

# Introductory

## Session 1



# Introductory

## Session 1

### Objective and Perspective

#### The Journey to the Inner Chamber—Part One

*Many believers stay in their misery rather than trying to find answers from God's Word and letting it change their lives. They stagnate in their spiritual growth because they hold onto their own way of doing things or their own strategy for living. They try to deal with a trial like it was an enemy and attempt to eradicate it by any means, even if it means sin is required. They fail to look inward and upward and ask what God might want to teach them through the trial. Jesus said the fruitful believer would be pruned to bear even more fruit. Pruning hurts but it leads to more blessings and to the ultimate good of the believer. God's Word also says the child of God will be disciplined for his own good in order for him to give up a particular sinful condition he is holding onto. In both cases, pruning or discipline is necessary, for they lead to the fruit of transformation or the fruit of repentance. Both fruits are good. But how sad it is when the believer stops his growth and lives in the misery that stagnation brings to his life.*

Messenger in *The Journey to the Inner Chamber*

#### **Objective**

- To help your recruits understand the dynamics of true spiritual growth and the contribution to God's work that can be made by a person who is truly abiding in Christ.
- To look for and discover the hidden biblical truths in *The Journey to the Inner Chamber* and discuss them.
- To self-examine and evaluate where each man is in his spiritual journey.

#### **Perspective**

**Summary:** Christian men have become under-challenged, under-utilized and spiritually anemic. The reasons for this stagnant, impotent state can be corrected. However, if we do not move toward life change in this area, our families and our own life will be in danger. Casual Christianity leads to casualty.

**Insight:** What is the story's purpose in *The Journey*, and what do we hope to accomplish by using it? First, we are trying to convey to the recruits an understanding of the condition of mankind, the enemy that we face every day, the deceptions that our enemy places before mankind, and the decision that we must make in accepting God's rescue. We also want to convey the need for spiritual growth after our decision to trust Christ and the joyful responsibility we have in joining our King in His rescue mission to mankind. The story presents these aspects of the "Good News." But it is presented in an allegory so that it will convey these truths creatively and help the reader discover them.

The story also presents a message about spiritual growth. We believe that one of the major problems within the body of Christ today is spiritual anemia. We are anemic because of several reasons. Consider the following reasons.

- Our intake of God's word is sporadic. Most of what we know about God and the many things that this would include is second or third hand information.
- Our concept of God is often shaped by other people's opinion, such as what we read from commentaries on Scripture or what we hear preached or what we pick up from television or radio. Therefore, we often have a skewed view, and in many cases, an incorrect view of God.
- We have become dependant on being "fed" by someone else, rather than becoming a "self-feeder." As long as we need others to spoon-feed us God's Word, or we are unwilling to personally dig in and find our own answers to many of life's challenges, we will not grow to a spiritual maturity that can serve others. The perspective conveyed in *The Journey* is that it is not an either/or situation. We believe that God conveys wisdom through gifted speakers and writers along with wisdom found directly from His Word. However, we believe that a diet that is limited to a speaker or teacher alone keeps a believer spiritually anemic. We believe that learning to become a self-feeder is essential for deeper spiritual growth and for becoming the Influencers that Christ would have us be.
- We don't know how to hunt for the treasure in God's Word. We have become so conditioned to our Christian culture and routine that we don't know where to start or how to find answers for ourselves. In *The Journey to the Inner Chamber* several truths about spiritual growth are conveyed, including the initial step in trusting Christ with our souls. Next we see the necessity of mentors, who follow up a young believer's decision by getting him grounded in God's Word and feeding him with it. However, it doesn't stop here, which is the case with the conveyance of God's Word to many if not most believers. Rather we see Mentor strategically move the young believer, Learner, to his own plan and method of discovering truth from God's Word that goes beyond the feeding that Mentor was giving to him. In the story we also see presented God's design for the church, as He has given to us gifted men and women that work in a coordinated fashion for the purpose of building up the believer.
- We don't understand our true goal as Christians. Jesus said that if we abide in Him we will bear much fruit. Unfortunately, many believers put the emphasis on fruit bearing rather than abiding. As a result, we are unable to join Him in His mission. Because an abiding relationship with Jesus is waiting, our spiritual gifts are not yet enabled. In the story we see the goal of spiritual growth, which is a deepening intimacy with Christ. In the story, our journey's objective is the Feast in the Inner Chamber. The Feast is the Lord God Himself, as we abide in His presence. It is in this Inner Chamber (His presence) we are prepared for the spiritual warfare we will face and where our spiritual gifts are enabled. Once our gifts are enabled, we become dangerous warriors for our King. We become Influencers and are released to impact the harvest found in the Refugee Camps in our world around us.

