

KILLING CRYPTONITE

DESTROY WHAT
STEALS YOUR STRENGTH

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1

「
**THE AVOIDED
QUESTION**
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TAKE ACTION

God warns us in James 1:22, “Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says” (NIV). This tells us that if we hear a word from God (from Scripture, the Holy Spirit, or someone giving sound teaching), but fail to act on it, we have actually deceived ourselves.

The proof that we believe something isn’t when we agree with what someone teaches us, it’s when we act on it. That’s why these activations at the end of each chapter are so important. Each one is a helpful jumpstart for you to take immediate action that is focused on the truths revealed in the chapter you will have just read. The activations are brief and shouldn’t take too long to complete.

If you take the time to do each one, you will get a lot more out of this book and experience much deeper transformation in your life.



Asking the avoided question can be like going to the dentist for a cavity filling, but we need to choose courage and face it in order to receive the long-term benefits.

How does your life stand out from the world? Would people say you live like Jesus? Don’t shy away from this question; press into it. How would your life be different if you lived like Jesus? What habits would you break? How would it change the way you interact with the people who are regularly around you? What would be different about the way you live with your family?

Take time to write your thoughts to these questions. Use Scripture as your guide. This will give you a target to aim for. Once you have some answers written down, pray over them. Invite the Holy Spirit to highlight one thing from your answers that He is doing in your life right now. Ask Him to make that one thing come alive to you in a way that gives you power to change.

2

INTRODUCING
KRYPTONITE

TAKE ACTION

Go back and reread the beginning of the chapter to remind yourself of what's possible. Remember, you are called by this declaration, "As He is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17 NKJV). You are called by God to live as Jesus in your life right now, not someday in the next life.

How does that reframe the way you think about your daily life? Perhaps you wouldn't have thought of yourself as weak before understanding your potential in Christ, but now that you do, would you consider yourself weak or strong? If weak, you've assessed wisely. For God says that His power works best in our weakness (see 2 Corinthians 12:9).

God will only turn our weaknesses into strength when we humble ourselves before Him (see 1 Peter 5:5). Ask God to speak to you about any reasons for weakness in your life. Write them down and then ask Him for the keys to freedom from each one. Take time to write down God's prescription for turning each weakness into strength.

「ONE」

TAKE ACTION

Perhaps you have seen the movie *Gladiator* and remember hearing General Maximus shout, “Stay together! As one!” and you saw the victories that strategy brought. It’s no secret that the most effective military strategy is divide and conquer.

Jesus knew this well and taught that a house divided against itself cannot stand (see Matthew 12:25). When the body of Christ is divided in its loyalties to Christ, it is weakened as a whole. This means that one of the greatest things you can do for the worldwide impact of the church is to live your own life wholly devoted to Jesus’s cause. This means dedicating all your regular, everyday activities to God as worship to Him.

God wants your whole life, not just your Sunday mornings. If you are not living your entire life—work, family, hobbies, etc.—as worship to God, repent today. Ask Jesus to give you vision for what a lifestyle of worship looks like in your life. Write down what He shows or tells you and ask God’s Spirit to fill you afresh as you dedicate yourself fully to Him.

4

「
CONTAGIOUS
KRYPTONITE
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TAKE ACTION

This issue is so important, and unfortunately it is rare to find a modern church that rightly emphasizes these truths. Consider this: First, God calls you to live free from sin, entirely given to Him. Second, when believers fail to do this, they not only affect their own lives but also the entire body of Christ.

Take time to reflect on all this. Don't let these truths be just good ideas and simply move along. Sit on them. Meditate on them. Pray through these truths and ask God about them for yourself. Let them really sink in and become as important to you as they were to Paul.

「
BE THE
CHANGE」

TAKE ACTION

Here is the good news you've been waiting for: Taking a firm stance for truth, when done in love for God and His people, puts you in company with people who received eternal, covenant promises of blessing from God that determined the future not just for their lives, but for their descendants too.

Can you think of anything else more powerful you could do for your posterity? No worldly, physical inheritance carries that promise—money could be squandered in a generation or two. No amount of knowledge or wisdom amassed could possibly pass down to that many generations. Only an inheritance based on a promise of God's faithfulness could have such a long-lasting impact.

