



STRATEGIC BEGINNINGS: Spiritual Disciplines

*Peacocke
Wilson
Hall*

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*“Therefore whoever hears these saying
of mine, and does them, I will liken him to
a wise man who build this house on the
rock.” -Matthew 7:24*



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GoStrategic (formerly Strategic Christian Services)

Founded in 1979 by Dennis Peacocke who serves as President, GoStrategic is a prophetic ministry committed to training and equipping leaders of every cultural sphere in discipling nations and transforming the world. GoStrategic operates internationally, educating Christians through our Business Leadership School and Strategic Life Training correspondence schools, events, educational products, networking, and consulting services. Our ministry headquarters are based in Santa Rosa, California, with affiliates and schools in Mexico, Central and South America, Europe, Asia, and New Zealand.

GoStrategic equips believers to be leaders in the communities where they live, work, and serve. We specialize in bridging the gap between spiritual truth and the practical implementation of those truths in confronting real-world problems. With over three decades of experience educating, modeling, and connecting like-minded individuals, we have seen first-hand the fruit of Christians applying Biblical principles to the most complex challenges. It is our sincere hope that the services we provide result in thousands of communities transformed as believers step in to rebuild, repair, and restore our world. To learn more, please visit our website: www.gostrategic.org



Strategic Life Training (SLT)

Strategic Life Training began in the home of Dennis Peacocke in the 1980s with a vision to equip his children with tools that would help prepare them to be leaders in their generation. In 1991, this family exercise became what is now called Strategic Life Training and has developed into a course that has touched lives in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and all over Europe, and serves to develop emerging leaders of all ages.

Since its inception 20 years ago, SLT has made a significant impact. Those who have participated in our programs are affecting their schools, universities, churches, places of work, as well as the larger culture through extra-local ministries, the media, public policy think tanks, and more. Our expectation is that this influence will continue to increase.

Strategic Life Training has proven itself an invaluable tool for those who believe God has called them for a purpose and want to identify and be trained to fulfill it. If you would like more information on how you can participate in this vision, please visit the SLT website: www.strategiclifetraining.com

“The Disciplined Life”

Lesson #1

case study

You have some time on your hands one afternoon, and you begin thinking about all the things that you would like to accomplish. Suddenly, an overwhelming sense of frustration comes over you as you begin to consider the patterns and routines of your life. It seems that your life is so busy and full of distractions.

questions

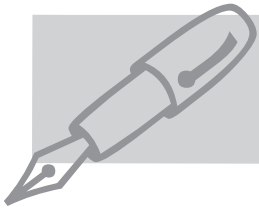
1. Identify some of the character qualities and skills that might better prepare you to respond to the distractions in your life.
2. What are some of the skills you will need to fulfill a desire God has put within your heart? How are you going to develop those skills?

LESSON FOCUS

THIS LESSON WILL FOCUS UPON PERSONAL, SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES, AND WHY THEY ARE AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT OF A SUCCESSFUL CHRISTIAN LIFE. IT WILL ALSO FOCUS ON PRACTICAL TIPS FOR HOW YOU CAN BEGIN TO DEVELOP THESE DISCIPLINES IN YOUR LIFE.

This lesson is important because...

To accomplish the desires that God has put within our hearts, it is necessary to embrace a lifestyle of personal disciplines that will develop the skills equal to the task.



notes...

“The Disciplined Life”

Lesson #1

I. Isaiah 6:8-9

A. Isaiah was in position to fulfill the purposes of God.

1. Isaiah was close enough to the Lord to hear His voice.
2. God wants to use people to fulfill His purposes on the earth.
3. Isaiah had the courage to say “send me.”
4. He had the ear to hear God say “go.”

II. The importance of learning how to learn, and learning how to live.

III. The embracing of a disciplined life.

A. A disciplined life can be defined as: One that embraces practical life-shaping activities on a daily basis with a vision for the significant impact those little daily investments will have as God reveals your destiny.

1. We embrace disciplines not because we have to, but because we choose to.
2. Disciplines are regular, consistent activities
3. We self-consciously embrace these disciplines with a vision for them releasing something more significant.
Definition: A discipline is a manageable but often challenging activity done habitually and purposefully for the shaping of character, and positioning us for service in the Kingdom.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

ADAM

PEACOCKE

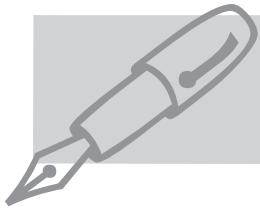
is the pastor of City Life Fellowship and serves



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make
your case

Why is the way we
respond to the
tedious things in life
important?



notes...

“The Disciplined Life”

Lesson #1

IV. Where is the strategic life grounded in the Word?

- A. The example of Christ; (Mark 1:32-38).
 - 1. Jesus practiced the discipline of rising early in the morning to pray.
 - 2. The fruit of this discipline in Jesus’ life was clear focus and vision for what Father required from Him.
- B. The preparation of the lion and the bear in the life of David (1 Samuel 17).
- C. Daniel practiced a discipline of praying three times a day.

