

# Study Guide

Conquer the Chaos  
Know the Coaches

You can understand the chaos of our world and with the coaches available to us; enjoy our real world experience.

By Mark Schaufler  
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## **Study Guide: Conquer the Chaos Know the Coaches**

Welcome to the study guide for Conquer the Chaos Know the Coaches. Whether you are doing this on your own or with a group, this will help facilitate taking the information you learn and helping it become a part of your daily life.

When you put together a puzzle you start with the outside pieces that form a border. The time you spend learning and growing with this book and guide will help you to do just that. It will help you gain a worldview that includes the very active participation of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Life makes sense when you see their hand in your daily life and how you fit in the overall picture of life here on earth and eternity. Having followed Jesus since 1977 and growing daily in the action of the Father and the Holy Spirit; life can make sense.

As with all books and new information you receive, you need to take the time to process it. A part of processing is fumbling it a few times, making mistakes, or stumbling; whichever concept makes the most sense to you.

First, you must be **exposed** to the truth. Then you **experiment** with it to see if you really understand it. Once you understand it, you begin to gain some **experience** and if you apply it often enough in different settings, you may become an **expert**.

You see the progression that Peter went through with three key scriptural truths and we will have a very similar path for those things that are new to us. Faith is something we all need to grow in but will likely fail at and sometimes in dramatic fashion, before it is a consistent part of our lives. In Matthew 14, we see Peter getting out of a boat to temporarily walk on water. As his fear takes over and he sinks, Jesus rescues him and corrects his failure with the simple words *“oh you of little faith, why did you doubt.”* We will all experience the battle of fear and faith in our lives.

Matthew 16 brings us face to face with the challenge of hearing the voice of God. We are presented with two examples of Peter getting it right initially but quickly getting it extremely wrong and the words, *“get behind me Satan, you do not have in mind the things of God but the things of men.”* Getting our daily direction from the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will be a learning experience that is refined throughout our lives.

When it comes to forgiveness you see Peter struggle with it in Mark chapter 14. He denies Christ three times before the night is over despite the promise he made not to. He also would remember the words that Jesus had spoken earlier on in their time together, *“But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God.”* Matthew 10:33

As far as Peter knew at that point, he had completely blown his opportunity to follow Jesus. He had “disowned” Jesus. Yet later Jesus would personally appear to him and tell him to get back to what he had called him to. The forgiveness he received on the deepest of levels enabled him to preach in Acts 2:38 *“Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”*

Peter’s learning curve was steep and messy and yours will be too. But like Peter, you can come to the point where you understand just what the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will take the time to do for you every day of your life. Like Peter, you can come to a point where you can say, *“Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”* John 6:68

Peter said these words after others had left because Jesus’ teachings had become so hard. We will all feel like something he asks us to do is too hard or we aren’t capable. But the persistence of Peter resulted in our privilege of hearing the Gospel today. Don’t give up! There are many futures that will be impacted by you.

As you work through the study guide, you will be asked to write things down and answer questions. You could skip that part but writing things down helps you process and retain information, so it has a chance to become a part of your life; the ultimate goal.

## **Study Guide: Conquer the Chaos**

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## **Getting Started**

**?** Before you read the first introduction chapter, write your definition of “love”.

## **Introduction: Love?**

Read this introduction chapter.

Read Hebrews 12:5-6 three times

**?** Write a definition for the word “love” that includes “discipline, rebukes, and punishes”.

## **Introduction: The Berean Check**

Read the chapter then reread Acts 17:11.

**?** Define the word “context” as described in this chapter.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:32

**?** If you heard this scripture out of context what would you think the Bible was saying?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:32-33 and Isaiah 22:12-13.

**?** What does 1 Corinthians 15:32 (Isaiah 12:13) really mean?



## **Introduction: Thank You**

You just read my thank you list.

Go ahead and take a minute and make a list of your own.

**?** Who has helped you get this far in life?

**?** Who invested in you to grow and challenge you?

**?** Who do you hope to spend the rest of your life with as you and they know the coaches?

## **Life's Stage: Chaos Explained**

### **Introduction**

In this short chapter the word "stage" is used, much like the word "context" in the previous chapter.

