

Welcome to Week 3 of Better!

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Take the time to go around the room and allow people to answer the first question. As you listen, you may point out that most people don't pick famous leaders as their biggest influence. It is usually people who invested in their lives that are recognized as leaders. Leadership is influence.

Paul was a mentor to Timothy. He believed in him and encouraged him to strive to become better. **2 Timothy 1:1-7** points out that Timothy had influences before Paul, who laid the groundwork for Timothy's future ministry. In the second passage, **1 Timothy 4:6-14**, Paul encourages Timothy to see that **he is not disqualified** from his ministry because of his age. He then challenges Timothy to **learn and grow in order to overcome** and to set an example. Paul especially emphasizes the importance of Timothy honing his gift. Neglecting to develop his leadership gift would have negative consequences, not just for Timothy, but for the believers Timothy led.

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

Many people will say that they do not have the gift of leadership—and that may be true. But this doesn't mean that they cannot lead! The gift of leadership may give some a head start, but anyone who has a heart to learn can become a better leader.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 gives us another biblical perspective on getting better. Here, Paul challenges the church to see that it must train because of the eternal consequences that our lives impact. If athletes can train and discipline their bodies in order to win a crown, then surely believers will train and discipline themselves in order to build the kingdom. This might be a good place to engage in a conversation about tangible ways Christians should train (serving others, regular study time, learning new ways to pray, stretching your limits of generosity, etc.) Remember, training is different than trying! Start with what you can do and build from there.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Ezekiel 22:30 is a passage where God extends a call for someone to lead, and He finds no one. There may be areas in our lives, that we have been avoiding, where God is asking us to get better. In order to lead well, we need to be willing to say "yes" to God when he challenges us to step up, both in our own lives and in the lives of others.

Each person in your group has a call in their life and a role to play. Help the group to recognize places at work, school, home or church **where they can step in and make it better**. Perhaps the greatest thing that they can do is to identify someone that they can influence for Christ. **Helping someone else get better** can be life transforming for both parties.