V. Hebrews 12:5-10

- A. The sole meaning of discipline in this passage is not correction. We need to understand discipline in the context of training.
 - 1. Disciplines are daily reminders of the calling of God in our lives.
 - 2. Disciplines can be a daily practical expression of the reality that we are set apart for the purposes of God.
 - 3. Disciplines provide an expression of love from the Father to us.
 - 4. Disciplines help us in the practice of yielding to and obeying the Lord.

define a term

DISCIPLINE

to prepare by instructing in correct principles and habits; to govern; to teach rules and practice; to advance and prepare by instruction.

(Webster’s 1828)

link to a past lesson

Becoming disciples
means giving
everything to God.



notes...

“The Disciplined Life”

Lesson #1

5. Disciplines help provide a revelation of what could otherwise be hidden in our lives.

VI. Practical examples of disciplines.

- A. Reading the Word and prayer.
- B. Fasting.

VII. How do we find our disciplines?

- A. We need to begin in prayer.
- B. Look at what you are already doing.
- C. Seek outside confirmation—Parent, etc.
- D. Test things and look for the fruit.

listen to learn

What are some examples of disciplines that are not spiritual in nature?

principle endeavours

“Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men.”
Proverbs 22:29



ASSIGNMENT SECTION

“The Disciplined Life” Lesson #1

listening test

1. The _____ and the _____ played an important role in David’s killing of Goliath.
2. A discipline is something that we need to practice on a regular basis. • TRUE or FALSE
3. The strategic life is doing _____ you should be doing, _____ you should be doing it.
4. The fruit of Jesus’ rising early in the morning to pray was _____ and _____.
5. God disciplines those He _____.

Question #1:

Identify an example in your life where you have seen the fruit of a discipline you embraced.

Question #2:

How does the example of Job illustrate our need to embrace the discipline of God in our lives?

make it real - exercise

Identify a discipline in your life that you know you need to embrace. Develop a strategy for how you will begin to work that discipline into your weekly routine. Remember, a discipline is something that needs to be done regularly.

Question #3:

What are some things in your life that most often keep you from embracing activities that could be disciplines for you?

memory verse

“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” —Hebrews 5:14 (NKJV)

Question #4:

Who in your life could help you be more effective in finding and practicing your disciplines?

“The Nature of Prayer”

Lesson #2

case study

A friend comes to you for some advice about his prayer life. He tells you that he tries to talk to God but that it seems weird to talk to someone whom you cannot see. He asks you why prayer is important, and what you say to God when you pray.

questions

1. How would you answer your friend's question?
2. What are some practical things you can tell your friend that will encourage fruitful prayer life.



LESSON FOCUS

THIS LESSON WILL FOCUS ON THE
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE OF PRAYER
AND ITS ROLE IN THE SUCCESSFUL
CHRISTIAN LIFE.

This lesson is important because...

In prayer is where we enjoy some of our most intimate communion with God. Further, it is in prayer that God is able to align our hearts with His and release us to accomplish the work to which He has called us.



notes...

“The Nature of Prayer”

Lesson #2

- I. Prayer is an expression of your heart toward God.
 - A. There is no better indication of where a person is with God than their prayer life. Our prayer life is the most intimate and personal communication we have with God.
 - B. Prayer is communion not just communication with God.
- II. Prayer requires us to work.
 - A. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemene (Luke 22:40-46).
 - B. Our prayers release the power of God because God desires to work through His people.
 - C. All successful spiritual work is done before the throne of God before manifesting on earth.
- III. A major portion of our work in prayer is preparation.
 - A. Things that we allow into our heart can be hindrances to the intimate communication God desires to have with us (Proverbs 4:23).

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

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make
your case

Why is prayer an essential spiritual discipline in a successful Christian life?



notes...

“The Nature of Prayer”

Lesson #2

B. Part of our preparation for prayer is to receive truth with an open heart (Matthew 13:19).

C. We need to cultivate a clean and quiet spirit.

IV. Self must be removed before we can find God’s true perspective.

A. God doesn’t answer prayers that are contrary to His purposes.

B. Our motivation is very important in prayer (Hosea 10:1).

C. When we pray, do we ask God to change our circumstances or to change us (2 Chronicles 7:13-14)?

D. God doesn’t reward the casual inquirer (Hebrews 11:6).

E. It takes time and patience before God before what is really important for the time is revealed.

define a term

COMMUNION

the act of sharing one’s thoughts and emotions with another or others; intimate conversation; an intimate relationship with deep understanding.

(Webster’s 1828)

link to a past lesson

Disciplines are things that we embrace proactively rather than in reaction to circumstances.



notes...