*The Journey to the Inner Chamber* Part 1 is a creative story for conveying truth—biblical truth. We want your recruits to discover these truths in the story and to discuss them with each other in Session #1. It makes for some interesting discussions and it also helps the participant know where his starting point is in his journey to intimacy with Christ.

If someone were to ask you, “What is *The Journey* all about?,” you can tell them to read the story. It will tell them where you are headed as a group and what your objectives are. The story is sound in theology, but it is cloaked in a format that tends to create an epiphany for the reader. The story is not included in *The Journey* simply to entertain. You will be directing the recruit’s attention to the theology the story is portraying. In this session you will also be discussing the conditions and the spiritual adversaries the Bible points out that mankind has to face. Additionally you will be pointing out the gospel story and the essentials of spiritual growth.

Try to allow this time to be a time of discovery and enlightenment for the recruits. Create an environment that allows the recruits to ask questions and share their own discoveries from the story. It is hoped that they will sense the sound theology expressed and will be able to evaluate their own position at The Banquet Table.

You will likely find that most people agree that they have stopped growing for they are still in the baby food section and have not become self-feeders. If a man concludes this about himself and can see the serious results that may occur in his life, you will likely find a motivated participant who will want to move forward in his spiritual growth. You will also find one who is willing to put forth the effort required for moving toward intimacy with Christ.

We do not want to give the impression that *The Journey* is the only way to grow in intimacy with Christ. However, we do want to make it clear that this is our objective and the journey we are on. You can call it a road map or stepping stones. Every session points to our destination, which is a deeper intimacy with Christ.

# Introductory

## Session 1

### The Journey to the Inner Chamber

#### **Welcome your group**

**Guide Insight:** Convey in your own words that you have asked to meet with them today so that you can introduce a process of discovery that has been developed specifically for Christian men in the marketplace. Tell them the purpose of this and the next meeting is to allow them to review a book that will offer them insight as to what our heart beat is as a ministry and what we feel is needed to help men become the men God wants them to become. Before getting into the book review, introductions are necessary. Spend a brief period getting to know each other by sharing names, family make up, and what they do for a profession. Start with yourself. Also get database information on your group by having them complete a sign-up sheet that includes names, phone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses.

#### **Objective**

- To help your recruits understand the dynamics of true spiritual growth and the contribution to God's work that can be made by a person who is truly abiding in Christ.
- To look for and discover the hidden biblical truths in *The Journey to the Inner Chamber* and discuss them.
- To self-examine and evaluate where each man is in his spiritual journey.

#### **Group Discovery Time**

**Guide Insight:** It is very important for your recruits to understand the Scriptural and theological basis for *The Journey to the Inner Chamber*. The following questions are provided to stimulate your discussion. All the questions in Part 1 do not have to be discussed. Rather, they are provided mainly for your insight and preparation. It is all right that your discussion be open even somewhat random, not following a certain order. However, we recommend keeping your discussion centered in Part 1 before discussing Part 2 of the story. When a certain discussion point comes up, make sure you do not leave that point without looking at the theology. These questions and Scripture references can help.

**Q:** What did you see the theme of the story to be, and what was your impression?

**Tip:** It is a mystical journey that parallels the inner condition of the world and the spiritual growth of a particular believer, starting from his conversion, to becoming a powerful influencer for Christ.

**Q:** Talk about Part 1 first. Who were the main characters in Part 1 and what did they represent?

**Tip:** Refugee/Learner, Messenger, Influencer, Mentor, God.

**Q:** What were the different places in Part 1 that come to your mind?

**Guide Insight:** Discuss some of the places or reference points mentioned in the story. Let your group have a good time with this as they help each other recall the places in the story. Make sure the following places and points are discussed and the Scripture references read to your group.

