

Thank you for downloading one of the eight, five-session small group studies from *Impact*.

*Impact* is a 40-week, video-driven small group study for men. Each session features a video from best-selling author, Rick Burgess, and a small group leader guide. You can purchase all 40 weeks at once, or purchase the 5-week studies independantly. .

If we can help answer any questions about *Impact* or any other of the Iron Hill Men resources, please don't hesitate to email ([customer care@ironhillpress.com](mailto:customer care@ironhillpress.com)) or call (800) 307-9366

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a majestic mountain range. The mountains are rugged and grey, with patches of snow or light-colored rock. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. In the foreground, there is a dense forest of evergreen trees, some of which are in the lower right corner, appearing more vibrant and green. A dark blue horizontal band is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the title text in a light, textured font.

# BROTHERLY AFFECTION

A 5-Week, Video-Driven Discipleship  
Curriculum for Men

**RICK BURGESS**

**IMPACT: BROTHERLY AFFECTION A 5-WEEK, VIDEO-DRIVEN  
DISCIPLESHIP CURRICULUM FOR MEN**

Leader Guides

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Videos

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A 5-WEEK, VIDEO-DRIVEN DISCIPLESHIP  
CURRICULUM FOR MEN



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# DISCIPLESHIP IMPACT

## DISCIPLE MEN, CHANGE EVERYTHING.

There is a discipleship problem affecting Christian men today. Too often, men are absent from both the church pews and from the vital work the church is doing in the world. These men are not engaged spiritually in their homes and aren't making a Kingdom impact in their workplace. And it all points back to one major issue:

Many men aren't being disciplined.

But when men ARE being disciplined, powerful things happen as a result. They impact the church, their family, and culture. We have seen the influence godly men can have. The purpose of *The Pursuit* curriculum is to equip and empower men to become the man God has called them to be.

## WHAT IS IMPACT ?

*Impact* is a 40-week, video-driven curriculum designed to help men discover what it means to have a fruitful life and faith. *Impact* takes the eight traits from 2 Peter 1:5-8 and unpacks them through video and small group Bible Study.

Rick Burgess, best-selling author and co-host of the nationally syndicated radio show *The Rick & Bubba Show*, starts off each session with a 10-15 minute video introducing the session's focus. Then, for each small group session, there is a leader guide to help facilitate a meaningful time of discussion and Bible study.

The reason men aren't living a more authentic faith is simple: they have yet to embrace the call to real discipleship. By leading a group through *Impact*, you're a part of the growing tide of leaders who are looking to awaken men to embrace their calling as Christ-followers.

# STARTER GUIDE

In 2 Peter 1:5–8, Peter provides a list of attributes every Christian should pursue. Peter gave an excellent explanation for why striving to obtain these attributes is so important. He said that if Christ-followers "own" these attributes and continue to grow in them, their lives would be effective and fruitful for the Kingdom of God. This fruitfulness should be the goal of every mature Christian.

One of the attributes Peter mentioned is "brotherly affection." In this 5-week series, Rick Burgess will help you guide men in your group to understand precisely what "brotherly affection" is and how pursuing it will lead men to lives of impact for the Kingdom of God.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO GET STARTED

**FIRST**, preview your video. Every *Impact* session starts with a video. You'll need to preview your video ahead of time and be prepared to show it to your group. You can access your videos through your Iron Hill Press account.

**THEN**, get ready for your small group discussion and Bible study by preparing your lesson. Use this leader guide to help lead a time of discussion based on the video and Bible study based on the passage Rick covered. Pray that God would lead your preparation and your facilitation of the material.

**FINALLY**, lead your time of small group Bible study using this leader guide. It's that simple.

If you have any questions or feedback, don't hesitate to let us hear from you at [feedback@ironhillpress.com](mailto:feedback@ironhillpress.com).

# EDGE ELEMENTS

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



**RICK BURGESS** is the Co-Host of the nationally syndicated *Rick and Bubba Show*. He has co-authored multiple New York Times Bestselling Books covering topics such as politics, marriage, business, comedy, and what it looks like to be a follower of Christ in secular entertainment. Rick has appeared on the Fox News programs *Hannity's America*, *Your World with Neil Cavuto*, and *Fox and Friends*.

Rick speaks regularly at men's events and marriage conferences across the country, all while teaching youth and men's Bible studies on a weekly basis. Rick is married to the former Sherri Bodine, and they have five children: Brandi, Blake, Brooks, Brody, and Bronner. Rick's wife Sherri is the author of the book "Bronner: A Journey to Understand," a powerful story about what she and Rick learned about God through the earthly death of their youngest son, Bronner. Rick's eulogy for Bronner became the most-viewed video in the world on YouTube the week of the service.