What legacy do you want to leave to future generations? How do you want to be remembered on earth, and how do you want to be known in heaven? The greatest key to these desires coming to pass is how firmly you will stand for love and truth during your short years on earth.

6

「THE MOTIVATION」

TAKE ACTION

When we see the incredible miracles of the New Testament, it can be easy to think, *Well, that was great for them, but someone like me could never do those kinds of things.* That's why the message of this chapter is so important—the signs and wonders didn't happen because the people were anyone special. They happened because these common people simply believed and obeyed, resulting in God's greatness rising up within them.

If God's greatness can rise up in them—loudmouthed, uneducated, young, inexperienced, opinionated people who worked mundane, ordinary jobs—then we can know there is no worldly standard that qualifies us to carry heavenly greatness. It's just a question of how faithfully we will believe and follow God's Word.

Do you believe it's possible to see these miracles again, and even more? If your church started seeing these things happen, would you jump in with both feet? Do you want to receive all God wants to give you? Express these answers as a prayer to God. Then repent for any way you have considered yourself unqualified or disqualified for this life. Give your concerns to God, and offer yourself to Him for all He has for you.

7

「
THE POWER
OF ONE
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TAKE ACTION

Until we know what is possible, we cannot be discontent with the little we have accepted as normal. But now, having read this chapter, you know what is possible, so you face a clear decision: Accept the weak and powerless life of limited influence much of the church has known, or embrace a lifelong pursuit of a powerful life that displays the full, raw greatness of Jesus Christ.

Until you have confidence in this possibility, you cannot take action. Without action, you will live in relative powerlessness by default. This means that the first step toward action is to choose to take confidence in God's Word and His vision for your life.

Ephesians tells us Jesus washes us clean with His words, and we can use our words to partner with Him in this process. Write declarations about the powerful life you are called to—statements like, “Jesus has filled me with His Spirit of power to change my world,” or, “God causes His greatness to rise up from within me to reach the lost,” or, “I am anointed to influence my peers and transform my workplace”—and begin declaring these truths over yourself every day. Then watch as your confidence to take action grows steadily day by day.

A MARRIAGE
COVENANT

TAKE ACTION

God is a jealous God. Most of us have known for a long time that Scripture teaches this, yet many Christians don't take time to think it through, or somehow believe that it only pertains to the Old Testament. Nothing could be further from the truth. If anything, Jesus's sacrifice shows us His love is the love of the most faithful bridegroom.

So you can see that we should want God to be jealous, not casual, in His love toward us, and we should ask Him for the grace to love Him with the same passion and devotion. This is the only way intimacy becomes possible.

Examine your heart today. How exclusive is your love for Jesus? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any other love in your life that threatens to become adulterous against God. If He reveals anything to you, make the necessary change. Reflect on your exclusive relationship with God afresh today and recommit yourself to Him, just as if you were renewing your marriage vows to Him.

「
ADULTERY
AGAINST GOD
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TAKE ACTION

No one enters marriage with a plan to commit adultery. While the vows may be intimidating, brides and grooms do their best to put their whole selves behind their covenant promises. Why is it, then, that so many marriages fail, some even failing because of adultery? The answers are complex, but at the bottom of it all is a failure to remain on guard against the forces that destroy connection.

Your relationship with God is your life—literally. There is no life outside of God. Yet the world seeks to seduce us into adultery against Him. The best way to remain on guard is to pursue God wholly.

What can you do to ensure you are giving God your all?

How is your schedule? Do you protect time for God in it, time to read the Word, pray, and fast? Do you look for opportunities to serve God in your church, workplace, or community? Do you work at your job in such a way that it is worship unto God? Determine one way you want to grow in adultery-proofing your relationship with God. Define your plan, write it, and then begin to do it.

10

「WHAT'S BEHIND
IDOLATRY?」

TAKE ACTION

Worship is the choice to obey, honor, and give thanks to God. When we forsake any element of this true worship, we expose ourselves to the deception that leads to idolatry. This is true for us individually and culturally.

