

---

# WORDS AND DEEDS



BECOMING  
A MAN OF  
COURAGEOUS  
INTEGRITY

---

CHARLES CAUSEY

---

WORDS AND DEEDS

DIRECTIONS: Please check either “a” or “b” for each question, marking the answer that sounds the most like you. When you have completed the diagnostic, there will be a simple scoring method.

1. When I hear something that does not sound quite accurate, I . . .  
\_\_\_\_\_ a. Immediately correct the person speaking  
\_\_\_\_\_ b. Look for an opportunity to approach the matter diplomatically
  
2. In an honest assessment of how I come through for people, I . . .  
\_\_\_\_\_ a. Sometimes overpromise and underdeliver  
\_\_\_\_\_ b. Always do more than what’s expected

AN HONEST ASSESSMENT OF SELF

3. I am more likely to . . .
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. Avoid controversial subjects
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Say what's on my mind
  
4. My friends would say they . . .
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. Sometimes can't rely on me
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Count on me to do the right thing
  
5. In stressful situations I usually . . .
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. Tell people the cold, hard truth
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Say words to make others feel better
  
6. I am the kind of person who is . . .
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. Often called genuine or authentic
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Sometimes called a prankster or a button pusher
  
7. At work it is more natural for me to . . .
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. Point out how others can improve
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Encourage others
  
8. I have a knack for knowing what to do.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. Nearly all of the time
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Sometimes

WORDS AND DEEDS

9. When meeting new people, I . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ a. Love to ask them questions to find out who they are

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Like to listen and observe to see what kind of person they are

10. I am more drawn to . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ a. Letting things happen naturally

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Working hard and playing hard

11. When I am on a team, I am the spokesman.

\_\_\_\_\_ a. Occasionally, but not usually

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Nearly always

12. An observer would notice that when I am on a team, I usually . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ a. Seek for a job that will match my skills

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Volunteer for the job no one wants

13. When I make a commitment that's turning sour, I . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ a. Stick to it, even at personal cost

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Rationalize why another course might be better

AN HONEST ASSESSMENT OF SELF

14. In getting to work, I tend to . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Arrive early, so I am prepared for the day
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Cut it close, and occasionally arrive late
15. When meeting a deadline and trying to get things done, I can be . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Sometimes short with others, hoping they will understand
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Just as polite as when I'm relaxed
16. When making important decisions, I usually . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Forge ahead to see what doors will open
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Look at everything thoroughly to avoid risks
17. When people around me are critical of others, I sometimes . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Stick up for those not present, even though it creates tension
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Remain silent and regret it later
18. I tend to . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Pick and choose at some length as to what to be involved in
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Overcommit myself to important projects

WORDS AND DEEDS

19. As far as honesty is concerned . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ a. I sometimes exaggerate to make the story better

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Others never have to worry about the truth of my stories

20. My friends would say that I am great at following up on things.

\_\_\_\_\_ a. It depends on who you ask

\_\_\_\_\_ b. All of them would say that

21. My friends . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ a. Always count on me to say the right thing

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Are sometimes surprised at what comes out of my mouth

22. I am known as a person who likes tackling tough jobs.

\_\_\_\_\_ a. That is an accurate statement

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Not everyone sees me that way

23. If I haven't heard from someone in a while, we finally connect when . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ a. They reach out and connect with me

\_\_\_\_\_ b. I reach out and connect with them

AN HONEST ASSESSMENT OF SELF

24. When under stress at work, I usually . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Am forceful with coworkers without attacking them personally
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Am calm toward my coworkers but sometimes redirect the angst to others
25. When telling a story, I . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Love to explain all the details so people understand
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Keep it short so I don't bore anyone
26. When volunteers are needed, I . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Usually wait for others to take the lead
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Often raise my hand first
27. When trying to convince someone of something complex, I . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Get right to the point, with as few details as possible
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Take the necessary time and approach it from several different angles
28. I am known for being sluggish sometimes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. True
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. False

WORDS AND DEEDS

29. I am known as a person with great empathy.
- a. True
  - b. False
30. During a project, an observer might notice that I . . .
- a. Work hard until the job is 100 percent finished
  - b. Sometimes take a break when the job is 90 percent finished
31. I do not hesitate to ask for clarification from my boss or coworkers.
- a. No, I prefer to figure things out on my own
  - b. As needed
32. I sometimes don't respond right away when others reach out to me.
- a. No, this doesn't describe me
  - b. Occasionally
33. I listen well when others are telling a story.
- a. All the time
  - b. Some of the time

AN HONEST ASSESSMENT OF SELF

34. My friends would say I am a person with . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Great ideas
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Great accomplishments
35. My friends would say that I am a great conversationalist.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. It depends on who you ask
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. All of them would say that
36. When playing games or solving problems, I . . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Stick with tried-and-true methods of success
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Look for unorthodox ways to succeed
37. In conversations, I sometimes compliment people to gain their trust.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. True
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. False
38. I help others with how to improve their lives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a. Continually
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Sometimes

WORDS AND DEEDS

39. I try to influence others by . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ a. Hoping they will learn from my behavior

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Making them laugh until they warm up to me

40. With home improvement projects, my family would say that I . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ a. Seek projects to complete in my free time

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Take care of something only when it is urgent

\* \* \* \*

**Diagnostic Scoring Sheet**

Please write your answers (“a” or “b”) next to the numbers below:

COLUMN I	COLUMN II	COLUMN III	COLUMN IV	COLUMN V	COLUMN VI	COLUMN VII	COLUMN VIII
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.
33.	34.	35.	36.	37.	38.	39.	40.
SUM							

AN HONEST ASSESSMENT OF SELF

INSTRUCTIONS: For columns I, V, VI, and VIII, add the “a” responses and write the sum on the line in the row entitled “Sum.” For columns II, III, IV, and VII, add the “b” responses and write the sum in the space provided.

Results from Odd Columns → Column I Sum: \_\_\_\_\_ +  
Column III Sum: \_\_\_\_\_ + Column V Sum: \_\_\_\_\_ +  
Column VII Sum: \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ Total # of WORDS

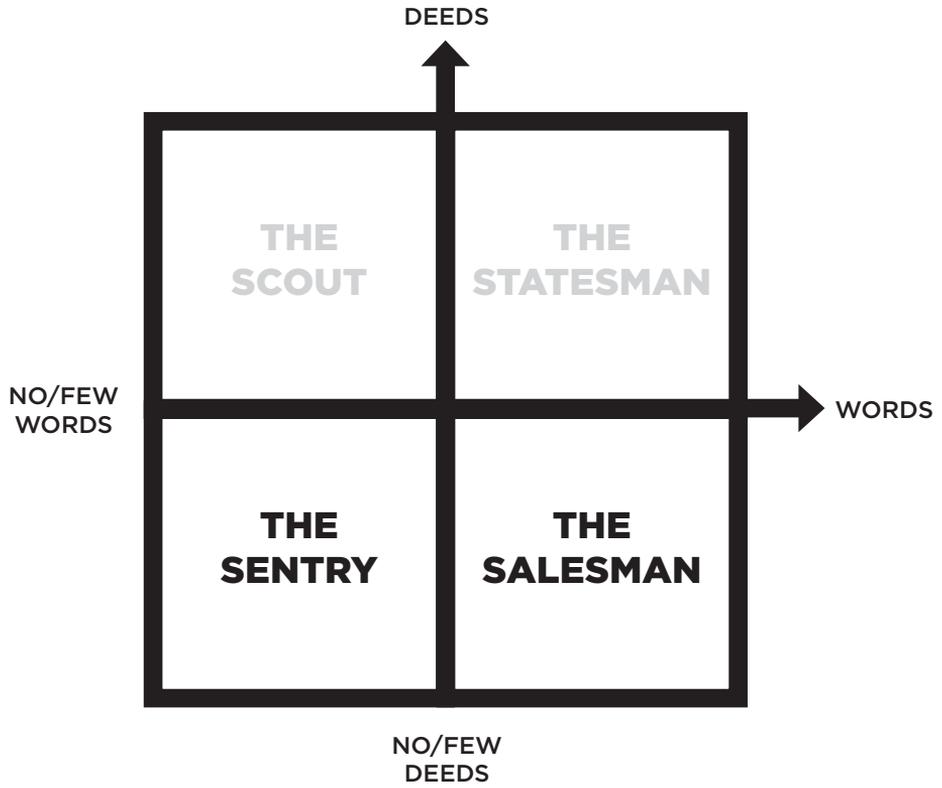
Results from Even Columns → Column II Sum: \_\_\_\_\_ +  
Column IV Sum: \_\_\_\_\_ + Column VI Sum: \_\_\_\_\_ +  
Column VIII Sum: \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ Total # of DEEDS

My results: \_\_\_\_\_ Words \_\_\_\_\_ Deeds

- 0–10 Words with 0–10 Deeds = Sentry
- 11–20 Words with 0–10 Deeds = Salesman
- 0–10 Words with 11–20 Deeds = Scout
- 11–20 Words with 11–20 Deeds = Statesman

This means that I am a \_\_\_\_\_.