**?** Explain why you can use the word "stage" and if you had to use another word for the same idea what would it be?

## Unexplained Evil

After you have read the chapter go back and read Galatians 5:19-23 again.

**?** Make a list of the fruits of the spirit and a list of the fruits of the sinful nature. Note the ones that most describe you. Note ones that described someone who is notorious from history, like Adolph Hitler.

Fruits of the Spirit

Fruits of the Sinful Nature



**?** Does that help you to understand where our actions come from? In what way does this shape the way you look at history or current events?

Read Genesis 6:5-6.

**?** Do you think people still grieve him today?

**?** Describe a current event that demonstrates the fruits of the spirit and another that demonstrates the fruits of the sinful nature.

## **Veterans and Victims**

**?** Would you describe yourself as a “veteran” or a “victim?” Give an example of why you choose what you did.

**?** How would you describe life’s stage to someone else now that you have read this chapter?

## **Peace, Peace, Peace**

? Describe the difference between personal peace and world peace.

? What are the challenges for each kind of peace? Write a paragraph on each of these challenges.

## **We Have an Enemy, But ....**

Before you read this chapter, read 1 Peter 5:8 and John 10:10.

**?** If you had only memorized these two scriptures from the Bible, how would you feel about life?

Now read the chapter.

**?** Write a paragraph about how things look.

**?** Give an example of how you would "*submit to him.*"

**?** How can you "*resist the enemy?*"

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Remember last chapter's teaching on peace?

**?** How does this chapter help you have peace?

## **Spies in the Camp**

**?** Have you known some “weeds, wolves, or spies” in the churches you have been a part of? Describe them without naming names.

**?** Describe their impact in the church?

**?** How do we need to respond to them?

**?** How do we become them?





## **Babies in Christ**

**?** Before you read this chapter, describe the last baby you held and what their world is like.

Now read the chapter.

**?** How long has it been since you were a baby?

**?** How long has it been since you began to follow Jesus?

**?** What are some of the similarities of being a baby in Christ and a newborn?

**?** Did you get the care you needed as a newborn Christian or were you more or less on your own?

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**?** How should/can we care for new followers of Christ? List five things that would be important to provide for them.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

## **Born from Darkness**

- ? Read and then describe the darkness you lived in prior to following Christ.
  
- ? What are some of the things/actions that you still struggle with from that darkness?
  
  
- ? What is your biggest challenge from the past?
  
  
- ? Do you have a process and people in place to help you with change?

Read Galatians 6:2 and pray about finding those who can help you if you don't already have them.

## **Potential Dangers**

**?** Read the chapter and then make a list of some of your current challenges as you are following Jesus.

**?** How hopeful are you of change in some of these areas?

**?** Reread the chapter and make a list of the people you have around you to help in these challenging areas.

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**?** Read Galatians 6:2 and Philippians 1:6. How has the Lord helped you so far? Give at least three specific examples.

1.

2.

3.

Read Philippians 1:6 again and take a moment to start to memorize it.

## **Future Shock**

? As a new follower of Christ what were some of the early “tests” that you failed?

? Is it easy to recover from those?

? How do you recover from those?

? What would you say to someone who just failed a test?

## **The Training Pants Trap**

**?** Read and then describe some of the new ways you have begun to live as a follower of Christ. List as many as you can think of.

**?** What are some of Christ's ways you have "postponed" making a part of your life?

Read Matthew 7:24-28

**?** Which is easier to "know about something" or to "do something?"



**?** Why do we say things like “do as I say not as I do?”

Remember Peter and his progression of making mistakes until he “got it?”

Getting from the place of knowledge (exposure) to a lifestyle (experience) is one of the key things our Heavenly Coaches will work with you for the rest of your life! Enjoy the journey and the coaches who take you there.

## Our Heavenly Coach

### Introduction

? What kind of memories do you have of some of the coaches you have had in life?

? Make a list of five good characteristics of a coach and five bad characteristics.

Good Characteristics	Bad Characteristics
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

? How are some ways “he” has already coached you? List and explain at least three if you can.

1.

2.

3.

? What are some areas in your life where you would like a coach?

