

2022

STRUCTURE Group Guide W2

Living intentionally forward



Overview

Discipline, it's a word that has taken on a life of itself. Having it has created fortunes. Not having it has lost them. However, its modern application seems a bit watered down, a bit self-centered. Biblical discipline, properly understood and applied, holds the key to knowing God and following him well. And, its benefits don't just stop with us, they impact everyone around us. Structure, as unnatural as it can feel at times, is written into the very world around us. And, when we let it guide what's in us, true freedom can be found.

Week Two - Fast or Famine, How Structure Fights Doubt

When trying to build a structured life the directions of the Bible to both “be still” and “work out our salvation” can be confusing and often times the enemy can use this as an opportunity to instill doubt in our story. Today we will discuss how preparation and a proper understanding of faith lends can ready us for Gods provision in the end.

Big Idea: Battling doubt comes down to a balance of God’s unfailing provision and our ability to prepare over time. 2 Chronicles 32, Genesis 22

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 32, Genesis 22

Key Takeaways & Action Items:

- How proactive are you prepared to be in this process?
- Applying this approach to my own life is messy.
- Define our personal doubts.
- Faith. Sacrifice. Testing
- there is an unavoidable mystery to God
- preparation, both physically and spiritually, is the antidote to doubt.

Group Guide Questions:

1. Can **we set aside our inherited Christian unquestioning for a moment** to actually consider our role in the carrying out of God’s will for our lives?
2. How proactive are you prepared to be in this process of defining the balance of what’s required of us vs waiting for God to move?
3. Are you more of a optimistic person or skeptic?
4. Either personality type would cause us to question at times. Are you someone who is ready when you feel God telling you to do something? Or do

you question - what if im not ready? Why is this being asked of me? What if i don't want to make this type of sacrifice that is required?

5. Read Genesis 22

Reading the story about Abraham and the call to sacrifice his son is not a light read.. It causes us to even question the unavoidable mystery of God. Up until this point, God was set apart from other gods because he'd never required child sacrifice.. Why now? What are some other questions this story brings to mind?

6. We have to remember that Abraham was called years before this to "go" and he went. He had seen God do the unthinkable in many ways and show up when other people doubted. Surely, he knew that God would move.. He just didn't know how. Today, it's easy for us to say "but i know God will show up" but how often do we fully believe it to the extent of putting "our kid"(or anything/anyone we hold dear) on the altar as a sacrifice?

7. This story causes us to ask- how much activity on our part is necessary for God to act?

8. When God asks you to do something scary, do you truly trust him to prepare a good outcome for you?

9. On Sunday, Austin stated that Preparation is the antidote to doubt. We need to prepare as if God wouldn't show up, but believe that he will. Give some examples of times when you felt it was just you, but then God showed up?

10. We were challenged to define our personal doubts, because doubt doesn't end, but we need to write them out, speak them out to our group, and ask for accountability in how we prepare:

11. Lastly, we need to ask ourselves:

- a. Who do I believe God is?
- b. Do I believe he will truly take care of me?
- c. Will He rescue me?
- d. What if my "rescue and saving" look different to God than I had planned?
- e. What doubts are currently in my life that I need to hand over to God so that he can show up how he wants to, not how I want him to?

Resources:

- When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he intended to wage war against Jerusalem, he consulted with his officials and military staff about blocking off the water from the springs outside the city, and they helped him. They gathered a large group of people who blocked all the springs and the stream that flowed through the land. "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find plenty of water?" they said. Then he worked hard repairing all the broken sections of the wall and building towers on it. He built another wall outside that one and reinforced the terraces of the City of David. He also made large numbers of weapons and shields. 2 Chronicles 32:2-5 (NIV)
- the Lord sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the commanders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king. So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. 2 Chronicles 32:22 (NIV)
- Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." Genesis 22:1-2(NIV)
- Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you. "Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Genesis 22:3-6(NIV)
- Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. Genesis 22:7-8 (NIV)

- When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. **11** But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham! "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided." Genesis 22:9-14 (NIV)
- "Sacrifice is a readiness to interrupt whatever we are doing and build an altar, bind whatever we happen to be carrying with us at the moment, place it on the altar, and see what God wills to do with it." Eugene Peterson