WORDS AND DEEDS





# THE SENTRY

## **POSITIVES**

- + Takes life as it comes
- + Not worried about appearances
- + Satisfied with simplicity

## **NEGATIVES**

- Every man for himself (R)
- Buries issues; others out to get him (S)
- Team irritant (T)
- Passive; too apathetic to create lasting change (L)



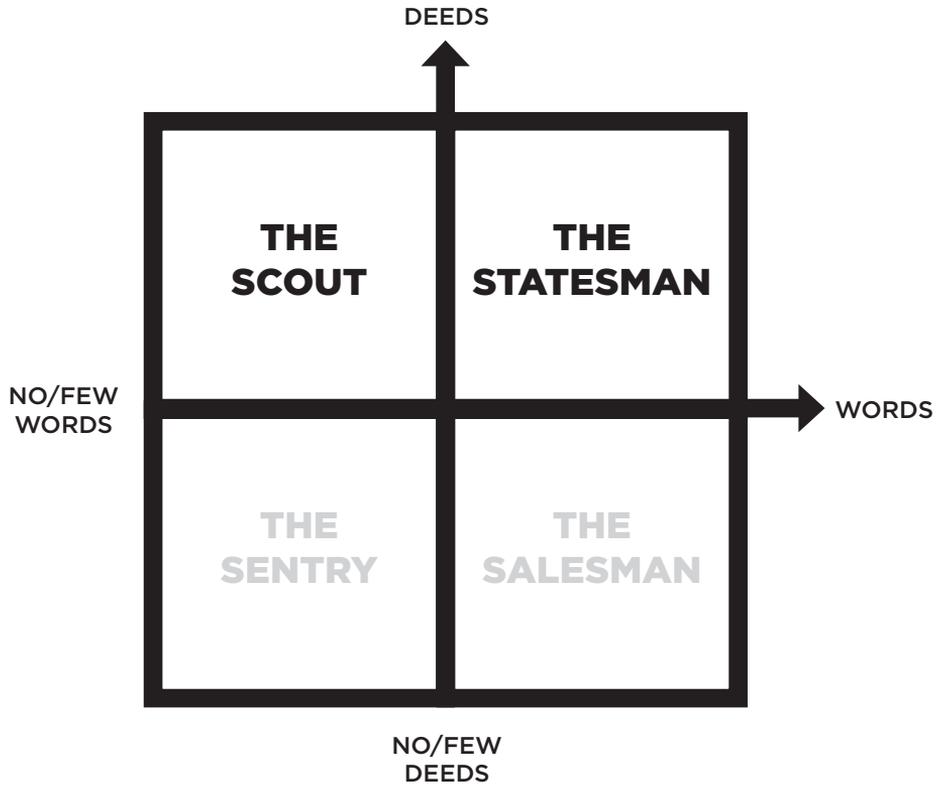
# THE SALESMAN

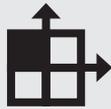
## POSITIVES

- + Outgoing and friendly (R)
- + Makes deals
- + Team spokesman (T)
- + Life of the party
- + Makes others feel at ease

## NEGATIVES

- Erratic and impulsive (S)
- Can be a wolf in sheepskin
- My way or the highway (L)
- Deals are self-focused
- Perceived shallowness





# THE SCOUT

## **POSITIVES**

- + Coolness/calmness
- + Maintains composure (S)
- + Team builder (T)
- + Quiet loyalist
- + Behind-the-scenes worker

## **NEGATIVES**

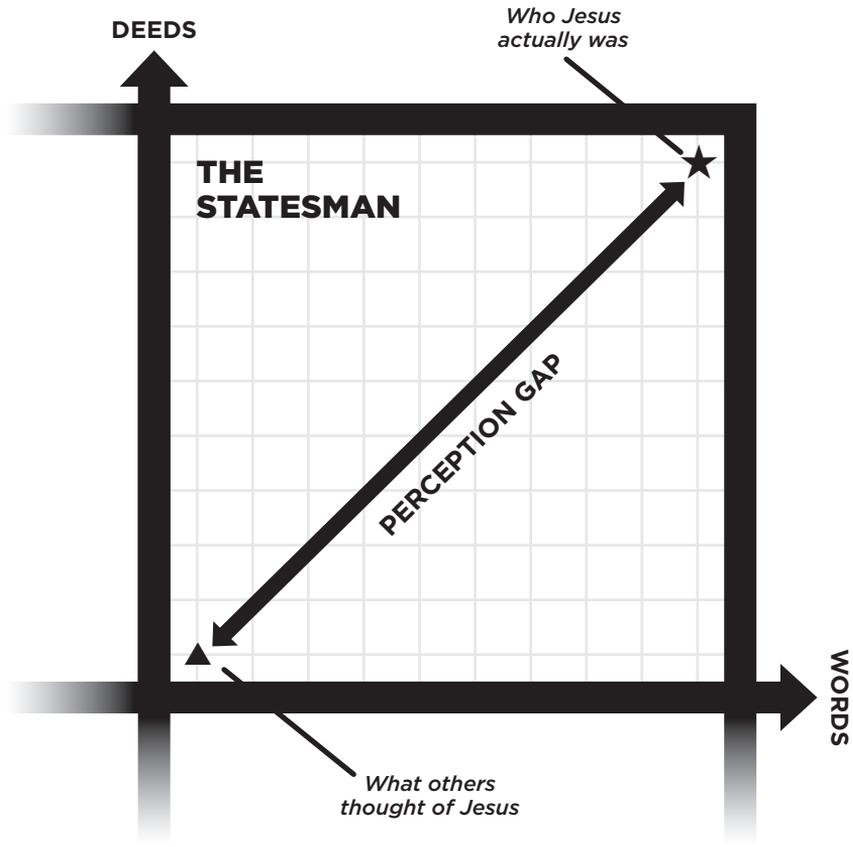
- Can miss opportunities
- May be perceived as non-engaging (R)
- Unable to communicate deep feelings
- Expects people to read his mind (L)



# THE STATESMAN

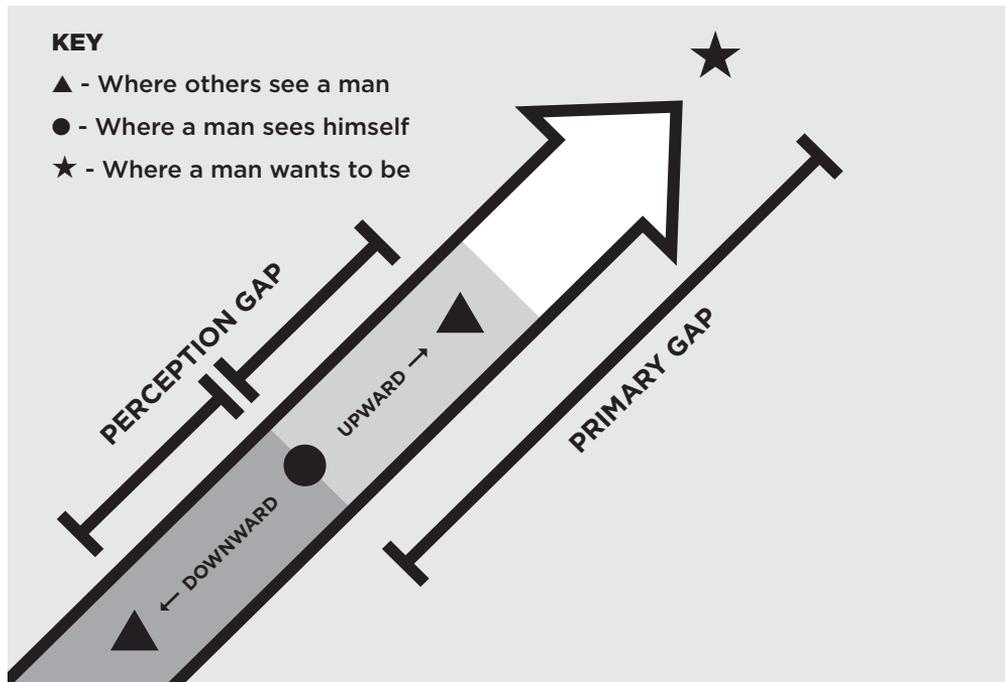
## POSITIVES

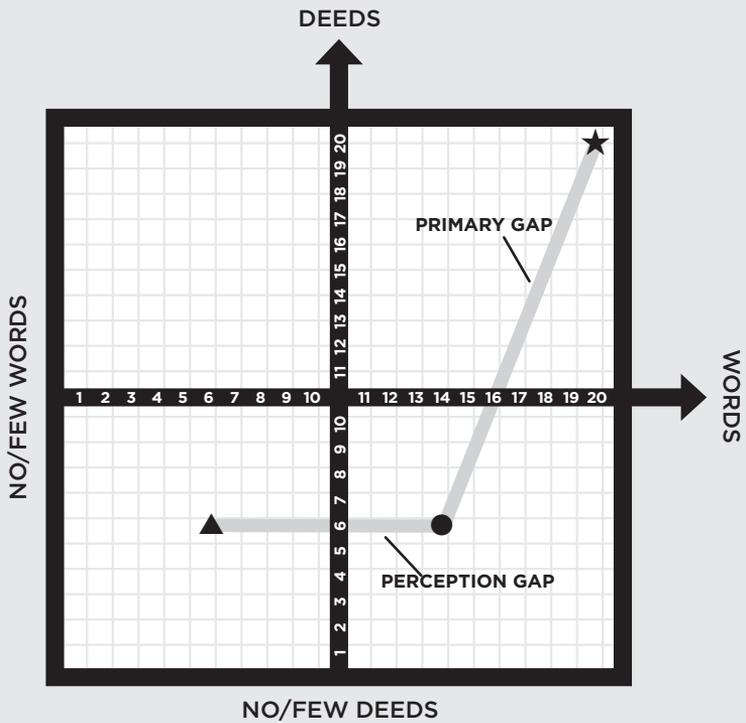
- + Loyal and true (R)
- + Enthusiastic
- + Keeps perspective (S)
- + Has conviction
- + Team leader (T)
- + Has integrity
- + Active, trusts workers, leads by example, and makes good decisions (L)



- The Primary Gap → A man's comprehension of his own shortfalls
- The Perception Gap → A man's incomprehension of how others perceive him

These gaps are outlined in the diagram below.





**KEY**

- ▲ - Where others see a man
- - Where a man sees himself
- ★ - Where a man wants to be

1. What needs to be done? (Write it here.)
2. State your intentions.
3. Follow up your words with actions. For instance, if you wrote that tomorrow you will read your Bible for ten minutes before work, then, on the next day, *git 'er done*.
4. Be consistent.

