

Facilitator's Guide

Building My Footprint For God

NOVEMBER 2020

The Foundation

The building blocks of this study start with the Word of God and the family. Psalm 127:3 reminds us, "...children are a heritage from the Lord." As a parent, my first responsibility is to teach my family how to walk with God. The values, instruction, and the example of my life show my family how to live. This lifestyle shapes my grandchildren too. Hopefully, as a senior adult I can say, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth" (3 John 1:4).



We are all creating a legacy. The question is—*At the end of the day...what will be the impact of my life?*

The next building block in this study is how we manage everything God has placed in our hands—including money. When we manage our resources wisely, pay our bills on time, and walk with financial integrity, it brings honor to God and proclaims His glory to a lost world. Building my footprint for God is designed around all three; the Word, our family, and living responsibly before God.

The spiritual nature of this class is designed to bring heart change. Our actions will not change until God touches our heart and creates a desire to change. As the group facilitator, rely on God to use His Word to change the hearts of men and women.

Desired outcome

Spiritual challenge—our spiritual life really does matter

Understand our influence on our children and their spiritual life

Reinforce true Biblical Stewardship—it's God's not mine

Sound money management

- * Honor God in the way we handle money
- * Break the cycle of debt
- * Introduce God's circle of blessing

Show the need for estate planning—holistic stewardship

Roles in this study

Understanding the role each one plays will help us see how God works in our lives.

1. Holy Spirit—We cannot over emphasize the importance of the Holy Spirit working in the class. Humans resist change, but the Holy Spirit is our Teacher. The Holy Spirit can accomplish more in a few seconds than we can in a lifetime.
2. Facilitator—A facilitator is the guide who helps create discussion so the class can learn from each other. This is stimulated by interactive sessions which promotes self-discovery. As a coach and encourager, you are free from the pressure to have all the answers or need to teach. Self-discovery will produce heart change quicker than someone telling you what to do.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to teach you how to lead this class.

3. Prayer Team—prayer is the foundation of any spiritual endeavor. Besides your own prayer commitment to the class, build a support team to pray for each member of the class on a regular basis.
4. Class members—it might be easy to assume the students are the main focus of the class. Not so, they are one aspect of the class, but the other roles mentioned here play an important part in the effectiveness of the class too.

Class Content

The lessons are designed to serve as a daily devotional with short daily readings and thought-provoking questions. Encourage the students to spend 15 minutes each day working through the lessons. Including the Introduction Week, plan for seven sessions.

Suggested class format

- * Ice breaker and prayer
- * Review lesson from last week
- * Ask a probing question about this week's topic
- * Begin reviewing the daily readings and Q & A
- * Listen to podcast and debrief
- * Finish the daily Q & A
- * Help the students to discover their take-a-way

Supplies needed

- * Be familiar with room layout
- * Gather materials needed for the lesson (paper, pens, note cards, etc.)
- * Download the audio podcast and test speakers for the appropriate sound volume

Facilitator's job

The first job of a facilitator is to put the class at ease. Get to know the students and help them get to know each other. Pray for wisdom and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. Focus on how God is working within the group.

One of the most effective ways to get class participation is by asking questions. The African Bible Study method gives us a clue into what types of questions to ask. Start with head questions to make sure the class is listening. Then move deeper into the emotional areas of the heart. The question sequence is as follows:

1. Head questions—to ensure the class members understand the concept
2. Heart questions—emotional questions which dig into the feelings of the heart
3. Hand questions—designed to motivate change in our lives

Sideline discussions that could derail the class purpose. Diffuse tension if needed. Respect others even if you don't agree. Also, avoid personal or embarrassing financial questions. The last thing we intend is to make someone feel singled out because of past financial mistakes.

Small group dynamics

Build a warm caring atmosphere. It helps to connect the class by putting the chairs in a circle. Keep the group small enough so everyone feels comfortable to speak up. Ideally 12-15 is the maximum size of the class. Remember silence is okay. It allows God time to work. Plus, it will encourage those less likely to express their feelings with a chance to speak. Ask specific individuals simple questions to engage them in the discussion. You might divide the class into groups of two or three people to discuss the questions. Then have one person report the findings to the class.

Adult learning styles

Adults learn in different ways. Some prefer to learn mostly by reading, while others learn best by participating in the discussion, and some learn well by listening. Since we learn in different ways the audio podcast is important. Unfortunately, some will not read the material for the class. Playing the podcast will make sure everyone is familiar with the topic, and this should provide for a better discussion time.

