

**SESSION #10 BIBLICAL MANHOOD: BATTLE PLAN****I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Temptations and \_\_\_\_\_ are issues for ALL of us, and this has devastated men throughout history.
2. God is for us, not against us. John 10:10 says that Jesus came so that we could have life.
3. It's not that your desires are too STRONG and need to be dialed back; actually, they're too WEAK and need to be \_\_\_\_\_.
4. "If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion...is no part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling around with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at sea. We are far too easily pleased." – C.S. Lewis
5. The problem isn't desire. The problem is \_\_\_\_\_ desire.

**II. NOBLE PATHWAYS**

1. God's NOBLE pathways are ultimately more lasting and more fulfilling than ANY alternative.
2. You can't just REMOVE an idol or behavior from your life. You have to \_\_\_\_\_ it with something else, something more satisfying and fulfilling.
3. God has created NOBLE pathways to meet our God-Given desires.

**III. ULYSSES AND JASON ILLUSTRATION**

1. The Ulysses and Jason story illustrated the two different strategies we can adopt when it comes to dealing with temptation and idols.
  - Ulysses
    - We can try to hold ourselves back
    - Life becomes a bunch of "don'ts" and we make God the fun-killer.
  - Jason
    - Drown out temptation by being captivated by God.

**IV. OUR "BATTLE PLAN"**

1. ADMIT the struggle
2. IDENTIFY the lie
3. REPLACE with the truth

## 1. ADMIT the struggle

- The first step is always to own up to the fact that an external issue is causing problems and has become a surface \_\_\_\_\_ in your life.
- It's imperative that you be ruthlessly honest about your struggles with one or more trustworthy men. James 5:16 tells us to confess our sins to one another.
- We can remove the mask and begin moving toward God's \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. IDENTIFY the lie

- All three of the deep idols promise us \_\_\_\_\_, but their promises never deliver.

## 3. REPLACE with the truth

- You must believe the truth that Jesus has already paid the price for all of your sins.
- God's \_\_\_\_\_ is the most powerful thing in the universe.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ the idol lies we have believed in the past with the truth and power of GRACE offered in Christ and in the truth of God's word.
- True life-change begins with the renewing of our minds [Romans 12:2].

## V. JESUS' EXAMPLE

### 1. Just like Adam in the Garden of Eden, Jesus was tempted by the great liar himself, Satan.

- Temptation #1 – The Deep Idol of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Satan: "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." Matthew 4:3 [ESV]
  - Jesus' response: "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4 [ESV] [Jesus quoting from the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 8:3]
- Temptation #2: The Deep Idol of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Satan: "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning you,' and 'on their hands they bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" – Matthew 4:6 [ESV]
  - Jesus' response: "it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Matthew 4:7 [ESV] [Jesus quoting from the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 6:16]
- Temptation #3 – The Deep Idol of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Satan: "All these I will give you [all the kingdoms of the world], if you will fall down and worship me." Matthew 4:9 [ESV]

- Jesus' response: "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "you shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve." Matthew 4:10 [ESV] [Jesus quoting from the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 6:13]
2. Jesus turned to the satisfying \_\_\_\_\_ to repel the false lies.
  3. "Our chief enemy is the lie that says sin will make our future happier. Our chief weapon is the truth that says God will make our future happier...When my thirst for joy and meaning and passion are satisfied by the presence and promises of Christ, the power of sin is broken. We do not yield to the offer of a sandwich meat when we can smell the steak sizzling on the grill." – Pastor John Piper.

## VI. EXAMPLES OF REPLACING IDOLS

### 1. Idol of CONTROL

- The Lie: Happiness comes when \_\_\_\_\_ running the show.
- The Truth: "Trust God and don't be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on... But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all of these things will be added unto you." Matthew 6:31-33 [ESV]

### 2. Idol of COMFORT

- The Lie: Happiness comes when life is \_\_\_\_\_ or when I'm consuming.
- The Truth: Jesus teaches us by example that true happiness comes not in immediate gratification but in self-sacrifice for the benefit of others [Hebrews 12:2].