## MY SCORES

Friend #1      Words \_\_\_\_\_      Deeds \_\_\_\_\_

Friend #2      Words \_\_\_\_\_      Deeds \_\_\_\_\_

Friend #3      Words \_\_\_\_\_      Deeds \_\_\_\_\_

Total Score (add all 3)      Words \_\_\_\_\_      Deeds \_\_\_\_\_

Average (divide by 3)      Words \_\_\_\_\_      Deeds \_\_\_\_\_

Compare the average from your friends' assessment to your own assessment: Words \_\_\_\_\_ Deeds \_\_\_\_\_.

Please fill out the short exercise below.

My Primary Gap(s):    Words    or    Deeds    or    Both

My Perception Gap(s): Words    or    Deeds    or    Both

# A ONE-SESSION DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

1. According to the author, what is a deed? What is a word? What is the definition of *integrity*? What is the distinction between ethics and morality? When the author writes that without alignment of words and deeds, “our lives will lack personal meaning and broader impact,” what do you think he means?
2. Have you ever met a man who was all words and no deeds? What was he like? What about a man who was all deeds and no words? Have you ever met someone who had the perfect blend of both words and deeds? What was he like? What about a man with neither words nor deeds?
3. What profile did the diagnostic reveal you to be? Were your results a surprise? Why or why not?

## WORDS AND DEEDS

4. After reading the introduction and the first chapter, do you believe that words and deeds have equal weight in the world? The author describes how deeds seem to be praised much more than words. Why is this so?
5. Briefly describe the difference between a Sentry, a Salesman, a Scout, and a Statesman. Are there more members of your group of friends with one profile over another? Why do you think that is?
6. In the introduction, the author mentions Martin Luther King Jr. and President Theodore Roosevelt as men mighty in both words and deeds. Can you think of other men who fit this bill?
7. What does it mean to be a man in the arena? Have you ever felt like you were there? Are you there now, or do you feel more like a spectator?
8. Why is it so hard for a man to keep his word?
9. The author discusses a moral code and how society has moved away from a common understanding of what it is. What has society replaced a moral code with? Is the replacement sustainable? What are the inherent dangers of *not* having a moral code?

A ONE-SESSION DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

10. What are the three adversity rules for the Statesman? Why do you think it would be helpful for a Statesman to remember these three things? Do you think it is easy to follow these rules? Why or why not?
11. The author identifies Jesus as the Master Statesman and attempts to prove his case. Is this case convincing? In the following chapter the author also appeals to all his readers to become Statesmen like Jesus. Do you think it is possible for *all* Christian men to achieve the level of Statesman? Or is it simply not attainable for some?
12. In chapter 7, the author gives seven examples of blind spots. If you are willing to share, are you now aware of possessing one or two of these blind spots?
13. What are the three integrity terrorists? Which one of the three do you think you find particularly challenging?
14. What is a force multiplier? What are the six force multipliers? Have you had any success in implementing a force multiplier on a regular basis? Please share about your experience with the group.

## WORDS AND DEEDS

15. Is there one decision you have made to help improve your life as a result of reading this book? Would you be willing to share about this decision with the group?
  
16. In the final chapter of the book, the author states, “In every man’s life there is an opportunity for greatness. And it is usually connected with the man tapping into the fountain of God’s love and truth.” Have you done this in your own life? Please explain.

# A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

Week 1 → The Authority of Christ (read the introduction)

Week 2 → The Words of Christ (read chapters 1–2)

Week 3 → The Conduct of Christ (read chapters 3–5)

Week 4 → The Virtues of Christ (read chapter 6)

Week 5 → The Death and Resurrection of Christ (read chapters 7–8)

Week 6 → The Call of Christ (read chapters 9–10)

The format for each week's study:

- Introduction and Reading Assignment
- Intel Brief
- Individual Journal Questions
- Prayer
- Small Group Questions
- Collective Thoughts

## WORDS AND DEEDS

### WEEK 1: THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

*Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want  
to test a man's character, give him power.*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Both words and deeds matter in this life. Jesus was said to be mighty in both (Luke 24:19). As a foundation for the next five weeks, this week's focus is on the absolute authority of Christ in all matters. This supremacy gives us assurance of our faith and an example of how to treat others when placed in positions of leadership. Only the Son of God could teach with such authority.

#### Read:

- introduction, *Words and Deeds*
- the Gospel of Mark 1–3

#### ***INTEL BRIEF***

At its essence, having authority means having power over something. Authority can be given, it can be taken, and it can be coerced. True authority means having true power or complete control. It is from the Latin word *auctoritas*, which means influence, prestige, warrant, or responsibility.

Jesus had an authority not given Him by heritage, money, a ruling class, or a political entity. Jesus' power was from within, wrapped in His personality and mission and given from above. In one sense, He *was* authority,

because everything was made and held together through Him. The world had never seen power like this before.

All four Gospels contain an account of the life, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ, but the authority of Jesus is one of the Gospel of Mark's central themes. For instance, at the very beginning of Mark's Gospel, people are amazed at Jesus' teaching because it is with authority. Mark 1:27 states, "What is this? A new teaching with authority!" Mark also tells of Jesus' authority on earth to forgive sins. In Mark 2:1-12, Jesus speaks to a paralytic and tells him his sins are forgiven. The religious leaders take issue with this. Jesus challenges them by saying, "So that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . ." Then He forcefully—and fully—heals the man and tells him to go home. Not only did Jesus say He had authority, He showed everyone the proof of His authority.

Jesus had complete authority over one of the most sacred parts of Jewish theology: the Sabbath. In Mark 2, Jesus tells the Jewish leaders that He is Lord of the Sabbath—that He has power over it. He proves it by healing a man with a withered hand in a synagogue. Jesus also had authority over demons. Mark 1:34 says Jesus cast out many demons. Jesus' authority is seen in how He rebuked them, forbade them to speak, and demanded that they leave their hosts. Again, the fact that the demons fled is proof of Jesus' genuine dominion and power.

Jesus also had authority over the body, including disease and death. He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, and

## WORDS AND DEEDS

provided hearing to the deaf. Jesus made legs and backs straight and brought several people back to life. This was raw power never seen before. Jesus forcefully commanded people to get up, to proceed home, to sin no more, and to follow Him. He had authority over His disciples and imparted power to them (Mark 3:13-19), and Jesus had command over nature and the laws of physics. Everything was under His divine authority.

### *INDIVIDUAL JOURNAL QUESTIONS*

1. Think of a leader you once had who was not very effective. How did you respond?
2. Were you loyal despite their lack of influence? Did you discuss their leadership with them?
3. Now think of a time that you were in leadership. How did you use your authority—with force or as a servant? What is one thing you would do differently during that time?
4. Read Mark 11:27-33. The Jews were testing Jesus' authority. They were trying to set a trap for Him to fall into. However, by questioning them about John's baptism, Jesus turned the tables on them. Jesus did to the Jews what they were trying to do to Him. Jesus gave the perfect response. He was

A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

never ruffled and never responded like He was under pressure. What does this tell you about His authority?

**PRAYER**

Lord, all authority in heaven and on earth rests in You. There is nothing You do not notice, and there is no event outside Your control. Help me to trust You with every aspect of my life. Help me to come to You for assistance and not try to go it alone. May I stop relying on alternative strengths and trust in Your strength. May the authority granted me be used to glorify You and to advance Your Kingdom. Help me see my rightful place in Your eyes. Teach me humility, patience, and endurance. Amen.

**SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS**

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss: Which leader has commanded the most authority in your life? Describe the experience, whether negative or positive.
3. Read the story of Martin and Bruce (from chapter 7) out loud.

## WORDS AND DEEDS

4. Discuss: Describe a situation you've experienced that was similar to the story of Martin and Bruce. Which role did you play? What could Martin do to create a positive work environment? Why is it sometimes hard to see the big picture when you are in charge? Is it easier to be a manager or to be managed? What perception gaps did Martin have? What gaps did Bruce have?
5. Read Mark 2:1-12.
6. Discuss: What is the context of this passage? What are your observations? What is the true meaning of the passage? What is its application?
7. Discuss: Where does Jesus' authority come from? How much authority does He have? Did He operate with limits? Could He use His power for evil? Did Jesus ever hurt anyone? Look at verses 3-5. Do you have friends who are that persistent? How can you be a bridge to Christ for those you know that are still in darkness? How do you lead people around you to Jesus?
8. Review the introduction of *Words and Deeds*. Take a moment to describe to the group the bravest thing you have ever done.

A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

9. Discuss: Share what you wrote down in the Individual Journal Questions section. (People should feel free to pass.)
10. Teamwork: How can each individual participating in this study help his small group accomplish the mission of humble leadership?
11. Cross-thought (if time allows): Read Matthew 28:18-20. What is the relevance of Jesus' words in verse 18 to the rest of the passage? What is the relevance to your own life? What kind of power can we expect to have from Christ today?
12. Close in prayer after asking if anyone else has something to share with the group about Jesus' authority or a personal leadership challenge.

***COLLECTIVE THOUGHTS***

The main idea here is twofold. First, we have an amazing Lord to follow and obey. Nothing escapes His control or is outside His power. Jesus commanded the crowds with His teaching and His works, and sometimes just His gaze. He commands our lives as well. Second, we are not to be too hung up on our own authority. Scripture contains much more material on service and humility than on leading and power. It is the way Jesus led that we are to follow. He employed His authority to serve and minister to people. He

## WORDS AND DEEDS

used His life not for self-gain but to uplift others. When we find ourselves in places of influence and responsibility, we need to consider why God has given us authority: to uplift ourselves, or to uplift others?

What is one thing you should keep practicing? What is one thing you need to change? What is one thing to pray for?