**Q:** The Refugee Camp. Do you agree that this is the inner condition of the world?

**Tip:** The spiritual condition of the world. See Scripture reference: Romans 8: 19-23.

**Q:** The hideous creatures. Do you agree that there is active spiritual warfare going on, most often without us knowing that it is going on?

**Tip:** Demons: Army of Satan. See Scripture reference: Ephesians 6: 10-12.

**Q:** The Great Deceiver. What do you think Satan's greatest tactic is? Deception?

**Tip:** Ask them to brainstorm some ways he deceives the world. A key thought could be to identify some sample counterfeits that Satan uses to distract us and to confuse us. This could include issues such as an over-pursuit of wealth, accomplishments, security, applause from man, etc. See Scripture references: Revelation 12:9 and Revelation 20:3.

**Q:** The Appetizer Table. Talk about religions. Don't you think that this is one of Satan's greatest deceptions today?

**Tip:** Religions—Man seeking to appease or please God, rather than God drawing man into a trusting relationship with Him. Various false enlightenments that the Great Deceiver has placed in the world to distract us from the true course to God. See Scripture references: Isaiah 29:13, Deuteronomy 12: 29-32.

**Q:** The Bridge. How does this point of emphasis in the story picture your understanding of what needs to be done in order to become a child of God?

**Tip:** Must receive God's only provision for entering His kingdom and joining His family, which comes through Jesus Christ alone. See Scripture references: John 14:6, John 10:9 and Romans 5: 1-2.

**Q:** The Table of Sweets. How does this relate to your own faith history and your observations of other Christians?

**Tip:** Shallow Doctrine. It is a weak, diluted theology that attempts to appease the "babes in Christ" rather than teach them truth. By keeping them dependent on sweets they are prevented from moving on to good spiritual nutrition. By only listening and following a comfortable message, they are remaining weak and susceptible to spiritual sickness. See Scripture reference: Jeremiah 26: 2-3.

**Q:** The Banquet Table and the different foods that are on it. What does this food represent?

**Tip:** The Banquet Table Food represents the undiluted Word of God, compared to the Table of Sweets which waters down and sweetens the message in order to not offend.

**Q:** The food progression. What does the progression of the foods on the Banquet Table seem to represent?

**Tip:** An increasing intake of the spiritual insight found in Scripture. The progression represents maturity in the growth and understanding of Scripture as we apply God's precepts to our lives. The progression represents maturing from needing to be spoon fed to becoming a self feeder. See Scripture reference: 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

**Q:** Mentor. What or who does Mentor represent?

**Tip:** The mentor in the story represents the men and women God has provided, because of their special giftedness and calling, to teach and model what it means to have an authentic, maturing relationship with Christ. They are also able to explain Scripture in such a way that it helps God's child to grow in his faith and maturity. See Scripture references: Ephesians 4:7-16 and 1 Corinthians 3:1-2.

**Q:** Self-feeding. Discuss this particular goal for Mentor and Learner. What does this represent?

**Guide Insight:** Self-feeding represents a spiritual process, in that God's child is able to find truth in God's Word as the Holy Spirit speaks to him and teaches him. When he becomes a self-feeder he is able to help someone else grow by assisting them to their own maturity. It also represents a consistent intake of God's Word in a private, contemplative setting, such as an interactive quiet time with God. Mentor's goal is to assist God's child to the goal of becoming a self-feeder.

**Q:** The Inner Chamber. What does the Inner Chamber represent in the story?

**Tip:** The Inner Chamber represents an abiding intimacy with Christ. The spiritual progression that Learner had been experiencing at the Banquet Table had in fact been leading him to a deeper intimacy with Christ. See Scripture references: Revelation 3:20 and John 15.

**Q:** The words Personal Abandonment and Absolute Trust are written over the door to the Inner Chamber. Why do you think they were there and what do they mean?

