

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@ironhillpress.com) or call (800) 307-9366

A dramatic mountain landscape with a large orange banner. The background features a majestic mountain range with rugged, rocky peaks and patches of snow. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. In the foreground, a dense forest of evergreen trees is visible, partially obscured by the orange banner. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a high-altitude environment.

KNOWLEDGE

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

RICK BURGESS

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

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.

ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO *IMPACT*: Knowledge

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Main Passage: 2 Peter 1:5, Colossians 2:1-5

Purpose: To demonstrate that a knowledge of God influences everything about our relationship with God.

Session Snapshot: As men, we naturally gravitate toward the things that bring us joy and pleasure. For instance, if you like cars, you'll seek to learn all about them. If you enjoy hunting or fishing, you'll research and learn how to do those better. As professing Christians, our aim should be to look like Christ, and there is no better way to do that than to know Him more deeply through His Word. We will explore how the pursuit of the knowledge of God shapes everything about us.

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, we see Peter reveal the heart of his letter in just a few powerful verses. Peter says that because of God's grace, we have been saved from the death our sins rightfully earn 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 we can 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:

- **After listening to Rick's message, how devoted would you say that you are to seeking the knowledge of God?**
- **How was your knowledge of God formed early on in your Christian life? (Examples could include: believing parents, youth group, mentors, personal Bible study, listening to sermons, reading Christian literature, etc.)**
- **Rick said, "You're not going to have an impact or grow spiritually if you don't have knowledge." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?**
- **How should God's promise that we will find Him when we seek Him motivate our search for knowledge?**
- **How does having a firm grasp on the knowledge of God protect you, your family, and the church body?**
- **Why would devotion to God without the knowledge of God be impractical?**
- **Why would the knowledge of God without devotion to God be dangerous?**

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

- **The apostle Paul challenges the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 3 that he had to give them spiritual milk instead of meat. Paul demonstrates the expectation that every believer would grow from a spiritual newborn to an adult through their knowledge of the Lord. Throughout the rest of this lesson, we'll examine why we should grow in our spiritual diet.**

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 Colossians 2:1-5. As Rick expounded in the video, the pursuit of the knowledge of God sets the direction for the rest of our lives. In this passage, Paul gives us a rich understanding of how the knowledge of God permeates our lives and how that knowledge grows us in grace.

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:** The Apostle Paul identified himself as the author of Colossians.
- **Timeframe:** Most people believe Colossians was written sometime between A.D. 61 and 63, during Paul's first imprisonment in Rome (Acts 28:17-31).

- **Purpose:** Ultimately, this letter's purpose is to emphasize the supremacy of Christ over everything. Paul was writing to combat the spread of false teachings among the church at Colossae. The exact heresy being refuted is not certain and may have been a blend of multiple influences. The legalism, mysticism, and asceticism corrupting the pure faith in Colossae were moving attention away from Christ, placing it instead on self-discipline and the awe of other spiritual things.

THEN, read or have a volunteer read Colossians 2:1-3. When the volunteer has finished, direct their attention back to verse 1. Lead the group in a brief discussion. Ask something like:

- **Paul starts by saying, "I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you." How will the knowledge of Paul's love for the Colossians strike them?**
 - *Answer:* It will draw them into what he is about to say! An old saying goes, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Here, Paul bridges that relationship and embodies for them what Christian love looks like.
- **In verse 2, Paul admonishes them to grow in their love for each other and their knowledge of the Lord. What would it look like if they rejected his teaching?**
 - *Answer:* It would look like grumbling, complaining, and selfishness. Regarding knowledge, it also may look like apathy. There would be no passion for the Lord or for reaching others. We can't buy into the lie that we can stay neutral. We either grow in our love for God and others or dwindle in it. Both have big consequences on our life.
- **What two false ideologies do you think men fall into when thinking about knowledge?**
 - Answers will vary. The first would be that all I need to do is acquire knowledge, but obedience is optional. This may look like the "know it all" who has a wealth of biblical knowledge but exudes pride and arrogance. The second would be the simple approach of never needing to learn more about the Lord because all one must do is live a good life. The more we grow in knowledge of Him, the more it should transform our character.
- **When have you noticed your relationship with the Lord was the best? Why is that?**
 - Answers will vary.