- One thing to keep doing: \_\_\_\_\_
- One thing to change: \_\_\_\_\_
- One thing to pray about: \_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK 2: THE WORDS OF CHRIST

*Christianity is the greatest intellectual system  
the mind of man has ever touched.*

FRANCIS SCHAEFFER

All men tend toward being either too gracious or too truthful. We are constantly faced with the dilemma of being either loving or honest. Jesus, however, was never in a quandary. He broke the mold and is described by John as full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Jesus was always gracious and truthful to His followers.

### Read:

- chapters 1–2, *Words and Deeds*
- the Gospel of Mark 4–7

***INTEL BRIEF***

A parable is a fictitious story used to illustrate one main point, usually a moral lesson. A parable forces its listeners to not only use their imaginations to understand the central characters and who they represent but also to interpret the story's underlying message and discern how to apply that truth to their own lives.

Mark 4 explains the parable of the sower and the seed. The central truth to this story is that as word of the Kingdom is sown, sometimes it bears fruit, and sometimes it does not. In Mark 4:11-12, when Jesus' disciples ask Him about the meaning of the parables, He tells them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables."

When Jesus explains the parables for His disciples, He unlocks the eternal truths associated with them. At the same time, Jesus explains that He is intentionally confounding those people who believe they already understand the Kingdom, thinking that it is something they can grab by force and work to their advantage.

Before Christ, the people of Israel's view of God was unique in many ways, but most importantly in how God revealed Himself. For Israel, God did not primarily reveal Himself through images or nature; God revealed Himself through specific actions in history. Canaanites would learn about Baal by looking outside to see if something was growing, because Baal was a god of fertility. Babylonians would pull out their telescopes, because their gods were

## WORDS AND DEEDS

astral bodies. But for the Israelites—how did they know what God is like? The answer for them was “See creation, read about the patriarchs, and hear the stories of Moses and David. Our God meets with us in history and reveals Himself there.”

Then came Jesus, saying the most bizarre things, like “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15). He declared publicly that He was the bread that came down from heaven, and that if any man was thirsty, he should come to Him and drink. Though they measured everything—including how many steps a man could walk on the Sabbath—the Jews did not have a grid for this. When they challenged Jesus about His age and He declared that before Abraham was born, He existed, they tried to immediately kill Him. They could not see the continuity between Jesus and the God who had revealed Himself to them in history—that the same God who spoke to Abraham and performed mighty deeds for Moses was in their presence again in the life of Christ.

In the parables, Jesus spoke of two classes of people: those who could accept a new proclamation of the Kingdom and come to salvation and those who were unwilling or unable to accept that this human was doing God’s work.

### *INDIVIDUAL JOURNAL QUESTIONS*

1. What is your favorite parable from the Gospels? Why? What do you like about it?

A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

2. Read Mark 4:1-20. When I was a student minister at the University of Nebraska, I led a coed Bible study composed solely of nonbelievers. These were the cool kids and party animals, who lived for today without a care in the world. I took them to this passage and then discussed it a little bit. One of the girls earnestly asked, “Would you please teach us how to be good soil?” Think about your own life right now. Are you the good soil that Jesus talks about here? Or are desires for wealth, power, or material things sucking all the energy out of you until you have none left for the Kingdom? How are you investing your life right now?
  
3. In Mark 7:14-23, Jesus compares eating with unwashed hands with living a sinful life. Of these items—“evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness”—which ones are you struggling with now?

**PRAYER**

Lord, Your Word says that Your disciples have been given the mystery of the Kingdom of God. Lord, help us to have ears within our ears to hear from You, and open our eyes within that we might see You for who You really are, in our tragedies and in our

## WORDS AND DEEDS

triumphs. And help me trust You when the world seems to be caving in around me. Please keep me humble, knowing that You are the Lord, and You will not share Your glory with another. But help me also to experience Your love. I give Jesus the freedom to search out every area of my life and to change whatever He desires. May He be my Lord my entire life. Amen.

### *SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS*

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss: In chapter 2, there is a definition of integrity and an explanation of ethics and morality. In your own words, what does it mean to have ethics? What does it mean to have morality? After explaining the difference between the two, discuss what it means when these concepts are in synthesis with each other.
3. Read the last paragraph in the Intel Brief section. Think of a time when you were scratching your head and wondering what God was doing with your life.
4. Discuss: When was a time when you were challenged regarding whether to take God at His word or not? Perhaps you have never been

seriously tested in life and things have moved along swimmingly. Have you learned about God from others' trials?

5. Read Mark 4:1-20.
6. Discuss: What is the context? What are your observations? What is the true meaning of the passage? What is its application?
7. Discuss: On first glance, the story—along with Jesus' explanation—makes fairly good sense. What is a modern-day example of the first soil (road)? What is a modern-day example of the second soil (rocky ground)? How are these first two soils different? What is a modern-day example of the third soil (thorns)? What is a modern-day example of the fourth soil (good soil)? Who is someone that you can see is being good soil for the Lord? Now for the hard part: In verses 11-12, Jesus speaks of those people who are never allowed to understand. Without going into a debate over God's sovereignty versus free will, is it explained in Scripture why Jesus used parables and kept some people from understanding the truth of His mission? Why the secrecy? Shouldn't everyone have the full knowledge of God? Matthew 13:10-17 might help with these last questions.

## WORDS AND DEEDS

8. Pre-work: Ask if anyone would like to share some of the items they wrote down for questions 1–3 in the Individual Journal Questions section.
9. Teamwork: How can each individual participating in this study help the small group accomplish the mission of being good soil at work, at home, at church, and with friends?
10. Cross-thought (if time allows): Read Matthew 13:24–30. Why does the landowner allow the tares to grow? Does this make sense? Read Matthew 13:36–43. Wouldn't it be easier just to have wheat in the field? Or is this all part of some great test?
11. Close in prayer after asking if anyone else has something to share with the group.

## *COLLECTIVE THOUGHTS*

The Judaism of first-century Palestine believed that God's rule would come eventually— at the end of history. It was understood that if you obeyed Moses' teachings and lived a good life, you would be rewarded when God brought the world to an end. Jesus taught something radical in the parables, and it confused His listeners. Jesus was saying that God already ruled; in the person of Jesus, God's Kingdom was inaugurated. Jesus taught His disciples that His rule in the present was quiet and simple and could only be discerned through eyes of faith. It

was not recognizable to the world or acknowledged by the world—only perceived through eyes of faith. God’s rule and reign was present, even under the domination of the Romans.

With Christ’s explanation of the soils, He showed that many things could rob His word from the hearts of men. However, those who truly listened to Him and obeyed His teachings would accomplish much in this lifetime, including gaining eternal life. The Jews were looking for a different kind of savior, one who would bring them victory over their tormentors. Jesus was teaching that their deliverer was already among them. With the parable of the mustard seed in Mark 4:30-32, Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God—though visibly small like a seed—was there in the present and would quickly become the most important thing in life. He was teaching that through Christ, God was establishing His Kingdom, and that eventually, it would reign supremely over all He created.

### **WEEK 3: THE CONDUCT OF CHRIST**

*The real test of a saint is not one’s willingness to preach the gospel, but one’s willingness to do something like washing the disciples’ feet.*

OSWALD CHAMBERS

Christ did not come as a conquering king but as a suffering servant. He refused to allow anyone or anything to make Him into something He was not. His identity and mission

## WORDS AND DEEDS

as Messiah was not what the Jews expected but what they desperately needed: a servant. We, too, can serve when we do so from an overflowing heart.

### Read:

- chapters 3–5, *Words and Deeds*
- the Gospel of Mark 8–10

### ***INTEL BRIEF***

For some reason, Jesus wanted many of His great deeds to go unnoticed by the masses. He refused to let others spread the good word about His healings. This is evidence of what theologians call the “Messianic Secret.”<sup>1</sup> Jesus knew His identity as the long-awaited Messiah but did not want the crowds or the Jews to know who He was until the time of His death. The Gospel of Mark highlights this aspect of Jesus’ ministry more fully than any other Gospel.

Early on, when Jesus began to reveal His unusual power, He ordered those around Him to be silent. When Jesus healed a man with leprosy (Mark 1:40-42), He commanded him not to tell anyone about it. However, the man went out and spoke freely about it, to such a degree that Jesus could not go anywhere openly because of the crowds seeking after Him. In Mark 5, Jesus brings a synagogue official’s daughter back to life. After the little girl arises and begins to walk, Jesus gives the parents strict orders that no one should know about what happened (verse 43). In Mark 7:32-37, Jesus heals a man who is deaf and dumb, then immediately tells those

watching not to tell anyone about it. Yet Mark writes that the more Jesus ordered people to be quiet, the more widely they would proclaim His power.

Jesus also told the demons to be quiet. In Mark 1:25, Jesus commands an unclean spirit who calls Jesus “the Holy One of God” not to speak. In Mark 1:34, Jesus does not allow the demons to speak because they know who He is. In Mark 3:11-12, when Jesus casts out unclean spirits and they behold Him, they declare Jesus the Son of God. Jesus then warns them not to make Him known.

Jesus even instructed the disciples not to make known to others who He was. In Mark 8:30, after Peter declares that Jesus is the Christ, Jesus warns the disciples to tell no one about Him. Similarly, immediately after the transfiguration, Jesus told His companions not to tell anyone what they had seen until after His resurrection.

Why all the secrecy? Didn't Jesus *want* people to understand who He was? One good reason for this silence was that Jesus' ministry might have ended quickly if the Jewish leaders and Romans heard that a prospective Messiah was in the area. The first century was a tumultuous era; insurrection was a popular proposal in Jesus' day. If Jesus had allowed this belief to take root, He would not have had much time to heal people or teach His disciples.

