



MADE FOR MORE
a study companion

ALAN D. WRIGHT



MADE FOR MORE
a study companion



Your Long Term Gains

We are made for more! More than our individual lives, more than our individual desires, more than our individual accomplishments. We are designed by God to not only bless people here and now but also to bless the generations to come. Though we sometimes experience big moments of monumentally transformational power, most real change starts small and grows over time. The small seeds we sow today can grow exponentially in our tomorrows! God has a long view of blessing and invites us into the hope and power of expecting long-term spiritual gains.

KEYNOTES FROM SESSION 1:

- Everyone is leaving some sort of legacy.
- The Rechabites (Jeremiah 35) are an example of how a family's values and purpose can endure for 200 years and more.
- Exponential growth is astounding. If a penny doubles in value every day for a month, it's worth over \$10 million on the 31st day.
- When we get a "long view" of blessing, we find both hope and inspiration.
- The "Made for More" series will offer a chance to clarify your values, to envision a 100-year dream, and to align your life to a purpose statement.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/CONTEMPLATION:

1. Can you think of a time in your life when someone's seemingly small gesture of love or blessing had a big impact on you? Share about the experience and how it affected you for good.
2. Can you think of abilities or values or virtues in your life that were handed down from a previous generation to you? Can you list one or two qualities that you know were in your grandparents that you now share?
3. Why is it hard to get the "long view" of blessing and focus on the long-term spiritual gains? What makes us short-sighted or focused on immediate accomplishments? Do you have a hard time thinking about how your life can be a blessing generations from now? Explain.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. Do a review of the lives of the Hebrew patriarchs to learn all you can about legacy. What were the long-term blessings promised to Abraham? To Isaac? To Jacob? What blessings did they see during their lives and what promises were fulfilled much later, in future generations?
2. Read about how David Green (founder of Hobby Lobby) discovered that legacy is about more than money in his book, *A Generous Life: 10 Steps to Living a Life Money Can't Buy*.



What Matters Most to You?

We all have values. There are some virtues and priorities that we treasure. And there's the stuff that has to take a back seat because it's just not as important to us. We all have values, but many of us haven't ever taken the time to clarify and articulate those values. It's important to know what values we want to shine through us and outlive us!

KEYNOTES FROM SESSION 2:

- Everyone has core values, whether they have been identified or not.
- Core values are like a compass for a person's soul pointing north – when individuals or families identify and make their values clear, it helps prioritize all of life.
- Jesus' ministry focused on core values as seen in the Sermon on the Mount.
- Children tend to “catch” the family values by what they observe.
- The first way to identify what matters most to you is by becoming a student of your own behavior and words, or the behaviors and words of your family.
- The second way to identify values is by considering what you or your family celebrates.
- The third way to clarify core values is by recognizing what you're willing to sacrifice for—what are you willing to spend your will, energy and time on?
- Once you've clarified your or your family's core values, it's powerful to write down descriptive sentences about those values and a scripture that informs that value.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/CONTEMPLATION:

1. If your residence were on fire and you could only grab three things before fleeing the blaze, what would you grab?
2. Using the list of values (on pages 6-7), spend time individually or as a couple reviewing the list (and adding to it if a value of yours isn't listed). Narrow the list to the ten values most important to you (if as a couple, do so together). Then, from the list of ten, narrow the list to your five most important values.
3. As time allows: a) share your five values with your group; b) write a sentence or two about each value; c) write down a Bible verse that informs or highlights each value.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Read Matthew 5-7 with an eye for all of Jesus' value statements. List the “core values” Jesus articulates throughout the Sermon on the Mount.

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY VALUES:

Alone Time	Relaxing With Family	Generosity	Building Wealth
Being Unique	Sharing Great Stories	Giving Back	Community Building
Enjoying the Outdoors	Sharing Music We Love	Honesty	Education
Celebrating Beauty	Staying Curious	Humility	Efficient Systems
Exploring	Staying Well-Informed	Loving People	Empowering Others
Fostering Creativity	Taking Risks	Open-mindedness	Entrepreneurship
Great Conversations	Thoughtful Gifts	Perseverance	Having Lots of Friends
Handmade Gifts	Time With My Tribe	Punctuality	Impact Investing
Happy Laughter	Time with Kids/Grandkids	Resourcefulness—Repairing, Repurposing	Leadership Development
Health	Travel Vacations	Responsibility	Peacemaking
Home-Cooked Food	Trying New Things	Serving Others Practically	Poverty Relief
Hospitality	Unity	Telling the Truth	Preserving History
Making Music	Being Considerate	Evangelism	Pursuing Justice
Meals Together	Compassion	Faith	Reconciliation
New Adventures	Diligence	Knowing God	Solving Big Problems
Open Communication	Doing Hard Things	Reaching the Unreached	Strengthening the Economy
Personalized Celebrations	Fairness	Reading God's Word	Supporting the Arts
Physical Fitness	Forgiving Others	Shepherding God's People	Teaching Others
			Urban Renewal



