

## **SESSION 2: KEEP GROWING**

- **Small Group Discussion:** 15 minutes
  - **Discuss last week's FIRE Starter Journaling as a group.**
  - **Discuss how your modeling at home needs to change after focusing on it this last week.**
- **View Video #2:** 10 minutes

A man can only be an effective father as he continues to grow spiritually. Our fatherhood will be impacted by our *sin and lack of maturity*. This means that fathers must spend time in our Bibles, in prayer, and actively seeking to walk in obedience by the power of God's Spirit. **We are ALL busy.** *Probably TOO busy to be a Fired-Up Father, but we can always make a choice to change!*

- **Small Group Discussion:** 35 minutes

**Review these four categories to think about which category YOU fit into:**

1. **Secular men.** Men with little or no spiritual interest. They come when they have to—for holidays, weddings and funerals—or because they are keeping the peace with their wife.
  2. **Cultural Christians.** These are men with one foot inside and one foot outside the church. Perhaps they grew up in the church and so now just go through the motions. Or church is a social gathering or gives them a place to ensure their kids get some moral instruction. They are present, but not engaged or interested in spiritual growth.
  3. **Biblical Christians.** These men are disciples or want to be disciples. They are interested in spiritual growth and want to lead their families well. These men are the ones who join small groups and classes, and often serve throughout the church. These are the easiest men to reach because they want to grow in their faith.
  4. **Servant leaders.** These men are actively engaged in helping others grow in their faith. They are a subset of your Biblical Christians, more advanced in their faith and looking for opportunities to serve, teach, mentor and lead.
- **Discuss where you fit and where you want to grow and why.**

## • ***Spiritual Growth Opportunities:***

**Spiritual growth** should be a top priority. When we make it a point to grow in the Spirit, we also make it a point to grow in every aspect. That's because our spiritual status affects every other area of our life - whether it be physiological, mental, emotional, economical or relational.

The Bible makes it clear how truly important it is that we make it a point to grow in the spirit. **Colossians 1:9-10** tells us, *"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."*

Spiritual growth brings about God's fruit to all who seek it. As men who are called to pursue the good work we were created in Christ to do (**Ephesians 2:10**), *here are five things we must start doing some more:*

1. **Embrace God-given roles.** The Bible is filled with descriptive instructions of how God wants us men to act, think and live. They aren't stereotypes but rather guidelines that help us pursue God's will more and more by first growing in character, faith and knowledge.
  2. **Take the lead.** There seems to be a strong correlation between leadership and growth. Every time God called someone in the Bible to step up in leadership, *they experienced immense spiritual advancements as well.* Take David, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Abraham, Peter, Paul and all the other Godly men who grew more as God called them into leadership roles. The same principle applies for us men today.
  3. **Seek to step out in faith.** Faith is the greatest evidence of spiritual strength. When we live lives of faith, we live lives that honor and please God (**Hebrews 11:6**) primarily because when we grow in faith, we grow in Spirit. As we approach God more, He dispels all doubts and gives us faith. So as we walk with God, we start walking in faith more and grow more in our spiritual journey.
  4. **Consume the Bible.** The most effective way to grow spiritually is to consume the word of God. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** tells us, *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."*
  5. **Disciple other men.** The world wants you to believe that to gain, we must get. But the Bible reminds us that **gain comes by giving**. When we live to give other men wisdom, by discipling them, we start growing faster too. **Proverbs 11:25** says it this way: *"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."*
- ***Relook at last week's FIRE Starter Journaling as a group and talk about your commitment to spend 30-minutes each day in the Bible. This commitment will be the first step toward spiritual growth that will make you a better dad from the inside out!***