Jesus ordering the demons to silence makes perfect sense, knowing who Jesus really was. He did not want agents of the adversary—who were known for their lies—to be His heralds. But the most important reason for Jesus' commands for silence

## WORDS AND DEEDS

must be that His mission hinged on something deeper than anyone could have known at the time. Instead of a Messiah as a political leader, Jesus came as a Messiah who would serve and suffer, a Messiah more recognizable in the servant hymns of Isaiah than in the mighty warrior themes from the Psalms. The crowds were expecting someone to free them. Jesus would bring freedom, but not in the way they expected. The people's problem was not Rome—it was their own sin and the adversary. The essence of sin is selfishness, and the values of the Kingdom Jesus inaugurated are summarized in the word *selfless*. Jesus was not self-seeking; He came to serve.

It was right that people wanted to go out and tell others what Jesus had done for them. When Christ touches your life, you cannot keep quiet. However, Jesus' mission was more than displaying God's power: It was an emptying, and it was taking on the form of a servant. This service would end in the ultimate sacrifice, and no one could see that end but Christ alone, so He called for secrecy.

### **INDIVIDUAL JOURNAL QUESTIONS**

1. Think of a time when someone truly served you. How did it make you feel? How did you respond to them during the event and afterward? Think of one person you can serve this week and write their name below. Now, think of a specific way you can serve them and write this next to their name. Ask God to give you the strength to follow through.

A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

2. After reading through chapter 5 of *Words and Deeds*, you have identified from the diagnostic which profile you are: Sentry, Salesman, Scout, or Statesman. How well do you identify with what the author has proposed for your type? Do the R, S, T, and L categories (page 40) apply to you? Why or why not?
  
3. In Mark 8:27-34, Jesus has an intimate moment with His disciples, asking them who they think He is. Peter's response is absolutely correct, yet Christ tells the disciples to tell no one. Why was He so secretive about His identity? When Peter rebukes Jesus for mentioning His upcoming death, Jesus in turn rebukes Peter, calling him Satan. Have you ever been chastised for doing the right thing? Was Peter doing the right thing here? Could he have known the importance of Jesus' true mission at the time? At that point, could he have known Jesus' true identity as a suffering servant?

**PRAYER**

Lord, You came to earth clothed in humility, with a mission to serve others and suffer. Help me to be more like You. Please kill my pride and humble me, that I may see who I really am in Your eyes. Help me to have a deep love for other people and to have a sacrificial heart to serve them. Help me not to get bitter and frustrated when I think I am being taken

## WORDS AND DEEDS

advantage of. Help me to trust You in all situations and know that You are the one I should aim to please. Amen.

### *SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS*

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss: Of the leaders you've worked for, which one has displayed the most humility and service to others? Describe the experience and what you learned by working alongside this individual.
3. Read each of the four profiles in chapters 4 and 5: Sentry, Salesman, Scout, and Statesman (if not done already).
4. Discuss: Which one of the four types of men are you? Do you agree with this assessment? Why or why not?
5. Read Mark 5:21-24 and 35-43.
6. Discuss: What is the context? What are your observations? What is the true meaning of the passage? What is its application?

A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

7. Discuss: Where does Jesus' power to heal come from? How much power does He have? Are there any limits? Notice how quickly the people in the house change their emotions between verse 38 and verse 40. Why does the crowd laugh at Him? In verse 43, Jesus gives them strict orders that no one should know about this. Why does He do this? What is the significance that Jesus, during His life, raised people from the dead?
8. Review: Now that you are familiar with the four types of men, look again at the story of Martin and Bruce from chapter 7. In this story, try to identify the Statesman, the Scout, the Salesman, and the Sentry. Also, if time allows, think of the main disciples. Who were the Statesmen, Scouts, Salesmen, and Sentries? Think of those you currently work with. Do most people you know fit into one of these categories?
9. Pre-work: Ask if anyone would like to share some of the items they wrote down for questions 1–3 in the Individual Journal Questions section.
10. Teamwork: How can each individual participating in this study help his "team" accomplish the mission of a servant heart?

## WORDS AND DEEDS

11. Cross-thought (if time allows): Read Luke 17:7-10.  
What is the meaning of Jesus' words in verse 9?  
How does it relate to His own mission?
  
12. Close in prayer after asking if anyone else has something to share with the group about Jesus' identity as a sacrificial servant.

### ***COLLECTIVE THOUGHTS***

The main idea here has to do with Jesus' identity as a suffering servant. Isaiah 53 describes the Messiah as a man of sorrows acquainted with grief. It also states He is oppressed and afflicted, and He is called "My Servant." Often, we look to God for help to make us someone important or to accomplish something great. Jesus as a suffering servant teaches us something about the hidden things of God. Christ was born in a Bethlehem stable to commoners, not in Rome to a prince and princess. Yet He was still victorious over sin and death. His victory can even be seen in our brokenness and struggles in this life. When we give our lives fully to Him, He can straighten our paths with His wisdom and provide roses from our ruins.

What is one thing you should keep practicing? What is one thing you need to change? What is one thing to pray for?

- One thing to keep doing: \_\_\_\_\_
- One thing to change: \_\_\_\_\_
- One thing to pray about: \_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK 4: THE VIRTUES OF CHRIST

*Courage is not merely one of the virtues but the form of every virtue at the testing point.*

C. S. LEWIS

Chapter 6 looks at the virtuous life of Christ. Jesus was the model of integrity when He walked on earth as the Master Statesman. His life teaches us about love, compassion, generosity, humility, hope, and many other character traits. We can study the life of Christ and learn from His example.

### Read:

- chapter 6, *Words and Deeds*
- the Gospel of Mark 11–12

### ***INTEL BRIEF***

The virtues Jesus teaches us do not come in a list. Jesus teaches us virtues by how He lived His life. Jesus shows us how to be pure in an evil world, and He instructs us to keep God at the center of all our encounters, especially when we are tempted. Jesus showed love to His disciples and to those He ministered to by healing them, teaching them, and caring for them. Jesus showed compassion to the multitude by feeding them. In this feeding, we see His generosity when a total of nineteen baskets of food were left over. Jesus teaches us the bounty of God here. He does not just give to His followers;

## WORDS AND DEEDS

He gives abundantly. This abundance, Christ purported, would come of His disciples when the seeds of His words were sown in good soil to produce a crop of a hundredfold.

Jesus' life teaches us humility when He allowed Himself to be baptized, over the protests of John the Baptist. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, when He rightfully could have come in on a horse with an army. Jesus, the King of the ages, washed His disciples' feet and taught them about humility and service. Jesus died naked (or nearly naked), listening to the rebukes of mockers.

Jesus' life teaches us about hope: He was constantly aware of His future death but preached about a new life with the Father. He spoke of His betrayal but was more concerned about the fate of the betrayer than about dwelling on the pain of being betrayed. Jesus' life teaches us about having faith: He told the disciples they just needed the tiniest amount of faith to allow God to work on their behalf— the faith of a mustard seed. He used faith to heal the deaf and blind, knowing His prayers would be answered. He used faith to consecrate the bread and the fishes for the masses, along with the bread and the wine for the disciples.

Jesus' life teaches us to live lives of courage, of patience, of goodness. He endured a tremendous fast in the desert and then allowed Himself to be tempted. He was patient with teaching the disciples important life lessons over and over again. His courage, patience, and goodness are examples to Christians and non-Christians alike in how to deal with adversity. When enemies tried to twist His words

and His actions, Jesus responded not in anger or violence but in truth and grace, often showing them that the way God looked at something was entirely different from a human point of view.

Jesus teaches us about justice and restraint. He forbade His disciples from hindering people who were casting out demons in Jesus' name but not following Him. Christ told them that "those who are not against us are for us." He spoke to His disciples about the end of time, when God would punish the wicked. He forbade His disciples from exacting revenge (Luke 9:51-56). In all these things, Jesus is teaching His followers that God's plans are larger than the players, and that we should trust in His timing.

Jesus teaches us about holiness and sanctity in marriage. When the Jews asked Him about Moses' law to give a certificate of divorce, Jesus taught about the heart of God as purity, unity, and fidelity. "And they shall become one flesh," Jesus quoted from Genesis 2:24, and thus affirmed God's ancient principle of oneness as above the Old Testament law. The virtues Jesus teaches us are boundless. He was the model of integrity and a true Statesman.

#### ***INDIVIDUAL JOURNAL QUESTIONS***

1. Who is the most virtuous man you know? What is it about that person that is the most important, or what draws you to him the most? Do you model his behavior sometimes or think about what response

## WORDS AND DEEDS

he might have to a certain trial you might be going through? How does this person remind you of Christ?

2. In Mark 9:38-43, Jesus teaches His disciples about restraint and how to get along with people who do not work alongside them well. In your own words, write out what Jesus is telling the disciples in verses 39-40. Have you ever had to have patience with someone in the ministry who saw things completely differently than you? Were you able to exercise restraint, or did your impatience with them cause you some trouble? How did you resolve the issue?

## *PRAYER*

Lord, You lived the most virtuous life anyone could have lived, and Your life is a model for all Christians. Help me to reflect the glory of God in my daily life by living a life of love and faith—like Christ. Help me to be kind and generous to those in need. Please give me wisdom and courage for the trials ahead and hope that I might lead my family. In Your grace, You have shown us a model life, a life that was pleasing to God. Help me to be like You, in all my ways. Amen.

**SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS**

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss: What do you think of the C. S. Lewis quote at the beginning of this lesson? Does it make sense? Between what happens to us and our response is a space. In that space, we have the power to consider how to respond. With that in mind, why is it so hard to live a virtuous life sometimes? Can't we just *choose* to do what's right? Also, is it possible to live a life of virtue—like Christ, but two thousand years later?
3. Read the story of the two roofers at the end of chapter 2.
4. Discuss: Have you encountered businessmen like the first roofer? What did you do about it? One would think that roofers with integrity would have much more business than their less-ethical counterparts. Why aren't most companies operated with a high level of integrity? Or do you think they are? Why?
5. Read Mark 10:1-12.

## WORDS AND DEEDS

6. Discuss: What is the context? What are your observations? What is the true meaning of the passage? What is its application?
  
