

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) or call (800) 307-9366

A dramatic landscape featuring a massive, rugged mountain peak with patches of snow under a sky filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The foreground is dominated by a dense forest of evergreen trees. A bright yellow rectangular box is centered horizontally across the middle of the image, containing the title text.

STEADFASTNESS

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

RICK BURGESS

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

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Main Passage: Exodus 34:1-10

Purpose: To embrace the steadfast love of the Lord and embody it in our own lives.

Session Snapshot: God's character is something wholly above us, but it is also something we can grow into. The Lord calls us to put on certain qualities while rejecting sinful behaviors (Colossians 3). Today, we'll explore how steadfastness is available to us through the power of the Holy Spirit and how it can revolutionize our life.

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 to do it.

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 does it mean that God's love is steadfast?**
- **Can you give an example from your life or someone else's of someone being steadfast?**
- **Rick said, "God is steadfast in both His justice and mercy." Why is this combination essential to keep?**
- **What should our reaction be when we see God fully and completely?**
- **Why is rejecting steadfastness in our spiritual life a critical mistake?**
- **Rick commented that one must immerse oneself in God to become steadfast. What do you think immersing yourself in the Lord looks like?**
- **Do you agree with Rick that men demand steadfastness from their sports teams, jobs, children, and wife but don't demand it spiritually?**
- **How might your family be changed if you devoted yourself wholeheartedly to the Lord?**

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

- **Those who have tasted and seen the goodness of the Lord know that everything else pales in comparison to Him. C.S Lewis writes, "We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered 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 the sea. We are far too easily pleased." As men of God, we must reclaim our calling to embrace the Lord above all other ideologies.**

OPENING THE WORD

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

FIRST, explain that you will look more in-depth at Exodus 34:1-9. As Rick stated in the video, steadfastness is a quality of God that He imparts to His people. One of the things that should define believers the most is their commitment to the Lord regardless of their circumstances.

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:** While there's no specific author named within the text, Moses is the accepted author for Exodus, with some editing and additions done after his death (such as the account of his death!).
- **Time frame:** The dating of the Book of Exodus is a point of debate. The issue is that no one knows for sure when the Exodus occurred, whether it was in the mid-1400s BC or a later date around the mid-1200 BC. The writing would have occurred around those general dates.

- **Purpose:** Exodus means "a going out" or a "departure." Exodus was written to record God's great rescue of His people from slavery in Egypt and His commands to His people, guiding them to live for His purposes in a new land.

THEN, read or have a volunteer read Exodus 34:1-4. When the volunteer has finished, direct their attention back to vs. 1. Lead the group in a brief discussion. Ask something like:

- **What do you notice about God's command of Moses in verses 1-2?**
 - *Answer:* God told him to cut the stones, bring them, and meet him on the mountain. God could have delivered the written stones to Moses' doorstep, but God wanted Moses to actively participate in the experience.
- **Is there any significance in asking Moses to meet Him early in the morning on the mountain?**
 - Answers will vary. One could assume that the rest of Israel would have been asleep at this time. Moses would have met with God without distractions and the pressures of the day on his mind. Additionally, the meeting of Moses with the Lord alone represented God's holiness. God could not just be accessed at any moment by anyone. It was customary in the Temple that only the high priest could meet with the Lord one day a year to make intercession for the people.
- **Upon Jesus' death on the cross, the Temple veil was ripped in half, symbolizing the open invitation for every believer to come and meet with the Lord. What holds us back from taking Him up on this offer?**
 - Answers will vary. Maybe we don't carve out time with the Lord in the morning. If we jump into our day, the pressures, worries, and distractions of the day keep us preoccupied when we have a Savior that longs to meet with us!
- **What does Moses' obedience show us about his relationship with the Lord?**
 - *Answer:* It showed that he feared the Lord. If Moses had verbally agreed to the things God asked but not followed through, then he wouldn't have believed God to be who He said He was. It was through his actions that he demonstrated his faith. James 2:17 says, "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." We must pause here and consider if our faith has works. Is there a pattern of obedience in our lives that represents following the Lord?

Before transitioning to the next question, say something like:

- **Up unto this point in Scripture, God has worked through the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. Through the promise, God has formed the nation of Israel to be a people for Himself. They endured some difficult days in Egypt until God rescued them miraculously. God's character had been displayed, but the verses we are about to read play a significant role because God will tell us who He is! Let's dive into the rest of our text.**

NEXT, direct your group's attention back to Exodus 34:5-7. Then, ask:

- **What observations do you have about the descriptions of God's character?**
 - Answers will vary. Point them to God being kind and gracious while maintaining His hatred of sin. If we served a God who overlooked sin, He couldn't be God. God's justice is preserved while also exuding grace and patience.
- **The word "steadfast love" in Hebrew is "hesed," which conveys the idea of covenantal love. How are the words steadfast and covenant tied together?**
 - *Answer:* A covenant is a binding agreement between two parties to fulfill their responsibilities. God's covenant with Israel persevered even while Israel did some incredibly sinful things. God's covenant with us through Christ remains steadfast in that He will never leave or forsake us,

although we don't deserve that kind of grace. The idea of a covenant means that you show up 100% even when your partner fails to do so. That's exactly what God does for us!

- **How does God offer us His friendship when He also says He won't clear the guilty? Isn't that a contradiction?**
 - *Answer:* God's kindness and mercy are demonstrated through the cross of Christ. God's wrath was poured onto His Son, the perfect sacrifice, so that we could become spotless in His eyes. For those in Christ, He no longer considers us guilty because Jesus' blood covers us. This is the life-changing news of the Gospel: those without a shot at reconciliation were given it because God did not spare His only Son.

NOW, turn the group's attention to verses 8-10. Explain to them that a genuine encounter with the Lord should cause genuine change. Anger should start to fall away. Patience should start to bloom in our souls. Joy should mark our attitudes. Our desires should transform from things of the world to the things of God. Ask:

- **In verse 8, we see Moses bow down and worship in reaction to experiencing the Lord. Why do you think men will worship at a football game but fail to worship at a church service?**
 - Answers will vary. Help them to see that our hearts were created to worship, and we will choose something to worship. Some men have never experienced the true God of the Bible because if they had, then they would be enthralled and left in awe of who He is.
- **Moses petitions God to pardon Israel's sin and iniquity in verses 9-10. What can we learn from Moses here?**
 - *Answer:* Moses cared deeply about these people and prayed on their behalf. Likewise, as leaders of the household, God has called men to love and care for our families physically and spiritually. We are called to intercede for them and set the spiritual tone. You can also deduce that a godly man will always seek the good of another.

FINALLY, wrap up by saying something like:

- **Our time here on earth is short. Ask any older man in the group, and they will tell you that time flies! That's why we mustn't waste time on lesser things. You could pursue the corporate ladder, more money and toys, the perfect family, or something society preaches. You can achieve all of it and still be left wanting. On the other hand, you could set your sights on gospel steadfastness. You could prioritize your faith and your family, and you might find just how steady God's hand is in your life.**

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) Rick asks an insightful question that would benefit us: How are we feeding the Spirit and supplementing steadfastness in our walk?

- 2) For those who would admit that we are distracted in our relationship with Christ, what needs to change for you to embrace a steady faith?
- 3) At your eulogy, what would you hope people say about you? Is your life currently moving in that direction?

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 trying to tell them, and to respond accordingly. If there are no more questions or input, close your time together in prayer.