



PARTICIPANT WORKBOOK

LESSON 2-4: HEALTHY AMBITIONS

“If your ambition is to leave a legacy, your legacy will be ambition.” - Rich Mullins

“Knowledge and privilege always brings responsibility.” - Unknown

WELCOME & PRAYER

KICK OFF QUESTIONS

- What is ambition? How is it linked to success?
- What is the difference between healthy and unhealthy ambition?

SCRIPTURES

God created us with skills, abilities, and talents, and he wants us to use those (see, e.g., Parable of the Talents from last fall; Lesson 2-1). But those skills are never intended to be focused on ourselves. To that end, He imbues us with an intrinsic desire to successfully engage those -ambition. Please read the following scriptures about ambition. Also, consider reading the additional suggested scriptures at the end of this Lesson as you prepare:

- Philippians 2:2-4
- Mark 9:33-35

BIG PICTURE

- It is good to have healthy ambitions. Some are work-related. Some are not.
- Healthy ambitions are aligned with God’s purpose for our lives.
- Healthy ambitions are focused on helping and serving others, not ourselves.

PERSONAL AMBITIONS - Exercise and Discussion Questions

Please note, this exercise may take some time of personal reflection. Please reflect on and record your answers to the following questions in advance of the lesson discussion. The answers to these will be the focus of the discussion for Lesson 2-4.

Identify one to three of your current ambitions.





- For each ambition, does it:
 - focus on others or yourself;
 - have a long term or short term;
 - give you a new Platform (place from which to advocate your message);
 - result in more Power (positional authority/influence);
 - have better Pay (salary, benefits, stock); or
 - lead to a new Role (at work, in a new job, or in other places (church)).

- What is(are) the underlying motivation(s) for those ambitions? Are your ambitions about chasing titles or “worldly success”? Or something else? Are your ambitions consistent with Philippians 2:2-4?

- Are your ambitions selfish? Or are they focused on others? How do you know? Would your co-workers agree or disagree? Would your co-workers want you to achieve your ambitions?

- Have you ever prayed about these ambitions? Have you asked God to reveal to you healthy ambitions? Is there something that God is telling you to do that you aren’t doing or don’t want to do (i.e., Jonah)?

- If ambitions reflect your desired identify, what do your ambitions reveal about who God created you to be and who you want to be?

- How do/should you help others achieve their ambitions? Why should you want to help others achieve their ambitions?

WEEKLY APPLICATION

- For one of your ambitions, write down how it seeks to have an impact on the Kingdom of God. Email your response to your Facilitator.
- Next lesson, we turn to understanding how to build a team.

CLOSING PRAYER





SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Philippians 2:2-4

² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- Mark 9:33-35

³³ And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” ³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵ And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Philippians 2:14

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”

- Philippians 4:11

¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

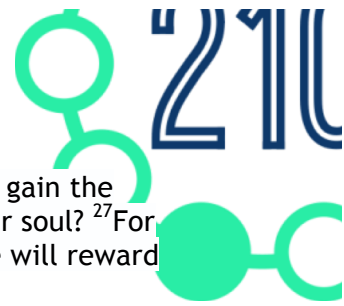
- Mark 10:35-45

³⁵ And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶ And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” ³⁷ And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸ Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” ³⁹ And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” ⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ^[d] ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave ^[e] of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- Matthew 16:24-27

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but





whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

- Proverbs 10:4

“Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.”

- Luke 12:48

When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

- 1 Kings 3:3-9

³ Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father, only he sacrificed and made offerings at the high places. ⁴ And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

OPTIONAL EXERCISE

For each of the following Biblical characters, discuss their ambition and whether their ambitions were healthy or unhealthy.

- Moses (Exodus 3-4)
- David (1 Samuel 24)
- Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1-2)
- Absalom (2 Samuel 13-18)
- James and John (Mark 9)
- Jonah (Entire book of Jonah)
- Gideon (Judges 6 and 7)