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**ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO *IMPACT*: *Brotherly Affection***

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**Main Passage:** Romans 12:9-10

**Purpose:** To illustrate that friendship is pivotal in the Believer's life.

**Session Snapshot:** If we're being honest, there is a crisis of Christian male friendship. The two predominant themes we see today are worldly friendship that doesn't bring Christ into the friendship at all or the absence of friendship where we settle for not having solid relationships. What if I told you that a godly friend might be the key to unlocking your potential? Today, we'll evaluate why God calls us to have a community with other like-minded believers.

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## GETTING STARTED

*Kick off your time together by introducing a new theme.*

FIRST, explain to your group that they will be beginning a video series that breaks down the individual characteristics of 2 Peter 1:5-8. If this is your first video series in *Impact*, read the following set-up statement:

- **In 2 Peter, Peter encourages his readers to pursue lives that honor God. In the introduction, Peter reveals his letter's heart in just a few powerful verses. Peter says that because of God's grace, we have been saved from the death our sins rightfully earned and given a new life and purpose. As a result, we are to pursue spiritual maturity. Peter says we should strive to grow in our faith, "supplementing" our faith with "virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love." Why did Peter encourage this? Because if we grow in this way, we will be men whose lives are truly fruitful, real assets to the advancement of God's Kingdom. That should be the goal of every man! In *Impact*, we'll look at these characteristics individually and learn how to see them increase in our lives.**

(If it's not your first series in *Impact*, consider summarizing the previous paragraph, reminding men that you're looking at the characteristics from Peter's second letter.)

THEN, if this is your first session as a group, consider introducing yourself, if necessary, and having the men in your group introduce themselves. You may even ask men what they hope to get out of their time in this study. If you want to pass around a contact sheet or do any other first-session "housekeeping tasks," this is the time.

FINALLY, if there are no questions or other input, transition into the *Digging In* section of your leader's guide.

## DIGGING IN

*Jump into the session by watching this week's video.*



FIRST, if this isn't your first session, transition straight into the video. If it is your first study in *Impact*, explain to the group how your time together will work. Explain that you will watch a video that is usually about 12-15 minutes long, followed by a short discussion of the video. Then, you'll spend a few minutes in Bible study, followed by a closing activity.

Consider encouraging men to take notes as they watch the video. Remember, a participant guide is available to you if you would like to distribute it to your group.

THEN, play the video. (You can access the video by logging into your Iron Hill Press account.)

When the video ends, lead men in a short discussion based on what Rick covered. Feel free to come up with your own questions, or consider asking some similar to those below:

- **What do you think the lack of godly male friendships can be attributed to nowadays?**
- **Why are loneliness and worldly friendship not the answers we're looking for?**
- **How have you seen brotherly love take place in your own life?**
- **Rick said, "You don't really love someone if you allow someone to participate in evil things." Do you agree or disagree?**
- **Do you find it easy or hard to build friendships at this stage in your life? Why is that?**
- **How should two believers in a redeemed friendship behave if they have a conflict?**
- **Do you find it easy or hard to share brotherly love in friendships?**
- **What should friendship look like with those who are unbelievers?**
- **Would you say you are the type of friend you'd hope someone would be to you? Why or why not?**

FINALLY, transition into the *Opening the Word* portion of your time together by saying something like the following:

- **C.S. Lewis said, "Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art, like the universe itself . . . It has no survival value; rather, it is one of those things which give value to survival." Friendship is important in revitalizing our spiritual health; plus, life is better when surrounded by people who want your best. Let's dive into the Scripture that Rick used during the session and break it down.**

## **OPENING THE WORD**

*Spend time going deeper into a specific concept Rick introduced in the video.*

FIRST, explain that you will look more deeply at Romans 12:9-10. As Rick stated in the video, redeemed friendships are badly needed in the Church! We are created for community, and our soul longs for it, but it appears to be suffering now. Let them know that you want to see their social life thrive as God intended and that understanding our passage will be a step in the right direction.

We must make sure your people have a good understanding of the context of the passage you'll be studying. Provide the context for the passage using the following bullet points:

- **Author:** Paul is the author of Romans.
- **Time frame:** Romans was probably written from Corinth in the winter of 56-57 AD.
- **Purpose:** Since the church in Rome had not received comprehensive theological teaching on salvation and other implications of following Christ, Paul wrote Romans to ensure a good understanding of such things. In addition, since many Jewish Christians were rejecting some of the new Gentile converts, it

was essential that a level playing field be given to all Believers. This is what Paul was advocating for in Romans.

THEN, read or have a volunteer read Romans 12:9-10. When the volunteer has finished, direct their attention back to vs. 9. Lead the group in a brief discussion. Ask something like:

- **What would the opposite of genuine love look like?**
  - Answers will vary. This may be someone masquerading around as if they care about you when they don't. It could be that someone's care for your well-being centers around what you can do for them. Perhaps there is no malice or selfish intentions behind the relationship, but it is just shallow in general. This could be the person you say "Hi" and "How are you?" to at church, but you know nothing else about them.
- **On the other hand, could you paint a portrait of what genuine brotherly affection looks like?**
  - Answers will vary. Help them to see that genuine love in the context of godly friendship is self-sacrificing instead of self-serving. Genuine love means sticking by that person's side through all the highs and the lows. Genuine love means encouragement and accountability, which we will look at more in-depth later in the lesson. Genuine love is not jealous and is forgiving.
- **Can you point out a man who embodied the qualities of genuine love? What brought them to your mind?**
  - Answers will vary.

