware that if the Lord multiplied my ministry and gave me more influence, it could lead to my destruction—I was afraid of success and what it could potentially do to me.
- C. I had to overcome a fear of success and say, “Father, I’ll take it and whatever comes with it.”

- III. Before He formed me in the womb, before I came forth out of my mother's belly, God had a purpose for me (Jer. 1:4-8).
- A. Paul said the same thing in Galatians 1:15: *"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace."*
 - B. God made you for a purpose, and it's up to you to find out what that purpose is.
 - C. You have to pursue the will of God in order to get it.
 - D. It takes a revelation from God, because He will call you to do something beyond yourself; this way, you become God dependent.
 - E. There are things on the inside of you that He wants to accomplish.
 - F. The only chance you have of reaching your full potential is to do what God created you to do.
- IV. God showed me that I was limiting what He could do in my life because of my false humility—a sense of unworthiness—along with my fear of success.
- A. I had to confront these issues and deal with them.
 - B. Within weeks of taking the limits off God, I started to see miraculous results.
 - C. This can also happen to you once you stop limiting what God wants to do in your life—whether it's because you have a fear of man or a fear of success or any other type of fear.
 - D. Take the limits off God and watch His will come to pass in your life!

LESSON 5 • FEAR OF SUCCESS

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. *Discussion question:* Why would success destroy more people than failure ever would?

2. *Discussion question:* Read Proverbs 30:7-9. What are some lessons you can learn from these verses?

3. When Saul was little in his own eyes, God could do what with him?

4. True or false: Humility is helpful, but not necessary to walk with God.

5. David started out God dependent but became _____ because of _____.

- A. Prosperous / God
- B. Arrogant / pride
- C. Independent / maturity
- D. Humble / chastisement
- E. Independent / prosperity

6. Andrew feared that if Lord multiplied him and gave him more influence it could lead to what?

7. *Discussion question:* What are some ways to overcome a fear of success?

8. Fulfilling your purpose takes a _____ from God.

9. Why does God call you to do something beyond yourself that you can't do on your own?

10. True or false: The only chance you have of reaching your full potential is to do what God created you to do.

11. Which of the following things were limiting God in Andrew's life?

- A. A sense of unworthiness
- B. Fear of success
- C. False humility
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

12. *Discussion question:* What types of fears do you allow to hold you back and limit God?

LESSON 5 • FEAR OF SUCCESS
 SCRIPTURES

PROVERBS 30:7-9

Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: [8] Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: [9] Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

DEUTERONOMY 8:1-20

All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers. [2] And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. [3] And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. [4] Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years. [5] Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee. [6] Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him. [7] For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; [8] A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; [9] A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. [10] When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. [11] Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: [12] Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; [13] And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; [14] Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; [15] Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; [16] Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; [17] And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. [18] But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he

that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. [19] And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. [20] As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.

1 SAMUEL 15:17

And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

1 SAMUEL 15:26

And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

PROVERBS 16:18

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

1 PETER 5:5

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

2 CHRONICLES 26:14-20

And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones. [15] And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong. [16] But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense. [17] And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men: [18] And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God. [19] Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar. [20] And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hasted also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him.

2 SAMUEL 11:1-4

And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. [2] And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. [3] And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? [4] And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house.

JEREMIAH 1:4-8

Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, [5] Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. [6] Then said I, Ah, LORD GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. [7] But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. [8] Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

GALATIANS 1:15

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace.

PSALM 139:16

Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

LESSON 6.1 • IMAGINATION
OUTLINE

- I. We all have an image inside of us of what we can do (what we are capable of doing), along with what only God can do through us (what we are incapable of doing).
 - A. This latter image serves as a ceiling, or limit, on what God can do in our lives.
 - B. God created us with imaginations, and we can't think without them.
 - C. Most of us don't realize how much we use our imaginations, thinking they're just for kids, but we use our imaginations every moment of every day.
 - D. *Imagination* is defined as "the act or power of forming a mental image of something not present to the senses or never before wholly perceived in reality" (*Merriam-Webster.com*).
 - E. In other words, imagination is the ability to see something with our minds that we cannot see with our physical eyes.
 - F. When it comes to God's direction for our lives, we have to use our imaginations to see those things come to pass.
 - G. Our lives are the way they are today because of the way we have seen them or pictured them in our imaginations—the way we think determines the direction our lives will go.
 - II. Words paint pictures!
 - A. Nothing can be built without an imagination.
 - i. Architects use blueprints to show builders how to construct what they have imagined.
 - B. You can't see anything happen without your imagination.
 - C. You have to use your imagination to start thinking and seeing bigger.
 - D. If you can't see something on the inside, you won't be able to see it manifest in your life.
 - III. Memory is also tied to imagination.
 - A. Our memory functions off our imaginations.
 - i. Most of us don't write down where we parked our cars every time we go somewhere; we just have a mental image of where we left it.
 - B. We can't remember anything we can't picture or imagine.
 - C. We really can't understand something unless we can picture it in our minds.
 - D. If we can picture something, we can have it or do it!
-