Weekly take-a-way

Ask the class each week for their take-a-way—something they learned, or something they want to explore, or act upon. Leaving the class with an action item will help embed the lesson in their minds.

Introduction Week

The introduction week should be the first class. Pass out the materials and give an overview of how the daily readings will work. Prepare the class for the Q & A time each week.

This is a great time to start building relationships with the class. Ask class members to share about themselves—family, work, children, hobbies, etc. It is also a good time for the class members to share a portion of their personal salvation testimony. This will help you understand where the class is spiritually. In addition, begin to lay the foundation that our spiritual influence on others might make the difference as to why someone decides to follow Christ.

Introduction week format

- * Icebreaker and get acquainted
- * Pass out the materials
- * Review study guide layout
- * Discuss daily format, Day One, Day Two, etc.
- * Encourage them to read the book or listen to the audiobook
- * Read Introduction on page 11
- * Listen to podcast and debrief

Podcast debrief

- * What role did Sam's father play in his spiritual walk?
- * How did the power of praise change the situation in Sam's life?
- * Describe how and why Sam prayed over his children.
- * How does Sam motivate people to be like Jesus every day?

Week one

Class objective—develop an understanding of our legacy. Begin to see what we do and say is important in building our legacy, either in a positive or negative way. Create the understanding that the depth of my relationship with God will influence our family and teach them how to walk with God—thus building our legacy.

Tender spots—there could be some sensitive moments if difficult memories arise from the past.

Room for God to work—be sensitive to opportunities for spiritual growth in the class members.

Key points

- * Your family is your greatest investment not your home or 401-k.
- * Our true legacy is intangible—not stuff.
- * Lasting impact happens when Jesus is Lord of our lives.

Key questions for reflection from the daily Q & A

- * Describe intangible in your own words?
- * What does it mean to leave a piece of yourself?
- * Describe some intentional ways to pass the spiritual baton to the next generation?

Podcast debrief—play the podcast near the end of the class.

- * What is a Galatians 5 kind of man?
- * David saw his mentors praying with everyone they encountered—did that change him?
- * In the Navigator Wheel, what are the four spokes to a balanced Christian life?
The Word—Prayer—Witnessing—Fellowship
- * Remember Rosalie—Why did she pray for opportunities to share Christ?
- * What do you remember about Bob and Martha—the missionaries to South America?

Week two

Class objective—understand how our testimony affects our family and their relationship with God. Demonstrate the need for a vibrant daily relationship with the Lord. Look for spiritual transformation or commitments for Christ in the class. Hopefully each class participant will finish the class with a deeper walk with God.

Tender spots—someone who is unsaved or deals with guilt for past sin.

Room for God to work—someone needing to recommit their life to Christ or needs to seek forgiveness from someone.

Key points

- * We need to be passionate about our walk with God.
- * Our goal should be more than a superficial Christian life.
- * Our testimony can become stale and ineffective over time.

Key questions for reflection from the daily Q & A

- * What are some ways to develop a deeper passion for God?
- * How confident are you in the reliability of the Bible as God's Word?
- * Who has influenced your spiritual growth?

Podcast debrief questions—play the podcast at the beginning of the class.

- * What is the difference between being saved and making Jesus the Lord of your life?
- * How did Pastor Rob describe the three different kinds of people?
 - A. Non-Christians
 - B. Carnal Christians
 - C. Spiritual Christians
- * Why do we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Week three Note: Do not discuss embarrassing financial questions in front of the class.

Class objective—to help the class understand we are wealthy compared to much of the world. We are blessed to be a blessing not just enjoy more stuff. In reality, God is the owner of everything, and we have been given the responsibility to manage (steward) the property wisely.

Tender spots—Guilt over past mistakes in money management.

Room for God to work—recognizing everything we have comes from God so we should handle God's money differently.

Key points

- * Americans have become too accustomed to our luxurious lifestyles.
- * Stuff will never bring us happiness.
- * It's not mine—everything belongs to God.

Key questions for reflection from the daily Q & A

- * How has the quality of life changed in America over the past 75 years?
- * Did it surprise you that the people in Africa had contentment even though they had very little?
- * Do you agree with Stanly Tam (day two) that everything belongs to God?

Podcast debrief questions—Play podcast about halfway through the class.

- * What was Pastor Dave's example of stewardship?
- * What are the three hinderances caused by debt?
 - * Emotional—worry about the payments
 - * Spiritual—hinders our ability to go, do, and give
 - * Practical—less income, it is like taking a pay cut

Week four Note: No commendation is intended for our past financial mistakes.

