



Biblical Manhood Module

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The Biblical Definition of Manhood

33 The Series Vol. 1: A Man & His Design

Session 3: Manhood Definition (34 minutes)

Presenter: Tierce Green

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org>

Synopsis of the Biblical Manhood Module: The two primary goals for the Biblical Manhood Module are: (1) To implement the biblical definition of manhood (RALI) into your life. (2) To help you to discern both God's general will and his specific will for your life.

Synopsis of this Session: In this lesson, we will examine the life of Jesus and discover how he lived out the mandate to “create” and cultivate” in the three specific areas of responsibility that God has given man. We will also build a clear and compelling definition of biblical manhood that will answer once and for all the question, “What does it mean to be a real man?”

Session Introduction

In the opening chapters of the book of Genesis, we learn that:

1. God designed man to follow His example and to _____, specifically by creating and cultivating. Whatever we **create**—a marriage, family, ministry, business, friendship, etc.—God expects us to **cultivate** what we have created that it may develop, grow, mature, and expand.

2. The type of manhood God created us to live cannot be done with our _____.

Man's Three Areas of Responsibility

In the book of Genesis, God gave man the blueprint of authentic masculinity. God gave man three specific leadership responsibilities as he “creates” and “cultivates.”

1. God gave man a _____ to obey.
2. God gave man a _____ to do.
3. God gave man a _____ to love.

The First Adam & The Second Adam

In this session, we will compare and contrast the two primary captains of humanity—Adam from the book of Genesis and Jesus from the New Testament.

1. The Bible describes _____ as the second Adam.

Paul the apostle wrote:

“For if, because of one man’s trespass [Adam], death reigned through that one man [Adam], much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ ...¹⁹ For as by the one man’s disobedience [Adam] the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s [Jesus] obedience the many will be made righteous.” (Rom. 5:17,19 ESV)

- Through Adam, sin entered the world, but through Jesus Christ _____ entered the world.
- Jesus _____ the responsibilities of the first Adam, who failed miserably.

The apostle Paul penned these words:

“Thus it is written, the first man, Adam became a living being; the last Adam [Jesus Christ] became a life-giving spirit ...⁴⁷ The first man [Adam] was from the

earth, a man of dust; the second man [Jesus Christ] is from heaven.” (1 Cor. 15:45,47 ESV)

2. Every man will walk in the shadow of one of these two men—Adam or Christ.
3. The first Adam chose “_____” manhood. It is a manhood based on personal instinct, human reason, and human reaction.
4. Jesus is the example of “_____” manhood.

A Compelling Definition of Authentic Manhood

The following four defining components comprise the Bible’s definition of authentic manhood. The first of these four defining components of authentic manhood is:

1. Reject _____.

Moses recorded these words:

“So when the woman [Eve] saw that the tree [of the knowledge of good & evil] was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes ... she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to **her husband** [Adam] who **was with her**, and he ate.” (Gen. 3:6 ESV)

- Adam was passive in the garden. When Eve was tempted to disobey God, Adam stood beside his wife as she spoke with the serpent and he said nothing and did nothing.
- Jesus rejected passivity.

On the other hand, Jesus rejected passivity. The apostle Paul described Jesus’ actions in these words:

“Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God [the Father], did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And **being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**” (Phil. 2:5-9 ESV)

The **first** of four defining components that make up the Bible’s definition of authentic manhood is to **reject passivity**.

The **second** of the four defining components that make up the Bible's definition of authentic manhood is:

2. Accept _____.

Adam failed in the three specific responsibilities that were given to him by God. On the other hand, Jesus embraced all three of these responsibilities. For example:

- Jesus accepted responsibility for a _____.

Jesus himself declared:

“My [**Jesus**] food is to do **the will of him** [**God the Father**] who sent me and to accomplish his work.” (Jn. 4:34 ESV; cf. 4:34)

The innermost desire of Jesus' heart was to obey the will of the father. It was the food that nourished his soul.

- Jesus accepted responsibility for a _____.

Jesus also could rightfully say:

“I [**Jesus**] glorified you [**God the Father**] on earth, having **accomplished the work that you gave me to do.**” (Jn. 17:4 ESV)

- Jesus accepted responsibility for a _____ .

The apostle Paul pointed to Jesus as the ultimate example of a husband loving his wife when he penned these words:

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” (Eph. 5:25 ESV)

The **second** of four defining components that make up the Bible's definition of authentic manhood is to **accept responsibility**.

