

SESSION 6: ALIGN FUTURE DECISION MAKING AROUND GOD & VALUES

Welcome, Review Study/LIFE Starter Journaling: 20 minutes

Discuss how your **decision-making process** is changing and if you're willing to get RADICAL to make some lasting adjustments to fulfill God's purpose for your life.

Session #6 Teaching: Let's Get RADICAL: 10 minutes

Well, it's time to get RADICAL. I've touched on the need to make 180 degree turns a few times already in this study. If our changes are more benign instead of radical, I find that they don't stay with us. We end up making minor changes and then revert back to our comfort zone and often don't form new habits and thinking. Jesus is all about being radical, and change itself isn't about comfort! When Jesus called the disciples, they left their nets and followed Him. He told the rich man to sell everything and then follow Him. He told the person caught in sin to immediately go and leave the life of sin. Change is something God originated, and leaving Him out—or using principles and practices that contradict His Truths—always leads to us to the same place: emptiness without purpose. That's not what God made you for.

Change is Hard; Transformational Change is Impossible... **Without God.** The ability to change... **RADICALLY**... exists; and God's offers us a free will choice in the matter, but again, most of us choose the easier path and choose "incremental" change.

The problem with incremental change... **is that it brings incremental results.** If you want incremental results, then embrace incremental change. The reality is that most of us don't want incremental results. When it comes to your marriage, I HOPE you dream of significant results. Or maybe in your personal life you KNOW you need radical results. Radical change brings the potential for radical results and incremental change never does.

Here are several reasons that people choose "incremental change":

1. You Fear People's Reaction to Significant Change

You've seen others get crucified for ushering in change. And you don't want that to be you. Fear is one of the main reasons change doesn't happen fast enough. Personally, I think it would be a terrible thing to stand before God one day and explain that the main reason you didn't do what you were called to do is because you were afraid.

2. Past Opposition to or Failure to Change

You tried change once, and it failed. Well, awesome. You also had a bad meal once, but you didn't stop eating. Maybe the change itself isn't the problem. Maybe your strategy is the problem. Just because you failed at leading change once doesn't mean you'll fail forever. Get a new strategy. What's at stake is far too important not to!

3. Belief That Progress Should Come Without Pain

Now we get closer to the heart of the matter. Many of us secretly wish progress came without pain. Progress almost never comes without pain. Significant things are rarely accomplished without significant struggle. Our heroes are always people who suffered to bring about a better end. (Give Biblical examples). The question for YOUR life, is whether you're willing to endure pain for the sake of a better future.

Think about the key words of change in this verse:

Do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

I know you want to be in the will of God and to do so may require, probably requires radical change for you to truly be transformed.

So...if you want significantly different results, push past the fear and stop thinking incrementally.

God's RADICAL Change Management Plan and Process includes the **Holy Spirit**, so covering your change with prayer is critical to success!

Small Group Discussion: 15 minutes

- Discuss some reasons that YOU may have chosen incremental change in the past.
- There is a spiritual blockage to change at times, because instead of walking in FAITH, we instead, react in FEAR and get STUCK. Are YOU willing to step out in FAITH and get RADICAL for God? Discuss as a group.
- Are you sensitive to sin that may block the Holy Spirit and RADICAL change?
- Does RADICAL CHANGE make you fearful, angry, indignant, offended, insulted, or so confused by the thought of it? Why?

Small Group Wrap-Up: 10 minutes

What did you cover in your small group time? What were the biggest take-aways and action items?

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

For homework this week, review today's session and spend 20 minutes each day this week in "**Listening Prayer**," thinking about today's study and the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life and ask for God's strength to make the need changes, NO MATTER HOW RADICAL they may be.

Also, remember to do the LIFE Starter Journaling to let God's Word solidify this teaching in your heart.

SESSION #6

WK. 6 DEVO 1

Read Ezekiel 11:14-25

Journal about "restoration" and radical change needed in your life.

L=Listen: in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#)

F=Focus: to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #6

WK. 6 DEVO 2

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

God has made you a NEW creation, so accept that fact and start acting like one.

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SESSION #6

WK. 6 DEVO 3

Read Romans 8:1-9

We need the Holy Spirit to overcome our flesh and to live with the gifts that God wants us to experience.

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SESSION #6

WK. 6 DEVO 4

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11

Are YOU living for God? What changes do you need to make to fully live for God?

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