

# High-Impact Life Discussion Questions

## Chapter 1: Three Hundred Men and Me: Finding Your Calling

1. How might you answer a few of the questions I pose to my clients: *What makes you jump out of bed in the morning? What keeps you up late at night? Or If money were not an issue, what would you like to do for the rest of your life?* What might the answers to these questions reveal about your passions?
2. Reread Jeremiah 29:11. Do you believe that God has a plan for your life? If so, how does that belief give you an increased sense of meaning or purpose?
3. What are some gifts, talents, or passions others have noticed in you? Ask a few trusted friends, family members, or coworkers what strengths they see in you and how they think you might be able to use them to serve others. If they had to guess at your calling, what would it be?
4. One key question for all of us is this: *Who do I want to become?* Take a few minutes to consider your answer, and jot down the words that come to mind. What's one step you could take today toward becoming the person you want to be?

## Chapter 2: Go for Broke: Get Ready to Make Some Sacrifices

1. What sacrifices have you had to make for a job, a dream, or a relationship? Which of these were the hardest for you, and which were the easiest? How could thinking, *I get to do this* rather than *I have to do this* change the way you think about hard work and sacrifice?
2. Do you agree with the statement "Quitting won't make your life any easier"? What helps you persevere when you're tempted to quit? How can we gain perspective when we feel like quitting something that's important to us?
3. Esther knew that she had become queen not for her own personal benefit or comfort but to help her people. How did this knowledge enable her to act sacrificially? If we understand our own callings as opportunities for service, how might we be encouraged to give up some things for the greater purpose we were born to fulfill?
4. As you continue to consider what your calling might be, what are a few goals that could help you take another step toward that calling? Write these down, along with a list of reasons these goals are important to you, and reread them when you feel discouraged and wonder whether your effort is worth it.

## Chapter 3: Everyone's a Critic: Surround Yourself with Wise Counsel

1. How do you react to my story about being confronted by an agent who assumed he knew what was best for me and my career? If you've had an experience when someone gave you advice

that conflicted with what you felt you should be doing, how did you respond? How has positive advice impacted your life?

2. How can we determine whether the advice we're getting is good or bad? What are some qualities we should look for in our "counselors"? What are some ways we can seek counsel from God?
3. What can we learn from the life of Samson? How did he succeed and fail in his calling as a leader of Israel? What role did wise counsel (or the lack of it) play in his life?
4. Who are a few people in your life right now that you could consider "counselors"? They might be family members, friends, mentors, or coworkers. Tell them about your journey to try to discover your calling, and ask them if they are willing to talk with you and give insight into some decisions you are considering.

#### **Chapter 4: Nothing Is Wasted: Make the Most of Every Opportunity**

1. What was a time you were asked to do a task that you weren't good at or that didn't seem worthwhile? Even if you didn't think you learned from it at the time, can you look back now and see some ways you benefited from the experience?
2. If we believe that God is using circumstances in our lives to help us grow, is it valid to consider any task "beneath us"? How can we be patient and receptive when we feel that what we're doing isn't getting us any closer to fulfilling our callings?
3. What does it mean to you that with God in charge of our lives, nothing is wasted? How can God use our setbacks to shape us? How do the stories of Joseph and David encourage you as you think about this concept?
4. What's one less-than-ideal situation in your life right now where you can challenge yourself to work hard and learn? Write down some skills or abilities you might be able to develop through this experience, and consider how they could fit in with what you think God is calling you to do. How could a better attitude help you view this challenge as an opportunity?

#### **Chapter 5: The Gift of Failure: Learn from Your Mistakes**

1. As you look back over your life, what are some lessons that you wouldn't have learned without an experience of failure? How did failure serve as a catalyst to help you learn and change?
2. In the story about my "problem" client, I talk about the need both to do your homework and to trust your gut. Do these approaches seem contradictory to you? How can they work together? How might doing your homework—putting in the time to research and learn what you need to—help you confirm what your gut is telling you?
3. How does Peter's story—which includes both big failures and big successes—encourage you

as you look at your own less-than-perfect life? How can Jesus' response to Peter reassure us when we are hung up on our own failures?