“The Nature of Prayer”

Lesson #2

V. Prayer is a way of life that requires us to learn how to listen to God.

- A. Prayer is an attitude of heart rather than something you do.
- B. Prayer teaches us the reality of working with a loving boss.

VI. Prayer is one of God’s chief avenues for bringing us to oneness with Him (John 17:12-23).

listen to learn

What are some of the things we can do to prepare ourselves for prayer?

principle endeavours

Your prayer life is a reflection of the level of intimacy you have with God.



ASSIGNMENT SECTION

“The Nature of Prayer” Lesson #2

listening test

1. Prayer is _____ with God, not just communication.
2. The purpose of prayer is to ask God for the things that we want. • TRUE or FALSE
3. Prayer requires as to develop the spiritual skill of listening to God. • TRUE or FALSE
4. _____ must be removed before we can find God’s true perspective.

Question #1:

In what ways have you found prayer to be more than communication in your life?

Question #2:

What about prayer tends to be the most work for you?

make it real - exercise

Write a testimony about prayer or about a specific answered prayer that has greatly impacted you. Take the opportunity to worship and thank God for His faithfulness in your life.

Question #3:

What changes do you need to make so that prayer can become a deeper part of your devotional life?

memory verse

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” — Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)

Question #4:

What are some of the perspectives you hold to that might affect your ability to enter into the quality of communion in prayer that God desires for you?

“Reading the Word”

Lesson #3

case study

In discussing your devotional life with a friend, she challenges you saying, “Your commitment to reading the Bible everyday is so legalistic. God isn’t about us doing lots of stuff to please Him; He just wants us to love Him and get close to Him.” How are you going to respond to your friend?

questions

1. How would you answer your friend’s question?
2. How might you challenge your friend in the way she sees the Word?



LESSON FOCUS

THIS LESSON WILL FOCUS UPON THE CENTRAL PLACE OF THE WORD OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER, AS WELL AS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD TO OUR GROWING IN RELATIONSHIP TO GOD.

This lesson is important because...

How we see the Word of God will impact the degree of life we are able to draw from it. We must see the Word as one of the primary ways God has chosen to fellowship with His people.



notes...

“Reading the Word”

Lesson #3

I. The Word of God is Jesus first, principle and theology second.

A. The Word of God is divinely inspired and alive, and through it we can have relationship with God.

1. We have been reconciled to God foremost for relationship.

2. The theme throughout the Word of God is Jesus.

B. Revelation 19:11-13; Jesus is the Word of God.

1. The Word of God is eternal (John 1:1-5).

2. Jesus was the Word made Flesh (John 1:1-5).

C. Jesus showed us what the scriptures look like when they are lived out.

1. If you are reading the Bible without a desire to know Jesus better and become more like Him, you are missing the point.

2. Principles make way for life (John 14:6).

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make
your case

How might you
alter your priorities
that the Word of
God would take
its rightful place in
your devotional
life?



notes...

“Reading the Word”

Lesson #3

II. The Word of God is our primary compass for life.

- A. The Word of God brings correction and direction (2 Timothy 3:16).
- B. The Word of God brings clarity and eliminates confusion (Hebrews 4:2).
- C. The Word of God brings perspective (Acts 2:16-21).

III. The distinction between Logos Word and Rhema Word.

- A. Logos is God’s Word as it applies to all of creation.
- B. Rhema Word is God’s Word as it applies specifically and personally to you.

IV. The Word of God tells us who we are and how we are to conform ourselves to the truth.

- A. We are not who we say we are; we are who God says we are.
- B. If we sow the Word of God in our hearts, the life of God will begin to sprout and change us.

define a term

PRINCIPLE

the ultimate source, origin, or cause of something; a fundamental truth, law, or doctrine, upon which others are based.

(Webster’s 1828)

link to a past lesson

Prayer is an attitude of heart rather than something you do.



notes...

“Reading the Word”

Lesson #3

V. The Word is understandable through obedience.

- A. We are to be doers of the Word (James 1:22-25).
- B. Acting upon the Word of God is for our protection (Matthew 7:24-27).
- C. It's not until after the storm that the builders could appreciate the value of putting Jesus' words into practice.

listen to learn

Explain one example from your life where you believe God has taken Logos and made it Rhema.

VI. The Word of God feeds our Spirit.

- A. The Word is written to teach us to conduct ourselves in the life of God (John 14:6).
- B. Matthew 4:4; We are to live by the Word of God.
- C. 1 Peter 2:2; We are to long for God's Word.

principle endeavours

Our goal is to first be like Jesus, not understand Jesus.



ASSIGNMENT SECTION

“Reading the Word” Lesson #3

listening test

1. The theme throughout the Word of God is _____.
2. If you are reading the Bible without a desire to know Jesus, you are missing the point.
 - TRUE or FALSE
3. The Word brings _____ and eliminates _____.
4. Reading the Word is essential for change to take place. • TRUE or FALSE

make it real - exercise

Take some time to consider how you might better approach your reading of the Word in order to get the most out of the time spent. How will you decide where you will read? When will you read? Who can help you where you do not understand what you read?

memory verse

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” —2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

Question #1:

What should our first focus be when reading the Bible? Why?