? Have you learned to ask for help? Read Matthew 7:7-8. This is a skill with people.

**Learn** to ask, not demand.

**Learn** to ask, not have a pity party.

**Learn** to ask without apologizing.

**Learn** to ask until you get an answer.

**Learn** to ask and accept the answers that you don't like to hear if they are the rock-bottom truth.

## **Never a Practice always a Game**

**?** Have you heard the expression “how you practice is how you play?” What does that mean to you?

**?** In life do we get practice days or do all days count?

**?** How does what we did ten years ago impact us now?

**?** How does a successful today set us up for tomorrow?

**?** How does a messy day set us up for tomorrow?

**?** Why are you glad Father God doesn't cut us from the family for the messes, mistakes, sins, and failures we are involved in?

**?** Did you ever feel like you had done something so bad he couldn't forgive you?

**?** What would you say to those who have stumbled and bumbled like you have?

## Goals

Read the chapter and then read Acts 1 through 9. We love to make “to do” and “bucket” lists.

**?** What are some things you can see from Acts 1 through 9 that should be on your lists?

**?** Looking at the material you just read what are some things/activities that need to come off your lists to make space for his items?

**?** Are there any changes we need to make to accomplish his Ephesians 2:10 goals for us?

## The Family Business

Read the chapter. The ministry of reconciliation, like all things, is a skill that you can learn how to do. Some of us will do it in the normal everyday activities of work, school, and life. Others will do it from a church platform as a pastor, deacon, or leader in addition to the everyday activities. Others will go to the far corners of the earth and be called missionaries.

? How do you see his plan unfolding for you?

? Which of these three general areas do you see him asking you to influence and reconcile?

1.

2.

3.

? How will you prepare for that role?

We have some training pieces that will help you reach out and interact with those of very different backgrounds in our Short Term Missions Participant Manual available at [www.mstgo.com](http://www.mstgo.com). Growth requires a plan and the time to change and coaches to help.

? Do you have a plan and the people to help make that happen? Describe it here.

## **Paul, Not Afraid of the High Calling**

It is easy to look in the mirror and not like what you see. We often disqualify ourselves from attempting things because of what we see in the mirror.

**?** After you have read the examples of arm wrestling and money do you even need a mirror?

Paul wasn't afraid of the "high calling", not because he was impressed with himself, but because he was impressed with the action of grace in his life. Because of that he wasn't afraid or hesitant or hopeless when he was asked to climb some very high mountains (figuratively) by the Lord. Read John 14:12. Jesus said it so it's not a boast of man, but he recognized that we would often live longer than he did here on earth. What you do with your lifetime can make a huge difference here on earth if you aren't afraid of the high callings he puts in front of you.

His challenges always have enough grace to accomplish them. Often, he will teach us this principle in the world we understand so we can then walk into a very different world he has for us.

**?** Make a list of any challenges in front of you from him that seem to be more than you can do.

**?** Now add grace to the resources you have. How does that change things?



## **Methods of the Master**

**?** Based on the percentages you read about, what percentage are you in the area of evangelism?

**?** How about loving your enemies (Matthew 5:44-47)?

**?** How about loving those who are a part of God's family and thus your brothers and sisters (Galatians 6:10)?

You can see why we need to understand and be able to apply grace: the two questions above are almost impossible without it.

## **A Word about Success**

**?** Who defines success for you?

**?** Was it what your parents modeled and spoke of?

**?** Is it based on possessions?

**?** Is it based on the praise of others?

**?** In 1 Timothy 6:10 there is a warning about "*a root of evil*". Has that ever gotten you in trouble? If so, what did you learn from that experience?

**?** How could you pass that on to others, so they don't have to go through what you did?

I have learned to have the joy of obedience and not rely on the joy of results. A lot of what he asks us to do doesn't always produce tangible evidence that something has changed. Loving your enemies or those in your world who are difficult to love may not produce fruit in your lifetime. In the same way evangelism is the act of planting and watering as well as harvesting. Read 1 Corinthians 3:7-8 and you will see what our part is and realize what is his part.