4. How do you typically react to failure—as something to fear and avoid, or as something that's a necessary part of life? What might it look like for you to own your mistakes and see them as learning opportunities? As you look toward new challenges ahead, write down a few ideas for how reframing your view of failure can help you grow.

### **Chapter 6: Fight in Your Own Armor: Making the Most of the Gifts God Has Given You**

1. What are some characteristics that make you *you*? These could be personality traits, values, areas of interest, or life experiences. How do these things affect your approach to life in general and to your calling more specifically?
2. Reflect on Romans 12:6-8. Why do you think God gave different gifts to different people? How are our families, jobs, or communities strengthened by these varied strengths and approaches?
3. In what areas are you tempted to fight in someone else's armor by doing something the way you feel you're "supposed" to rather than the way that feels right for you? Conversely, can you identify any times in your life when you realized that your unique approach to a given task was particularly effective? How can an experience like that affirm who God has made you to be?
4. How do you think God has equipped you for what He is calling you to do? How can you "fight in your own armor" with some of the challenges you're facing right now? Take a moment to think about what aspects of your past experiences, personality, or talents might have prepared you for what's ahead.

### **Chapter 7: Don't Be Afraid: Choosing Faith over Fear**

1. How do fears—of failure, of inadequacy, or of injury—affect your daily life? How could choosing to take action help you move forward in courage?
2. How do you think Moses was able to change into the dynamic leader who later led his people out of Egypt? How can his story encourage you as you face your own fears about living with purpose?
3. When we let our fears talk us out of pursuing our callings, other people can suffer. Can you think of an example from your life when you might have missed out on having a positive influence on someone else because you were afraid? How might it be easier to think about facing your fears for the sake of others rather than for your own sake?
4. What role does faith play in your life? How can you build your faith? Look again at my four suggestions on pages 143–145 and think about which ones you might be able to implement.

What additional ideas do you have?

### **Chapter 8: You Are More Than What You Do: Knowing Who You Are**

1. Can you relate to my struggle to keep up a perfect facade and earn approval? How can it be freeing to admit our flaws to God? What do you think it means to surrender to God?
2. How do the stories of Moses, David, Ruth, the disciples, Mary, Esther, Paul, or my clients Alex and Justin remind you that you are more than your job? How do these stories inspire you as you seek your own bigger purpose?
3. When you look around you, where do you see God working in your community, church, or job? How could this intersect with your own passions and abilities? Where could you get involved in the meaningful things He's doing?
4. Take a minute to dream big. What kind of legacy would you like to leave? How would you like people to remember you? How can you let your light shine? Write down your thoughts and reread them when you need encouragement and inspiration.

### **Chapter 9: Just Trust God: Finding His Purpose for Your Life**

1. Why do you think the Christians in Haiti were able to surrender themselves to God and trust Him when they had so little? How can it be freeing to put ourselves in God's hands rather than striving to control our lives on our own?
2. In John 15:5, Jesus says, "Apart from me you can do nothing." Have you seen this play out in your own life? If so, how? What do you think it means to rely on Jesus?
3. If you haven't made a commitment to God, is that something you would consider? What might be holding you back? Think of someone you could talk to who might be able to encourage you. If you are following God's path, what difference has that made in your life? Are there more areas you need to surrender to Him?
4. What are some ways you can find fulfillment through being a part of God's bigger purpose? List a few things you think God might be calling you to do that can have a positive impact on the world.

### **Chapter 10: Thank You for Being Ready: Stepping Out in Faith**

1. As you come to the end of this book, jot down two or three points that have stuck out to you. What is one you want to put into practice today?
2. What do you think is the most substantial barrier getting in the way of you fulfilling your calling? It could be fear, lack of commitment, lacking the right direction, trying too hard to be perfect on your own, being discouraged by failure, or something else. What practical steps

could you take to overcome this?

3. What are some of your most significant experiences, abilities, personality traits, or passions? How do you think God might be able to fit these together into a deeper purpose? How can you be ready for whatever God has in store for you?
4. In a journal, write down what you think God might be calling you to do. This doesn't have to be your final answer! It's okay if your idea of your calling changes over time. Be bold and move forward today.