Question #2:

Why are the principles of the Bible important? Give an example from your own life to support your answer.

Question #3:

Explain one way in which the Bible is a “compass” in our lives.

Question #4:

What does it mean when we say the Word of God is understandable through obedience? Give an example from your own life to support your answer.

“Discerning Seasons & Timing”

Lesson #4

case study

You receive a phone call from a friend with whom you have not spoken for some time. During the course of catching up with him you ask, “What is God doing in your life right now?” After a slight pause on the other end you hear the phrase, “I don’t know.” He goes on, “It seems like so many random things are going on right now. How can I really tell what God wants to do in my life from what just seems to be happening?”

questions

1. What practical tips could you give to help him find an answer to his question?
2. What example from your own life could you give to help support your answer?



LESSON FOCUS

THIS LESSON WILL FOCUS ON HOW GOD USES SEASONS IN OUR LIFE TO GROW AND MATURE US IN HIS PURPOSES. IT WILL LOOK AT THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THEMES AND TIMING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CHARACTER, AND IT WILL PROVIDE TIPS FOR RECOGNIZING GOD’S SEASONS AND TIMING IN OUR LIVES.

This lesson is important because...

Being effective in the way that we build means knowing the factors determining what should be done when.



notes...

“Discerning Seasons & Timing”

Lesson #4

- I. The concept of “seasons.”
 - A. Our natural understanding of seasons.
 - B. Our spiritual understanding of seasons.
- II. The concept of “timing.”
 - A. The challenge of discerning the right timing.
 - B. The relationship between timing and change.
- III. Our personal responsibilities to obey (Philippians 2:12-13).
 - A. The submission of our will.
 - B. The refining process.
- IV. The benefits of proper timing mixed with obedience.
 - A. Specific change in specific areas.
 - B. Maturity and a strong foundation.
- V. The role of seasons and timing in preparing for leadership.
 - A. The essence of leadership (Philippians 2:4).
 - B. Being faithful in the little (Luke 16:12).
 - C. Looking at our circumstances with wisdom.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

JAN PEACOCKE is the wife of Dennis Peacocke and co-founder of GoStrategic. She is a gifted teacher in the development of character, especially in the lives of children. Jan resides in Santa Rosa, California. She and Dennis have three adult children and 11 grandchildren.



make
your case

Whom do you have to help you stay accountable to embracing the seasons God has placed in your life?

selah sound-byte

We need to have a vision of what we are becoming and the value of our character, rather than a dependence on our feelings about our circumstances.



notes...

“Discerning Seasons & Timing”

Lesson #4

1. Insights into character development.
2. Patterns of incremental growth.

VI. The nature of seasons in spiritual development.

- A. A season’s value in character development.
- B. Seeing seasons as a workout.
- C. The importance of the “little” choices and challenges.

VII. God’s grace in developing us little by little.

- A. Responding in cooperation.
- B. Releasing our rights and what is ours.
- C. Recognizing the external and internal goals of circumstances.
- D. The relationship of themes and incremental growth.

VIII. Recognizing seasons by the responsibilities we carry.

- A. How many of your responsibilities are for the benefit of others?
- B. How are you prioritizing your responsibilities?

define a term

SEASON

that which comes or arrives; the usual or appointed time; any time, as distinguished from others; a time of some continuance; to fit for any use by time or habit; to mature; to prepare.
(Webster’s 1828)

link to a past lesson

Disciplines are a part of our maturing process.



notes...

“Discerning Seasons & Timing”

Lesson #4

IX. Tips for discerning seasons and timing

- A. What has God put into your hand, and how are you using it?
- B. “Tracking the fruit.”
 - 1. Taking responsibility.
 - 2. Receiving correction.

X. Summary

listen to learn

What does your answering machine tell you about your responsibilities and the season in your life?

principle endeavours

Godly change comes from the inside out.

God desires your heart to be changed and your character to be formed more than for your circumstances to improve.



ASSIGNMENT SECTION

“Discerning Seasons & Timing” Lesson #4

listening test

1. We are not just looking for an _____ appearance of spirituality.
2. God is not fair. • TRUE or FALSE
3. “Don’t let your _____ go faster than the rest of you.”
4. Difficult circumstances are clues to our growth. • TRUE or FALSE
5. We really grow when we _____ what we perceive to be our _____.

make it real - exercise

Identify an area in your character you feel God is working on right now. Write three Bible verses that apply to that area and place them where you will see them every day, as a reminder.

memory verse

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” —Philippians 2:12-13 (NKJV)

Question #1:

What is an area in your life where you are serving someone else, and what is this experience teaching you about leadership?

Question #2:

Do you feel that you struggle with impatience as you wait for change and development in your life? Explain why or why not.