## **My Dad's the Coach**

### **Test Tube Babies**

**?** What are some things from our upbringing that need to be replaced in the way we live life?

Sometimes we need to take some time and do a damage report on what we experienced growing up. There are almost always some things we need to be thankful for and keep doing them. There are also other things that we need to replace and let go of. Towards the end of the book we will spend several chapters dealing with the wounds we experience in life. It is a skill and practice that will be an ongoing part of life. Don't take short cuts but submit to the process so that you have scars and stories instead of career-ending injuries.

## Converted Like Children

? Describe the “good qualities of kids.” List at least ten here.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

**?** How do we compare to those “good qualities”? Have the years and our experiences turned us into crusty, old, unmovable dogs who can’t learn new tricks? It isn’t just an age thing, even young people deal with this.

**?** Do you need to embrace any of these attributes?

**?** If so, what action plan will it take to get there?

## **The Rock or Dominoes**

Read the chapter and then read Matthew 7:24-28. Put some real-life issues onto the list of *“rains came down, waters rise and the winds blow and beat against the house.”* As a believer I have experienced cancer, financial stresses, death of loved ones, and plenty of other challenging situations. Those would be some examples of *“rains, waters, and winds.”*

**?** What would be on your list?

**?** When these things happen (not if) do we respond in such a way that our faith grows or is destroyed?

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If we live in a fantasy world of how we wish things happened, we fall when the rains, water, and wind show up. It could look like those domino walls we would try to construct as kids. But if we understand the stage we are living in and the dynamics of it, then we can weather the storms and grow through them.

Read Matthew 6:34. Know there will be tough seasons but also know that the coaches will enable us to smile at the end of it all. If you live these verses, it changes your future physical and mental health by destressing you. It gives you a clearer head for decision making and better relationship skills. Fear won't find a place to grow in the soil of your life and your financial decisions will be more responsible.

**?** Now write a short paragraph on what a "worry-filled life" could look like.

**?** Write another paragraph on what a "worry-free" life could look like.



## Our Experience

**?** List five good things (if you can) from your memories of your parents when you were a child.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Now read the chapter. When the disciples wanted to learn how to pray Jesus began the process of knowing the Father with the opening line, *"Our Father."* This was in stark contrast to the pompous prayers that the Jewish people had heard all their lives.

The process of getting to know the Father will be easier for some because of our experience growing up. For those who had a great dad; awesome! Truth is there were plenty of bad and nonexistent dads too. The words *"Our Father"* aren't supposed to just be words but be attached to the many attributes and characteristics that he possesses and we ultimately can experience.

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 and get ready for a lifetime of experiencing the God of all compassion. Then read Romans 12:2 and get ready for him to rewire your brain so it can experience more of him and respond to the crazy world we live in properly.

**?** Take a moment to honestly evaluate where you are on the journey towards a healthy relationship with *"Our Father."*

## **The Coach Follows Us Home**

### **Dad Wears Another Hat**

Read the chapter. This journey we call life can be enjoyed despite the many challenges we will face.

Read the following scripture with the goal of memorizing them in the next day or two.

Romans 8:15

John 14:26

James 1:5

1 John 4:1

There are over eight billion people on the earth, but he follows each one of us home.

## **He Knows us**

**?** How is that comforting when we fail?

**?** How is that threatening when we quit trying?

**?** How is your heart doing? Is it pointed in the right direction or wandering?

## **Sets the Curriculum**

I have a BS and master's degrees. In each case someone else set the curriculum because they knew what it would take to become proficient in those fields of study. I didn't get to pick what I wanted to take.

Read the chapter and then Jeremiah 29:11.

I remember some of my early "ideas" for my life. They may have sounded noble or just plain odd. In all of them, they weren't his plans. In time I started to find his plan and submit to his curriculum. Some of the classes were easier than others, some he had given to me before I was a follower.

What I have learned is that the ones that are the most difficult to learn and pass the tests on often have the most impact in your future.

**?** What have been some of the hardest lessons for you to learn?

? What are some lessons that you are in the middle of right now?

? Are you trying to avoid certain classes in your current curriculum?

? If so, can you apply yourself to them so you can move on to the next set of classes?