The **third** of the four defining components that make up the Bible's definition of authentic manhood is:

3. Lead _____.

- Adam failed to lead in the garden. Men were created to lead and Adam didn't.

- Jesus, the second Adam, led courageously by providing direction for others. He told His disciples “follow me.” (Matt. 4:19 ESV) Jesus led courageously and so should we!
- Jesus led by providing protection for others. He said “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (Jn. 10:11 ESV)
- According to the apostle Paul, Jesus led by providing life for others: “The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam [Jesus] became a life-giving spirit.” (1 Cor. 15:45 ESV)

The **third** of four defining components that make up the Bible’s definition of authentic manhood is to **lead courageously**.

The **fourth** and final defining components that make up the Bible’s definition of authentic manhood is:

4. _____ Eternally.

The first Adam invested in the temporary, choosing what would satisfy him in the moment—the fruit. Jesus invested in the eternal. Jesus lived in the moment but at the same time, he lived with eternity in view.

It was Jesus who said:

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.” (Matt. 6:19-20 ESV)

While he lived on earth, Jesus was not building an earthly kingdom or climbing the corporate ladder. He was investing in the eternal—in the lives of others. He was actively serving others, sharing truth, and leading other men to change the world.

Conclusion

In this session, we are challenging each of you:

1. To become an authentic man.

In our biblical definition of manhood, we have said that a “biblical” man:

- Rejects passivity.
 - Accepts responsibility.
 - Leads courageously.
 - Invests eternally.
2. To develop a dependence on the Lord—on the _____ spirit of Jesus to fuel your journey. Jesus said succinctly, “Apart from me you can do nothing.” (Jn. 15:5 ESV)

The apostle Paul wrote these words: “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” (1 Cor. 16:13) The words “act like men” could also be correctly translated as “be men of courage.”

Looking at the Real Life Discipleship Wheel, where would you rate yourself on becoming a biblical man? An infant, child, young adult, or a parent? Why did you choose this level of maturity?

The Biblical Definition of Manhood

Discussion Questions – *Life Plan Opportunities*

1. In this session, we talked about “drifting.” **Contrast “rejecting passivity” with drifting.**
 - **In what areas of your life can you eliminate drifting by rejecting passivity?**
2. **“Accepting responsibility”** typically grades extremely high on the MD⁵ personal assessments. **Why do you think that would be the case?**

3. **Pick one of the 5 F's then write a one sentence action to "lead courageously."**

For example:

- I will lead my family in prayer around the dinner table 4 times this week.
- I will lead my friends away from drifting by engaging 2 friends this week.
- I will lead my family on an afternoon walk 3 times this week.

4. **How are you "investing eternally?"**

- Do you focus on investing instead of consuming?
- Are you focused on leading others closer to Christ?
- Do you have a specific person in mind in whose life you can invest?
- Can you name two men that you would like to recruit to MD⁵?

Homework Assignment

Memorize the biblical definition of manhood that we have presented in this session. Have your sons and daughters memorize it as well. You will be held accountable for this definition in the future.

Helpful Hint

The acrostic "R.A.L.I." may help you remember the four parts of our definition of biblical manhood.



Finding the Will of God – Part 1

Source: *Finding the Will of God in a Crazy Mixed-Up World*

By Tim LaHaye

Synopsis of this Session: God has created and then gifted each man of God to fulfill his unique purpose in each of our lives. This session focuses on God's general will for all men and then practical instruction on how the biblical man can discover and fulfill God's specific will for his life.

Session Introduction

If you were given 5 interrupted minutes with Jesus, what would you ask him?

My Most Traumatic Decision

Dr. Tim LaHaye stated that he had only one fear on this earth—getting out of the will of God. (p.20) **Is this a fear that grips you from time to time, and, if so, what is your main concern?**

In Jeremiah 29:12-13, the Lord provides a condition that must be met for us to find his will (or him more specifically—p. 22). **What is that condition?**

Our lives are full of decisions – major, moderate, and minor (pp. 22-23):

- ◆ **Major Decisions** – Will I be saved, what vocation will I choose, who will I marry, where will I attend college, will I commit to practicing the spiritual disciplines, etc.
- ◆ **Moderate Decisions** – Where shall I work, where will I live (city, country, & in which house), where I will attend church, who I want as my friends, how many children will I have, etc.
- ◆ **Minor Decisions** – Which church service I should attend, which stores I will shop, when to purchase a new automobile and which exact one to buy, should I put my socks on first and then my jeans, etc.

