

SUCCESS^{THAT} MATTERS

WEEK 1—OBSTACLES

1. If the rat race is an unwinnable race, why do you think that so many men run in it? What need are they trying to meet or what are they trying to accomplish?
2. Think of the two or three experiences and relationships that have had the greatest impact on how you think, speak, and act. Which of these have been positive influences, and why? Which have been negative, and why?
3. What are some of the risks of leading an unexamined life?
4. “Cultural Christianity” means to seek the God (or gods) you want rather than the God who is. Do you agree or disagree? What has this looked like in your own life or in the life of someone close to you?
5. What are the areas that most distract you from a whole-hearted commitment to Christ? What have you learned about yourself and about God that will help you surrender these areas to the Lord?

WEEK 2—FAMILY

1. “The number one problem men face today is that their marriages are not working the way they are supposed to.” How has this seemed true in the marriage of your friends or in your own marriage?

2. What is an “emotional bank account”? If married, what do you think your wife’s account balance is right now? What are some of the deposits and withdrawals you’ve made in the last month?
3. In what ways have you seen discouragement in the lives of your children or their friends? What are the greatest factors that contribute to their discouragement or encouragement?
4. Are you praying for your children, and if so, how regularly? Do your children know you pray for them? Is it difficult for you to pray with them; why or why not?
5. One goal of a father is to equip his children to make wise decisions. What can you do to influence their decision-making? Think about one decision they will face in the near future; what is a practical step you can take?

WEEK 3—SPIRITUAL LIFE

1. If you are a Christian, think back to the time when you first came to know Christ. What key factors led you to that point?
2. Why do men who want to be more “spiritual” often think they need to do something big for God in order to qualify? Have you ever felt this way?
3. Have someone read Matthew 22:34-40 aloud. Why should loving and knowing God be the foundation of all you do? What are some practical ways you can maintain this perspective in your daily life?
4. Has there been a time in your life when the Bible was particularly precious to you (for example, during a time of illness or facing a tough decision)? Describe this to the group. What is it about the Bible that made it so meaningful?
5. What activities or experiences stir your passion for God? How can you incorporate these into your life more frequently?

WEEK 4—CALLING

1. Why do men tend to depend so heavily on their work to find fulfillment and identity? How does our culture shape this attitude? What do you think is a proper perspective on work?
2. Have someone read Genesis 2:15 aloud. Do you believe that a “secular” job is as spiritual as employment in ministry? How does your belief impact your performance and work satisfaction?
3. Do you view your work as an opportunity to minister to others? If so, what strategies have been effective in developing this mindset? If not, which ideas from the others in your group might help? Commit to praying for a coworker this week.
4. What is the most fulfilling experience you’ve ever had serving in ministry or elsewhere? Why was it so meaningful to you?
5. If you are involved personally in a ministry, how did you discover it and get engaged? How have you made it a priority? What suggestions would you have for someone wanting to get involved?

WEEK 5—LIFE MANAGEMENT

1. Have someone read Ecclesiastes 5:10-12 aloud. How would you paraphrase the key idea?
2. Why do you think debt is such a problem for so many men? Do you struggle with debt or have you in the past? What are some practical ways to reduce and prevent debt?
3. What factors make it difficult to live within or below our means? What does this look like in your own life?
4. Have you noticed a difference between men who organize their lives according to priority and those who don’t? What are they? How has—or could—living by priority affect your life?

5. Do you feel guided by a sense of purpose? How might a Written Life Purpose Statement help in the process of finding or fine-tuning your sense of purpose? If you already have a working purpose statement, share it with the group.

WEEK 6—PERSONAL GROWTH

1. Has there been a time in your life when you consistently spent time in the Bible and prayer each day? How did this impact you?
2. Why can it be difficult to make meaningful time for God each day? Share ideas you’ve found helpful in this area. (If you don’t have a designated time for this, why not take the challenge under “for the man who wants to get started” at the bottom of page 14?)
3. What can the church body do for you and your family? What can you do for the church body and why should you?
4. Is church an important part of your life? If not, what are you looking for in a church?
5. Can you think of a time when having a friend to whom you were accountable might have helped you avoid pain and confusion? Do you want to have this kind of relationship in the future, and if so, what are your plans? Share them with the group.

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