Question #3:

What is a current responsibility in your life that directly relates to the current season in your life?

Question #4:

How would you change your answer to the discovery section questions after having listened to this tape?

“Seeing God”

Lesson #5

case study

A close friend of yours is going through a tough time. He has been applying to a number of jobs with no luck, and feels like a failure. “I’ve worked so hard, and I really want to do God’s will, but He just hasn’t made it clear to me. I really don’t understand why this is happening.” How are you going to respond to your friend?

questions

1. What would you say to your friend?
2. What perspective would you encourage your friend to bring to this testing time?



LESSON FOCUS

THIS LESSON WILL FOCUS ON THE DISCIPLINE OF SEEING. IN PARTICULAR, WE WILL LOOK AT SEEING IN THE MIDST OF THE PROCESSES THROUGH WHICH GOD TAKES US.

This lesson is important because...

In life we face a series of trials and pressures. If we approach these times of process with our spiritual eyes open, we will grow in an intimacy with God and be positioned to help others through similar processes.



notes...

“Seeing God”

Lesson #5

- I. God uses processes in our lives (2 Peter 1:5-9).
 - A. Life involves a series of processes through which God takes us.
 - B. God designs and desires these processes to bring us to maturity.
 - C. One of the major traps to growth is familiarity. See the example of weight training.
- II. How processes reveal where we are.
 - A. Human nature wants to stay comfortable.
 - B. God is relational. He wants to work with us in the process.
 - C. We tend to put a greater value in things that come at a price.
- III. The role of seeing in the process (2 Peter 1:5-9).
 - A. The result of the process is usefulness and fruitfulness.
 - B. The process of growth and spiritual maturity is tied to our ability to see.
- IV. The disciplines of seeing and hearing.
 - A. Jesus was as intent on seeing as He was on hearing (Luke 12:13-14; John 2:4).

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

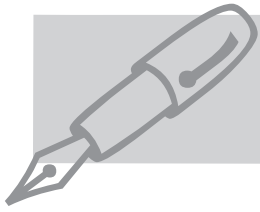
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ing, a ministry designed to train young Christians to lead their generation. He has a degree in history and a degree in law from The University of Auckland, New Zealand. Mark currently works in real estate and resides in New Zealand with his wife, Emma, and their two children.

make
your case

What are some of the hindrances to us embracing the processes through which God allows us to go?



notes...

“Seeing God”

Lesson #5

- B. Jesus was not here to solve everyone’s problems. His intent was to see the Father.
- C. Seeing can be defined as discerning mentally, understanding, careful examination, and awareness.

V. Hebrews 5:14

- A. Maturity is connected to skill. We become skillful as we train and exercise our senses.
- B. The spiritual discipline of seeing is a skill we need to develop.

VI. The distinction between seeing and enduring.

VII. Four practical steps to seeing in the midst of the processes through which God takes us.

- A. Recognize:
 - 1. We need to recognize that we are in a process.
 - 2. If we are ignorant of the process, we will not respond in an appropriate way.
- B. Identify
 - 1. You need to identify what it is you are looking for.
 - 2. What you get from the process will, to a large extent, be shaped by the perspective or mentality you bring to it.

define a term

SEE

to get knowledge or awareness of through the eyes; perceive visually; to get a clear mental impression of; grasp by thinking; understand.

(Webster’s 1828)

link to a past lesson

Prayer is a way of life that requires us to learn how to listen to God.



notes...

“Seeing God”

Lesson #5

3. In this step we begin to become aware, and identify, the various parts in the process.

C. Assimilate.

1. We learn in the process and looking back at the process.

2. It is in this step that we begin to see how the various pieces fit together.

D. Memorize.

1. We need to remember how it worked.

2. Journaling helps us with the memory process.

VIII. Why is it necessary for us to see in the midst of the processes through which God takes us.

A. It is not enough for us to simply get from point A to point

B. We have to know how we got there.

B. The knowledge and skill acquired in the process is the ability to help others through the same process.

C. You cannot disciple another person without skill and knowledge (Hebrews 5:14).

IX. The greater worship takes place at the point that we see the Father working and where we are faithful to work there also (Romans 12:1).

listen to learn

How many times in John Chapter 10 does Jesus say “My sheep hear My voice”?

principle endeavours

Jesus only worked where He saw the Father working. Our desire should be the same.



ASSIGNMENT SECTION

“Seeing God” Lesson #5

listening test

1. A shark will not grow beyond its _____.
2. Familiarity is one of the biggest hindrances to our growth in God. • TRUE or FALSE
3. In your life, Jesus’ goal is not to _____ all your problems.
4. What you get out of the process is to a large extent shaped by the mentality you bring to it.
 - TRUE or FALSE
1. We become skillful by training our _____.

make it real - exercise

Identify a testing process that God has allowed you to go through recently. Consider the things you learned that would allow you to encourage somebody going through a similar trial.

memory verse

“But for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. **What do the examples of Jesus in this lesson tell us about the focus of His ministry?** —2 Peter 1:5-7 (NKJV)

Question #1:

Identify some of the obstacles in your life that make it difficult for you to see? What will you do to confront these obstacles?