Which of these decisions should we bring to the Lord? (p. 25)

In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus reminds us that he feeds the birds, takes care of the lilies, and knows the number of hairs on our head. (p. 25-26) **What realization does this bring to your mind?**

What We Already Know About God's Will

When we want to know God's will about a particular situation, where do we start? (p. 27)

Where do we learn about God's will? (p. 27)

Where in the Scriptures is a good place to start in discovering God's universal/moral will? (p. 28)

In addition to the 10 Commandments, we are given six specific aspects of God's universal/moral will. It is God's will that:

1. You are _____. (2 Pet. 3:9)—p. 28

2. You are controlled by his _____ and _____. (cf. Eph. 5:18-21; Col. 3:16-17)—pp. 29-31.
3. You love God and _____ to His will. (pp. 31-34).
4. You live a _____ (holy) life. (1 Thess. 4:3-6)—pp. 34-36
 - Abstain from sexual immorality. (Gal. 5:19-21)
 - Possess your body in sanctification and honor. (1 Thess. 4:3)
 - Deal honestly with others. (Heb. 13:18)
5. You _____ legitimate authority (cf. Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-15)—pp. 38-40)
6. You be _____. (1 Thess. 5:18)—pp. 40-41

While these are not an exhaustive list of God's commands and principles, each command fits neatly into one of these categories. The better we know the word of God, the easier it is to discover his will for our life. (p. 41)

God Has a Specific Will For Your Life

What was Paul's prayer for the believers at Colossae? (Col. 1:9-10)—p. 44

Have you discovered your purpose for being on this earth? If so, what is your life's purpose? (pp. 46, 49-51)

As we seek his will, why is it important that in "all our ways we acknowledge Him?" (Pro. 3:5-6)—pp. 45-46

Identify several Bible characters that indicate God had a specific will for their lives. (pp. 47-48)

Identify several historical figures over the past few centuries who discovered God's will for their lives. (pp. 48-49)

What is the key to success in fulfilling God's will for your life? (p. 50)

The Bible: Your Road Map For Living

Why are the lives of so many people, including Christians, a proverbial "train wreck?" (pp. 71-72)

We all want to be happy. God wants us to be happy. **What is the key to lasting happiness? (joy)—pp. 73-74**

The "hunt-and-peck" system of referencing the Bible does not involve a thorough reading of God's Word. **What is the danger of this system of referencing the Bible? (p. 76)**

Which five books of the Bible make up the wisdom literature? (pp. 79-80)

List five ways we can learn wisdom from the scriptures: (pp. 80-81)

1. _____ the Word. (Lk. 11:28)
2. _____ the Word. (Rev. 1:3)
3. _____ the Word. (2 Tim. 2:15)
4. _____ the Word. (Ps. 119:11)
5. _____ on the Word. (Ps. 1:1-2)

Finding the Will of God Pt. 1



Finding the Will of God – Part 2

Source: *Finding the Will of God in a Crazy Mixed-Up World*

By Tim LaHaye

Synopsis of this Session: God has created and then gifted each man of God to fulfill his unique purpose in each of our lives. In this session, we will share eight road signs to help you discover God's will for your life and make Christ honoring decisions from the writings of Dr. Tim LaHaye.

Session Introduction

Today, we want to share with you from the writings of Dr. Tim LaHaye eight road signs to help you discover God's will for your life and make Christ honoring decisions.

Eight Road Signs For Decision Making

◆ **Road Sign 1 – Surrender.** (pp. 86-89)

Dr. LaHaye asserts that we must first surrender to God's will, before we even know what God's will is, and only then will God reveal his will to a believer. (p. 86) **Why do you think that is?**

How do you think you can know if you are surrendered to doing God's will? (p. 87)

◆ **Road Sign 2 – Prayer.** (pp. 89-90)

Read these Bible passages related to prayer as being essential part to knowing the will of God:

- “Ask, and it will be given to you ... ” (Matt. 7:7 ESV)
- “Let your requests be made known to God ... ” (Phil. 4:6 ESV)
- “... asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ” (Col. 1:9-10 ESV)

Why do you think God uses prayer as a means of knowing his will? (pp. 89-90)

What are things God might use to get our attention so that we earnestly seek him? (p. 90)

◆ **Road Sign 3 – The Holy Spirit.** (pp. 91-93)

What does John 14:16-31 and Romans 8:1-17,26,27 teach us about the Holy Spirit? (pp. 91-92)

When the Holy Spirit is leading us, how should we expect it to impact us? (p. 93)

◆ **Road Sign 4 – Circumstances.** (pp. 93-97)

What is an example of a circumstance in our lives God may use to guide us in a particular direction? (pp. 93-94)

◆ **Road Sign 5 – Peace.** (pp. 97-99)

When God is leading us, we will experience peace in both our mind and in our heart.