Class objective—happiness is not achieved by acquiring more stuff. In reality, happiness comes when we give of ourselves for God’s purposes. Generosity is a lifestyle, not writing a check or making an online donation. True happiness (joy) comes when we learn to walk in God’s circle of blessing (see page 14).

Tender spots—guilt about not giving in the past or the inability to give today due to the current financial situation.

Room for God to work—desire to trust God in giving. Learning to live for others and not just ourselves.

Key points

- * Stewardship is a lifestyle—managing everything God has placed in our hands.
- * Living paycheck-to-paycheck limits our ability to go, do, and give.
- * Generosity comes from the heart and affects every area of our life.

Key questions for reflection from the daily Q & A

- * Why should I include God in the financial decisions of my life?
- * How does giving help break the stronghold of my self-will?
- * Why do some Christians say they cannot afford “NOT” to give?

Podcast debrief questions—play podcast at the end of the class.

- * Based on the lesson this week, how would you describe generosity?
- * Gunnar said, every spending decision is a spiritual decision. What does that mean?
- * This is two weeks in a row we have heard about a fiduciary responsibility.
 - * How would you describe a fiduciary responsibility?
 - * How does that relate to stewardship?

Week five--This week has the most technical portion of this study. Do not allow the detail to paralyze the class members. Instead, encourage them to use this information as a guide to motivate them to action.

Class objective—create an awareness of the need for estate planning and why planning is part of good stewardship.

Tender spots—fear of the unknown can derail families and stop them from moving forward on any kind of planning. Also be aware the cost of estate planning could be stopping some families from completing their documents.

Room for God to work—tension between spouses and family members over financial issues.

Key points

- * A holistic view of stewardship includes estate planning.
- * Be prepared—if not, the state laws will dictate how your estate is handled.
- * The five key reasons why you need an up-to-date estate plan.

Key questions for reflection from the daily Q & A

- * Describe how Rosie might have felt after the state took control of Jose’s estate?
- * What are the best reasons for a 30-year-old to have an estate plan?
- * When was the last time you reviewed your beneficiaries?

Podcast debrief questions—play podcast at the end of the lesson as a review and pass out the Estate Planning Checklist found on page 13.

Week six

Class objective—God uses ordinary (regular) people to accomplish his will. Regular people like you and me have been blessed to take the message of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

Tender spots—guilt for not wanting to give or feeling like they are cheating their children by giving a legacy gift.

Room for God to work—this may be the first time the class members have heard about the opportunity and need to support their church and the ministries they love with a legacy gift.

Key points

- * The Heroes of the Faith in Hebrews 11 were ordinary (regular) people.
- * God can use any of us to reach others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- * Parents and grandparents have great influence on their children’s desire to give.

Key questions for reflection from the daily Q & A

- * Why do you think Emma saw herself as an ordinary person?
- * What are three ways to teach our children and grandchildren about giving?
- * What does it mean to say we are “Blessed to be a blessing?”

Podcast debrief questions—play podcast about halfway through class

- * Which of Laurie’s stories spoke to you?
 - * The daughter who gave 60% of her baby-sitting money to charity?
 - * The man who gave his \$25 birthday gift to a ministry?
 - * Sue and her mother’s stock gift?
- * What did you think about her quote, “A fish a day?”

Other Helpful Resources

Budget Coaching—Financial Peace University

Financial Planning—seek out a Kingdom Advisor

Investing classes—Sound Mind Investing

Online Estate Planning—Christian Trust Maker

General Stewardship questions—Christian Stewardship Network

Estate Planning Checklist—Handout for Week Five

Each person should have these documents:

1. Last Will and Testament (some might need a Living Trust)
2. Health Care Directives
3. Financial Power of Attorney
4. Guardian for minor children

Special attention is needed for blended families and marriages later in life

Since laws vary from state to state, it is wise to work with a professional in your area. Below are some general definitions to help you understand these terms.

Last Will and Testament: A legal document that communicates a person's final wishes pertaining to assets and dependents.

Health Care Directives: A legal document in which a person specifies what actions should be taken for their health if they are no longer able to make decisions for themselves

Financial Power of Attorney: A legal document that grants a trusted agent the authority to act on your behalf in financial matters.

Guardian: The person who looks after a disabled person or a child whose parents have died.

Personal Representative: The legal representative, sometimes called the executor, for the estate of a deceased person.

Codicil: An addition or supplement that explains, modifies, or revokes a portion of your Last Will and Testament.

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