

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

A majestic mountain range with snow-dusted peaks and a dense forest in the foreground. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The mountains are rugged and layered, with patches of snow clinging to their slopes. The foreground is dominated by a thick forest of evergreen trees, some with yellowing leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. A red rectangular box is superimposed over the middle of the image, containing the title text.

# GODLINESS

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

**RICK BURGESS**

**IMPACT: GODLINESS 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 "godliness." In this 5-week series, Rick Burgess will help you guide men in your group to understand precisely what "godliness" 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*: *Godliness***

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**Main Passage:** 1 Timothy 6:11-12

**Purpose:** To understand that we must desire and strive for a life of godliness and that we will not attain it while idle in our faith.

**Session Snapshot:** Christ-followers should always seek to grow in Christlikeness and godliness, but too many men remain stagnant in their faith. As Paul makes it clear to Timothy in these verses, godliness will take effort on our part; we must pursue it diligently. As Christian men who should yearn to honor God, we must not let our faith grow idle but should strive to take hold of it and push for growth in godliness.

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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:

- **Why does Paul—and more importantly, why does God?—desire for us to grow in godliness?**
- **When you think of someone who displays the virtue of godliness, what kind of external (visible) qualities do you see displayed in that person?**
- **When you think of someone who possesses the virtue of godliness, what kind of internal qualities do you imagine in that person?**
- **Is it possible to be a godly man and to still struggle with sin?**
- **What is the difference between how a Christian might pursue godliness and how a non-Christian might pursue the qualities of morality and kindness?**
- **If a new believer wanted to know how to grow in godliness, what would you tell him?**
- **In what ways is it “costly” for a man to pursue godliness?**
- **What are some of the biggest hindrances preventing Christian men from pursuing godliness more wholeheartedly?**

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

- **If we want to develop a vibrant and flourishing faith, we must make every effort (through the power of the Holy Spirit) to supplement our faith with the list of qualities Peter mentioned. Today we will spend some time considering the quality of godliness and what it looks like for men of God to pursue this in their lives.**

## **OPENING THE WORD**

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

FIRST, explain that you will take a more in-depth look at 1 Timothy 6:11-12 as Rick discussed in the video. Paul explains to Timothy how men of God must leave behind certain practices and pursue others. We must take the same actions if we want to grow in godliness.

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:** Though in the last 200 years or so, there have been efforts by some scholars to shed doubt on Paul's authorship of both 1 and 2 Timothy, their arguments aren't very compelling.
- **Time frame:** Most scholars believe Paul wrote these letters to Timothy, his apprentice in ministry, between Paul's first and second imprisonment in Rome, although some scholars believe that Paul penned 2 Timothy while in his final imprisonment before he was executed. By most accounts, this

would place the writing of 1 and 2 Timothy sometime around 64–65 AD, though 2 Timothy could be as late as 67 AD.

- **Purpose:** Paul tells Timothy in the first Epistle to continue to combat false teachings. In addition, Paul gives Timothy specific instructions on how to protect against such teaching, including how to install faithful leadership in the church at Ephesus. 2 Timothy, we see Paul passing along his final words to Timothy. 2 Timothy can be thought of as a personal note from an older man awaiting his death to a young, son-like figure. It's personal, tender at times, encouraging, and practical.

THEN, read or have a volunteer read 1 Timothy 6:11-12. When the volunteer has finished, direct their attention to vs. 11. Lead the group in a brief discussion. Ask something like:

- **What are the two imperative verbs (commands) in verse 11?**
  - *Answer:* “Flee” and “pursue.”
- **What are some of the specific characteristics we are called to flee? How can these things inhibit growth in godliness?**
  - *Answer:* Back in verse 4, we see a list of qualities, and in verse 10, we see a love for money. These self-centered characteristics can consume a man's focus and determine what he strives for, leaving no room to pursue God wholeheartedly.
- **How do these two verbs, “flee” and “pursue,” help us understand what it takes to grow in godliness?**
  - Answers will vary. They are action verbs, and growing in godliness will take diligent action. We will not simply wake up one day and find that we have grown in these areas; we will not merely “drift” into godliness. We must leave behind certain things inhibiting us from taking hold of the life that God desires for us.