7. Jesus taught His followers to live truly virtuous lives, many times turning a human precept upside down. Christ taught what God the Father thought about certain things, like having ceremonially clean hands as compared to a dirty heart (Mark 7:14-23). This passage seems to suggest that marriage is the crucible for living a virtuous life. To be married and have children strips the pride and selfishness out of a person pretty quick; otherwise, things go downhill fast. Why is it so hard to be a virtuous person in marriage? Does Jesus give us any option but to work issues out and change our behaviors with each other? How might the virtues of Christ presented in the Intel Brief section of this chapter help in married life? Is it possible to be a man of integrity, humility, and love in the workplace, at church, or with friends without those virtues taking place at home? Basically, can people fake it? Why would they want to? Have you been faking it in one or two of these areas?
  
8. Pre-work: Ask if anyone would like to share some of the items they wrote down for questions 1–2 in the Individual Journal Questions section. Has anyone

A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

in the group had someone else take the Words and Deeds Diagnostic? If so, please explain if there were similar results or if they were different.

9. Teamwork: How can each individual participating in this study help his “team” accomplish the mission of being a virtuous person at work, at home, at church, and with friends?
10. Cross-thought (if time allows): Read Matthew 5:7-9. How does a man show mercy at work, home, and church today? Have you been used as a peacemaker at one of these areas? Define “pure in heart.” Try to explain it in your own words.
11. Close in prayer after asking if anyone else has something to share with the group.

***COLLECTIVE THOUGHTS***

Christ’s life was lived as an example for the ages. We do not have the same abilities and personality Christ had, but He expects His followers to exhibit moral excellence and to live virtuous lives. Consider ways that you might grow in the areas covered in this study. Ask a good friend to hold you accountable and to pray for you. Sometimes our friends can see when we are “faking it” faster than we can. One goal of this study is to challenge you to live without duplicity.

## WEEK 5: THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

*The love of God is greater far  
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star,  
And reaches to the lowest hell.*

FREDERICK M. LEHMAN

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the most important events in human history; they place God's love on display. By these acts, Satan's power over men is destroyed, and humankind is brought the blessings of God's reign.

### Read:

- chapters 7–8, *Words and Deeds*
- the Gospel of Mark 13–16

### ***INTEL BRIEF***

The death and resurrection of Christ is a twist—simultaneously the most evil and wonderful thing in the world. By the latter, humankind is afforded eternal life; by the former, the One who gives us eternal life is killed. Jesus' death and resurrection prove that He is the Son of God and that everything He taught was true. In his work *The Case for Christ*, Lee Strobel provides excellent research material for people to consider the evidence regarding the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For the purposes of this men's study, it is critical to consider the

changed lives of the disciples and of the community of faith Jesus belonged to in the first century.

Scripture tells us the disciples were dispersed after Jesus was arrested. Peter denied Christ, and most of the others hid in fear. Not all of them attended the Crucifixion. Only two of them ran to the tomb to see if it was indeed empty. We see them back at their old career of fishing when Jesus encountered them on the beach. Some of them were walking in the country. And there is a sense in the Gospels that, for the most part, the disciples kept a low profile, scared of the Jewish rulers who had won round one in their battle against Christianity—or so it seemed.

In fact, even though Jesus told His disciples over and over again that He—the Messiah—would suffer but come back to life (Mark 14:27-28), they refused to believe Him. In Mark 16, Mary Magdalene went to where they were hiding to tell them that she saw Jesus alive, but they refused to believe her (verses 9-11). Two of them reported that they saw Him on the road, but the disciples did not believe them either (verses 12-13). Thomas did not even believe his fellow disciples when they said Jesus had visited them! These men were not prepared—emotionally or spiritually—for these encounters. In Mark 16:14, Jesus reproaches the disciples for their lack of belief in trustworthy eyewitnesses.

What we see next with the disciples, therefore, is important. These men invested their entire lives to preach to others that Jesus came back from the dead and ascended into heaven. There was nothing for them to gain from this except

## WORDS AND DEEDS

persecution. They themselves would know if Jesus' resurrection was true or not. Who would die for a lie? The only answer could be that these men had actually been with the resurrected Christ— in the flesh— eating with Him, talking to Him, praying with Him, and relating to Him again as a fully human, touchable person. These encounters changed the disciples' lives and the lives of many other followers as well. In one passage, it states Jesus was seen by more than five hundred people. This could explain the incredible beginning of the church in Jerusalem, the entrenched headquarters of Judaism for hundreds of years: Thousands of Jews converted and became Christians in the weeks following Jesus' resurrection.

Obviously, many religious founders are deeply admired by their adherents. But when you look at the life of Christ and consider the subjects taught in this Bible study— His miracles, His parables, His wisdom, His teaching, His servanthood— and wrap all of this together with His death and resurrection in order to save people from their sins, there is no close comparison between Christianity and any other religion.

If Christianity is true, then no other religion can be true, because Christ made such exclusive claims about Himself: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" ( John 14:6). "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies" ( John 11:25). The disciples and those who were with them would know if Christian claims of a resurrection were true or not, and their lives preach to us that Jesus was indeed raised from the dead. They did not simply possess a blind or

emotional faith from what others had told them. They held to a real encounter involving all of their senses over a period of time (1 John 1:1-3).

Consider also the lives of Jesus skeptics, like Saul of Tarsus, who encountered the risen Christ and had nothing to gain from his conversion but mockery and rejection from a hierarchical establishment that had groomed him to be a leader of leaders. Saul—renamed Paul after his conversion—put this career away, gave up everything, and followed Christ. There can be no other explanation except that the God of the Bible is the one true God, and the Jesus that Mark writes about is the only way to come to Him.

***INDIVIDUAL JOURNAL QUESTIONS***

1. Read Mark 15:22-39. Does it appear strange that so many people were there by Jesus' cross insulting Him? Write below something about this passage that you had not considered before.
  
2. The Intel Brief discusses the changed lives of the disciples after the resurrection of Jesus. Does the author make a convincing case for the resurrection? Or does it still seem like it cannot be proved by the actions of a few men? What do you think?

## WORDS AND DEEDS

3. Some people struggle with the exclusivity of Christianity; they think that it seems too narrow. Could there be more than one way to God and to heaven? Consider the discussion in the Intel Brief about other religions not being true if Christianity is true. Do you agree with this assertion? If not, read John 11:25-27 and John 14:6. How do they measure up to the statements in the Intel Brief?
  
4. Chapter 7 of *Words and Deeds* discusses gaps. How large is your primary gap? Have you asked others to take the diagnostic for you? If so, what was the result of your perception gap? Were you surprised at how others viewed your words and deeds? Why or why not?
  
5. Rate yourself in the following seven areas. Circle the number on each line that corresponds with your answer. Then be prepared to talk about your responses with your group.

A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

PRESENT CHARACTER LEVEL	POOR/ LOW				GREAT/ HIGH
Leadership	1	2	3	4	5
Servanthood	1	2	3	4	5
Boldness/Courage	1	2	3	4	5
Forgiveness	1	2	3	4	5
Humility	1	2	3	4	5
Honesty/Truthfulness	1	2	3	4	5
Kindness	1	2	3	4	5

**PRAYER**

Lord, Your Word declares that Jesus died a hideous death, was buried, and then rose again to physical life and was seen by hundreds of people. Help me to believe this in the core of who I am. And help me to be comforted knowing that Your Word is true and that I can count on Christ as my Savior. Help me to be bold like the disciples when I am given an opportunity to share my faith. Remind me often that You are King, that in Your Kingdom there are no mistakes, and that everything that happens in my life happens for a reason—and for my ultimate good—because You love me. Amen.

## WORDS AND DEEDS

### SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss: Who is the boldest person you have ever met? Is there a difference between boldness and courage?
3. Read the opening story of chapter 1, the story about the four chaplains.
4. Discuss: Have you ever had an intense encounter with a group of people that became lifelong friends as a result of their shared experience? How do you think those chaplains had the strength to stand and sing as the ship went down? Is it possible to *train yourself* to be ready for this type of traumatic encounter? Do you think there was a soldier in the oily water that night wishing he had stood alongside the four chaplains to allow another serviceman to have his life preserver?
5. Read Mark 16:1-14.
6. Discuss: What is the context? What are your observations? What is the true meaning of the passage? What is its application?

7. Discuss: The resurrection story is one of the most well-known stories in the Bible. From our perspective today, it seems crazy that it took so long for the disciples to believe that Jesus was alive. Jesus thought so too. This was another example of Jesus having to reproach His disciples for their hardness of heart. What were the reasons for their fear? What were the reasons for their lack of belief in the Jesus sightings? Transition to your own life. Have you ever had this kind of fear about being a Christian or being “found out” by someone at work or in the community? Have you ever refused to see Jesus in an event in your life? Or refused to believe in a miracle someone told you about? What is the difference between your story and that of the disciples?
8. Pre-work: Ask if anyone would like to share some of their insights or answers to questions 1–4 in the Individual Journal Questions section. Does everyone in the group understand the difference between a primary gap and a perception gap?
9. Teamwork: How can each individual participating in this study help his “team” accomplish the mission of being bold ambassadors of Jesus Christ’s resurrection?

## WORDS AND DEEDS

10. Cross-thought (if time allows): Read John 21:1-14. Why do you think Jesus gave His disciples this one last miracle with the fish? Why did Peter throw himself in the sea while the others rowed to shore? Why do you think Jesus had breakfast waiting for them? Any other observations about this passage that are striking?

11. Close in prayer after asking if anyone else has something to share with the group.

### ***COLLECTIVE THOUGHTS***

After three years together, the emotional connection the disciples shared after Jesus' death was strong. But the connection they shared after His resurrection was impenetrable. They would never go back and be the men they used to be. Peter, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Simon, and James, son of Alphaeus, were all crucified. James and Matthew were killed with a sword. Thomas was killed by a spear, and Thaddaeus was killed by arrows.<sup>2</sup> These were just the disciples. Other followers were burned at the stake, thrown off cliffs, killed by large stones, sawn in half, or drowned for their faith. What is truly remarkable is that the followers of Christ became as bold as lions and decided to preach in the open square inside hostile Jerusalem. How has your life changed as a result of meeting Christ?