- IV. God's vision for us is revealed in His Word.
- A. We have a superior covenant to the one Moses had, so if he could be healthy and live to be 120 years old (Deut. 34:7), then we can too!
 - B. We have to change the way we think.
 - C. We need to study the Word and imagine the truths God has given us until they paint a picture on the inside of us—until we see ourselves healthy, righteous, and full of peace and joy.
 - D. As Christians, our imaginations should paint such a real picture that we live by what the Word says more than we live by what we can see with our physical eyes (2 Cor. 5:7).
 - E. We can do that—we have God Almighty living inside us!
- V. Before you see something happen on the outside, you have to see it on the inside.
- A. It has to become so real to you that you see yourself doing it.
 - B. You won't see the miracle-power of God if you are defeated, discouraged, or depressed in your imagination.
 - C. Resurrect your imagination, and start using it in a positive way!
- VI. The imagination is a powerful force, but it has to be engaged.
- A. We have to be intentional about it—if we just put our imaginations on automatic, we will wind up being vain in our imaginations.
 - B. A positive imagination is a byproduct of whether we have truly been thankful and have valued the things of God.
 - C. A vain imagination, however, conceives evil instead of being creative and conceiving good things.

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

ROMANS 1:21

- D. A foolish, darkened heart is a hardened heart, and once a person's heart is hardened, they become separated from the life of God (Eph. 4:18).
- E. Having a hard heart doesn't necessarily mean they aren't trying to love God or follow His will for their lives; it just means they don't understand how much God loves them apart from their behavior or performance.
- F. People with hardened hearts must focus on God and what He has already done for them, instead of being focused on themselves.
- G. As they focus more on Him, instead of their imaginations being vain, they will come alive.

- VII. We will become exactly what we imagine—whether that image is positive or negative.
- A. We would be much better off if we spent time encouraging our imaginations.
 - B. We need to find out what the Word says about us and pray and let the Holy Spirit give us an image of what He wants us to do—and who He wants us to be.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

ISAIAH 26:3

- C. Many of us think, *Well, I am trying to keep my mind stayed on the Lord*, but are we keeping our *imagination*s stayed on the Lord?
- D. When we don't realize how important it is to keep our imaginations stayed on the Lord, we will allow them to be turned against us, and we will only see negative things.

VIII. Ephesians 4:17 says—

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind.

- A. Vanity of the mind means that we aren't using all that God has given us.
- B. God gave us our imaginations—they are a powerful force!
- C. We shouldn't be like the lost who only use their imaginations to see negative things.
- D. If we aren't glorifying God—putting worth and value on Him by praising and thanking Him for what we have—our imaginations will default to seeing the negative side of everything.

LESSON 6.1 • IMAGINATION

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What are the two images you have on the inside of you?

2. What does the latter image serve as?

3. *Discussion question:* Discuss the importance of imagination in relation to God's direction for your life.

4. _____ can be built without imagination.

5. If you can't see something on the inside, you won't be able to what?

- A. See it manifest in your life
- B. Play Chinese checkers
- C. Do it on the inside
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

6. True or false: Memory has nothing to do with imagination.

7. If you can picture something, you can _____ it or _____ it!

8. *Discussion question:* What are some truths from God's Word that you are studying and allowing to paint a picture on the inside of you?

9. What you see on the inside of you has to become so real that what?

10. What must you do with your imagination?

11. True or false: The imagination is a powerful force, but it has to be engaged.

12. *Discussion question:* What lessons can you learn from Romans 1:21?

13. What must people with hardened hearts focus on?

- A. Christian television
- B. God and what He has already done for them
- C. God and what they should be doing for Him
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

14. You will become exactly what you imagine—whether that image is _____
or _____.

15. *Discussion question:* Are you keeping your imagination stayed on the Lord?

16. When you don't realize how important it is to keep your imagination stayed upon the Lord, what will happen?

17. What does "vanity of the mind" mean?

18. *Discussion question:* Why shouldn't you and your imagination be like the lost?

LESSON 6.1 • IMAGINATION
SCRIPTURES

1 CHRONICLES 29:18

O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee.

DEUTERONOMY 34:7

And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

PROVERBS 23:7

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

JOHN 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

JOHN 11:39

Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

ROMANS 1:21

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

GENESIS 11:6

And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

EPHESIANS 4:17-18

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, [18] Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.

