

## **SESSION 4 – Essentials**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. When a man embraces these ten essentials it will provide him with more opportunity, broader influence and greater success in his work.

### **II. TEN ESSENTIALS TO HELP YOU LIVE OUT THE BIBLICAL BLUEPRINT**

1. Authentic Men are motivated by the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Our primary motivation for wanting to excel at work should come from what Jesus has done for us and how He has transformed us and given us a new mindset.
  - It is the gospel that \_\_\_\_\_ us so that we create and cultivate and be a life-giving presence in our work.

“So brothers and sister, since God has shown us great mercy, I beg you to offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him... Do not be shaped by this world; instead be changed within by a new way of thinking.” Romans 12:1-2 (NCV)

- The gospel frees you to view your work as worshipping and serving God.
2. Do your \_\_\_\_\_ and over-deliver in your work.
    - Many men settle for doing just “good enough” in their job.
    - “In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were doing it for the Lord, not for people... You are serving the Lord Christ.” Colossians 3:23-24 (NCV)
    - “If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets like Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, ‘Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.’” Martin Luther King

3. Become a master in your craft.
  - God authored every man’s life and gifted each of us with \_\_\_\_\_ skills, talents and strengths.

- “Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.” Proverbs 22:29 (ESV)
- The skillful will be sought out for their expertise and will have great \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Work well with others.

- An Authentic man values “we” over \_\_\_\_\_ with his co-workers and employees. He has a heart of a servant-leader.
- He is not \_\_\_\_\_ by the successes or talents of others.
- Authentic Men are also responsive to the leadership of those over them.
- “Trustworthy messengers refresh like snow in summer. They revive the spirit of their employer.” Proverbs 25:13 (NLT)

5. Don’t be surprised by resistance.

- \_\_\_\_\_ is a reality in our world.
- “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace... But take heart; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 (ESV)
- Authentic Men anticipate this resistance and put on their \_\_\_\_\_ face.

6. Bring integrity to the workspace.

- There are multiple opportunities daily to add to your reputation of integrity or to \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- “It takes a lifetime to build a reputation but you can lose it in a minute.” - quote attributed to Will Rogers
- “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.” Proverbs 10:9 (ESV)

7. Healthy Ambition can be a good thing.

- Every man’s heart can be tempted toward a deep, dark \_\_\_\_\_ and narcissism.
- Another extreme to avoid is killing ambition and resting in mediocrity.
- A godly, \_\_\_\_\_ ambition should be our goal.

- “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31
8. Go find the information you need to excel in the workplace.
- Authentic Men \_\_\_\_\_ the help they need to grow in their work.
9. Pursue a job that you can enjoy, are good at and that will adequately provide.
- It takes \_\_\_\_\_ to pursue change and transition.
  - Authentic Men look for the right job fit.
10. Rest and celebrate.
- “Human beings are not designed to run like computers, at high speeds, continuously, for long periods of time. When we try to mimic the machines we’re meant to run, they end up running us. In fact, we’re designed to pulse. Our most basic survival need is to spend and renew energy. We’re hardwired to make waves – to be alert during the day and to sleep at night, but also to work at high intensity for limited periods of time and then rest and refuel. Instead, [most of us] lead increasingly linear lives, forever spending down our energy without fully or effectively renewing it.” Tony Schwartz
  - An Authentic Man works hard but knows when to turn work \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. Which of the ten essentials is easiest for you to embrace? Which is the most difficult?
2. How does the gospel, what Jesus has already done for you, affect your view of work and motivate you to excel in your career?
3. Essential number six was “Authentic Men bring integrity to the workplace.” For your particular line of work, what are the typical ways a man’s integrity can be challenged or tested?
4. Have you accepted the primary responsibility for your own vocational growth and development? Can you identify the resources or people that could help you grow vocationally? Why is this important?
5. For essential number nine, “pursue a good job fit,” Bryan said that we could pursue a job we enjoy, are good at, and can make enough money doing. Have you found that balance in your job? Explain.

## ANSWERS

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1. Authentic Men are motivated by the **gospel**
  - Our primary motivation for wanting to excel at work should come from what Jesus has done for us and how He has transformed us and given us a new mindset.
  - It is the gospel that **inspires** us so that we create and cultivate and be a life-giving presence in our work.

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  - He is not **threatened** by the successes or talents of others.
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  - A godly, **redeemed** ambition should be our goal.
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  - Authentic Men **go get** the help they need to grow in their work.
9. Pursue a job that you can enjoy, are good at and that will adequately provide.
  - It takes **courage** to pursue change and transition.
  - Authentic Men look for the right job fit.
10. Rest and celebrate.
  - “Human beings are not designed to run like computers, at high speeds, continuously, for long periods of time. When we try to mimic the machines we’re meant to run, they end up running us. In fact, we’re designed to pulse. Our most basic survival need is to spend and renew energy. We’re hardwired to make waves – to be alert during the day and to sleep at night, but also to work at high intensity for limited periods of time and then rest and refuel. Instead, [most of us] lead increasingly linear lives, forever spending down our energy without fully or effectively renewing it.” Tony Schwartz
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