## WEEK 6: THE CALL OF CHRIST

*If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.*

C. T. STUDD

Christ came to give us freedom. Peter and Andrew did not just leave their nets; they were made free from them. They found in Jesus a man who was worthy of all their time and energy. Though they struggled with their belief and their own pride, the disciples were “all in.”

### Read:

- chapters 9–10, *Words and Deeds*

### ***INTEL BRIEF***

The call that Jesus gave to His disciples is similar to the call that Jesus gives to men and women today. When they were called in first-century Palestine, the Twelve left their professions and families to begin a journey with Christ. In a similar way, Jesus calls men and women today to follow Him and trust Him with their lives. Essentially, Jesus is asking His followers to trade in their old nets—their old ways of perceiving the world and relating to others (and possibly even their professions). He also wants His followers to be influenced by what God wants them to do and how God wants them to relate. It starts with simple belief and proceeds into

## WORDS AND DEEDS

being transformed by Christ's challenges for us, as recorded in Scripture.

The initial call upon a life is that of salvation, to believe that Christ was not just an example to me but my substitute as atonement for my sins. Christ's death became my death, and His life became my life. It is through Jesus Christ that I have grace and am now free from God's condemnation. It is through Christ's blood sacrifice that I have been reconciled to God and have peace, so I will not experience God's wrath on Judgment Day. Also, it is through Christ's resurrection and life that I enter into eternal life. Because of Christ's life, I will have a full and future salvation and be restored to God eternally.

The Gospel of Mark shows that Jesus did not ask everyone He met into a discipleship relationship. And not everyone that Jesus called followed Him. In Mark 5, Jesus tells a man who wants to follow Him to go back home (verses 18-20). In Mark 10:17-22, Jesus invites a rich young ruler to follow Him, but the man walks away grieved, unwilling to part with his wealth.

What we find in Mark's Gospel is a theme not only of discipleship but also of discipleship failure. In the process of coming to terms with who Jesus was, the Twelve said and did some very vain things and displayed a lack of faith. For instance, in Mark 4, the disciples show a conspicuous lack of faith during a storm before Jesus stills the sea (verses 37-41). There was a lack of belief before Jesus fed the thousands. Peter misstepped when he rebuked Jesus, and in Mark 9,

the disciples have their own conversation while Jesus discusses His upcoming death (verses 31-34). When He asks about their discussion, it is revealed they were debating which one of them would be the greatest.

These failures and vanities serve a great purpose for the reader, however, because it is here that we can glean how Jesus might respond to us when we also encounter failures of faith. In Mark chapter 9, Jesus tells the disciples that whoever wishes to be great must be a servant to all. Whoever wishes to be first, must be last. We also find Peter's triple denial of Christ and his redemption after the resurrection. These episodes of instruction and restoration can give great comfort and strength to those of us journeying today.

#### ***INDIVIDUAL JOURNAL QUESTIONS***

1. Think of how you were first introduced to Christianity. Was it by your family, a friend, a church, or another ministry? Describe some of your first thoughts about what you observed about Christians. Did it attract you; was it repulsive? What is an event that sticks out in your mind when you changed your perception or actions?
2. Read Mark 1:16-20. Once, while I was leading a Bible study of international students, they were

## WORDS AND DEEDS

indignant about the disciples' actions. "No one would leave their profession and their expensive nets to follow a man they just met," they said—"it is ridiculous!" I had never thought much about the passage before their protest, but I can see their point. What do *you* think about this account? Write down several key words or themes you notice in this passage. What questions does it raise for you? Why do you think the men left everything to follow Christ? Do you have a similar story?

3. In Mark 9:35, Jesus instructs His disciples a little bit about what it takes to be "all in." What He is describing to them is radical discipleship. It takes a power outside us to love an enemy, to forgive spouses who have wounded us, or to serve people who do not appreciate us. Radical discipleship is more than just a flash in the pan; it is a call to deep, long, intentional relationships. Who in your life needs you to love them unconditionally? Jesus demonstrated radical discipleship by walking alongside people where they were—who in your life needs you to walk alongside them? Radical discipleship also requires vulnerability—what is your high-risk area? In which life area do you need accountability?

A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

4. Please circle the issue(s) you are currently dealing with:

- Addiction to prescription meds or other drugs
- Addiction to video games
- Adultery
- Fantasies/living a secretive life
- Flirting with a woman other than your wife
- Gambling
- Greed
- Indulgent drinking
- Laziness
- Neglecting family
- Overeating
- Racism
- Seeking vengeance
- Stealing from employer/government
- Suicidal thoughts
- Viewing pornography
- Withdrawal from family and others
- Workaholism
- Other (\_\_\_\_\_)

How long have you had these problems? What have you tried to do about it? Have you ever confessed these issues to a close friend or mentor? If you are married, have you shared them with your spouse? Please prayerfully consider opening up about these issues with your small group the next time you

## WORDS AND DEEDS

meet. Sharing a burden with another man is a helpful tool to climb out of the rut you might be in. “Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17).

### *PRAYER*

Lord, You came so that I might enter into a relationship with You. Thank You for forgiving me my sins and offering me eternal life through the death and resurrected life of Jesus. I ask You to take complete control of my life and to make me the man You want me to be. I am tired of serving myself and I long to be led by You, learn how to live in grace, and learn how to live an other-oriented life. Open me up to Your ways, give me the strength to follow Your leadership, and help me to help others in this journey. Amen.

### *SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS*

1. Open in prayer.
2. Discuss: In chapter 9, the author presents a case for forming a band of brothers. Apart from this group, are there men in your life that you can speak to about life events and spiritual matters? Did you develop an individual improvement plan? Did it work? If you are willing, please share it with the group.

A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

3. Read the story about Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain at the beginning of chapter 10.
4. Discuss: What do you think of this story? When down on your luck (so to speak), have you ever been treated with dignity and given an opportunity, like the mutineers were with Chamberlain? What was the result? Have you made any important decisions after reading *Words and Deeds* and participating in this small group study? Please share them with the group.
5. Read Mark 2:14, 9:35, and 16:15.
6. Discuss: What is the context? What are your observations? What is the true meaning of these passages? What is their application?
7. Discuss: What does it mean to be a follower of Christ? Can you be a Christian and still have your life look like that of your neighbor who takes no interest in God? Do we have freedom in Christ to do or say whatever we want? Are there any limits? What does it mean to be “all in”? What does it mean to disciple others? Are we doing a good job of this in Christianity today?

## WORDS AND DEEDS

8. Pre-work: Ask if anyone would like to share what they wrote down for questions 1–4 in the Individual Journal Questions section. With question 4, would anyone be willing to share with the group which issues they circled? Please remind everyone that what is shared in the group *stays in the group*, and work together to hold each other accountable for the issues shared man to man.
9. Teamwork: How can each individual participating in this study help his “team” accomplish the mission of being a disciple and discipling others?
10. Cross-thought (if time allows): Read Luke 9:57-62. What is the meaning of Jesus’ words in verse 62? How does it relate to us when we struggle with our faith?
11. Close in prayer after asking if anyone else has something to share with the group.

## **COLLECTIVE THOUGHTS**

Our God is a God who invites us into a relationship with Him. In Scripture, it is described as being invited to a banquet or feast. With this invitation, Jesus calls men to repent, to break away from evil works that are ruining their lives. It is a summons for men to turn *away from* sin and turn *to*

A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

God. This summons is also an announcement that God is doing something great, and if men repent of their sins and follow Christ, then they will be blessed—in this life and the life to come.

## WORDS AND DEEDS

### THE SCOUT

#### POSITIVES

- + Coolness/calmness
- + Maintains composure (S)
- + Team builder (T)
- + Quiet loyalist
- + Behind-the-scenes worker

#### NEGATIVES

- Can miss opportunities
- May be perceived as non-engaging (R)
- Unable to communicate deep feelings
- Expects people to read his mind (L)

### THE SENTRY

#### POSITIVES

- + Takes life as it comes
- + Not worried about appearances
- + Satisfied with simplicity

#### NEGATIVES

- Every man for himself (R)
- Buries issues; others out to get him (S)
- Team irritant (T)
- Passive; too apathetic to create lasting change (L)

#### AREAS OF LIFE

R: Relationships; S: Stress; T: Teamwork; L: Leadership

### THE STATESMAN

#### POSITIVES

- + Loyal and true (R)
- + Enthusiastic
- + Keeps perspective (S)
- + Has conviction
- + Team leader (T)
- + Has integrity
- + Active, trusts workers, leads by example, and makes good decisions (L)