The first declared act of worship in Scripture was when Abraham obeyed God by going to sacrifice Isaac. What has God told you to do? This could be something the Holy Spirit has challenged you with as you read the Bible, or it could be something He has impressed upon you that is specific to you.

How does this chapter change the way you think about this assignment from God? Take a moment now to ask God what steps you can take toward fulfilling that assignment today, and be sure to thank Him for choosing you to do this, for speaking to you, and for being with you as you walk out your worship as obedience.

**BELIEVERS'
IDOLATRY**

TAKE ACTION

It's vital for us to clearly understand the truth of God's Word. It's written down for us, so we are all without excuse. None of us will be able to stand before God and be able to say, "But, Lord, I didn't know!" Just as He reveals Himself in creation to all peoples so they are without excuse, He has revealed His will in Scripture so that we are without excuse.

As difficult as it may be to hear that partial obedience is the same as idolatry, we can be thankful to learn this. If we know what's on the test, we can pass it every time. This is God's goodness and mercy!

Because it is so easy to become blind to where we have been partially obedient, stubborn, or covetous, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas of your life that have come under this influence. Repent for any areas He shows you and ask Him to cleanse you. Finally, ask Him to fill your life afresh, empowering you to follow Him in obedience with your whole heart.

12



**ALLEVIATING
PRESSURE**



TAKE ACTION

The basic element of idolatry is when you draw strength from or give strength to something or someone other than God. An idol becomes a source of something to us. This isn't going overboard to say that everyone should quit their jobs because they need to trust God to provide for them instead of their employer. But we need to recognize that God provides through our job.

We see that God provides love through our family, and we love them in return, but we recognize and honor God as the source. Most importantly, we honor God as the source of our life and as such, we reject choices that lead us away from Him.

Hopefully by now, you are beginning to understand how idolatry is more than just bowing to statues. Ask God to show you where idolatry has influence in your city or community, then intercede for those areas. Pray that God would shine the light of His truth into those places, send His children there as His light, and make Himself known as Lord of all.

13

「KRYPTONITE!」

TAKE ACTION

Idolatry begins when we harden our hearts to what God says. This is the root of all idolatry. It is why God told Israel to rend their hearts and not their garments. He didn't want superficial repentance that failed to touch the root of the issue—their hard hearts that no longer heard or heeded His voice.

Deuteronomy 8 tells us this was the reason He disciplined Israel, that they would know that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Living from God's words, making His voice the source of our life, is what safeguards us from idolatry and propels us into the powerful life He calls us to live.

What role does God's voice have in your life? When was the last time you sought His input regarding your decisions? When you pray, is it one-sided, or is it a conversation? Take time right now to invite God to have a conversation with you. Be still and listen for His voice. Interact with Him, and when you are finished, write down what He says to you.

「**SIN**」

TAKE ACTION

By nature, sin is deceptive. It deceives about how fulfilling the sin will be. It deceives about how in control of the sin we are, rather than understanding how controlled by it we will become if we remain in it. But most of all, sin deceives because it distracts us from both the true glory we are called to live in and hinders us from experiencing a vibrant relationship with Christ.

But if we are filled with a vision of what God makes possible for our lives—the power, supernatural effectiveness, freedom, and intimacy with Him, and so much more—it helps us recognize sin for the counterfeit deception that it is.

Ask God to show you any area of your life where you have begun losing vision for the life He desires for you, areas where perhaps sin and compromise may be starting to look more appealing. Let Him show you fresh vision for those areas of your life and write down what He shows you.

15

「
THE STRENGTH
OF SIN (PART 1)
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TAKE ACTION

Many believers need to hear this message of hope: You can be completely free from the power of sin.

Yes, you read that correctly. It's possible for Christians to rise above sin. Jesus did not die just to grant you a ticket to heaven. When He died, He set you free from the power of sin and death. Sin doesn't have power over you, but instead you have power over it.

This is only possible through God's grace—His divine power to accomplish something that is impossible in our human strength. We have free access to grace and possess this power, but we lose its benefits if we fail to exercise it. One of the most common ways believers fail to use this power is to not realize they have it.

Strengthen yourself against sin today by pondering the Scriptures that reveal you truly do have power over it. Meditate on this truth until it becomes a reality. Connect with God about this, repenting for any way you have given sin power over you and thanking Him for setting you free from that today. Forgive yourself for your past failures and ask God to show you how He sees your future. Write down what He shows or tells you.