Your Hundred-Year Dream

In 1952, young Florence Chadwick, the first woman to successfully swim the English Channel both ways, attempted to swim the twenty-two miles from Catalina Island to the California mainland shore. After fifteen hours in the chilly Pacific, amidst dense fog, she decided she couldn't make it. Once aboard the boat, she realized that she was only a half mile from the shore. Later, she declared: "All I could see was the fog ... I think if I could have seen the shore, I would have made it." That's how much vision matters. Without vision, it's hard to move forward. But the further we can see, the more we are energized with hope. From God's perspective, blessing goes on to generation after generation, so in this session, we will dare to dream about how God can use us to bless the generations to come. What's your hundred-year dream?

KEYNOTES FROM SESSION 3:

- Proverbs 29:18 declares the danger of spiritual short-sightedness: "Where there is no vision, the people perish."
- Faith is conceived by and feeds on God-given vision.
- God demonstrates the power of vision when He points childless Abram toward the stars. He wanted Abram to envision innumerable descendants.
- With God, vision is never limited to a single lifetime.
- To gain new, God-given vision, we need to admit how fogged our sight can be, repent of short-sightedness, and let our hearts dream of what can be.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/CONTEMPLATION:

1. Can you think of a time in your life when, like Florence Chadwick giving up on her swim in the fog, you quit something a little too early because you couldn't see far enough ahead? Share.
2. When it comes to vision, what describes the season you're in?
 - a) dense fog, it's hard to see the shore;
 - b) partly cloudy, I'm catching glimpses of my destination;
 - c) clear skies and my dreams are in sight.
 Explain.
3. Journal or discuss in your group the implications of Psalm 37:4, which says, "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." What does it mean to "delight yourself in the Lord"? How is "delighting" in God related to receiving the "desires of your heart"?

CRAFTING YOUR "HUNDRED-YEAR DREAM"

You (or as a couple or family) are invited to draft a dream statement that imagines the blessing and impact for good that can grow into the distant future because of the spiritual seeds you plant today. It's not a vision for tomorrow or next year or even a decade from now –it's your hundred-year dream. It's a dream of the kinds of spiritual fruit that, through the principle of multiplication, can impact the world for many years to come.

Consider your core values and pay attention to the desires of your heart. Because of you, your family, your spiritual children, and the spiritual seed that you sow, imagine how your values can grow over time by God's grace. Dare to dream big!

continued on following page



You Were Made for This

You were put on this earth on purpose, for a purpose! And each family has unique ways that they are well-suited to bless the world. All effective organizations develop clear mission statements because focus and alignment are essential for success. How much more do we need clarity of purpose for our lives and our families? Session Four is designed to help you craft a personal and/or family purpose statement that will affect generations to come.

KEYNOTES FROM SESSION 4:

- Every individual and family has a specific, God-given purpose on earth.
- When families have no clear sense of mission, even a fortune like the Vanderbilt's can be squandered within a few generations.
- An overabundance of choices in the modern world makes mission clarification more challenging.
- Purpose statements clarify why we do what we do.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/CONTEMPLATION:

1. Pastor Alan shared a funny story about a time he was asked to move a pile of sand for no known reason. Have you had to do something that seemed to have no good reason? How did it make you feel?

2. When it comes to living with a clear sense of purpose, which best describes you in this season: a) I feel like a ship without a rudder; b) I feel like a ship in a storm, I know where I want to go but it feels like the wind and the waves are hindering me; c) clear direction and smooth sailing. Explain.

3. What are the biggest obstacles to living with clear purpose? How can you address those obstacles?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Develop a personal mission statement or a family mission statement.

To get you going, think about filling in the blanks of these sentences:

I (we) believe we were put on the earth to _____.

When I (we) consider all the blessings in my life, I think God has positioned me to bless others by _____.