### THE SALESMAN

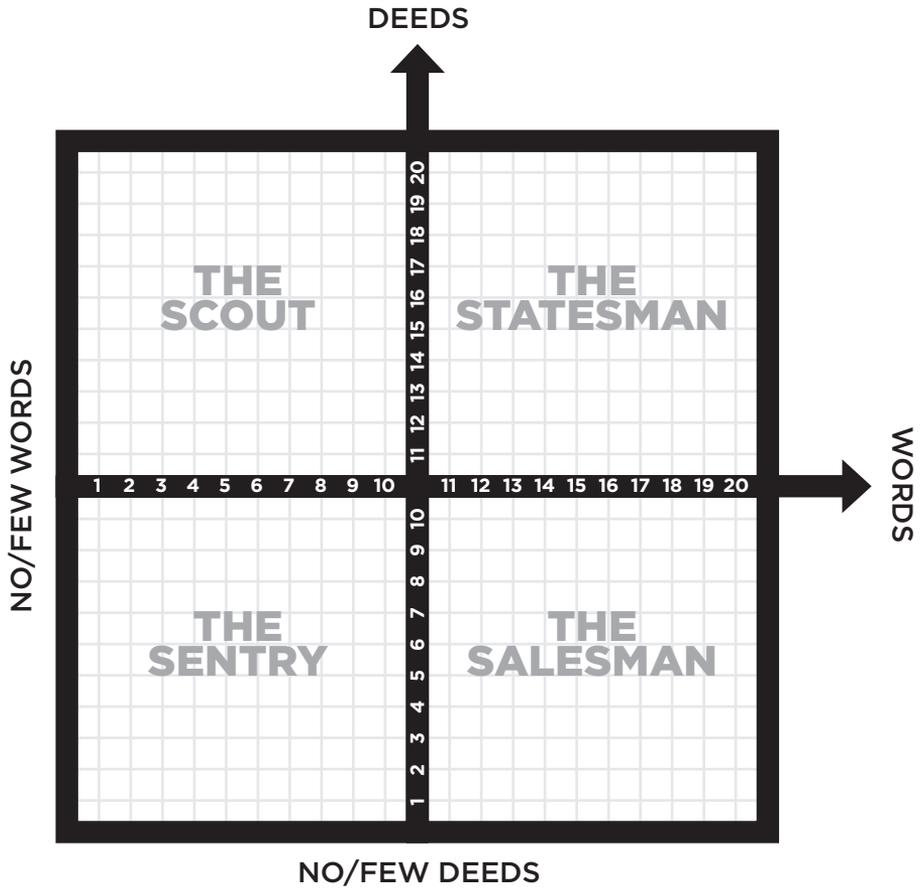
#### POSITIVES

- + Outgoing and friendly (R)
- + Makes deals
- + Team spokesman (T)
- + Life of the party
- + Makes others feel at ease

#### NEGATIVES

- Erratic and impulsive (S)
- Can be a wolf in sheepskin
- My way or the highway (L)
- Deals are self-focused
- Perceived shallowness

A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS



**KEY POINTS TO PLOT**

- ▲ - Where others see you
- - Where you see yourself
- ★ - Where you want to be

# NOTES

## INTRODUCTION

1. *The Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower: The War Years*, vol. 3 (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1970), 1913.

## CHAPTER 1: THE MAN IN THE ARENA

1. This story is retold with permission from the US Army Chaplain Corps Museum at Fort Jackson, SC. Museum director Marcia McManus allowed me to review historical pages from the National Archives and ship manifest records and to study the sworn affidavits of the survivors.
2. Also written as Kengal Linawauel on official Department of the Navy correspondence of those rescued from the *Dorchester*.
3. “Actions speak louder than words” (Anonymous). “’Tis a kind of good deed, to say well: and yet words are no deeds” (William Shakespeare). “The chief difference between words and deeds is that words are always intended for men for their approbation, but deeds can be done only for God” (Leo Tolstoy). “Deeds, not words shall speak me” (John Fletcher). “Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons” (General Douglas MacArthur).
4. This nursery rhyme can be found in multiple locations; here is one of them: <http://www.rhymes.org.uk/a4-a-man-of-words.htm>.
5. This is an excerpt of a speech Theodore Roosevelt gave called “Citizenship In a Republic,” delivered at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, on April 23, 1910. See Theodore Roosevelt, “Man in the Arena,” April 23, 1910, Theodore Roosevelt Association, accessed November 15, 2017, [http://www.theodoreroosevelt.org/site/c.eIKSIdOWIij8H/b.9274065/k.8422/Man\\_in\\_the\\_Arena.htm](http://www.theodoreroosevelt.org/site/c.eIKSIdOWIij8H/b.9274065/k.8422/Man_in_the_Arena.htm).

## WORDS AND DEEDS

6. Barna Group, “10 Facts about America’s Churchless,” December 10, 2014, <https://www.barna.com/research/10-facts-about-americas-churchless/>.
7. The cult leader’s name was Jim Jones, of the 1978 Jonestown, Guyana, tragedy.
8. The account of Washington’s prayer is hard to verify. The original manuscript of Snowden’s diary is at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, call number PHi.Am 1561–1568. You can read about this episode at <http://www.ushistory.org/valleyforge/washington/prayer.html>.

### CHAPTER 2: INTEGRITY DEFINED

1. General Douglas MacArthur’s “I Have Returned” speech, delivered via radio message from a portable radio set at Leyte, Philippines, October 20, 1944. See Douglas MacArthur, “To the People of the Philippines, Oct. 20, 1944,” VCRT MacArthur Forum, accessed November 15, 2017, <http://www.macarthurmilwaukeeforum.com/resources/speech-to-the-people-of-the-philippines/>.
2. Jonah Goldberg, “Empty Integrity,” *National Review*, November 17, 2014.
3. *The Wire*, season 4, episode 7, “Unto Others,” directed by Anthony Hemingway, written by David Simon et al., aired October 29, 2006, on HBO, <https://www.hbo.com/the-wire>.
4. C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York: MacMillan, 1952), 19.
5. The Lockman Foundation, *The New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 1981), s.v. “integrity.”
6. Douglas MacArthur, *Revitalizing a Nation: A Statement of Beliefs, Opinions, and Policies Embodied in the Public Pronouncements of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur* (Chicago: Heritage Foundation, 1952), 28.

### CHAPTER 3: AN HONEST ASSESSMENT OF SELF

1. These words are from an article passed around the Pentagon entitled “The Gun Doctor,” written by B. J. Armstrong, January 27, 2015.
2. Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*, trans. Constance Garnett (Overland Park, KS: Digireads.com Publishing, 2017), 35.

### CHAPTER 4: THE SENTRY AND THE SALESMAN

1. William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, ed. C. W. Crook (London: Ralph, Holland & Co., 1906), 94.

### CHAPTER 5: THE SCOUT AND THE STATESMAN

1. President Ronald Reagan, on January 28, 1986, declared, “For the families of the seven, we cannot bear, as you do, the full impact of this tragedy. But we feel the loss, and we’re thinking about you so very much. Your

loved ones were daring and brave, and they had that special grace, that special spirit that says, ‘Give me a challenge, and I’ll meet it with joy.’” Ronald Reagan, address to the nation on the explosion of the space shuttle *Challenger*, January 28, 1986, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=37646>.

2. “Eisenhower and the Little Rock Crisis,” America’s Story from America’s Library, accessed January 29, 2018, [http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/eisenhower/aa\\_eisenhower\\_littlerock\\_1.html](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/eisenhower/aa_eisenhower_littlerock_1.html).

#### CHAPTER 7: THE GAP

1. Pride is so insidious that it can manifest itself even within servanthood, suffering, and humility. For instance, the moment a man pauses to reflect on his suffering and compares it to another man’s suffering, pride wrestles inside his heart and places his focus back on himself.
2. Walter Hooper, ed., *The Collected Letters of C. S. Lewis* (New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2004), 2:122.
3. *Collected Letters of C. S. Lewis*, 123.
4. Carl P. E. Springer, *Luther’s Aesop* (Kirksville, MO: Truman State University Press, 2011), 124.

#### CHAPTER 8: FORCE MULTIPLIERS

1. *Saving Private Ryan*, directed by Steven Spielberg (Universal City, CA: Dreamworks, 1999), DVD.
2. Mike Santangelo and David Krajcick, “Officer Steven McDonald Paralyzed from Central Park Shooting in 1986,” *Daily News*, January 10, 2017, <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/steven-mcdonald-paralyzed-central-park-shooting-1986-article-1.2942841>.
3. In our marriage book *UnBreakable*, Tony Miltenberger and I teach a tool called CAM, the Communication Acceleration Method. The premise is that when someone is talking, we listen and repeat back to them what they said, so they know we have heard them, *even if we disagree*. The response begins with “So, what you’re saying is . . .” This simple tool has helped couples, because when a spouse feels listened to, it gives her the gift of presence.
4. Promptness is not a particularly prominent biblical value: Jesus was deliberately late in visiting Lazarus, for example, and Saul was confronted by Samuel for not waiting for Samuel before offering a sacrifice. However, Scripture *does* speak to being diligent and courteous, and it says that we should honor others. A little effort in something as small as promptness can bring great rewards and is a force multiplier because it can earn trust.

## WORDS AND DEEDS

5. Francis Brown, *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996), 336.
6. Walter Bauer and Frederick William Danker, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979), 5.

### CHAPTER 9: YOU AS STATESMAN

1. Martin Luther King Jr., “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” [https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles\\_Gen/Letter\\_Birmingham.html](https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html).
2. About five years ago I called up four friends (from different churches) who lived in the area and asked if they would like to meet regularly for prayer, Bible study, and accountability. Nearly every one of them told me they had recently been feeling the need for greater spiritual connection and deeper male friendships. The group lasted for two years (until I moved).

### CHAPTER 10: THE DECISION

1. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, quoted in Phil Dourado, “The Speech that Changed the Course of the US Civil War,” April 12, 2012, <http://vault.theleadershiphub.com/blogs/speech-changed-course-us-civil-war>. Edited for readability.
2. “Andrew Tozier, Little Round Top and the Congressional Medal of Honor,” American Civil War Forum, accessed January 29, 2018, [americancivilwarforum.com/Andrew-tozier-little-round-top-and-the-congressional-medal-of-honor-126082.html](http://americancivilwarforum.com/Andrew-tozier-little-round-top-and-the-congressional-medal-of-honor-126082.html).
3. Jacob (Genesis 32), Samson (Judges 16), David (1 Samuel 23–24), Rehoboam (1 Kings 12), Daniel (Daniel 6), Joseph (Matthew 1), Peter (Luke 5), the rich young ruler (Luke 18), Pilate (Luke 23), Paul (Acts 9).

### A SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

1. “Messianic Secret,” Oxford Biblical Studies Online, <http://www.oxfordbiblicalstudies.com/article/opr/t94/e1244>.
2. Josh McDowell, *More than a Carpenter* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1977), 57.