16

「
THE STRENGTH
OF SIN (PART 2)
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TAKE ACTION

If we will not submit our desires to God, they will lead us away from Him, and God may even deliver us over to them. Multiple times in Scripture we see that God had already made His will clear, yet when His people desired something contrary to it, He gave it to them, even when it brought them hardship.

God will still do this in our lives today. He will give us our desires even when they contradict His, but it will not lead to the blessing we wanted. It will lead to discipline that will be painful and unpleasant.

But we don't have to experience this. Instead we can trust God to do good for us. Often, He has a path laid out to give us the very things we desire, but in a righteous way. If we will follow Him, He will lead us in a blessed path, but the desired end will come in His time. Commit your way to the Lord today. Invite Him to lead you according to His desires and not your own. Ask Him what steps you can begin taking today to follow Him more closely. Write these down, and then do them.

17

「 MISGUIDED 」

TAKE ACTION

Many professing Christians only want to hear words that make them feel good, and because of covetousness and the fear of man, many ministers are willing to only speak words that encourage their followers. In these cases, all the sweet words sound wonderful, but they are lacking and will lead both leaders and followers to an undesirable place.

We need to hear the truth, even if it hurts at first. No matter how painful it is to hear the truth, it is far less painful than the hardship we run toward when we live in deception.

You can be a person who pursues truth.

Start by asking God to speak His truth about your life, inviting Him to reveal any place where you have been unknowingly deceived. Write down the truths He tells you so you can meditate on them in the coming days and weeks. Then ask God to strengthen you to tell the truth, even if it's not what's popular or politically correct. You don't need to pick fights, but you are able to say, like Micaiah, "As surely as the Lord lives, I will say only what my God says."

18

A KNOCKOFF
JESUS

TAKE ACTION

It's easy in the Western world to say you believe in Jesus. Much of the West, however, is jaded against Christianity because there's little difference between Christians and the world. Christians proclaim the name of Jesus and then say they honor God while living a sinful life that He clearly disapproves of. As Moses declared when he called Israel to account, "Whoever is on the Lord's side, come to me!" It is time for true Christians to arise and call their brothers and sisters to come into the truth.

Following Jesus costs us everything. Our lives are not our own. Our will is submitted to God, or He isn't truly our Lord. Our faith is in Him to provide all we need. This is the call of Christianity—yes, come be saved, but you must die to your old self and become new.

Reflect on the true calling of Christianity. Write down your thoughts of how this is the same as or different from what you have been taught. Then find someone in your family or church to talk about this with. Give this truth to them.

19

「
**THE STARTING
PLACE**
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TAKE ACTION

The New Testament presents a clear message: There is no salvation without repentance from sin. You cannot marry Jesus while still in relationship with the world. You have to die to your old life in order to begin your new one.

If you spend any time as a communicator, you learn quickly you need to make your most important points crystal clear. If you don't, your audience will likely misunderstand you, and the purpose of your communication will be lost. God knows this. That's why He has made this so clear—we must repent!

By now, you have probably repented several times while reading this book, but how does this chapter reinforce just how important repentance is? What difference does it make in your life now that you know this? How does it change the way you interact with the world, your loved ones, or with the lost? Ask God to show you one specific action you can introduce into your life in response to how important it is to repent. As always, write down what He tells you, including your plan for how you will fulfill those actions.

20

「REPENTANCE」

TAKE ACTION

Most of today's churches were built by getting people to repeat the "sinner's prayer"—a simple recitation that acknowledges Jesus's sacrifice for our sins and invites Him into our heart. Imagine what your home church would be like if the leadership team began inviting people to repent of their sins and turn to God. How many people do you think would stay?

This can be a jarring concept to imagine, especially for church leaders. However, imagine what those who remained would be like. The First Great Awakening was noted for how revival preachers would travel to *churches* to preach repentance, and how those who heard the message would cling to their chairs and fall out of their pews, screaming and crying out their repentance, pleading with God for salvation. It was these who repented—by the thousands upon thousands—who changed the world. Entire cities turned from sin to God.