Question #2:

Explain the difference between seeing and enduring as a mentality for approaching the trials through which God allows us to go.

Question #3:

Which of the four steps in seeing do you think you will have the most difficulty in applying. Why?

Question #4:

What do the examples of Jesus in this lesson tell us about the focus of His ministry?

“Hearing God”

Lesson #6

case study

You are speaking with a friend about some important decisions you have had to make recently, and how you were able to hear God. Your friend asks the question, “How do you know that you heard God, and how can I be sure that I am hearing the voice of God.” How are you going to respond to your friend?

questions

1. What counsel would you give your friend?
2. What practical steps would you advise your friend to take that would position her to hear God?



LESSON FOCUS

THIS LESSON WILL FOCUS UPON THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE OF HEARING GOD, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MOTIVATION AND OBEDIENCE IN CULTIVATING AN EAR FOR THE “SOUND” OF GOD.

This lesson is important because...

Those who are called to follow God must learn to hear His voice. When we recognize the “sound” of God and respond, He is able to release us into the fullness of the purposes He has for our lives.



notes...

“Hearing God”

Lesson #6

- I. God doesn't need our worship and our praise, but He does desire our heart.
- II. Getting in our right mind is necessary for both seeing and hearing God.
- III. Hearing is not simply about listening; it is about the “sound” you hear.
 - A. Part of growing in God is learning how to distinguish God's voice from other things.
 - B. Not every thought we have comes from us.
 - C. How aware are we of what is going on in our lives that we might respond in the way God desires.
- IV. John 16:8-13
 - A. The Holy Spirit will reveal sin in our lives.
 - B. The Holy Spirit will convict you of things you should be doing that you are not.
 - C. The Holy Spirit will keep you tied to the big picture.
 - D. Seeing and hearing God can only be done through the Holy Spirit.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

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make
your case

Why is responding
to the last word
God gave you an
important step
in the process of
hearing God?



notes...

“Hearing God”

Lesson #6

V. The comparison of the Rich Young Ruler and Zacchaeus (Luke 18,19).

- A. The Rich Young Ruler was after salvation. He wanted something from God.
- B. Zacchaeus wasn't looking for salvation; he was looking for the Savior.
- C. At the foundational level, every quest for salvation, with the exception of Christianity, leaves something to man.
- D. You don't come into Kingdom life apart from relationship with the King.

VI. Peter's confession of Christ (Matthew 16).

- A. A transcendent perspective was shown in Peter's heart. This revelation transformed Peter at a fundamental level.
- B. Seeing and hearing comes down to motivation.

define a term

HEARING

the act or process of perceiving sounds; the sense by which sounds are perceived.

(Webster's 1828)

link to a past lesson

Our prayer releases the power of God, because God desires to work through people.



notes...

“Hearing God”

Lesson #6

VII. Adam and Eve recognized the “sound” of God walking in the garden (Genesis 3:8-10).

- A. Listening is about getting details; hearing is about recognizing a “sound.”
- B. We can listen but not hear.

VIII. Practical points to recognizing the sound of God.

- A. We need to ask the Father, whose nature it is to give.
- B. We need to obey the last thing we heard.
- C. We need to get into the Word of God.
- D. We move from the known to the unknown in learning to hear God.
- E. We need to test the word, but not privately.
- F. Don't run when you recognize the “sound” of God. Note the two responses of fear and faith.

IX. If you recognize and respond in faith, the result will be revelation.

listen to learn

What are some of the obstacles in your life that inhibit your ability to recognize the voice of God?

principle endeavours

There is no entrance into the Kingdom, except through the King.



ASSIGNMENT SECTION

“Hearing God” Lesson #6

listening test

1. To get in your right mind means to put on the _____ of Christ.
2. God doesn't focus on every area of our life at one time. • TRUE or FALSE
3. The _____ reveals sin in our lives.
4. The Rich Young Ruler is a good example of how we should relate to Christ. • TRUE or FALSE
5. The revealed Word of God comes to us in two forms, _____ word, and _____ word.

make it real - exercise

Identify one thing in your life where it is important that you hear God's voice clearly. Begin to seek God in a way that incorporates steps identified in this lesson. Take notes in a journal throughout the process and counsel with someone whom God has placed in your life to give you guidance in these things. Remember, no private tests!

memory verse

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment; of sin, because they do not believe in me.”

—John 16:7-9 (NKJV)

Question #1:

What are some of the obstacles in your life that inhibit your ability to recognize the voice of God?

Question #2:

What is a “tree” in your life that you believe God is calling you to climb right now?

Question #3:

When was the last time you were sure you heard the voice of the Father? How did you respond? What was the result of your obedience?