## **A Liberal Arts Degree**

He will try to get you to grow in many areas of your life, not just the obvious spiritual ones. He knows the plans he has for you and the areas of life that support those efforts. Don't be surprised by a course in physical health, mental maturity, and financial practices. There will be more than one course in loving your neighbors and enemies. If your foundation is good, then he can build on that the life he has planned for you.

In a barrel the capacity is determined by the shortest stave. Grow in all that he puts in front of you!

We often want to specialize because we think that will better prepare us for something. The truth is, we need to have a better basic understanding and application of the foundations of our life in Christ. I may be an evangelist, but I need to fully understand discipleship too. You may be an administrative type, but you need a good Bible-based life to administrate with a loving heart.

- ? What are some topics you have avoided in your growth?
  
- ? What are the kinds of topics you seem to really embrace and enjoy?

## **Breaking the Generational Jinx**

Read the chapter. You make your decisions based on what is in your mental file cabinet.

? What are some files that need to go?

? What are you going to replace them with?

Too often people see the Christian life as a long list of what you shouldn't do. Some of that is true; there are things we shouldn't do but all the don'ts have a do that replaces them.

When it comes to changing the path you learned how to live as a child, you have to get a new map and guide. Scripture is the map and he is the guide.

## **He Administers the Tests**

Read the chapter and then 2 Corinthians 1:8-9.

Now read 1 Timothy 1:15-16.

Don't worry about the test or the results. Just learn from them and take them as true evaluation of where you are right now so you can grow from that point forward.

**?** What tests do you consistently pass?

Make a list of five of them and thank him for the background to do that.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



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**?** What tests do you consistently fail? Make a list of five of them and then take a step back to look at those situations.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

**?** Why do you fail them?

**?** Are you surprised when they arise?

**?** Are you afraid to do the right thing?

**?** Do you get distracted by other things of lesser

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importance, so you miss the test completely?

**?** Are you unsure of the right thing to do?

If you can answer these questions it might help prepare you for the next test that comes your way and a new outcome!

## **Why Curriculum and Tests?**

No matter how you were raised, the life Jesus has for you to live includes some very challenging areas. Knowing how you are doing means you can know how much growth is yet to be achieved. A D- may seem like a failing grade but what it really means is you have a gap in your skills and knowledge that need to be filled. Don't be disappointed, just work on the changes in front of you.

Read 2 Peter 1:5-8 again.

**?** When you are done with this book and study guide what are your next growth options?

You must plan to grow and be intentional not only in book knowledge but practical application. The reality, for me is, If I don't put something on the calendar it doesn't happen.

**?** Do you need to add something to your calendar?  
That may mean taking something off it to allow the space to grow.

## He Picks each Class

We like a smooth, hassle-free life. But there are constant challenges that show us our need to grow in certain areas. This is not always convenient or seems to fit the rest of life; but his progression does make sense in time.

The example of prayer is just one area where he will give you opportunities to grow. He will also address finances, conflict skills, advanced planning, and many more areas. The first step is always to admit and recognize our personal lack and then pursue either our growth or getting the help we need from others.

One lifelong lesson will be the need of other's help and input as we learn to live and work in the body of Christ. We need to learn to ask for help, appreciating the gifts and abilities of others, and being able to teach others from our gifting and experience.

**?** Based on this chapter what are some "classes" you can see are in your future to take and learn from?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**?** Does your current lifestyle have the space to learn and grow in these areas? If not, how could you open up some space for learning and growing?

## Life-long Learners

At this point in life (my current age is 64) I am still learning things that help me today and the decisions I must make for tomorrow. It is also amazing to learn more about things I already know a lot about. A know-it-all attitude doesn't belong to his kids.

Read 2 Peter 3:18. These are Peter's last written words to us. I think he realized that being a "lifelong learner" is a key part of those who follow Jesus.

? What are some areas where you could still grow?

1.

2.

3.

? Are there any areas where you used to think you knew it all?

? What should be your attitude in those areas?

## **The Freedom to be Honest**

You must be honest in order to be able to change your situation and yourself. An inaccurate starting point will result in a missed ending.

**?** Is being honest always easy?

**?** Why do we bend the truth sometimes?

1.