Preaching repentance might empty our churches or more likely, it just might fill them. Ask God to show you the potential of repentance, and then pray for Him to release that in your life and in your church.

21

「
THE THREE
KINGS
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TAKE ACTION

It's so common to lose the big picture while looking at all the details that we have a saying for it—we lose the forest for the trees. We can do this even while studying God's Word, especially when looking through long periods of history. However, tracking themes throughout a timeline like this chapter does reveal patterns that we otherwise won't see. It shows us the big picture.

The big picture of Israel and Judah's history is that God prospered the leaders when they went beyond getting their own lives right, taking true responsibility for everything God had given them authority over.

You might not be a king or queen. You might not even be a manager or supervisor at work. But you do have a realm over which God has given you authority. The way you take responsibility over that area, and not just your personal life, will have significant influence over how God moves on your behalf. Ask God to reveal your sphere of authority and give you wisdom for how to take responsibility for righteousness in that area. Write down what He tells you, and then make a plan to do it.

22

「 A FACEOFF 」

TAKE ACTION

There is no role in the body of Christ where you can hide the effects of sin. It does not just harm those in leadership, but can spread from even one person who welcomes it into their life. Our silence when it comes to sin can send people to destruction, leaving us responsible for their deaths.

Read that last sentence again, but personalizing it—my silence when it comes to sin can send people to destruction, leaving me responsible for their deaths. Say this out loud several times to let it sink in. Allow the weight of this truth to rest on your heart and mind.

God will hold you accountable on this issue. We cannot gloss over sin. What do you think this looks like in your life? How does this change your marriage or parenting? How will it change the way you speak to people in your home church? Ask God for answers to these questions until you have a clear understanding of how to live with this truth. Then find a friend you can trust, and talk to them about your plan to walk this out.

23

「TOLERANCE」

TAKE ACTION

Jezebel pressured God's prophets into silence, and even killed many of them. Only one was willing to speak up on the Lord's behalf, yet look at what God was willing to do for that one. He protected him, provided for him, and supported him with supernatural signs and wonders that still make us marvel today.

God is still looking for those who will stand and speak for truth. This isn't just trying to be critical. We're not sin-hunters. But at the same time, we cannot allow ourselves to be intimidated into silence, worrying that people will see us as backward, intolerant, or some other label.

The first step is to heed this warning in your own life. Whatever it takes, get free from the sins you have given yourself to in the past. Once you are free, get to work freeing others, diligently warning them of the dangers of sin; Paul writes "being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled" (2 Corinthians 10:6 NKJV).

If you don't like confrontation, ask God to give you a love for others that will compel you to confront them. Make this your next target to overcome. Then, by God's grace, you can help others overcome it too.

24

「
LOVE AND
TRUTH
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TAKE ACTION

We must speak up against the sin that seeks to invade the church, but we must do it in love or our warnings will not have the intended result. God warns us continually throughout the Bible, yet His earnest love called Him to do even more—sending His Son to pay the price for all the sins He warned us not to do.

This is the love we must have as we warn people against sin. And there is only one source of love—God. God is love. If we want to grow in love, we must grow in our fellowship with God.

It is vital beyond words for us to spend regular time with God, asking and seeking Him to fill us with more of His love. When we are filled with love, it will drive out our fears of confrontation. It will compel us to take action on behalf of those around us, not just through humanitarian causes, but to warn when needed. God's love will set us free and enable us to bring that freedom to others. Set aside time today to pray earnestly—don't give up quickly—that God would fill you with His love.

25

「
KILLING
KRYPTONITE
」

TAKE ACTION

God is your Savior, and there is no other. No five-step program, no human effort, and no list of rules can set you free from the bondage of sin. But that doesn't mean God delivers us from our sin while we do nothing. God will deliver you, but pursuing Him requires action. Pursuing our Heavenly Father with the right motives—to know Him, not to get something from Him—is what will lead to your deliverance.

The question is, how important is it to you to get free? Will you make time to seek God? Will you take retreats away if you need to? Will you cry out and not stop until you've found His presence and laid hold of His promises? Will you approach Him, allowing Him to set the agenda for your relationship? Will you pursue freedom from sin for the sake of your relationship and not just because it hinders the life you want? Will you humble yourself to let established, godly leaders pray for you and speak into your life?