ISAIAH 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

LESSON 6.2 • IMAGINATION
OUTLINE

- IX. The Hebrew word *yetser* was translated “*imagination*” four times in the Old Testament.
- A. It means “conception” (*Strong’s Concordance*).
 - B. The imagination is our spiritual womb—it’s where we conceive God’s miracle-working power.
 - C. No imagination means no conception.
 - D. If we conceive a miracle, we will give birth to it.
 - E. We have to take control and begin to conceive the purposes of God in our imagination.
 - F. We would become spiritually pregnant, and it would just be a matter of time until we give birth—it will happen!
- X. We need to meditate on the Word of God and intentionally start training our imaginations.
- A. How we see ourselves is important.
 - B. We have to see ourselves as able to do or be whatever we are praying for.
 - C. A positive imagination will help erase all of the self-defeating ideas we have wrongly believed about ourselves.
- XI. We have to meditate on the Word of God until we conceive something.
- A. If we have interaction with the Word, it will become alive and real to us.
 - B. Then once we conceive it in our imaginations, we will receive it.
- XII. Being around people who talk about vision causes us to dream big also.
- A. Most of us think too small—we aim at nothing and hit it every time.
 - B. If we have needs, we should go to the Word and find the answer to our needs.
 - C. The Bible says in 1 Peter 1:23 that we are “*born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*”
 - D. The Word is a seed—if we plant that seed in our spiritual wombs (our imaginations), we’ll see it germinate.
- XIII. Understanding is more than knowledge or the ability to recall a fact.
- A. A lot of us read the Bible with our heads instead of our imaginations or hearts—that’s like chewing food but not swallowing it.
 - B. The Word won’t minister to us in its fullness unless we get it down to the level where we understand it.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.

EPHESIANS 1:18

- C. The word used here for “*understanding*” is the Greek word *dianoia*, and this is a compound word that means “deep thought” (*Strong’s Concordance*).
- D. There’s a difference between just thinking about things on the surface and having a deep thought, or understanding, about them.
- E. That is what Matthew 13:19 says: “*When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*”
- F. Understanding is the seed getting below the surface where it can germinate.

XIV. Hope, according to Scripture, is seeing something that we can’t physically see.

For we are saved by hope; but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? [25] But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

ROMANS 8:24-25

- A. Hope is our imagination working for us instead of against us.
- B. We need a strong sense of hope because faith only provides what hope has already seen (Heb. 11:1).
- C. Just like a thermostat can be turned to hot or cold, our imaginations can be negative, which is a pessimistic outlook on everything, or positive, which is what the Bible calls hope.
- D. Hope turns on the ability of God, while faith is the power that makes things come to pass.
- E. If our imaginations are negative, we will see failure on the inside, leading us to experience failure on the outside.
- F. If we are hoping and seeing a miracle in our hearts, it will turn on the power of God to see that miracle manifest in our lives.
- G. Hope comes through the Word of God (Rom. 15:4), and this is the first step of faith.

XV. God created you to be so much more than you are probably experiencing.

- A. You are likely going through this life half blind, only seeing with your natural eyes.
- B. Everything in the physical might be indicating one thing, but in your heart, the Word of God can paint a picture of something else.
- C. Take the limits off by conceiving the miracle in your imagination—then watch it come to pass!

ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Our *Healing Journeys, Volume 2* DVD tells the story of a woman named Merci Santos, who was healed of multiple sclerosis (MS). One of the things she said when she was in a wheelchair and everyone told her she would never walk again was that she just knew it wasn't true. She saw herself healed and knew that one day she would be. She needed someone to teach her about the Word and help her to activate her faith, but she saw herself well despite the fact that her symptoms were getting worse and worse. That is what hope is. Hope won't get you healed; it provides the motivation for your faith to get you healed. Today Merci is totally free of MS. She can run in the physical just as she saw herself doing in her imagination.

LESSON 6.2 • IMAGINATION

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

19. The Hebrew word *yetser* means _____.

20. No imagination means what?

- A. No job
- B. No problems
- C. No salvation experience
- D. No conception
- E. No worries

21. *Discussion question:* What do you think it means to conceive the purposes of God in your imagination?

22. *Discussion question:* What steps do you feel you need to take to intentionally train your imagination?

23. What will a positive imagination do for you?

24. If you have interaction with the Word of God, it will become _____ and _____ to you.

25. True or false: If you have a need, you should go to your family and find the answer to your need.

26. *Discussion question:* What is the difference between a corruptible seed and an incorruptible seed (i.e., the Word of God)?

27. The Word won't minister to you in its fullness unless you get it down where?

28. *Discussion question:* What do you think is the difference between just thinking about things on the surface and having a deep thought, or understanding, about them?

29. What is hope?

- A. What turns on the ability of God
- B. Your imagination working for you instead of against you
- C. Seeing something you can't physically see
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

30. If your imagination is negative, what will happen?

31. *Discussion question:* How have you witnessed the power of hope at work in your life?

32. Where does hope come from?

33. True or false: If you are only seeing with your natural eyes, you are half blind.

LESSON 6.2 • IMAGINATION
SCRIPTURES

1 PETER 1:23

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

EPHESIANS 1:18

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.

LUKE 1:51

He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

MATTHEW 13:19

When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 8:24-25

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? [25] But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

HEBREWS 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

ROMANS 15:4

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.