2.

3.

**?** Father God can handle the truth (he already knows it), what does it take to be truthful to him?

1.

2.

3.

**?** How hard is it for you to acknowledge the truth, at least your part in it?

Take as much time as is needed to be truthful with him and get things moving in the right direction.

## Rebuilding after a Fall

Few kids like to clean their rooms. Having worked with students for decades, I have weaved my way through some scary messes in their rooms. In our lives we need to learn how to clean up the messes we make in our relationships as quickly as possible. The next step is to realize how it happened, so it doesn't happen again.

Life will be full of failures, and by definition, change means failure. The challenge is how do we rebuild after a failure.

**?** List some messes you have made in life.

1.

2.

3.

**?** What did you do to create that mess?

1.

2.

3.

**?** Have we learned from it so it hasn't become a lifestyle of messes?

1.

2.

3.

**?** Are there any messes out there that we have been avoiding that we now realize we need to deal with?



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1.

2.

3.

If you move in that direction you will get his help; he knows our future is partially determined by the amount of messes we don't clean up. Pray and ask him which ones you should address first as you get ready to live the "abundant life" he has for each of us.

## The Student's Influence

Read the chapter and then 1 Corinthians 4:21. The lessons he is trying to teach us are incredibly important. How we respond to them will often determine the methods he must employ to help us "get it and do it."

**?** Are there any areas where we have resisted being a "lifelong learner?"

I have lived in the same area for almost 50 years. During that time, I have seen the life result of those who have changed their ways to Christ's and those who haven't. It is a heartache to see the major differences between the two paths.

I wish there was a magic "zap" prayer that would change our attitudes in some areas. Believe me, I would wait in line a long time for that. But time proves that for most of our changes it requires us being open to him working in our lives, no matter how it feels at the time.

**?** Are there some areas where we need to slow down and open up our lives for him to work in?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Having taken the first step of acknowledging those areas, set aside some time to let him work on them.

1. Calendar some time.
2. Get rid of any influences that feed the wrong attitude.
3. Ask for help from those you can trust to walk with you through this.

## **Wait for Graduation**

Read the chapter and if you aren't familiar with Abraham, Moses, or David and their stories, make it a point of further study and reading. You could do that now; their lives are lessons we need to learn by reading not experience.

Read 2 Timothy 2:15-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16. There are four kinds of vessels mentioned in these passages. Each has a use, but the progression tells us that staying as clay should not be our long-term goal.

? Gold and silver should be our goals but how do we get there?

? When 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says "*thoroughly equipped*" what do you think that means?

? Does head knowledge replace experience?

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**?** What kinds of service/ministry do you think would fit into each of the categories that Paul uses?

Clay

Wood

Silver

Gold

**?** What can we cleanse ourselves from to move up the progression?

## Take Tests Joyfully

Read the chapter and then read James 1:2-3. Tests can be stressful, but you need to read Romans 8:38-39. You don't need to fear the results of a test, no matter how bad they are.

**?** Remember taking tests in school? Did you get nervous, freeze, or enjoy them?

**?** One of the challenges of his tests is that you don't know in advance when they are coming. In school they called them "Pop Quizzes". List at least three tests you have been through in the last few years.

1.

2.

3.

**?** On a scale of 1 (no joy-total whiner) to 10 (smiled and rejoiced through it) how did you do with each one?

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? When you are in the middle of a test do you feel close to him or abandoned?

? Read Matthew 14:22, do you think Peter felt abandoned?

? Was he?

## Rest at Recess

This can be a struggle for us. We may be workaholics or lazy, good-for-nothings. Neither one is what he wants for us. Resting revives us for the challenges before us. Sunday was set aside for rest but often, if we are involved in a ministry setting, this is our busiest day.

Read Hebrews 12:1-3. Each of us must find a pace where we can run with endurance. I guarantee you this includes times of rest.

For me my office is in my home. I must get away from the house to really rest and often that means more than a church service on Sunday. If I don't, I can tell the difference between the "rested, motivated, and productive" me and the "I can barely stay awake and wonder what I am doing" me.

? What works for you?