Count the cost of your bondage, but also count the cost of your freedom. Then go after God with your whole heart. He is waiting to know you intimately!

「 THE SIN THAT'S
NOT SIN 」

TAKE ACTION

Hopefully, you already prayed the prayer at the end of this chapter. If you did, God will begin working in your life over the next few days, weeks, and months to draw you nearer to Him and, in the process, expose those things that keep you distant from Him. Engage this proactively right now by asking God to speak to you about anything in your life that has become an excuse to keep you from responding to His words. Write down what He reveals to you and take a few minutes to pray about them. Ask God for His perspective on those things and write what He tells you.

If you did not pray the prayer at the end of the chapter, take time right now to pray a different kind of prayer. Ask God to give you a willing and courageous heart so that you are able to pray that prayer. Write down anything God puts on your heart as you are praying.

27

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THE BANQUET
DOOR



TAKE ACTION

Holiness isn't a bad word; it's a password. It is the way that enables you to open the door of your heart to God's voice. Without holiness, you won't even hear when He is speaking to you. This holiness is not just something God gives you because of Jesus's sacrifice; it is something you *must*—*must*—live out in thought, word, and action.

But it is not something God leaves you to struggle with alone. This is why God gives us grace! His grace does far more than just save us, though that much is amazing. God's grace empowers us to live holy lives from the inside out, fully pleasing to God!

Seek God right now. Don't wait any longer, but take this moment to cry out to God for His grace. Name the area of your life where you need His grace the most and pray that God would fill you with grace to overcome everything that hinders you from hearing His voice.

「**ARISE**」

TAKE ACTION

God is a warrior, and we were made to be like Him. This is the reason superhero movies appeal so deeply to something inside of us. We know innately that we were born for greatness!

This is what God created you for, and we see testimonies throughout history of people who did marvelous acts for God when they left no room for the kryptonite of known sin in their lives. Cities have been transformed in a matter of days by the power of God and the boldness of His people. God is calling you to step up and be part of doing it again.

Ask God what battle He is calling you to fight. What city, region, territory, or nation is He calling you to reach? Write what you hear Him tell you and pray for God to pour His grace on you to accomplish His purpose there. Then fix your eyes on your eternal reward—the promise of all you will gain through your faithful, overcoming service in this life—and get going. God has called you to be a hero!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If you're reading this book as part of the *Killing Kryptonite* study or course (which is a really great idea!), I recommend that you watch each week's video lesson and unpack the corresponding discussion questions as a group. The video lessons will parallel and amplify major themes from this book, so it's ideal for all participants to both watch the lessons and read the book.

Enjoy!

Lesson 1: Our Potential

Highlights themes from chapters 1–3

1. You won't be motivated to tap into any potential you are unaware of. How have you seen this principle to be true in your life? What new products, technologies, or beliefs have you embraced after you found out what they could do for you? How is this similar to what you learned in this lesson?
2. Our potential in God includes nearly unimaginable possibilities. How did this lesson inspire you to explore the potential of your

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

identity in Christ? What are some areas where you've been thinking too small?

3. Why do you think our potential in Christ is not commonly taught in churches today? How do you think the church would change if we were taught to believe all this was possible? As you meditate on these possibilities, how are they beginning to change you?
4. When we fall so far short of what we as Christians could be, it affects how the world views both Christianity and God. How would the world look at Christians differently if we did fulfill our potential? How would they look at God differently if we fulfilled our potential?

Lesson 2: The Power of One

Highlights themes from chapters 4–7

1. Paul writes that because the Corinthians didn't honor the body of Christ, many among them were weak, sick, and even dying prematurely. This still applies to us today, and it says it affected *many*. How is this different from what you have been taught about the church—the body of Christ? Why is this important for all believers to understand today?
2. Many in the body of Christ fail to reach their potential because of known sin in the church, but this is not the only reason Christians get sick, die prematurely, or are weak. Why is it so important to make this distinction? What are some of the other reasons for afflictions within the church?
3. In the West we have very individualistic mindsets, yet we see that when Achan sinned against God, all of Israel was affected because they were one body. How does this truth affect the way you view your role within the body of Christ?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

4. Spiritual kryptonite is known sin. Achan knew it was wrong to take spoils for himself, and the Corinthians knew their drunkenness, gluttony, and selfishness during communion were also sin. Both instances caused weakness and death among those who did nothing wrong. Why do you think God takes sin in His body so seriously? Why do you think He wants us to place such a high value, not just on the individual believer, but on the body as a whole?