**Guide Insight:** Throughout the Bible God has emphasized our need to trust Him and to put nothing before Him. Vital to a deeper intimacy with Him is the *abandonment* of our own rights to ourselves and our allowing Him to have complete Lordship of our life, as we trust His leadership. *As long as we try to remain in control of our lives and demand our personal rights for ourselves over His authority over us, we cannot go deeper.* For this reason Personal Abandonment and Absolute Trust are required for entering The Inner Chamber (deeper intimacy with Christ). See Scriptural reference: Matthew 19:21.

**Q:** What was the result of Learner partaking of the Feast in the Inner Chamber?

**Guide Insight:** Learner was able to become an Influencer. He was equipped with the weapons of spiritual warfare and was able to grow in strength and wisdom for using those spiritual weapons. We don't know at this point what went on behind the door to the Inner Chamber. We can only see the results. Our time with Christ, in such an intimate encounter, is not to be observed but rather experienced. For this reason it is left to our own personal perspective as to what our experience with Christ in the Inner Chamber is like. We don't know our needs that He will address or the hidden things in our life that He will deal with in our abiding with Him. We only know that our time with Him in the Inner Chamber will yield the fruit of a transformed life, and this transformed life will become a powerful witness for Him.

**Q:** What was the storyteller's reaction once he understood that it was God's desire that he become an Influencer and that he could not become one if he remained where he was on the Banquet Table?

**Tip:** He was both excited about what he could become and disappointed in that he had stopped his spiritual growth because of his spiritual laziness. He had also been frightened when he realized the dire impact it could have on his loved ones if he were to remain in his present condition.

**Q:** Personal Application: How do you identify with the storyteller? Can you identify where your spiritual stopping and beginning point is, as you relate it to the story?

**Guide Insight:** Most people, once they read the story and apply it to their own life, realize the point where they are. Most are not self-feeders and have thereby greatly reduced their rate of progression. In fact, many say they are still in the baby food section. This is very helpful for them to realize this, for the story points out what must be done to break out of their rut and gives encouragement to them by showing that they do not have to remain in their current condition. It also gives them a road map to the intimacy with Christ that they hunger for.

**Q:** Can you also see that spiritual immaturity is a problem that exists throughout the body of Christ? Why do you think this condition exists?

**Guide Insight:** This needs to be their own observation if they are to believe this is a common problem in the body of Christ. Cultural Christianity has been a detriment to real conversion and spiritual growth since the persecutions have ended and it has become safe and popular to be identified as a Christian. For this reason, status quo Christianity has found a toe-hold in many churches and lives, as we have stayed comfortable because "everyone else is doing it and it's the way I was raised." How many of God's children are really experiencing the joy of intimacy with Him and their significance in finding His purpose for their life? How sad it must make our Father that His children stand away from Him when He has opened the door to His arms for us to run into them. Therefore, this discussion needs to really sink in and find personal application in your group.

## ***Personal Testimony***

**Guide Insight:** It has been said that experience trumps theory every time. There is no greater persuasion than a changed life, especially if that life is demonstrating the difference Christ has made in it. First, if you have been through a *The Journey* and it has impacted your life, this is the time for conveying to your group what it has meant to you, and why you are forming a new *Journey* group. If you have not been through *The Journey*, try to invite someone who has been through *The Journey* to join you and share this personal story and how *The Journey* impacted him. If neither of these are possibilities for you, then simply share your heart and desire for a deeper walk with Christ and your desire to form a group whose purpose it is to go on a vertical journey to intimacy with Christ.

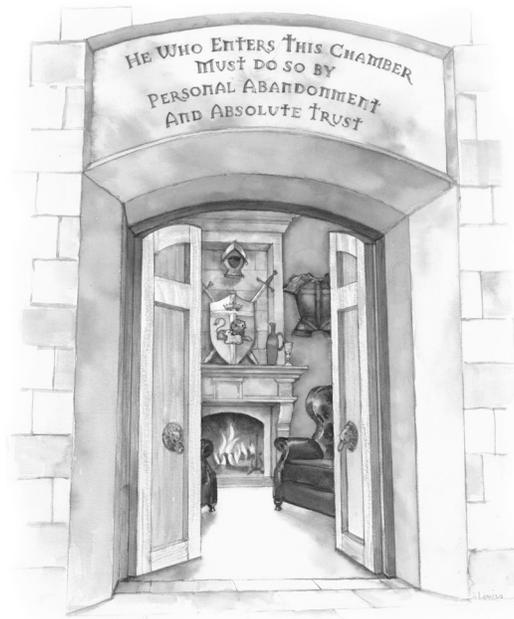
## ***Closing comments and prayer***

**Guide Insight:** Encourage your group for of their attendance and discussion. Remind them to read Part 2 of the story, if they have not already done so, and the time and place of your next meeting. Ask for any closing questions and close with prayer.



