

Faith Driven Entrepreneur Discussion Guide

Chapter 1

1. “You’re created in the image of a creative, entrepreneurial God,” Henry writes (page 7). How does this inform your understanding of your work? Why do you believe you are called to be an entrepreneur?
2. Giving the example of Adam working in the Garden of Eden, the author invites us to view working as part of bearing God’s image, not as a curse. In what way does this change your view of what you do?
3. “Entrepreneurship provides a place where you get to commune with God through the creative process. It provides a way through which you can love God and love others” (page 12). How have you found ways to love God and love others through your business?

Chapter 2

1. Henry contrasts two ways to live: out of an identity based on who we are and what we’ve done versus finding our identity in Christ and living for his glory. How would you describe your identity and purpose?
2. Entrepreneurs experience highs and lows, success and failure. Why does rooting your identity in Christ matter when things are going well in business and when they’re not?
3. How can you bring all that you are and have to God as an entrepreneur as an act of worship? (See Romans 12:1-2.) What would that look like for you? Are there things that need to change in your business practices to make this happen?
4. Jesus calls his followers to love God and love others (see Mark 12:28-31). How are you practically living out these commandments as an entrepreneur? What are the challenges to operating a business that puts love of God and others first?

Chapter 3

1. Chip poses three diagnostic questions to reveal whether you view yourself as an owner or a steward: Where are you spending most of your time and energy? Where are you spending most of your money? Whom do these efforts and expenditures benefit?
2. The “genius of generosity” brings joy to the person who understands that God owns everything and is excited about stewarding God’s resources well. How can you act as a trustworthy steward of the resources God has given you as you partner with him to accomplish his purposes?

Chapter 4

1. “A healthy partnership founded on shared faith and shared mission can be a model for the rest of the employees, partners, vendors, and customers of what it means to work together as a team,” writes Henry (pages 43–44). What examples have you seen of companies that model this kind of healthy partnership well? What makes these partnerships so effective?
2. Henry describes how great partnerships can foster transparency and vulnerability and lead to deep friendships. In your experience, what builds a culture of trust between business partners? What are the pitfalls to avoid? How important is it to have a shared faith and purpose with a business partner?

Chapter 5

1. J. D. warns of the dangers of making your work an idol. From the book of Ecclesiastes, he lists four areas of life in which success leads to disappointment. Which of these four do you identify with, and why?
 - Pleasure ultimately disappoints.
 - Even the best business wisdom sometimes fails.
 - Worldly justice systems eventually fail us.
 - The fruit of our labor crumbles.
2. In Ecclesiastes, Solomon offers four ways to find meaning in life:
 - Realize that you were created for God.
 - Arrange your life around the certainty of judgment.
 - Decide what God wants from you and pursue it.
 - Seek happiness in the present, not the future.

Which of these truths is hardest for you to live by? Ask God to reveal your heart to you and pray about the areas he wants to change.

3. J. D. writes, “The greatest gain God can give you is not more stuff, or a new challenge, or a bigger platform. The greatest gain he can give you is the ability to enjoy what you have” (page 64). What might be robbing you of the ability to enjoy what you have right now?

Chapter 6

1. Henry and his cofounder of Bandwith, David Morken, share four values that shaped their business practices and positively affected the company culture: faith, family, work, and fitness, in that order. What can you do practically to maintain your spiritual health? Would your family members say that they know they are more important than your work? If not,

what can you do to change that?

2. Colossians 3:17 says, “Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” How does this command apply to your work? How can you invite God into the tasks you perform every day as an entrepreneur?
3. Henry tells the story of canceling a lucrative business deal because it turned out to be connected to the adult entertainment industry, which went against his core values. “When we live lives of integrity—keeping our inner principles in line with our outward actions—we are living out the calling God has placed on our lives” (page 79). What hard choices have you had to make to live out your calling as a Faith Driven Entrepreneur?

Chapter 7

1. “Faith Driven Entrepreneurs represent more than just themselves and their businesses—they represent the God they worship” (page 83). How does the quality of your work affect your witness as a Christian? Do you believe that doing excellent work reflects the image of God to an unbelieving world? Why or why not?
2. The author contrasts the emptiness of working hard to serve yourself with the joy of striving for excellence to serve God. When have you experienced emptiness or dissatisfaction in pursuing your own goals as an entrepreneur? When have you found joy in seeking to do great work for the glory of God?
3. How can you strive for excellence without striving for perfection? According to the author, why does this matter?

Chapter 8

1. “God expects us to do the impossible with what we don’t have because that paradigm means we have to trust him,” Chip writes (page 93). When have you had to trust God for the impossible? What impact did that have on your faith and your life?
2. What’s the difference between working *from* God’s approval rather than *for* God’s approval? Why is this important?
3. Chip names four things Jesus modeled that can help us move from willfulness to faithfulness: authentic humility, eternal perspective, abiding attitude, and realistic expectations (from John 13, 14, 15, and 16, respectively). Choose one of these characteristics to focus on and read the accompanying chapter in the Gospel of John. Then pray, asking God to develop that aspect of faithfulness in you.

Chapter 9

1. “For Christians, there’s a big misconception that being an example of Christ to others

means having it all together and being happy all the time,” Henry writes (page 108). Do you tend to act like everything is going well when in fact you are struggling? What is one step you could take to be more honest with people in your workplace about the hard things in your life?

2. How does being honest about our brokenness invite others to come to Christ? When has someone’s transparency drawn you closer to God?

Chapter 10

1. “The what of your business is less important than the why. And the why is so that God would be glorified in all of it” (page 118). Have you articulated the why of your business in your mission statement? What Scriptures relate to your purpose (such as Proverbs 16:3; Matthew 6:33)? Spend some time thinking about why you do what you do, and put it in writing.
2. The author quotes 1 Peter 3:15: “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” How can you prepare yourself to share with others what Christ has done in your life? How can you show gentleness and respect in these conversations?
3. When someone shares a struggle or worry with you, Henry suggests asking right then, “Is it all right if I pray for you?” and praying for them in that moment. Who in your life is struggling and could use the encouragement of your prayers? Pray for that person and ask God for opportunities also to pray with that person.

Chapter 11

1. What opportunities to advance the great commission do you have as an entrepreneur that a pastor or missionary does not have? How can your faith-driven entrepreneurship be leveraged for sharing the gospel and making disciples?
2. J. D. writes, “Imagine if your Christian employees took their overseas positions with a primary identity as ‘disciple-making disciples,’ responsible to leverage whatever opportunities they have for gospel impact” (page 130). Spend some time dreaming about how God could use your business for world mission and pray for God to open doors. Whom could you talk to about your dreams?

Afterword

1. Pastors and entrepreneurs share a lot of the same drives and struggles, says pastor Chip Ingram. Two potential flaws he sees for both are loss of perspective and loss of self. Reflect on Matthew 6:19-24. How does this passage shape your perspective of God, yourself, and others?

2. “It is possible to be so wrapped up in what we are doing that we lose the things that matter most,” Chip writes. “At the end of the day, the questions we need to answer are, *What are my motives? What’s my view of God? Who am I trying to impress? Who am I am becoming?*” (pages 142–143). Prayerfully consider these questions, asking God to reveal your heart to you and bring about change as you walk with him one step at a time.