

CHAPTER 8

A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE



Biblical Lessons for Students, Athletes & More

Individual or Group Experience

FOCAL VERSE

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV)

WISE WORDS

“Things turn out best for the people who make the best out of the way things turn out.”

John Wooden

Introduction

- Before reading chapter eight, write down a specific challenge you are currently facing. It can be related to basketball, another sport, a relationship, school, work, home life, etc. At the end of the lesson (or class), we will revisit these challenges.
- **PRAY:** Place a hand over the handwritten challenge, and pray over it using the focal verse as a guide (2 Cor. 4:18). For small groups, the leader can pray for the group.
- **READ** through the quotes on “perspective” on page 50. **Which quote speaks to your heart most?**

Page 51

- After reading the first paragraph, take a look at the optical illusions provided. **What do you see?**
- In the scenario on page 51, there are two different responses: “*That’s not fair,*” and “*It’s okay, just think of it as a victory lap!*” **Which response is most in line with your character?**

Page 52

- After reading Romans 5:3-4, (end of second paragraph) ponder or ask:
 - **Can you think of a past experience that seemed negative at the time, but looking back, ended up producing more perseverance, character and hope in your life?**

Page 53

- After reading Donna's reply, “*No, my cup is overflowing,*” ask:
 - **Why do you think Donna was able to have this perspective, even in the midst of her biggest battle and greatest darkness?**

But first...

- Were you more intentional about reading God's Word this past week than you were in previous weeks?
- Is anyone willing to share a note you took during your Bible reading time; something you felt was personal and just for you?

CHAPTER 8 *perspective*



OPTION FOR LEADERS:

Prior to class, gather examples of optical illusions that may generate differing perspectives. What does your group see? Two examples have been provided for you.

Pages 53 & 54



There is a great deal to learn from *each* perspective, so whether you're a player, coach, or parent, take time to read through each application.

Player Application

- Challenge yourself to look for opportunities to *practice* a positive perspective everyday. Leaders, encourage your group to welcome challenging situations as opportunities to grow in this exercise.

Coach Application

- American filmmaker, Alex Kendrick, received a direct word from the Lord: "*Alex, would you rather have an easier road with less fruit or a harder road with more fruit?*"
- **What is meant by "fruit?" Give examples.**
- **If God asked *you* this question, how would you respond?**

Parent Application

"A negative attitude limits our opportunities; a positive perspective increases our confidence which opens the door for greatness."

- **Can you pinpoint a time when a negative attitude may have limited your opportunities?**
- **Conversely, has a positive perspective opened a door for you that you didn't expect?**