# Introductory

## Session 2



# Introductory

## Session 2

### Objective and Perspective

#### The Journey to the Inner Chamber—Part 2

##### **Objective**

- To continue the discovery process begun in Part 1 by presenting a life model of what a real Influencer looks like. It is our attempt to put before your group a character that proves to be salt and light to his world, despite the fact he appears not to be a man of influence as the world defines it.
- To express the point that through abiding in Christ, we will bear fruit in a supernatural manner and our influence is not contained by our earthly limitations. The story conveys this message.

##### **Perspective**

**Summary:** To create interest, discussion and a sense of hope that every man in the group can also be a powerful influence in his world around him, *if he follows Gabe's Principles of Influence.*

**Insight:** In order to establish a better understanding of the connection between *abiding in Christ* and *influencing for Christ*, we will use Part 2 of *The Journey to the Inner Chamber* to create discussion and personal application. Part 1 of the story was an allegory of truth that was designed to challenge status quo and present a path for spiritual growth to intimacy with Christ. Hopefully it provided interest and understanding. Part 2 puts flesh and bones on the principles you have been discussing.

The story is again challenging the status quo of the perceived principles of influence, as it presents a humble man who has a dynamic influence to his world around him and eventually to the world beyond his immediate touch. This man seemingly has no credentials or an obvious worldly setup that would predict influence. He would not be regarded as an influential person by the world's standard. This status quo thinking/philosophy is challenged by the story.

The story also continues the journey of the unnamed storyteller, as he struggles with the issue of moving forward into the Inner Chamber. The two characters are blended into a divine appointment as they see God bring them together for finding answers and conveying the truth from the experienced life of Gabe.

Use this meeting for discussing those principles presented in Part 1 and lived out in Part 2. Let your participants linger with their thoughts and interpretation of the story and the principles. This will be a relaxed time in building the necessary foundation of their understanding for where you will be headed as a group.

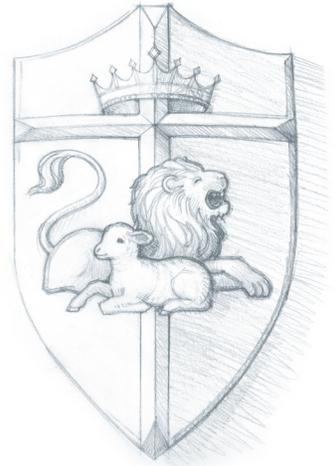
# Introductory

## Session 2

### The Journey to the Inner Chamber—Part 2

#### Welcome Time

**Guide Insight:** Develop your own style of opening each session. Use the first few minutes to give the men the opportunity to learn about and get to know each other. Early in *The Journey* this may come mostly from them sharing about their families and jobs. As the group begins to mature, encourage the men to share their concerns and prayer requests. As the men become more comfortable in the group, encourage them to share special “nuggets” of truth from their journals. Always work to establish the group as a safe place where the men can trust each other, as this will lead to a willingness to share more openly and honestly with each other. You should lead in being open and honest. Periodically remind the group that what is shared in the meeting is confidential. Always finish this time with prayer. Early in *The Journey* you may be the only one who prays, but as *The Journey* progresses invite the men to join in the prayer time.



#### Objective

- To continue the discovery process begun in Part 1 by presenting a life model of what a real Influencer looks like. It is our attempt to put before your group a character that proves to be salt and light to his world, despite the fact he appears not to be a man of influence as the world defines it.
- To express the point that through abiding in Christ, we will bear fruit in a supernatural manner and our influence is not contained by our earthly limitations. The story conveys this message.