? What are you like when you aren't rested?

? How long does it take to recharge?

## The Dropout Track

Read the chapter and then read John 6:66.

? What are some of the “hard sayings” for you from the mouth of Jesus?

? What is the difference between “failing” and “quitting?”

Reread John 15:1-5. Keep track this coming week of how things go when you get a good devotion time. That isn't measured by time but by being able to connect with him at some point and then carry that through the day.

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday



**?** How comfortable are you with the fact that change, by definition, means failure?

Take a moment to remember he loves us despite our feeble attempts and loves us too much to leave us as we are.



## **Bad News Losers**

Read the chapter and then put the answers to the eight questions on page 140/141 here.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

## **Bad News Winners**

Read the chapter.

**?** Does it surprise you that Peter became the leader of the early church given how many mistakes he made in his time with Jesus?

**?** Write a resumé for Peter that includes his big three mistakes.

Memorize Hebrews 12:11

Read Proverbs 25:12.

**?** Do you have a listening ear?

**?** Describe your listening habits; remember Peter's world of mistakes that he learned from. It won't be any different for us.

## Can This be Love?

Read the chapter and then read John 3:16 and 2 Peter 2:4-9. Each of these describe very strong emotional acts.

? What are the emotions for each of these scriptures?

John 3:16

2 Peter 2:4-9

? Think about the information you read about India and write a couple of sentences in response to what you read.

? Have you ever heard a missionary tell you about why they go?

? How emotional were they when they expressed the “why?”

? Have you ever felt a need to go?

? If so, how have you acted on it?

**?** Have you ever gone out of your way to speak to a stranger about Jesus?

## **Self-test**

Read the chapter.

**?** What are the four things we can learn from Balaam's experience?

1.

2.

3.

4.

**?** What are some daily ways Father God tries to coach us?

**?** Who are some people in your life God uses on a regular basis to coach you?

## **Read, Repent, Renew**

Read the chapter.

**?** Growing up what were some of the “non-biblical ideas/ways” that your family did as normal behavior?

**?** What scriptural action replaces that “normal” from your past?

**?** How easy is it to do something a new way?

**?** What is at least one area where you read, repented, and renewed and it has already worked for you?



**?** What was the new outcome or fruit of the old family way you replaced?

**?** What would have been the outcome or fruit if you had not replaced it?

## **The Church**

Read the chapter.

**?** Write a brief paragraph about the “perfect church” and how you learn and grow there.

**?** Write a brief paragraph about a “realistic church” and what it can be like to be rebuked there?

## **The Family**

Read the chapter.

**?** When you rebuke/correct others have you learned to speak the truth in love, or does it tend to come across as a dripping faucet or exasperation?

**?** How easy is it to hear correction from someone else?

**?** Even though they are hard to listen to, are they right sometimes?

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**?** Let's say you talked too much. How would you like someone to tell you that? What would that sound like? Write a paragraph to spell that out.

**?** Now let's reverse it and tell someone they talk too much but with the intention of hurting them intentionally as well.

Read Matthew 7:12 and begin to memorize it.

## **People in Authority**

Read the chapter.

- ? Is it easy when you get a speeding ticket?
  
- ? How did you feel?
  
- ? Did it change your driving habits?
  
- ? When you drive, do you wish you could give out tickets to others?
  
- ? What would society be like without a government?
  
- ? How do governments reflect the people who elect them?
  
- ? When do you NOT submit to a government decree?

Did you know that Hitler was originally elected into power?

## **Your Conscience**

Read the chapter.

**?** What are some of the ways your conscience either says “no” to you or encourages you to actions?

1 Timothy 4:2 talks about a “seared conscience.”

**?** What kinds of things are those people capable of?

**?** Who are some historical figures who might have had a seared conscience?

**?** What are some things that can keep us from paying attention to our conscience?

**?** Do you need to clear your conscience for some things done or not done?







## **The Voice of God; Our Coaches Speak**

Read the chapter.

- ?** Do you think you have found God's specific plan for this part of your life?
  
- ?** If so, how did you come to that conclusion?
  
- ?** If not, what pieces of that puzzle do you think you might have?
  