Before transitioning to the next question, say something like:

- **Friendship is not relegated to believers only. The world, at times, does friendship better than the Church. They spend time together, laugh together, and grieve together. However, our friendship should take on an even deeper level because we have a deeply embedded purpose in our lives: to bring God glory through what we do. We can be similar in our hobbies and personalities or completely different, but because Christ ties us together, we can be brothers who are as thick as thieves.**

NEXT, direct your group's attention back to the second half of Romans 12:9. Then, ask:

- **What are some evils that are easier to fall into in the context of friendships?**
  - *Answer:* Coarse joking is certainly one. We've all been guilty of pushing the line, but we must remember that Ephesians 4:29 calls believers to be encouraging and pure in all their speech. Drunkenness is another sin that can sometimes happen in the context of friendship. The Bible is very clear about drunkenness, and we need to be friends that pull each other back from the line instead of enabling them to cross over it. Other actions may arise, and you can discuss what Scripture says about those.
- **How does accountability demonstrate love?**
  - *Answer:* If I see you going full speed towards a cliff, the most loving thing I could do would be to plead with you to turn around, right? Accountability helps in seeing our blind spots. Allowing accountability is also a form of humility. By allowing it, you tell the Lord that you care about following His Word and will not always be right in every action.
- **Why do you think Paul says, "Hold fast to what is good."?**
  - *Answer:* That's because it's easy to do the opposite! Godly men don't drift into righteousness; they must fight for it daily. That is why Ephesians 6 is dedicated to putting the armor of God on. If you don't realize that you are in a battle fighting for your soul, then you are failing in that battle.

THEN, re-read Romans 12:10. As Rick mentioned earlier, the New Testament idea of loving your neighbor is rooted in Old Testament. God has always desired the flourishing of humankind, and that happens best when man lives in one accord with each other. One example of this in action occurred with our founding father, George Washington. Washington faced many brazen challenges as the commander of the patriot army during the Revolutionary War. Some came from his own party when he frequently pardoned loyalists who took the King's oath. Instead of finding them guilty of treason resulting in death, he forgave them. The radicals in his party despised it, but Washington was a man of faith that believed the path forward was found in reconciliation, not division. Now, Ask:

- **What practical ways can you demonstrate brotherly love to those in your life?**
  - Answers will vary. Help the men to see that they don't have to go to elaborate lengths. It can be as simple as a phone call or a dinner invitation.
- **How can we have fun with the command to "Outdo one another in showing honors"?**
  - Answers will vary. Push them to talk about their interactions with people at work, their families, the community, etc. Let them know that this verse is tapping into our competitive natures. How cool would it be if we were competitive in demonstrating love?

FINALLY, say something like:

- **Society has subliminally planted the idea that men can operate fine without close, deep friendships. The thought is that if you have a partner, then you're good. However, science and the Bible would disagree. We were made for community—to be known and to know others. It's crucial to a spiritually healthy life. We need to start placing more emphasis on godly friendship in our lives. A question to consider as we start moving in this direction is, "How can I be the type of friend that other people desire?"**

Ask if there are any questions and if there are none, transition into *Accepting the Challenge*.

## ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

*Focus your group's attention on one key takeaway from your time together.*

FIRST, explain that you want to challenge the group to focus on one main takeaway from this session. Say something like:

- **Whenever we face a concept like the one we have been studying today, it forces us to respond in evaluation.**

THEN, ask volunteers to share what THEY think the main application is of the passage you've just studied. Allow men to share their responses and discuss them as a group. If you choose, supplement their responses with the following takeaways:

- 1) Throughout our study, some of you may have seen your current friendships are not representative of Christian brotherly love. We must ask ourselves, "Can we reorient this friendship towards brotherly love, or do we need to cut it off?"
- 2) Others may have noticed that your friendships are godly, but they aren't deep due to schedules or a lack of investment in other people. You need to answer the question, "What can I do to develop these friendships in my life?"
- 3) Lastly, this lesson may have comforted some of you because your friendships feel deep and fulfilling. The question you can consider is, "Who else within my life can I share this gift of friendship with?"

Allow the group to consider where they find themselves on this spectrum of evaluation. If it feels appropriate, allow some discussion about the kind of evaluation they find themselves considering.

FINALLY, encourage men to process these questions in the week to come. Challenge them to listen to what God is telling them and respond accordingly. If there are no more questions or input, close your time together in prayer.