Worship is giving  
God the best that  
He has given you.

OSWALD CHAMBERS

#### Group Discovery Time

- Read the following quote from Oswald Chambers in *My Utmost for His Highest*.  
*Worship is giving God the best that He has given you. Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift. Take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship. If you hoard it for yourself, it will turn into spiritual dry rot, as the manna did when it was hoarded. God will never allow you to keep a spiritual blessing completely for yourself. It must be given back to Him so that He can make it a blessing to others.*

**Guide Insight:** In your last meeting together, you read an allegory that related biblical truth about our journey to intimacy with Christ. In that story you observed Learner enter the Inner Chamber and eventually emerge as a powerful and well-armed warrior. Turn your group's attention to the results that come from the Inner Chamber and discuss why God would dispatch a man back to the Refugee Camp (the world).

**Q.** Ask if they would agree that Oswald Chambers is making a case in his statement above that we cannot be content with remaining in a spiritual condition that does not reach out or convey the heart of our King?

## ***Discuss Part 2 of The Journey To The Inner Chamber.***

**Guide Insight:** In Part 1 it was all right to allow a somewhat random discussion, but Part 2 needs to be more specific. For this reason, we recommend the following questions be discussed by your group.

**Q:** There are several key characters in the story and some necessary steps for entering into a deeper intimacy with Christ. In Part 1 this intimacy was described as The Inner Chamber. Let's now talk about the real life drama and characters in Part 2 of the story. Who are the main characters in Part 2?

**Tip:** The storyteller, Gabe, the pastor and the angry neighbor.

**Q:** Let's get a description of Gabe. How would you describe this man in the story?

**Tip:** A common, humble man without much in the way of material belongings or worldly influence. A character that would be the least likely to be seen as a person who would impact his world around him.

**Q:** Why would you say that Gabe was influential? Allow a good discussion on this point.

Help your group understand a definition for influence that best describes Gabe. Read the following definition of the word influence.

1. The effect of something on a person, thing, or event.
2. The power that somebody has to affect other people's thinking or actions by means of argument, example, or force of personality.
3. The power or authority that comes from wealth, social status, or position.
4. Somebody or something able to affect the course of events or somebody's thinking or action.

**Q:** If you think Gabe was influential, which of these definitions best describe Gabe's influence?

**Tip:** Definitions #1, #2 and #4.

**Q.** Why would definition #3 not fit Gabe?

**Tip:** He didn't draw his ability to influence based on wealth, social status, or position.

**Q.** What definition do you think best describes the word influence as far as the world is concerned?

**Tip:** #3

**Q.** Based on the # 3 definition, would Jesus have qualified as influential?

**Q:** Even though He did not have the qualifications listed in definition #3, did it limit Jesus' ability to influence? Discuss why or why not.

**Q:** Did it limit Gabe? Discuss why or why not.

**Q:** Was it Gabe's ambition to be influential?

**Q:** Do you think Gabe's supernatural ability to influence as he did would have been hurt or limited if it had been his personal ambition to be influential?

**Guide Insight:** You are attempting to lead your group to understand the difference between a man's ability to influence with his personality or human abilities or earthly assets verses the incredible influence that can be made as we become instruments for God to flow His influence through us. Most often a personal ambition is for a selfish, ego reason; personal ambitions actually become hindrances. But a simple desire to bring glory to the King will produce a godly influence that allows His work to flourish through our lives.

**Q:** What do you think Gabe's primary pursuit in life was?

**Tip:** To pursue God and live his life out faithfully to His glory.

**Q:** Would this pursuit have made him an influential person? If so, why and how?

**Guide Insight:** You are now attempting to transfer the revelation that the kind of influence or witness that will impact our world in a supernatural way is found only when Christ Himself is able to influence through us. To make it our ambition to seek Christ and to be faithful to walk with Him daily with an unobstructed fellowship will allow Christ to express Himself through us. This dynamic relationship and its fruit were evidenced in the life of the humble Gabe. He would not have been recognized by the world as a man of influence. But in the end, Christ's influence through him was revealed and it reached out across the world.