## VII. CONCLUSION

1. God is \_\_\_\_\_, not AGAINST our true happiness.
2. You now have a biblical process, a "Battle Plan," to fight fire with fire.
  - i. ADMIT the Struggle
  - ii. IDENTIFY the Lie
  - iii. \_\_\_\_\_ with the truth

## DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you agree with the C.S. Lewis comment that "our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak?" What do you think Lewis means when he says that "we are far too easily pleased?"
2. Are you approaching life more like Ulysses (trying to restrain yourself from doing certain things), or more like Jason (focused on chasing something better)? Do you believe that God's "noble pathways" are ultimately more lasting and more satisfying than any alternative? In what area of your life are you struggling to believe this?

3. Share an issue in your life where you need to apply the “Battle Plan.” Describe how you could apply each of the three steps to that issue. Look over the list of verses listed below in the chart to help assist you in applying the “Battle Plan” ... to help you “renew your mind and replace your idols” with God’s truth. Share with your group the verses that you think could be the most helpful for you. You may want to make a note to memorize them as part of your Strategic Move.

<u>ADMIT THE STRUGGLE</u>	<u>IDENTIFY THE LIE</u>	<u>REPLACE WITH THE TRUTH</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- James 5:16</li> <li>- Proverbs 28:13</li> <li>- Luke 15:7</li> <li>- Romans 3:23</li> <li>- 2 Corinthians 7:10</li> <li>- Galatians 5:17</li> <li>- Ephesians 4:25</li> <li>- 1 John 1:8-9</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deuteronomy 11:16</li> <li>- Proverbs 4:23</li> <li>- Proverbs 20:4</li> <li>- Lamentations 3:40</li> <li>- Ecclesiastes 2:11</li> <li>- John 8:12</li> <li>- Ephesians 4:22</li> <li>- Ephesians 5:11, 13</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Romans 12:2</li> <li>- Deuteronomy 8:4</li> <li>- Psalm 1:1-3</li> <li>- Psalm 18:30</li> <li>- Psalm 119:9-11</li> <li>- Psalm 119:105</li> <li>- Proverbs 7:1-3</li> <li>- John 8:31-32</li> <li>- Romans 8:5-6</li> <li>- 1 Corinthians 14:20</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18</li> <li>- 2 Corinthians 10:4-5</li> <li>- Ephesians 4:23-24</li> <li>- Ephesians 6:13</li> <li>- Philippians 4:8</li> <li>- Colossians 3:1-2</li> <li>- Colossians 3:10</li> <li>- Hebrews 11:16</li> </ul>

## ANSWERS:

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. Temptations and idols are issues for ALL of us, and this has devastated men throughout history.
3. It’s not that your desires are too STRONG and need to be dialed back; actually, they’re too WEAK and need to be redirected.
5. The problem isn’t desire. The problem is misplaced desire.

### II. NOBLE PATHWAYS

1. God’s NOBLE pathways are ultimately more lasting and more fulfilling than ANY alternative.
2. You can’t just REMOVE an idol or behavior from your life. You have to replace it with something else, something more satisfying and fulfilling.

### III. ULYSSES AND JASON ILLUSTRATION

No fill in the blank in this section

### IV. OUR “BATTLE PLAN”

1. ADMIT the struggle
  - The first step is always to own up to the fact that an external issue is causing problems and has become a surface idol in your life.

- We can remove the mask and begin moving toward God's grace.
2. IDENTIFY the lie
    - All three of the deep idols promise us happiness, but their promises never deliver.
  3. REPLACE with the truth
    - God's grace is the most powerful thing in the universe.
    - We replace the idol lies we have believed in the past with the truth and power of GRACE offered in Christ and in the truth of God's word.

## V. JESUS' EXAMPLE

1. Just like Adam in the Garden of Eden, Jesus was tempted by the great liar himself, Satan.
  - Temptation #1 – The Deep Idol of comfort.
  - Temptation #2 - The Deep Idol of significance.
  - Temptation #3 – The Deep Idol of control.
2. Jesus turned to the satisfying promises to repel the false lies.

## VI. EXAMPLES OF REPLACING IDOLS

1. Idol of CONTROL
  - The Lie: Happiness comes when you're running the show.
2. Idol of COMFORT
  - The Lie: Happiness comes when life is easy or when I'm consuming.

## VII. CONCLUSION

1. God is for, not AGAINST our true happiness.
  - i. ADMIT the Struggle
  - ii. IDENTIFY the Lie
  - iii. Replace with the truth