Lesson 3: Kryptonite

Highlights themes from chapters 8–10

1. Can you imagine a situation like Justin and Angela's actually happening? Of course you can't. But what similarities do you see to how some Christians treat their relationships with God? How would you respond to someone treating their spouse that way? How would you respond to someone treating God that way?
2. Known sin is spiritual kryptonite, and spiritual kryptonite is idolatry. What does it mean that so many churchgoers are actually worshiping idols? What does idolatry look like in a nation that doesn't bow down to statues and idols?
3. Idolatry is not something that's commonly taught in most churches. What stood out to you the most from what you learned in this lesson about idolatry? Why do you think that stood out to you the most?
4. Consistently throughout Scripture, God equates idolatry with adultery. In your own words, why do you think God does this? What does it say about the relationship He offers us?
5. Idolatry begins by worshiping creation rather than its Creator. What is God's response to this behavior? Why would God distance Himself from those who don't choose Him? Why do you think an affinity

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

toward homosexuality is a telltale sign that a society has embraced idolatry?

6. If we're going to recognize idolatry, we have to understand true worship. True worship is obedience to God's commands, not singing a slow song. How does this understanding of worship change the way you think about Christian living? Who have you seen in your life who has given you the best example of a lifestyle of worshiping God?

Lesson 4: Modern Idolatry

Highlights themes from chapters 11–14

1. The story of Saul's disobedience when saving some of the Amalekites shows us the root of idolatry in the church. How is Saul's covetousness equal to idolatry?
2. Samuel told Saul that stubbornness is the same as idolatry. This is when we cling to what we want over what God has declared to be His will. And, as we see in Saul's life, it opened the door to much greater sin in his life. How is this idolatry? Why does it lead to greater sins?
3. Covetousness is what leads us into idolatry and, in fact, is idolatry in itself. But contentment is what leads to godliness. When you look at your own goals, priorities, and habits, which would you say is stronger in your life—covetousness or contentment? How can you pursue a life of greater contentment?
4. While contentment is necessary in every Christian's life, we cannot confuse it with complacency. In your own words, how are these two different? How would you know if someone was content, but not complacent?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

5. Another important clarification to remember is that idolatry is never when a believer falls into sin, but only when they are given over to sin. According to all you've learned so far in these lessons, how can you tell the difference between these two?
6. If we're going to understand that willful sin is spiritual kryptonite, we have to also understand that God offers us a completely new life with a new nature—His nature. Have you realized that it's possible to not be prone to sin, but to instead be prone to righteousness? How does it make you feel to know this transformation is possible—and even expected of your life?

Lesson 5: A Knockoff Jesus

Highlights themes from chapters 15–18

1. God's purpose in saving you was to bring you to Himself. He wants to be in intimate relationship with you. This requires you to wash yourself of the things of the world, because He wants an authentic relationship with you. What does this mean? How can you know that you have done this?
2. Imagine God's disappointment when people He longs to bring to Himself refuse to come to Him, even after they claim to be saved by Him. How would you feel if you married someone, but they refused to be in the same room as you? What if they wouldn't even talk on the phone with you? What if they would only relate to you through another person? What sort of relationship would you have with them after all that?
3. Aaron remained in the camp, so we might say he was more comfortable in the camp with the people than in the presence of God on the mountain. Some people are this way—more comfortable in church

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

than in God's presence. How do you respond when you sense God's presence?

