

# TOOLBOX FOR LIFE

**FOUR SKILLS YOU  
NEED TO SUCCEED**



## **TOOLBOX FOR LIFE: FOUR SKILLS YOU NEED TO SUCCEED**

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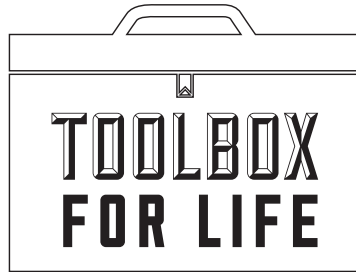
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## HOW TO USE THIS VIDEO CURRICULUM

Here is a brief explanation of the features of this study guide.

### **CHECKING IN:**

You will open each meeting with an opportunity for everyone to check in with each other about how you are doing with the weekly assignments. Accountability is a key to success in this study!

### **KEY VERSE:**

Each week you will find a key verse or Scripture passage for your group to read together. If someone in the group has a different translation, ask them to read it aloud so the group can get a deeper perspective of the meaning of the passage.

### **VIDEO LESSON:**

There is a video lesson for the group to watch together each week. Fill in the blanks in the lesson outlines as you watch the video, and be sure to refer back to these outlines during your discussion time.

## **DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:**

Each video segment is complemented by several questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. There is no reason to rush through the answers. Give everyone ample opportunity to share their thoughts. If you don't get through all of the discussion questions, that's okay.

## **PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:**

This is where the rubber meets the road. We don't want to be just hearers of the Word. We also need to be doers of the Word (James 1:22). These assignments are application exercises that will help you put into practice the truths you have discussed in the lesson.

## **PRAYER DIRECTION:**

At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

## **A TIP FOR THE HOST**

The study guide material is meant to be your servant, not your master. The point is not to race through the sessions; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives. Nor is it necessary to "go around the circle" before you move on to the next question. Give people the freedom to speak, but don't insist on it. Your group will enjoy deeper, more open sharing and discussion if people don't feel pressured to speak up.



## SESSION 1: IGNORING THE NAYSAYERS

### CHECKING IN:

If this is your first time to meet as a group, or if you have any new group members, be sure to introduce yourselves. Encourage people to share what they are hoping to learn from this study.

### KEY VERSE:

*If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened,  
more strength is needed, but **skill** will bring success.*

ECCLESIASTES 10:10 (NIV, EMPHASIS ADDED)

## DEALING WITH NAYSAYERS

**NAYSAYER** (from Webster's Dictionary):  
a person who says something won't work  
or isn't possible; a cynic who habitually  
expresses pessimistic views.



## FOUR NAYSAYERS DAVID FACED BEFORE GOLIATH

1.) \_\_\_\_\_ held him back.

*Now David was the son of a man named Jesse . . . and he had eight sons.*

*David was the youngest son. David's three oldest brothers stayed with Saul's army, but David went back and forth so he could help his father with the sheep in Bethlehem.*

1 SAMUEL 17:12, 14-15 (NLT)

**BARRIERS TO SUCCESS:**

2.) \_\_\_\_\_ was afraid.

**BARRIERS TO SUCCESS:**

*Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!" When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.*

1 SAMUEL 17:8-11 (NLT)

**CONVENTIONAL WISDOM IS OFTEN WRONG.**

**PUBLIC OPINION IS OFTEN WRONG.**

**MAJORITY DOESN'T MAKE SOMETHING RIGHT.**

3.) \_\_\_\_\_ questioned his motives.

**BARRIERS TO SUCCESS:**

*David talked to some others standing there to verify the report. "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his insults to Israel?" . . . But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking like that, he was angry. "What are you doing around here, anyway?" he demanded. "What about the sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know what a cocky brat you are; you just want to see the battle!" "What have I done now?" David replied. "I was only asking a question!"*

1 SAMUEL 17:26-29 (TLB)

4.) \_\_\_\_\_ doubted his ability.

**BARRIERS TO SUCCESS:**

*"Don't worry about a thing," David told him. "I'll take care of this Philistine!" "Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "How can a kid like you fight with a man like him? You are only a boy, and he has been in the army since he was a boy!"*

1 SAMUEL 17:32-33 (TLB)

# HOW TO DEFEAT THE NAYSAYERS IN YOUR LIFE

## 1.) Remember they are \_\_\_\_\_!

*The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in God protects you from that.*

PROVERBS 29:25 (MSG)

*It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you . . .*

PROVERBS 29:25A (GNT)

What other people think of you is none of your business.

*Do not fear anything except the Lord Almighty.*

*He alone is the Holy One. If you fear him, you need fear nothing else.*

ISAIAH 8:13 (NLT, SECOND EDITION)

## 2.) Don't get \_\_\_\_\_!

Motivated reasoning is based on emotion, not based on logic.

*Don't be intimidated. Eventually everything is going to be out in the open,  
and everyone will know how things really are.*

MATTHEW 10:26 (MSG)

## 3.) Never \_\_\_\_\_!

*It is foolish to speak scornfully of others. If you are smart, you will keep quiet.*

PROVERBS 11:12 (GNT)

*When they hurled their insults at Jesus, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.*

1 PETER 2:23 (NIV)

**I am most like Jesus when I stay silent under attack.**

**4.) Stay focused on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!**

*David was now in great danger because all his men were very bitter . . . and they began to talk of stoning him. But David found strength in the Lord his God.*

1 SAMUEL 30:6 (NLT)

*The Lord is for me, so I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?*

PSALM 118:6 (NLT)

**You don't need anybody else's approval to be happy.**

*Show me how much you love me, Lord, and save me according to your promise.  
Then I can answer those who insult me because I trust in your word.*

PSALM 119:41-42 (GNT)

*I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart . . .*

PSALM 119:11A (MSG)

## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1. Has there been someone who has acted as a naysayer in your life?  
How did you deal with the situation? How would you deal with it now?

2. Of the *Four Barriers to Success* (delay, discouragement, disapproval, and doubt), which one have you encountered most recently?  
How would God want you to respond to that barrier?

3. Pastor Rick taught that we are most like Jesus when we stay silent under attack. Share an example of a time you chose to stay silent under attack. How did God bless your decision?

## PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

In this week's lesson, we learned that we don't need anyone else's approval to be happy.

Whose approval are you still seeking? How would it change your life if you could let go of your desire to seek that person's approval?

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This week, think of one person whose approval you still seek. Talk to God about it and practice trusting him.

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## PRAYER DIRECTION:

Spend some time silently praying for the naysayers in your life. Ask God to give you compassion for them and to help you understand why they may be a naysayer in your life.

Ask God to help discern if someone is a naysayer, or if that person is actually offering you biblical advice.

Ask God to give you opportunities this week to trust what he says about you more than you trust what the naysayers say about you.