Before transitioning to the next question, say something like:

- **It can be easy today to approach our topic as pure intellectualism. You may think, "Yeah, I probably need to read my Bible more." However, today's goal is to let your Bible read more of you. It's to put ourselves in the path of fire hydrants of truth and embody that truth in our lives. One possible application is to be so in tune with God's Word that we can spot imposters. Can you tell the difference between the Gospel and false teaching? That's one thing Paul will address in our last two verses.**

NEXT, direct your group's attention back to Colossians 2:4-5. Then, ask:

- **What do you think Paul meant by the phrase "plausible arguments?"**
 - *Answer:* He's conveying that false teachers will come in that sound really appealing. They will masquerade as truth while still being wrong. These teachers will be persuasive and will require great attentiveness to their message.
- **Can you name any false teachings that have deluded the Church at some point?**
 - Answers will vary but may include the following:
 - The idea that following God will always result in health and wealth.
 - The idea is that God is cool with you as long as you're moral.
 - The idea that Jesus was created by God the Father.
 - The idea that Jesus was not fully God and fully man.

- If you prayed a prayer or were baptized, you're going to heaven regardless of whether you have surrendered your life, in faith, to God.
- **What do you think draws men away from the faith who had once been firm?**
 - Answers will vary. You may think temptation or circumstances may be the determining factors. Those certainly may have played a role. However, the catalyst for many men who have fallen away would be that they untied themselves from the anchor of truth. They stopped seeking the knowledge of God, and it ended up burning them. As men, we must stand guard, knowing that we have an Enemy who actively seeks to take us down every day. We "stand firm" by suiting up in the armor of God, as Ephesians 6 talks about.

NOW, take a minute and challenge their perspective on how they see the pursuit of knowledge. You can say something like:

- **In his book *Atomic Habits*, James Clear states that habits last when we see the fruit of our labor. If we can see how our action yields results, we are far more likely to stick with it. You may think, "How will studying God's Word for 15 minutes every day make a difference?" Consider your hobbies for a minute. You probably weren't good at them in the beginning, but you increasingly grew in skill through practice. By devoting ourselves to the Word, we grow in knowledge and passion! God takes that flicker of passion in our hearts and turns it into a bonfire when we make space for Him.**

THEN, direct the group back to 2 Peter 1:5. Go ahead and ask:

- **How do you put into practice the "make every effort" command in verse 5?**
 - Answers will vary. It could mean waking up earlier, saying no to distractions, or seeking an accountability partner.
- **What does godliness in a man look like?**
 - *Answer:* The Beatitudes would be a great place to reflect on this. Many think manliness comes through flexing strength, but Christ showed that manliness is power under control. He was compassionate and kind. He stood up to those who were being exploited. He was always seeking to apply the Scriptures. We won't get it perfect, but if we look to Jesus as our model, we will be on the path.

FINALLY, reiterate Rick's message that the spiritual man should look and act differently than the worldly man. If there is no difference in character, we must evaluate whether that man has come to know Christ. Encourage the men to let their light shine brightly. They each have a unique ministry that God has prepared for them. Now, it's time to walk in 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 the takeaways from your time together.

FIRST, explain that you want to challenge the group to focus on the takeaways from this session. Ask volunteers to share what THEY think the main application is of the passage you've just studied. You may ask something like:

- **How do we practically apply this call to pursue knowledge? What does this look like on an everyday basis?**

Allow men to share their responses and discuss them as a group. If you choose, supplement their responses with the following takeaways:

- 1) Have you been the type of Christian who has sought to supplement knowledge to your faith? If not, why?
- 2) Has the knowledge of God led you into a deeper community with others like the apostle hoped for in Colossians 2:2?
- 3) Consider this quote from A.W. Tozer: "How we think about God is the most important thing about us." Does your view of God draw you into a deeper worship of Him or leave you wanting more?

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.