What does James 3:17 indicate about the wisdom of God? (p. 97)

According to 1 Jn. 5:14-15, when we pray and ask according to God's will, we can pray with what? (p. 97)

In Phil. 4:6-7, what comes to those who do not worry but pray and seek answers from God? (p. 97)

LaHaye states that peace serves as an umpire when making decisions. How do you think this might play out? (p. 98)

Do you think God cares about what type of car we drive or house we live in? Why or why not? (pp. 98-99)

◆ **Road Sign 6 – Your Own Desires.** (pp. 99-101)

What must preclude our own desires being used as a sign of confidence in knowing the will of God? (Ps. 37:4; Jn. 15:7,16; 1 Jn. 5:14-15)—(p. 100)

What did the Psalmist say regarding our desires in Ps. 37:4? (p. 100)

Assuming our heart is right, the first indication of God's will for your life is your desire to do it.

◆ **Road Sign 7 – Godly Advice.** (pp. 101-107)

If we are making a major life decision, we should seek counsel. **What do you think should be the requirements for the ones in whom we seek counsel?** (p. 101)

What does Prov. 11:14 teach concerning counselors? (p. 103)

◆ **Road Sign 8 – Common Sense.** (pp. 107-111)

What are some terms used in the Bible to describe common sense? (p. 108)

- “_____.” (cf. 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 2:2; 1 Pet. 4:7)
- “_____.” (cf. 2 Tim. 1:7; Titus 2:12)

Dr. A.W. Tozer shares the following thoughts concerning the will of God in his book *How the Lord Leads* (pp. 108-109):

- ◆ Except for things specifically commanded or forbidden, God allows us to be free to exercise our own intelligent choice.
- ◆ The shepherd guides the sheep but does not decide which tuft of grass in which they are to feed every moment.
- ◆ God is pleased when we are pleased, and His choice for us may allow one of many options.
- ◆ One totally surrendered to Christ cannot make a wrong choice.
- ◆ In those rare times where we cannot determine clear Scriptural instruction, we are to ask God for wisdom (James 1:5) who has promised to give it liberally.
- ◆ Take your problem to the Lord, remind Him of His promises, and then do whatever seems best to you. Either choice will be right. God will not permit you to make a mistake.

There may be rare cases where we feel led to do what seems to defy common sense. **In these situations, what might we expect?** (pp. 109-111):

How are using these eight “road signs” to find God’s will similar to using the instrumentation panel on an airplane to land in the fog? (pp. 111-112):

Don’t Make Snap Decisions

Why do you think it is dangerous for us to make hasty decisions as we are seeking God’s will for our lives? (pp. 113-118):

Double Check For Accuracy

When seeking God’s will, how might we double check for accuracy to affirm our decision? (pp. 119-124)

What About The Fleece?

Have you ever used a “fleece” when seeking God’s will? (pp. 125-129) If so, describe the situation.

Let us think through the following guidelines for using a fleece (pp. 127-128):

- Use a fleece _____.
- Use a fleece _____.
- Save a fleece for _____ decisions, as the Spirit leads.
- Use a fleece to _____ God’s will, not to find it.
- Make your fleece _____.

Don’t Flunk The Faith Test

When we make a decision, even if we feel we are in the will of God, we will be tested. How should we respond? (pp. 131-135)

Finding the Will of God Pt. 2



Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets

Source: *Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets*

by Andy Stanley

Synopsis of this Session: Because life is filled with countless choices and decisions, in this session, Andy Stanley shares five questions we need to ask ourselves as an aid to making good decisions.

Session Introduction

You have never made a personal decision that did not become someone else's business. Private decisions always have _____ ramifications—especially to those closest to us. (p. 3)

Andy Stanley said, "... well-placed, appropriately timed, thought-provoking questions result in better decisions and fewer regrets." (p. 3) Simply stated, good _____ lead to better _____. After someone has made a bad decision, it is not unusual to hear them say, "I should have asked more questions." **Have you ever said this? If so, what were the circumstances?**

There is no necessary correlation between knowing and _____. (p. 5) There should be a correlation but there isn't.

Chapter 1 – More Than A Decision

Our bad decisions can impact us and our loved ones immediately, and well into the future. **Can you think of a bad decision that you made that impacted the lives of those closest to you? What was it?**

Most people do not learn from bad decisions because they are convinced their bad decisions were somebody else's _____. (p. 8) **When Eve was confronted with her sin in the Garden, what was her response? What was Adam's response?**

We all write the story of our lives one decision and one response at a time. Decisions made by your parents and grandparents determine the _____ of your life. (p. 16)

What are good decisions that other people make that can positively affect the trajectory of your life?