4. Israel had a high priest, declared *Yahweh* had delivered them from Egypt, and worshipped *Yahweh* with burnt offerings and sacrifices, all the while focusing this attention toward a golden calf—all for the sake of pursuing their own desires. If Israel could declare all these things with the right name, yet still have false, abominable worship, can today's church do the same? What would that look like?
5. Israel obeyed some of God's commandments, but neglected others. Churches all over the world do this same thing, choosing passages they like while ignoring the ones that challenge us to live holy lives, fully devoted to God. How can we know we are worshiping the true Jesus, not a knockoff Jesus?

Lesson 6: The Starting Place

Highlights themes from chapters 19–21

How did a knockoff *Yahweh* evolve in Israel, and how does a knockoff Jesus evolve in the church? Both are the result of a hardened heart from the absence of true repentance.

1. This lesson covers a lot about repentance—the necessity of it, its role in the gospel, and what it really means. How was this similar to or different from the way you've thought about repentance in the past? Does this change the way you think about the gospel? If so, how?
2. Every gospel begins with the story of John the Baptist, who preached repentance from sins. This means the gospel of Jesus always begins with repentance. How do you feel about this statement? Why is repentance so important to the gospel?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. There is no true faith in Jesus Christ without repentance from known sin. If we cling to sin and claim to be Christians, then we are deceived. Why do you think God would care so much about how we live?
4. Remember the story of Justin and Angela, how Angela had no idea she was supposed to leave her boyfriends behind when she got married? How are all these people who don't know Jesus supposed to know they need to repent unless we tell them? What might happen to us if we tell people to stop sinning? Why is it important to count the cost of sharing the full gospel?
5. We are defined by our actions, not by our intentions. This shows the power of the gospel, that it can transform our entire person. How does this show that repentance is a positive and good thing? In your own words, explain how God's requirement for repentance is actually His mercy to us.

Lesson 7: Truth, Tolerance & Love

Highlights themes from chapters 22–24

1. Jude wanted to write about the wonder of our salvation—or the nice things—but had to warn his audience about people who were turning God's grace into a license for sin. In your own life, have you allowed yourself to neglect God's warnings, only saying the nice things? Why is it important for you to keep the warnings a part of your life and speech?
2. The reason the church has become tolerant toward sin is that we have a misguided understanding of what true love is. True love requires the truth, and the truth is always an eternal perspective. How does keeping an eternal perspective change what is important in your life?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

3. The love of God means obeying God's commands. This is what distinguishes Christian love from worldly love. Without God's commands, how would you describe any difference between God's love and the world's love?
4. Love without the truth of God attached to it is not true love—it's a counterfeit. Our culture is walking away from this love, and that is why the church is motivated toward a knockoff Jesus. How do you feel about speaking the truth in love? Why do you think so many people are uncomfortable with the truth?

Lesson 8: Killing Kryptonite

Highlights themes from chapters 25–28

1. Some believers overlook sin because they are unaware of the reality that their sin hurts God's heart. Other Christians believe the lie that we are just sinners by nature and the blood of Jesus is powerful enough to set us free from the penalty of sin, but cannot free us from the bondage of sin. These are the believers with kryptonite—known, practiced sin. How has either of these beliefs influenced your life? How have you seen them influence other professing believers?
2. A third group of believers are genuine Christians who knowingly sin, but for them it is a constant struggle. They want to get out, but have not yet discovered from God's Word how to live free from sin. The shame of their sin holds them in their sin. What truths from this lesson would you share with a believer in this condition?
3. In this lesson, I share from my testimony of how God set me free from lust and pornography. What inspired you the most from this testimony? Why? What challenged you the most? Why?
4. Freedom from sin comes from godly sorrow, not from worldly sorrow. Godly sorrow recognizes the pain our sin causes God, but

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

worldly sorrow is only worried about how our sin affects us and our future. Why do you think God would only release grace to set us free with one kind of sorrow, but not the other? How would you tell the difference between these two sorrows in your own life?

5. So many superhero stories capture our imaginations because they connect with a longing in every human heart. The early believers were the superhumans of their day. How can we become the superhumans of our day? How would this change the way the world thinks about God?
6. God is a warrior, and we were created to be like Him. Jesus called all seven churches in Revelation to overcome, which means we are called to victory and we have an enemy to overcome. As you reflect on this entire message, how has it changed the way you think about what God calls you to overcome in this life? How has it changed the way you view yourself, other believers, and the church as a whole?