- ?** What are the five guidelines for hearing God's voice noted in this chapter?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.

## The Words of God

Read the chapter.

Read Revelation Chapters 1 to 3

Make a list of the corrections from those chapters and affirmations side by side.

Corrections

Affirmations

## **Coaching, But It isn't a Game**

### **Introduction**

Read the chapter.

**?** What are two key painful lessons you have learned from?

1.

2.

**?** Why do you think this chapter talks about life being lived out in a war zone?

**?** Are there areas in your life that are still painful because there is a lesson that is being learned?

## **The Stakes are High**

Read the chapter.

**?** Find at least five references to Hell in the New Testament and compile a description of it from them into a paragraph.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

**?** Is it easier to downplay how serious life is or face it's realities?

**?** Do you realize yet how important you are to him and his plan?

## **No Scars No Strength**

Read the chapter and then read 2 Corinthians 1:1-4.

**?** Do you feel comforted in all areas of life or are there still some painful wounds?

Learning to clean it out, keep it clean, and get help when needed is an ongoing challenge. We have a full teaching on this on our website [www.mstgo.com](http://www.mstgo.com). It is a link to YouTube and the teaching on wounds. Take as much time on this as needed. This is a key that we have found to make the biggest difference in how well people do in the fullness of their lives. We all get wounded. Do we all have scars and stories to tell from them?

We must first utilize these principles in our lives and then become proficient in dealing with others in these areas.

**?** Do you know people who need help in this area?

**?** Could you formulate a plan to gain their trust and help them?

## **Band-Aids for Bullet Holes**

Read the chapter.

Make a list of any open wounds you may still have.

1.

2.

3.

Taking the time to deal with these is critical to your future. It will also be critical to the impact you will have in others' lives. I was a 4'10" freshmen in High School and as such was the target for many bullying incidents. That developed a lot of anger in me.

It could have leaked into every area of my life but instead it became an area of difficult change and growth. Now it is one of my key ministry areas as I help others learn to deal with their anger. From that platform I have been able to minister to thousands worldwide. It could have turned out very differently if I had chosen to hide it or self-medicate myself from the feelings and actions that would have come from a very angry heart.

**?** Do you have people who can help you in these areas if you aren't able to do them by yourself?

1.

2.

3.

## **Clean It Out**

Read the chapter. It is appropriate that this is one of the last chapters. You can read it in a few minutes but applying it and getting help can take weeks, months, or even years. Utilizing this First Aid Kit needs to become a regular part of our lives and being able to help others through it our new normal.

Where do we start? At the beginning of the book, of course, but don't forget the last chapter you read as you work with the Coaches and the plan he has for you!

On our website; [www.mstgo.com](http://www.mstgo.com), we have links to three videos on YouTube that dive deeper into this topic. It is a key one for us and those we love. Learn it, live it, and then pass it on.

If you are struggling in this area by yourself look for the help you need to make this a part of your past and not your present.



## **Growing from Our Wounds**

Read the chapter. History is always repeated if we don't learn from it.

**?** What do we need to learn from our own history?

**?** Do we have this figured out well enough to be able to help others deal with what we have dealt with?

If not, take the time to walk through it so it becomes a tool in your toolbox to help others!

## **The Skelton Gets Muscle**

When you are done with some books, you have learned something and then you move on to the next thing to learn. This book isn't that simple, is it? What your life in Christ looks like will look very different from mine in some respects but also at the skeletal level very much the same.

You will spend a lifetime developing what your life in Christ looks like. He will determine that based on the gifts and callings he has for your life. That is why *Knowing the Coaches to Conquer the Chaos* is so important.

My prayer is that you are now pointed in the right direction in the areas he will lead you and that you understand, at your core, that you won't be on this journey alone. The coaches are always with you and working with you until the day you die. This is a fitting verse for the last chapter of this work.

***Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.***

God's word does explain the chaos of our world. Mark illustrates how our heavenly coaches work with us in sixty short easy-to-read chapterettes to conquer that chaos. This study guide can be used for group study or devotional use.al usage or for a group study.

Since 1979 Mark has ministered to youth and churches worldwide while raising three children and being happily married.



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