What are poor decisions other people make that can adversely affect the trajectory of your Life?

Discussion Question

Your decisions shape the direction and quality of your life for good or bad. Those decisions tend to compound. **What does that statement mean?**

Chapter 2 – The Integrity Question: Am I Being Honest With Myself?

The easiest person for you to deceive is the person you see every day in the mirror. _____ is the greatest leadership challenge any of us face. (p. 20) Whether or not you want to be like your parents depends upon how well they led themselves, not what they required of or taught you. (p. 20)

Exceptional self-leadership, not authority, is the key to sustained influence. We rarely open ourselves up to the influence of people we do not respect, even if they have authority over us. (p. 20)

You cannot _____ yourself if you are _____ to yourself. (p. 21) If we cannot lead ourselves without lying, we will never be able to successfully lead others.

Bad **decisions** lead to bad **routines** and bad routines lead to bad **habits**.

“You can’t talk your way out of a problem you have behaved your way into.”—Steven Covey

The kings of Judah are a good example. Kings Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah did not take the advice of God’s prophet Jeremiah. In this illustration, we see bad decisions, followed by bad behaviors, compound through a seed planted in the family by Jehoiakim.

Jehoiakim, king of Judah, rebelled against **Nebuchadnezzar**, the king of Babylon. (The prophet **Jeremiah** warned King Jehoiakim not to do this—but he did not listen to God’s man (Jer. 6:16-19; 25:4-11). The armies of Babylon marched to Jerusalem and after a 3-month siege, they entered the city and took King Jehoiakim captive, blinded him, and then took him to the city of Babylon where he was paraded around as a trophy to the military superiority of Babylon (2 Kgs. 23:37; 2 Chron. 36:5; Jer. 22:18-19).

King Nebuchadnezzar then crowned Jehoiakim’s son **Jehoiachin**, as the new king of Judah. Jehoiachin only reigned three months and then he was captured and marched to Babylon the same as his father had been (2 Kgs. 24:8; 2 Chron. 36:9; Jer. 22:24-30).

King Nebuchadnezzar then appointed Jehoiachin’s uncle **Zedekiah** as the new king of Judah who rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar the same as King Jehoiakim had done and was given the same fate—blinded and taken to Babylon (Jer. 37:1; 39:5-7).

It was at this time that the prophet **Jeremiah** penned these sobering words, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick who can understand it?” (Jer. 17:9 ESV) All three of these kings, who were part of the same family, committed the same sins, with the same results.

Discussion Question

How often do we see bad decisions compound once they enter a family line?

Chapter 3 – The Legacy Question: What Story Do I Want To Tell?

Every decision you make becomes a _____ part of your story. (p. 53)

In the story of your life, will you be a hero to your kids, grandkids, and great grandkids? All too often men just drift into nothingness and are neither the villain nor the hero in their story.

We are left thinking in terms of our options and choices, but not our stories—immediate outcomes, not _____ outcomes. (p. 62)

Your decisions are now, and your story is now. Avoid drifting or just kicking the can of life down the road. You must have a plan for your life and live intentionally.

We can learn from both Joseph's father Jacob, and Andy Stanley's father Charles, to never be a victim of your _____. Joseph came to a fork in the road with Potiphar's wife, but he had a plan. So many decisions are made at the fork in the road. Do you have a plan?

One day, Alice came to a fork in the road and saw a Cheshire cat in a tree. "Which road do I take?" she asked. "Where do you want to go?" was the response. "I don't know," Alice answered. "Then," said the cat, "It doesn't matter." — Lewis Carroll in *Alice in Wonderland*

Joseph had a plan. Good stories never involve sitting idly by and letting the story develop. The best legacy stories **never** involve "passivity." They are developed day-by-day as men "accept responsibility" for their actions.

Chapter 4 – The Conscience Question: Is There A Tension That Deserves My Attention?

The Fallacy of Origins says that we tend to discount information based on the _____ rather than the merits of the information. (p. 99) Remember, the critic is not always wrong. There is always a kernel of truth in every criticism. Find that kernel, learn from it, and you will be a better man for it.

We have the ability to sell ourselves right past the pesky tension that deserves our attention. (p. 99) If something is bothering you about a relationship, a job, a deal, a

contract, etc.—there is a reason for it. Pay attention to the tension! Ask more questions. It may save you a lot of heartache in the future.