**Q:** The phrase servant leadership was used to describe a form of Gabe's influence. How would you describe servant leadership based on Gabe's method?

**Guide Insight:** To lead by serving someone at his or her point of need. To model this role and to establish authenticity and moral authority, thus enabling the ability to influence with Christ's love and His precepts.

**Q:** Why would servant leadership be a fair description of Christ's leadership?

**Q:** Why would servant leadership be a fair description of the kind of biblical leadership Jesus instructs us to use?

**Q:** Now let's bring it home. Is it a real possibility that God can use a man in an obscure environment, such as a secular job, to do a great work for Him? Could this really be true that we could impact our world around us like Gabe did?

**Guide Insight:** The above discussion questions about Gabe have laid a foundation for making a personal application. It is important at this point for your group to understand that our ability to influence our world around us to Christ does not come from title or prestige. It is not as a result of eloquence or education. It is directly dependent on the health of our abiding relationship with Christ and His strategic placement of our lives where He would have us serve. In the world's view, or even our view of ourselves, we may think that nothing good could come from our circumstances. However, abiding in Christ breaks through any limitations and produces fruit wherever He places us. It is important to our King that we impact the world marketplace with an authentic example that Christ makes a difference in our life. Our strategic placement is God's choice for where we best fit to provide the ministry of influence.

**Q:** What are some examples of attitudes and limitations God would have to overcome in our lives to make us men of influence like Gabe?

**Guide Insight:** The following information lays the foundation for *The Journey*. We are attempting to tie the story and the principal truths together and present a priority of influence to your group and how that influence comes about. The following information should help you make this transition.

**Q:** Let's turn our attention to Gabe's Principles of Influence that we see mentioned at Gabe's funeral. Look at page 105 in the book.

Principle 1—Be A God Seeker

Principle 2—Be A God Abider

Principle 3—Live It Out (Embrace My World With a Sacred Responsibility)

**Q:** How would you describe these principles if you were to be asked what they mean?

**Tip:** Priority of influence.

### **Wrap-up**

Read the following quote from Oswald Chambers: *When I have really transacted business with God on the basis of His covenant, letting everything else go, there is no sense of personal accomplishment—no human ingredient in it at all. Instead there is a complete overwhelming sense of being brought into union with God, and my life is transformed and it radiates peace and joy.*

**Q:** What would cause you to conclude that Gabe had come to live a life that radiated peace and joy?

**Q:** Does it seem that it was this peace and joy that was most attractive to those people God brought into his world?

**Q:** Godly influence seemed to radiate from Gabe to his world around him. How was his own private, intimate, abiding walk with Christ foundational to Gabe's influence?

## ***Personal Application***

**Guide Insight:** Be sure to leave time to ask these critical questions as they set the path of *The Journey*.

Ask your group to apply Part 1 and Part 2 of the story to their lives and answer the following questions in their privacy of their hearts. Ask the questions slowly giving time to think between each question.

**Q:** Where do you see yourself on the banquet table? Have you become a self-feeder, and are you growing closer to the Inner Chamber because of an abiding intimacy with Christ?

**Q:** To what extent does your life reflect the peace and joy of Gabe, and is it influencing your world around you to Christ?

**Q:** Are you willing to do something about your concerns and to start in earnest your journey to intimacy with Christ? If so, we are about to gather a group of men to take this journey and we would like you to go with us.

## ***Invitation to join your Journey group***

**Guide Insight:** In your own words state the following invitation and logistical information.

The new *Journey* group that we are starting and you will embark on, if you choose to take it with us, will be exploring more deeply these principles of Gabe. We call these segments Enlightened, Enabled, and Expressing.

Some of you are ready to commit and some are still in the consideration stage. We ask all of you to prayerfully consider the time needed to give yourself to this spiritual adventure, for when we start our journey together we want to make sure we all complete it together. So go home, talk it over with your wife or a friend. Pray over it.

Discuss with the group the desired day, time and place the group will meet. Make sure you schedule the first session out far enough to allow each participant time to order his participant resources.

- **Thank your recruits for being part of the introductory sessions and pray for them and their decision to take *The Journey*.**
- **Close with prayer.**