Question #4:

What are some of the practical steps you can take that will better position you to hear the voice of the Father?

“The Sabbath”

Lesson #7

case study

You are talking with an acquaintance of yours who is a practicing Jew. He asks what the Christian view of the Sabbath is and what type of things a Christian would or would not do on the Sabbath. He is also curious to know what happens to a Christian who does not observe the Sabbath.

questions

1. Answer the above questions and include how you personally might spend a typical Sabbath day.



LESSON FOCUS

THIS LESSON WILL FOCUS UPON
GOD'S INTENTION FOR THE SABBATH
IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE AND HOW WE
CAN INCORPORATE IT INTO OUR LIVES
IN A MORE EFFICIENT WAY.

This lesson is important because...

Being an effective builder in the lifetime of labor that God has set before us requires that we understand how to rest, as well as how to work.



notes...

“The Sabbath”

Lesson #7

I. The Sabbath in scripture:

A. Exodus 20:8

B. Deuteronomy 5:14-15

II. All laws come out of the character of God (rhythm of life).

A. Therefore, all laws are good expressions of life.

B. Man’s tendency is to reduce laws to external ceremonies and miss the life.

III. The original Sabbath consummated and celebrated work. When we know God, we express that same life.

IV. Israel’s Sabbath also celebrated their redemption and regeneration, taking on future implications more clearly. (Hebrews 3 & 4, “another rest”)

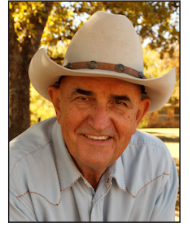
A. Completion of work

B. Focus on canceling debts

C. Purpose was to be a delight to God’s people.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

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Churches & Ministries. Dudley is author of several books, a sought-after speaker, an engaging preacher, and a trusted spiritual father. He holds a Masters of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Bachelors degree from Samford University. Dudley and his wife, Betsy, reside in Grapevine, TX. They have two grown children and three grandchildren.

make
your case

Did your presentation of the Christian view of the Sabbath testify to the nature of God?



notes...

“The Sabbath”

Lesson #7

V. Issues of the Sabbath:

- A. Recognizing the sovereign authority of God. (Ezekiel 20:12 – dominion and boundaries)
- B. Requiring the knowledge of God: Synagogues, study, assembly of New Testament believers.
- C. Rejoice in salvation.

VI. Types are important (Numbers 15:32 – men killed for picking up firewood on Sabbath... Moses and the rock). Sabbath is type of Jesus.

VII. The lifestyle is a testimony:

- A. When Israel observed the Sabbath, they exposed their faith in the source of their life.
- B. When we sit down inside, we testify of peace and rest unknown to the world.

define a term

SABBATH

the day which God appointed to be observed as a day of rest from labor or employments; a day to be kept holy and consecrated to His service and worship; intermission of pain or sorrow; time of rest (Webster's 1828)

link to a past lesson

One of the major hindrances to growth is familiarity.



notes...

“The Sabbath”

Lesson #7

VIII. Practical suggestions:

- A. Are you struggling with God as authority?
- B. Rejoice in your work (whatever it is today).
- C. Set aside times for celebrating your God and His blessings.
- D. Stay in rhythm.

IX. Points:

- A. Sabbath is part of God’s nature.
- B. When we know Him more intimately, we will have Sabbath rest in our lives.
- C. Jesus made a rest for all believers that is worthy of priority effort. “Strive to enter.”
- D. The issue is submission to a sovereign God!
 - 1. Faith is required to rest and to birth rest into your lifestyle. You must obey before you understand.

listen to learn

What, about the way that you live, would indicate to somebody that you have sat down inside?

principle endeavours

The mind justifies what the heart has chosen.

When you have set your heart against taking a Sabbath rest you will always find a good reason to keep working.

selah sound-byte

If you have to have an explanation, then you are submitted more to your understanding than you are submitted to God.



ASSIGNMENT SECTION

“The Sabbath” Lesson #7

listening test

1. The rhythm of life includes _____, _____, _____, and _____.
2. How we relate to work will affect how we relate to rest. • TRUE or FALSE
3. The Sabbath not only recognizes a past event, but predicts a _____ event.
4. Sunday is often the day of most work for Christians. • TRUE or FALSE
5. The essence of the Sabbath is developing rest on the _____ of our lives.

Question #1:

Are you sitting down on the inside, or are you still running around?

Question #2:

What are some ways you think you would like to spend a Sabbath day?

Question #3:

What has happened to you as a Christian when you have not observed the Sabbath?