David felt a tension—he knew that something was not exactly right. (p. 104) David did not know what the outcome of his decision to kill Saul would be. (p. 105) We believe we can _____ outcomes. Ignoring the tension in your gut sets you up for disappointment. (p. 106)

Discussion Question

How do we know when we are ignoring our conscience?

Chapter 5 – The Maturity Question: What Is the Wise Thing To Do?

Our natural _____ is to live as close to the line as possible. The line between responsible and irresponsible, moral and immoral, ethical and unethical. (p. 116) Our undisciplined human nature allows us to get by with as much in life as we can get by with.

How long can I neglect my family, my finances, or my health without feeling the effects? (p. 118) This is the **wrong** question to ask. In effect, it is asking, “How far over the line can I go without getting caught or experiencing the consequences of my actions?”

To create moral, ethical, and financial _____, ask for every invitation, opportunity, and option: What is the wise thing for me to do? (p. 121) What if you had an opportunity to go back and invest the time in productive, healthy, life-giving activities? Imagine where you might be today. (p. 123)

Most of my apology’s stem from my propensity to react to the moment. When the moment has passed, I discover I’ve _____ and hurt someone in the process. (p. 133) Taking time to slow down, get input from trusted advisors, and praying about the issue always leads to better decision making.

Our greatest regrets are always preceded by a _____ of unwise decisions. (p. 135) This is the very reason that we must learn to make better decisions.

Discussion Question

“If you don’t design your own *life plan*, chances are you’ll fall into someone else’s plan. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much.”—Jim Rohn

What does Jim Rohn’s statement mean to you personally?

Chapter 6 – The Relationship Question: What Does Love Require of Me?

The first four questions came with a guaranteed _____ on investment. (p. 147) “Return on Investment” (ROI) means that you will come out ahead in life when you discover why you are doing what you are doing.

The 5th and final question is the _____ Question: “What does love require of me?” Jesus succinctly answered this question when He shared what is now commonly referred to as the “Golden Rule”: “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, **do also to them.**” (Matt. 7:12 ESV)

Jesus was not commanding his disciples to feel something. He was commanding them to _____ something. (p. 151) The “Golden Rule” is not passive—it is active. Remember, a biblical man “rejects passivity” and “accepts responsibility.”

Jesus pointed to one specific thing that was to be the identifying characteristics of his followers—the way they _____. (p. 153)

The primary concern of Jesus was not that they believe something. He insisted they do something. (p. 153) If we “do” nothing to help a fellow human being, we have actually denied the “faith” that we profess to believe. Why? Because our faith commands us to be an “active” part of the solution to life’s challenges and not merely a “passive” part of the problem.

Jesus’ followers would not authenticate their love for God by looking up. They would authenticate their devotion by looking around. (p. 154) MD⁵ offers the opportunity for you to look around—to look beyond yourself at a network of godly men who will walk with you through the challenges of life.

Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets



Living Forward

Source: *Living Forward: A Proven Plan to Stop Drifting and Get the Life You Want*

By Michael Hyatt & Daniel Harkavy

Chapters 1 – 4

Synopsis of this Session: In this session, Hyatt & Harkavy share the importance of developing a *Life Plan*—a living, breathing document that allows the man of God to live with intentionality. The last section of this lesson includes suggestions on how to write your eulogy.

Session Introduction

We spend more time planning vacations, college educations, and for _____ than planning our lives. (p. 17)

Many people are successful in one area of their lives—money, and yet _____ in areas that matter most. (p. 18)

Circle the following areas of your life that matter the most to you. Then, state why.

Faith, Family, Friends (people), **Finances, or Fitness** (the Five Fs)

How would you define success?

The best way to be intentional about shaping your future is to develop a *Life Plan*. **What does a *Life Plan* help us do?** (pp. 19-21)

- A *Life Plan* allows you to live with _____ and _____. (p. 20)
- Helps you become an _____ in life. (p. 20)
- You take _____ of your life and actually shape your own future. (p. 20)
- Gives you more _____ to obtain the things you really want out of life—financially, relationally, physically, and spiritually. (p. 20)
- Heightens your sense of what's _____ possible for you in life. (p. 21)
- Equips you to make better _____ in every area of your life. (p. 21)
- Positions you to make the most significant _____ in this world that you can. (p. 21)
- Allows you to add _____ to those around you. (p. 21)

Chapter 1 – Acknowledge The Drift

Drifting happens when we are: (pp. 28-30)