After you think, brainstorm, and make a rough draft of your statement, try to narrow it to a really good sentence. The following fill-in-the-blank might help:

My (our) purpose is to _____ [your contribution / the kind of blessing you want to be to others in this world] by _____ [how you do it] for _____ [your target/ the kinds of people and places you want to impact] so that _____ [the results/ the kind of fruit].

After you work on your mission statement, write it down and place it somewhere you can see it and be reminded daily of your mission.



What's In Your Hand?

Sometimes God surprises us and decides to use something in our lives that we never expected could be a blessing to others. Moses didn't think God could use him for God's great purposes and tried to convince God to call someone else. But God was patient and persistent with the reticent deliverer and asked Moses a surprising question: "What's that in your hand?" Moses answered the all-knowing God, "A staff." It was nothing more than a commonplace stick used for guiding sheep. But God was teaching Moses a powerful lesson—the Lord can use anything in our lives for His glory and the good of His people. What's in your hand? It's a question God still asks. What simple, unlikely gifts, skills, resources or virtues are in your hand that God might use to bless the world when you release them like seed?

KEYNOTES FROM SESSION 5:

- Moses, the great deliverer of God's people, was apprehensive and reluctant when God first called him.
- Through the miracle of Moses' staff becoming a snake and then a staff again, the Lord demonstrated that He can take whatever we have in hand and use it miraculously.
- In order for any blessing to multiply, it first must be released, like Moses releasing his staff upon God's command, or like a farmer releasing seed to the ground.
- Moses' staff was a symbol of the seeming obscurity of his life as a shepherd in exile and of the royal rule of Pharaoh that God planned to overwhelm with miraculous power.
- When we "let go" in order to be obedient to God, it sometimes feels scary before it feels rewarding!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/CONTEMPLATION:

1. Can you think of a time when God used something simple, commonplace or seemingly insignificant to bless you in a significant way? Share.
2. Why do you think an all-knowing God asked Moses a question? What was God doing for Moses by asking the question?
3. If God were to ask you today, "What is in your hand?", how would you respond? What simple gifts, skills, resources or virtues are "in your hand" that you might be overlooking as a potential blessing for God to use?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Read Exodus 3:1 – 4:17. What stands out to you in the call of God to Moses? List all of Moses' objections and all of God's responses. With which of Moses' hesitations or questions do you most identify?



When You Farm in a Famine

Sometimes the best time to sow good seed is in the middle of a famine! At least, it worked out for the Hebrew patriarch, Isaac. When famine struck the land, the Lord told Isaac not to go to Egypt, but to stay in the famine land where the Lord would “be with him” and “bless him.” Wildernesses and famines in scripture remind us of the “dry” times in our lives—times when life gets hard and nothing seems to be fruitful. Those are the times when we feel tempted to give up, but Isaac’s story provides powerful encouragement. He sowed seed in the famine land and it produced a wonderful harvest, making him the richest man around. Of course, the truest famine sower is God Himself. Jesus was the Seed sown into the famine of a sin-wrecked world to make us the fruit of His salvation!

KEYNOTES FROM SESSION 6:

- The principle of the seed is growth by multiplication—exponential growth.
- God instructs Isaac to stay in the land of famine. So Isaac sojourns there and takes a huge faith step – he sows in a land of famine.
- Famines, like wildernesses, remind us of the “dry” and difficult times of life.
- We’re tempted to flee in a famine. Or, sometimes tempted to deem ourselves unblest.
- God promises to be with Isaac in the midst of the dry times and to bless him.
- When you most feel like giving up is the best time to start!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION/CONTEMPLATION:

1. What season do you feel like you are in right now? A) Harvest time – plenty of fruit coming in; B) Growing Season – not much fruit yet, but it’s on the way; C) Famine time – I need to get started but the ground feels dry. Explain.
2. Has there been a time in your life when you felt like God was with you in a “famine”? A time when life was hard but God blessed you in the midst of your difficulties? Share about your experience of the grace of God in the midst of your “dry” time.
3. As you conclude the “Made for More” study and think about your core values, your hundred- year dream and your purpose statement, in what ways does Isaac’s farming in a famine encourage you to get invested in the next generation?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Read Exodus 3:1 – 4:17. What stands out to you in the call of God to Moses? List all of Moses’ objections and all of God’s responses. With which of Moses’ hesitations or questions do you most identify?

reynoldachurch.org

