Week 7: Develop Your Character

Thought
In today's society, it almost seems acceptable to not do your best, to pass the buck rather than take the blame, to take advantage of other people, to not do what you say you are going to do, and to say things that aren’t true. As men of God, we are called to live with excellence, discipline, respect, honesty, integrity, dependability, accountability, honor, etc. Strong character is always doing the right thing—even when nobody is watching.

Scripture
Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.
Philippians 4:8-9 (NIV)

For we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man.
2 Corinthians 8:21

The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.
Proverbs 11:3 (ESV)

The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth.
Proverbs 12:22 (NLT)

Discussion Questions
- Using a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest, how would you rate yourself on character?
- When our beliefs and our character don’t completely align, it’s because we’ve compromised. How do we keep from compromising our character with situations in our homes, relationships, the workplace and our communities?

Next Steps
What is one practical step you can take this week to move one step?

Take out a piece of paper and write down all the character traits that you want in your life. Next to each, write down what you need to do more of or what you need to do differently in order for you to be the type of man you know you want to be. It may be helpful to get an outside opinion from someone you know, respect and trust that can point out some things in your life that you may not be able to see.
SPECIAL NOTE: As you are thinking about character, is there someone that comes to mind that you want to have in the mentoring group you will lead next semester? Be sure and add them to your list today!

Closing Thoughts
Ask the group members to pair up and exchange phone numbers to connect and pray before next week’s meeting.

What is the next step each group member should take to move closer to Christ (i.e. weekend service, water baptism, Growth Track or Dream Team)?

Encourage each member to read his Bible and pray with his children and spouse daily.

Close in prayer.