Question #4:

How has your view of the Sabbath been affected as a result of this lesson?

make it real - exercise

Ask a friend, today, to help keep you accountable in the way in which you keep a Sabbath.

memory verse

“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

—Hebrews 5:14 (NKJV)

“Renewing the Disciplined Life”

Lesson #8

case study

A friend shares with you her frustration in trying to develop some healthy disciplines in her life. She tells you that she recognizes the importance of disciplines in preparing her for the things God has called her to, however, it feels to her as though she is making no progress. She asks, “How can I know that I am actually taking ground? I am putting so much energy into these things and feel as though I am going nowhere.”

questions

1. How would you encourage your friend?
2. What advice would you give your friend about how she might measure her progress?
3. What are some traps we need to watch out for that rob us of the benefits of discipline?



LESSON FOCUS

THIS LESSON WILL FOCUS ON HOW
WE CAN GET THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT
FROM ENGAGING IN A DISCIPLINED
LIFESTYLE.

This lesson is important because...

To sustain the disciplined life, it must be fueled by the right motivations so that we can enjoy the maximum fruit that God desires we would get from the process.



notes...

“Renewing the Disciplined Life”

Lesson #8

I. We need to find ways to renew our disciplines to get maximum effectiveness from them.

II. The keys to the disciplined life (Habakkuk 2:1-2).

A. The disciplined life begins with a vision.

1. There is no such thing as a discipline problem, only a vision problem.

B. We need to record the vision

1. Writing something in the heart is like etching it in stone. Writing something in our minds is like etching it in sand, and life is the tide. If it's not in your head and you want to keep it, put it on paper.

C. We need to sustain the vision.

III. Sustaining the vision (Hebrews 12:11).

A. Discipline is not pleasant.

B. As we embrace the training of the discipline, it will produce fruit.

C. All vision is fueled by either faith or fear.

1. Vision that is fueled by fear will not produce the fruit of the Spirit of God.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

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make
your
case

Why is “base-running” not a good mentality with which to approach the trials of life?



notes...

“Renewing the Disciplined Life”

Lesson #8

IV. Renewing your disciplines is about maximizing the training you receive from these disciplines in order that they would be most effective in producing the fruit of the Spirit of God.

- A. Endurance is increasing you ability to sustain a continued effort.
- B. Flexibility is about stretching ourselves to new dimensions and new realms as well as the capacity to adapt to new challenging situations.
- C. Strength is the ability to deal with increased resistance and exert increased force.

V. What things steal from the effectiveness of our training?

- A. Familiarity: relating to something like you already know it rather than like you want to know it.
- B. Discouragement bring death to vision.
- C. Inflexibility is where the plan become something that you are serving rather than it serving you.
- D. Blame-shifting: see the example of base-running.
- E. Inconsistency: disciplines are things that we do habitually.

define a term

S U S T A I N

to keep in existence; keep up; maintain or prolong; to provide for the support of; to provide sustenance or nourishment; to bear up against; endure; withstand. (Webster's 1828)

link to a past lesson

God allows us to go through trials in our life because His desire is that we would come to maturity.



notes...

“Renewing the Disciplined Life”

Lesson #8

VI. What things help supply our training process?

- A. A discovery mentality—this is in contrast to familiarity.
- B. Hope and encouragement.
- C. Having a Providential perspective—that is, when something unexpected takes place, you trust that it passed through God’s hands.
- D. Taking responsibility—having a marathon perspective.

listen to learn

Why is it necessary to have a Providential perspective in the way we approach our training?

VII. Things that help supplement our training:

- A. The perspective of seasons: God doesn’t focus on everything at once.
- B. Sabbaths are vital to the effectiveness of our training in disciplines.
- C. Community support.
- D. The testimony and encouragement of others.

principle endeavours

VIII. Practical things you can do to help sustain the disciplined life:

- A. Defined check-points help us mark our growth with specific goals.
- B. Take time to celebrate the things you achieve.
- C. Be disciplined in your rest as well as your work.

“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
—Hebrews 12:11



ASSIGNMENT SECTION

“Renewing the Disciplined Life” Lesson #8

listening test

1. _____ is the ability to deal with increased resistance and to exert increased force.
2. It is necessary for us to be disciplined in or work as in our rest. • TRUE or FALSE
3. All vision is fueled by either _____ or _____.
4. There is no such thing as a _____ problem, only a _____ problem.
5. If we get discouraged in our disciplines, we should give up and try something else. • TRUE or FALSE

Question #1:

Why is vision an essential part of embracing a life of discipline?

Question #2:

What is a goal that you have had that you were unable to achieve? Identify some of the reasons for your lack of success.

make it real - exercise

Identify something in your life that you would like to accomplish and for which you believe you have a vision. Consider the disciplines you will need to embrace in order to accomplish this thing. Take time to set some specific goals and check points that will help you to measure your progress.

Question #3:

Identify a person in your life that could help you in sustaining a disciplined life. In what ways might they assist you in achieving your goals?

memory verse

“Then the Lord answered me and said, ‘Write the vision and make it plain on tablets that he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Thought it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come’ —Habakkuk 2:1-3 (NKJV)

Question #4:

What in particular impacted you about this teaching? How will you begin to work out the truth that God has shown you?