- ◆ _____ – We do not know what we do not know. Often, we do not realize what is happening or what is at stake. We are guided by assumptions that may or may not be true. (pp. 28-29)
- ◆ _____ – The riptide of life can suck us in before we know it. (ex. The song *Cats in the Cradle* by Harry Chapin or the book *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis)—(p. 29)
- ◆ _____ – We do not establish boundaries and lose margin. (p. 29)
- ◆ _____ – Satan's goal is to steal, kill, destroy (Jn. 10:10), and he is the master deceiver. (cf. Eph. 4:14; Rev. 12:9)—(pp. 29-30)

The consequences of "drift" leads to: (pp. 30-32)

- ◆ _____ – We lose perspective, become disoriented, and make bad decisions. (p. 30)

- ◆ _____ – It costs us both time and money. (pp. 30-31)
- ◆ _____ – If we do not know where we are going, we will miss many opportunities along the way. (ex. *Alice in Wonderland*) When we get where we are going, where will we be? When we accomplish our goals, what will we have? (p. 31)
- ◆ _____ – We will experience pain in the following areas of our life: health, career, marriage, family, spiritual life, emotions, etc. (p. 31)
- ◆ _____ – We will begin to think “if only.” (pp. 31-32)

Life Planning is the exact opposite of the drift. Drift is about _____. Life Planning is about proactivity. (p. 32)

The drift is about blaming our circumstances. Life Planning is about taking _____. (p. 32)

The MD⁵ Strategy:

1. **Define reality**—the man I am—through the **assessments**.
2. **Define my preferred future**—the man I want to be—through the **eulogy**.
3. **Bridge the Gap** between the two **through your Life Plan**.

Chapter 2 – Understand The Mission

What is a *Life Plan*? Within the context of MD⁵, a *Life Plan* is a living document detailing God’s will for your life in five key areas—faith, family, friends, finances, and fitness. The *Life Plan* is (pp. 36-39):

- ◆ _____ by you and for you. (p. 37)
- ◆ Describes how you want to be _____. (p. 37)
- ◆ Articulates your personal _____. (p. 37)
- ◆ Provides specific _____ necessary to take you from where you are to where you want to be. (p. 37)
- ◆ Your *Life Plan* as a _____, breathing document because it needs to be routinely reviewed, modified, and updated on a perpetual basis. (p. 38)

We differ from the authors of the book on the development. Instead of taking a day and building the document, we will strive to build our *Life Plans* over a year.

Chapter 3 – Appreciate The Benefits

Life Balance is giving not equal but _____ attention to each of the various categories (the 5Fs) of your life. (p. 47)

The six benefits of Life Planning are: (pp. 44-52)

1. _____ – Faith, family, friends, fitness, & finance. (pp. 44-46)
 2. _____ – Life is not linear. The wheel of life does not turn smoothly when out of balance. (pp. 46-48)
- Key Point** – The way we lead ourselves impacts the way we lead those around us. Self-leadership always precedes team leadership. (p. 48)
3. _____ – If you employ a *Life Plan*, you will be afforded multiple opportunities because you will be successful. The benefit of the *Life Plan* is that it helps you filter out the best versus the good. “Good is the enemy of great.”—Jim Collins (ex. career versus quality of life)—(pp. 48-49)
 4. _____ – The first job of leadership is to define reality—the man I am today. (pp. 49-50)
 5. _____ the _____ – The *Life Plan*/Eulogy forces you to think about the man you want to be and pursue the will of God.(pp. 50-52)
 6. _____ – When we are not intentional in the way we live, we drift and fail to accomplish what is most important. (pp. 52-53)

**“The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.”
– William James**

Chapter 4 – Design Your Legacy

The Eulogy

We will conclude this first segment of MD⁵ by focusing on the first phase of developing our *Life Plan*—the **eulogy**. (pp. 57-67)

Answer the following questions to analyze your life at this juncture (p. 60):

- ◆ **What would those closest to you remember about your life?**
- ◆ **What stories would they tell one another?**
- ◆ **Would those stories make them laugh, cry, sigh, or all three?**
- ◆ **How would they summarize what your life meant to them?**
- ◆ **At the end of your life, what will those closest to you say, what will they remember, how will they assess your legacy?**

Our legacy comprises the spiritual, intellectual, relational, vocational, and social capital we pass on to others. (p. 61) It is the sum total of the:

- ◆ Beliefs you embrace.
- ◆ The values you live by.
- ◆ The love you express.
- ◆ The service you render to others.