Before transitioning to the next question, say something like:

- **Before coming to faith in Christ, it is natural for men to be tangled up in worldly, destructive traits. But as Paul will tell Timothy in his next letter, a soldier should not get entangled in civilian affairs if he wants to please his master. If we remain stuck in the ways of this world, it will be impossible to grow in the ways of God and please Him. In this next verse, Paul will make clear what course of action we must take.**

NEXT, direct your group's attention back to verse 12. Have someone read the verse again. Then, ask:

- **We see another imperative verb at the beginning of verse 12: “fight.” What kind of imagery comes to mind when you hear the word “fight”? Why might Paul use that language?**
  - Answers will vary. Many of us think of war imagery or imagine someone fighting for their life. Paul knows it is not easy to grow in these qualities. There will be many challenges along the way. We must fight for our faith in order to not get swept up in the currents of this world, like a swimmer fighting against the tide that is trying to pull him in the other direction.
- **What are examples of some things that our faith compels us to fight for?**
  - Answers will vary. We can think of internal qualities, such as holiness and godliness, as well as external practices, such as caring for the poor and needy and contending for the advancement of the Gospel among the nations. We must fight for all of these things!
- **And finally, there is a fourth imperative verb: “take hold.” How can a Christian take hold of eternal life while we are still in this mortal life? What does that look like?**
  - Answers will vary. Although we are not yet in our eternal dwelling place, we can begin experiencing the firstfruits of our eternal joy as we grow in our relationship with God. By God's power working through us, we can be people who live on earth but have our hearts and minds set on our Lord in heaven.

THEN, re-read verses 11 and 12 again, this time focusing on qualities at the end of verse 11. In these two verses, Paul uses four imperative verbs to urge Timothy to strive and contend for his faith. He is pushing Timothy toward an active, vibrant faith, and the measuring stick he puts in front of him is rooted in these four qualities in the middle. Before wrapping up, we will land specifically on the quality of "godliness" for a few minutes. Ask your group:

- **Does godliness come naturally to anyone? Why or why not?**
  - *Answer:* No, of course, it doesn't come naturally! In our natural state, we are in rebellion against God and separated from Him because of our sins, and only God can transform our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh that are capable of being transformed into His image. Anyone who possesses godliness has had to pursue it by God's grace.
- **What is the connection between growth in godliness and the four imperative verbs Paul gives Timothy? Can we attain it by sheer effort on our part?**
  - Answers will vary. Godliness is something we have to pursue. We must yearn for it, and then we must strive for it. We cannot attain it all by ourselves, but we cannot attain it *apart* from ourselves. We must be devoted to God and have the posture before Him of a humble student who will do whatever his master commands in order to grow in this way.
- **Paul says earlier in this chapter that godliness with contentment is a great gain. In what ways is godliness more valuable than worldly riches?**
  - Answers will vary. Worldly riches can meet some of our needs, but God can meet all our needs through Christ. When we grow in our knowledge, love, and trust in Him, we will find that we lack nothing under His perfect provision.
- **If you believe that godliness has more value than the things of this world, how should your life look different?**
  - Answers will vary.

FINALLY, have a volunteer read 1 Timothy 6:12 one final time. Then, say something like:

- **As Paul says here, we must remember that we must fight for our faith. The New Testament often speaks about the joys and wonderful benefits of trusting in Christ, but it also clarifies that it is not easy. We are in a spiritual battle, and our godliness is at stake. As Paul makes clear here, we must be active. We must flee from sin; we must pursue godliness; we must fight for our faith; and we must take hold of eternity, even now! It is hard, but it will be worth it.**

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) After studying Paul's charge to Timothy, some of us must consider Rick's question in the video: "Would people call me a godly man, or does my life look pretty neutral? What needs to change?"
- 2) Others of us need to reflect on Paul's four imperative commands to Timothy and ask, "Has my faith become too idle? Am I contending and fighting for godliness, or am I just coasting along and stagnant?"
- 3) Some of us must flee specific things holding us back from godliness. We need to ask, "What in my life is inconsistent with the life of a godly man? Where can I take steps this week to distance myself and flee from such things?"

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.