



Course Name: GRIT - Defining Conviction

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Course description:

The GRIT series of lessons focuses on a discussion related to conviction, passion, and perseverance. The ideas from today's lesson assist students to learn what conviction means and how it applies to the direction of our lives as leaders.

Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:

- A. Described initial definitions of conviction.
- B. Discussed the characteristics of someone with conviction.
- C. Examined biblical context related to conviction and how it connects to leadership.

Outline of the class:

- A. Divide the class into groups of three or four. Ask each group to spend about 10 minutes to write out a definition of conviction.
- B. Once completed, ask each group to share the definition they created with the rest of the class. The following are a few suggestions to add, if needed, to the discussion.
 - 1. "The act or process of finding a person guilty of a crime especially in a court of law."
 - 2. "A strong persuasion or belief. The state of being convinced."
 - 3. "The act of convincing a person of error, or of compelling the admission of a truth."
 - 4. "The state of being convinced of error or compelled to admit the truth."
- C. Ask each group to take about 10 minutes to list out a minimum of three characteristics that describe people with conviction. What do they look like? What do they do?
- D. Once they complete their lists, ask the each group to share what they put together and make a list on the whiteboard. A few ideas to add, if they are not mentioned, are listed below.
 - 1. They will not change despite the circumstances
 - 2. They are inflexible
 - 3. They are confident and bold
 - 4. They live out their beliefs
 - 5. They possess strong determination

- E. Consider the following biblical passages and people as they relate to conviction.
1. Hebrews 11:1 Depending on the version, the text reads, “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”
 - a. Take a few moments to consider the list of people throughout the text that demonstrated or were characterized by conviction: Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Samuel, etc.
 - b. Think about the times in their lives when they demonstrated conviction and perhaps times when they did not.
 - c. We learn from this context that conviction is based on an understanding, submission to, and application of God’s word. This explains why it is related to faith.
 2. From the New Testament, we find several individuals we could characterize this way, such as Paul. Discuss areas of Paul’s life where we see his conviction. Then, read Acts 23:1 and consider how Paul’s statement here aligns with conviction.
 3. Follow up by reading Galatians 2:11-14 and discuss the problem with Peter’s conviction during this time when Paul opposed him.
 4. Ask the class: How do these biblical passages help us in our leadership? Make a list on the whiteboard of their responses. Add the following if they are not mentioned.
 - a. Strengthen our determination and endurance to do what is right regardless of circumstances or consequences.
 - b. Create greater confidence and boldness to move ahead as leaders.
 - c. Develop consistency in how we live out our life before others.

Conclusion:

- A. Today, we’ve focused on defining and describing conviction. We also discussed biblical passages and people related to the context of conviction.
- B. What we learn is that biblical conviction has specific characteristics that drive the actions of our life and align them with the direction God wants us to take in our life.
- C. Next week, we will build on this lesson and step into the arena of passion. Without the foundation of conviction, we will struggle to move on to the areas of passion and perseverance.

Recommended Reading:

Duckworth, Angela. *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*

Moore, Steve. *Who is my Neighbor? Being a Good Samaritan in a Connected World*

Hardy, Darren. *The Entrepreneur Roller Coaster: Why Now is a Good Time to Join the Ride*