Legacy is the you-shaped stamp you leave upon others when you die. (p. 61)

When Writing Your Eulogy

1. Identify your key _____ . (p. 64)
2. Describe how you want to be _____ by each group. (p. 64)
3. Make your legacy statement as _____ as you can. (p. 66)

How to Write Your Own Eulogy

Sit down and imagine that you lived until you were 90 and then went home to be with the Lord.

- ◆ What would it be like to die and attend your own funeral?
- ◆ Who would be there?
- ◆ How many people would come?

When writing your eulogy, the things we should focus on the most are:

- ◆ What will the **Lord** say about me?
- ◆ What will my **family** say about me?
- ◆ What will my **friends** say about me?
- ◆ What will **others** say about me?
- ◆ Have I made any difference in this world?
- ◆ What will people remember about my life and how I treated them?
- ◆ How will I be eulogized?

One Step Further

We are going to take our imaginations one step further. We are going to write our own eulogies. **We will not write about the men we are today but about the men we feel God is calling us to be.** It may seem a little morbid, but we all must confront our mortality.

In the 90th Psalm, Moses writes, “So teach us to number our days.” (Ps. 90:12 ESV) Numbering our days and living with the “end in mind” can help us concentrate on living each day with purpose. Even if we live to be 90, that day will be here faster than we may realize.

Step 1: Write an outline around the Five Fs.

What is your legacy statement? (your mission in life)

Faith

Read the Faith segment of the MD⁵ Assessment and consider the following questions:

- ◆ When did you come to know Christ as your Savior?
- ◆ What was God's specific will for your life?
- ◆ Where was your church membership?
- ◆ What was your spiritual gift(s)?
- ◆ How were you using your spiritual gift(s) to serve your local church?
- ◆ How often did you read the Bible and pray?
- ◆ Did you have a personal plan for fulfilling the Great Commission?
- ◆ Did you live out the biblical definition of manhood?

Family

Read the Family segment of the MD⁵ Assessment and consider the following questions:

- ◆ Who was your wife? When were you married? What do you want her to say about you? Did you love her sacrificially? Did you disciple her and pray with her daily?
- ◆ Who were your children? How do you want them to remember you? Did you nurture them? Were you a picture of Christ in your home?
- ◆ Who were your parents? How would they describe you? Did you honor them?
- ◆ How would your siblings describe you?
- ◆ Did your family know they were top priority? Did you have firm boundaries around other areas of life to ensure you had ample margin for your loved ones?
- ◆ What did you enjoy doing with your family?

Friends

Read the Friends segment of the MD⁵ Assessment and consider the following questions:

- ◆ Were you intentional about creating encounters to build relationships with other men?
- ◆ Was your faith apparent to your friends?
- ◆ Would your friends say you were the same man even when no one was watching?
- ◆ Were you a loyal and faithful friend?
- ◆ Who were the six men you chose to carry you to your grave. Did you invest in them?

Finances

Read the Finances segment of the MD⁵ Assessment and consider the following questions:

- ◆ Where did you go to school? What did you study?
- ◆ What did you do for work? Did you stay with one company or job your whole life or did you change careers several times? Were you a loyal and faithful employee and highly engaged?
- ◆ Did you trust in God's provision, not worry about finances, and did you practice contentment?
- ◆ Were you grateful?
- ◆ Did you embrace God's view of money and manage His resources His way for His glory? How?
- ◆ Did you plan ahead to take care of your family so on this day they were financially secure?
- ◆ Did you prepare an estate and financial plan in preparation for this day to ensure your family's burden was light?

- ◆ What kept you busy in retirement?

Fitness

- ◆ Read the Fitness segment of the MD⁵ Assessment and consider the following questions:
- ◆ Were you disciplined in taking care of your body—the “Temple of the Holy Spirit?”
 - Mentally?
 - Physically?
 - Spiritually?

General Questions to Consider

And as you wrap-up this exercise, consider the following general questions:

- ◆ Were you a man of integrity merging what you said and what you did?
- ◆ What was most memorable about you?
- ◆ What was it about you that people admired most?
- ◆ What will people miss most about you?

Step 2: Turn Your Outline Into A Eulogy .

Now you are going to take all the ideas you just jotted down and coalesce them into a finished project. Your eulogy does not have to be an endless book. Just hit the high points of your life—the really important stuff. You may follow the Five Fs outline or create one of your own.

Remember, your eulogy is describing the man you want to be and will serve as the “North Star” for the remainder of your life. Be sure to think and pray through this process. **This is a critical point in your life!**

Living Forward