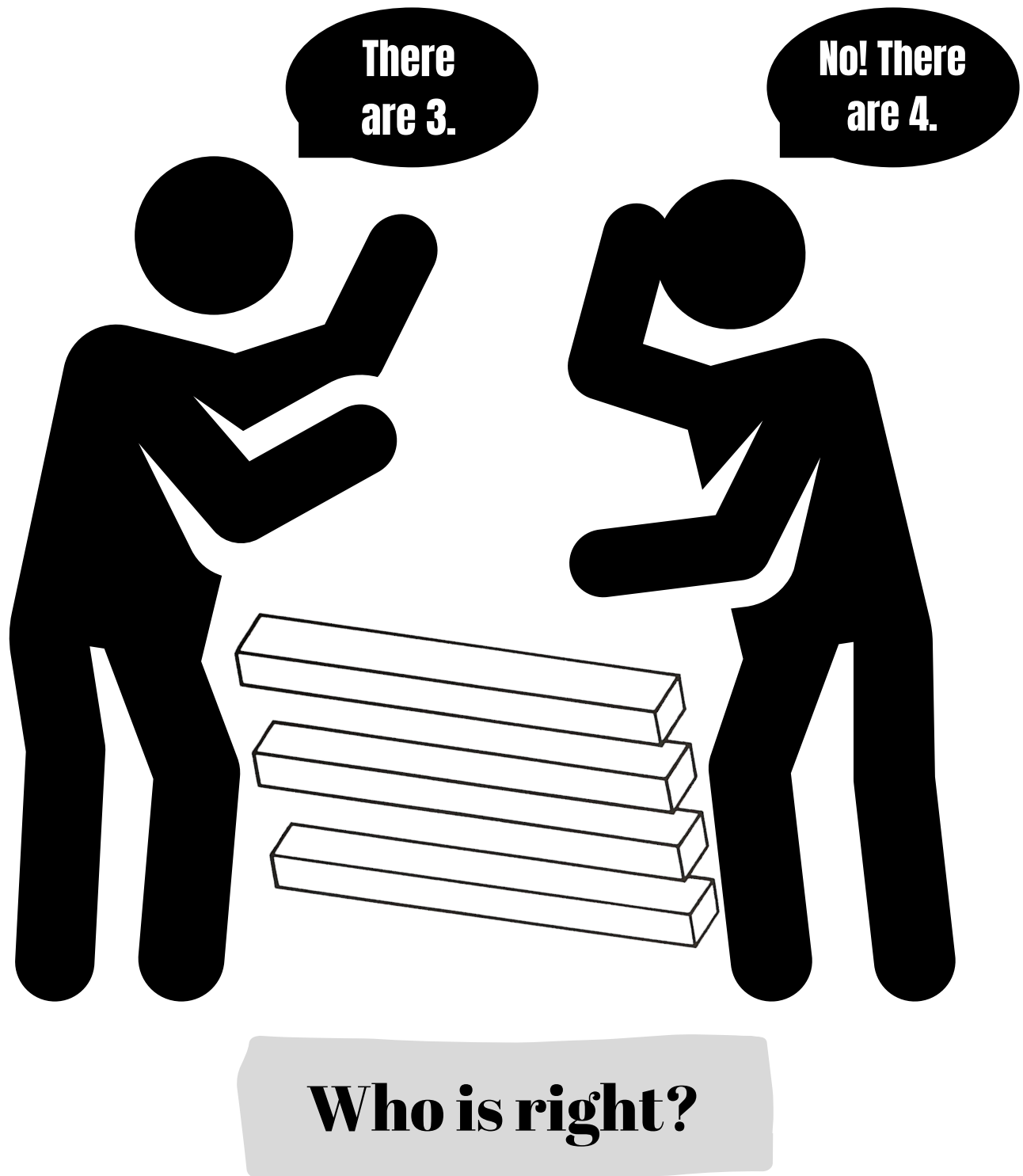
Personal Training Session

Complete the personal training section by answering the questions provided (pages 54-55).

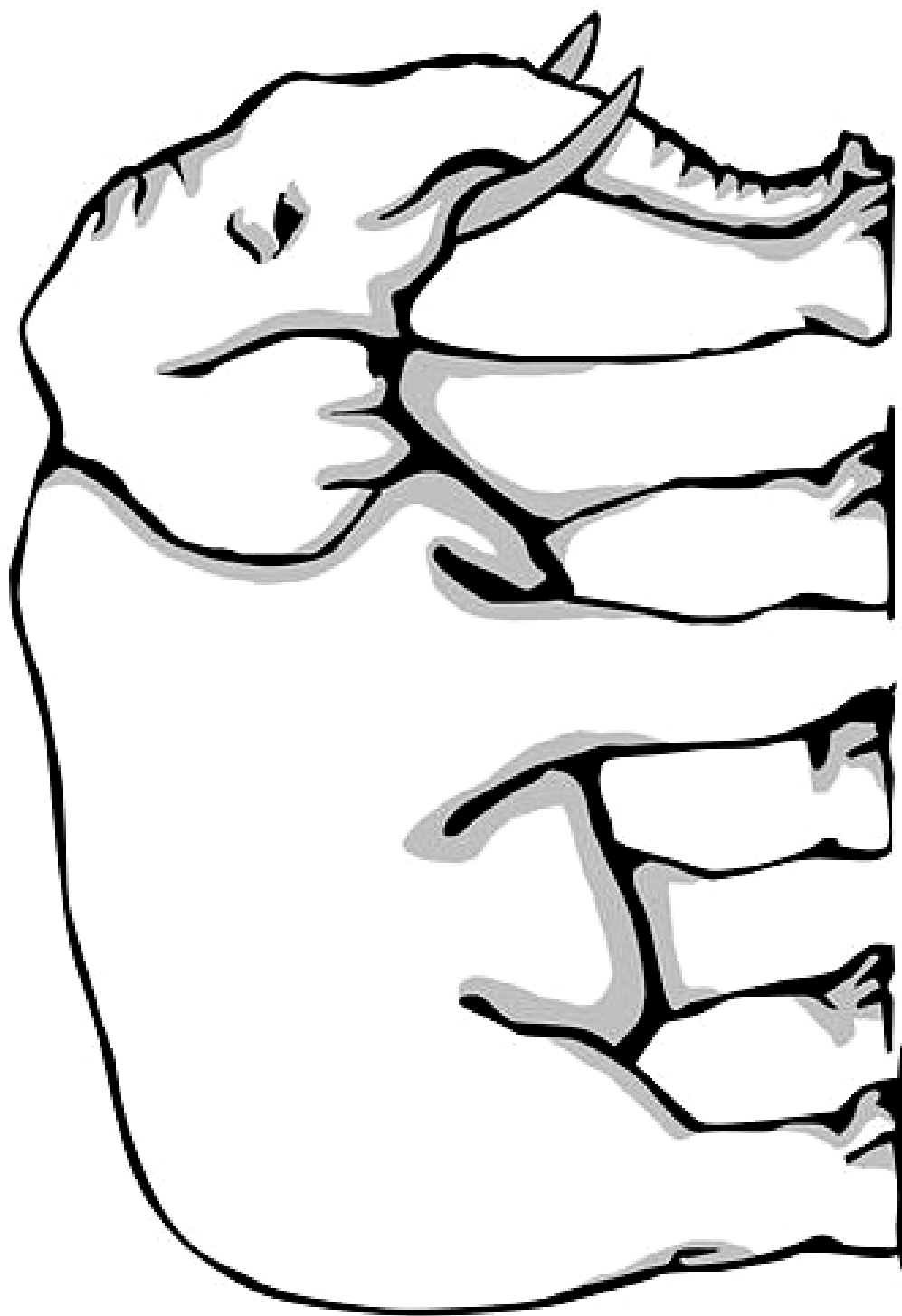
Closing

- Revisit the challenge(s) written down at the beginning of this chapter. **Based on today's lesson, how might you be able to view your situation through a different lens—a new perspective, if you will?**
- Close today's session by reading the post-game prayer on page 55.

PERSPECTIVE



PERSPECTIVE



How many legs do you see?