Living Proof: Discipleship

What Is This Series About?

When *Living Proof: Evangelism* ended, Gerry Sanders had just decided to follow Christ. His wife, Linda, had been watching his process of change but had made no decision herself. And Gerry's friend, Phil "Raz" Rasouske, was also watching closely.

Living Proof: Discipleship answers the question, "What's next for Gerry and his family and friends?"

How the Series Works

There are twelve sessions in this series, and we recommend you cover them in twelve weeks, but you can spread them over a longer period of time if you prefer.

In a Group Setting

If you are going through *Living Proof* in a small group you can expect each session to last approximately 90 minutes. Here's an outline of a typical session:

- Welcome with prayer
- View an approximately fifteen-minute DVD segment
- Discuss the segment and worksheet questions
- Close in prayer

As an Individual

If you are going through this on your own, we urge you to link-up with another Christian to assist and challenge you after you have viewed each DVD segment and completed the worksheet questions.

Answers for facilitators will appear in dotted boxes below each question.

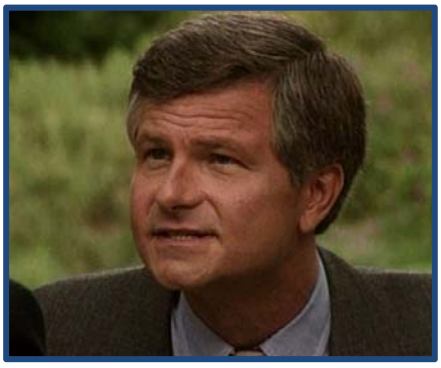
© 2010, CBMC, Inc. You are free to duplicate this material for your personal ministry, provided you give proper credit to CBMC or our attributed sources. For more resources like these, see www.cbmc.com.

Meet the Cast

Gerry and Linda Sanders
Gerry and Linda have been following Christ for about eight years. During that time, they have been wrestling with trusting each other and how to handle Linda's son from her first marriage, Erik. Gerry and Erik have difficulty respecting each other.

Bill and Jackie Warner
Bill has been discipling Gerry and Phil for a few years, and during that time, he and Jackie have started struggling with financial and personal issues. Jackie meets with Linda, Mary Beth, and Alice Chan for lunch once a week.

Phil ("Raz") and Mary Beth Rasouske
Phil has been walking with the Lord for seven years, but his wife, Mary Beth, has not commited herself yet. Jackie and Linda are discipling her in their weekly lunch meetings. Phil has had to deal with many personal habits during this time and weather some difficult storms.



Steve Lunsford
Steve has been a steady friend of all of the characters through the years. In this part of the series, he shares some of the pain he has dealt with in his life.

© 2010, CBMC, Inc. You are free to duplicate this material for your personal ministry, provided you give proper credit to CBMC or our attributed sources. For more resources like these, see www.cbmc.com.

Erik Goodson
Erick is Linda's son from her first marriage. He clashes with Gerry's authority almost weekly.

Alice Chan
A single co-worker of Linda's who has been joining her for weekly lunches along with Jackie, and Mary Beth.

Thomas Jordan
A friend and co-worked of Phil Rasouske

© 2010, CBMC, Inc. You are free to duplicate this material for your personal ministry, provided you give proper credit to CBMC or our attributed sources. For more resources like these, see www.cbmc.com.

Session 1

Christian Growth in Contemporary Culture

Big Idea: Discipleship is:

- Process, not programs
- Principles, not methods
- People, not curriculum

The process takes a long time and requires patience because people today are struggling with many issues.

Over the next twelve sessions, we'll explore what it means to be a disciple and how to help ourselves and others to grow as disciples. The goals of session one are:

- To gain an initial working definition of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in our modern world.
- To become familiar with the main characters in the video and the issues they face as disciples.
- To understand the changing roles of a disciple and discipler in today's culture.
- To consider how the issues we face are like and unlike those of the video characters.

1. What are some of the issues the video characters struggle with in this segment?

Gerry – fighting with his stepson, Erik

Linda – hiding at work because she doesn't want to go home and face the issues with Erik.

Bill – losing his job and self esteem

Jackie – doesn't know how to ask for help; she had to go back to work; finances are tight and her life lacks margin.

"Before (my) enlightening experiences in Brazil, I had viewed discipleship as a system of information and disciplines that resulted in the mastering of a body of knowledge and a set of skills. So I organized a syllabus and how-to's, and busied myself with passing it on to the people I was helping. But something wasn't right. It finally dawned on me that I was forcing my agenda on everyone, and it didn't truly fit anyone. I need to learn to begin at the other person's starting point. I described this concept at length in Living Proof because this is one of the most basic principles for communicating the message of Christ to another person. The same rule extends into helping a person grow in Christ."

Jim Petersen,
Lifestyle Discipleship, p. 20

© 2010, CBMC, Inc. You are free to duplicate this material for your personal ministry, provided you give proper credit to CBMC or our attributed sources. For more resources like these, see www.cbmc.com.

2. Can you identify with anyone in this segment? If so, who and how?

One theme in this series is brokenness. Most people today come to Christ broken in some way with significant pain about relationships, jobs, etc. Some are all too aware of their pain and others manage to numb their pain with alcohol, drugs, sexual behavior, food, overwork, busyness, compulsive religious activity and so forth. The point is that **discipleship is the process of broken people helping broken people.**

3. Until the day Gerry failed to show up for breakfast, Bill held some assumptions about discipleship such as:

- Progress in discipleship is measured by having your memory verses and doing the *Operation Timothy* chapter work.
- People who falter in these disciplines do so because they are half-hearted or because they are pursuing ungodly choices.
- Unfaithful disciples free us from further responsibility towards them.

How did his experience with Gerry explode Bill's assumptions?

Bill wanted to help those who don't need help to stay in formation versus understanding the brokenness of people and their need to be disciplined.

4. How could Bill have better handled the situation of Gerry not showing up at breakfast?

Bill should not have assumed anything and called Gerry to see if something was wrong that had caused him not to show up.

5. In Luke 4:16-21, Jesus reads a passage from the prophet Isaiah and claims to be its fulfillment. Read Isaiah 61:1-4.

a. What is Jesus mission according to this passage?

To free us from our brokenness and rebuild our lives into a right relationship with God.

b. In what ways is this Bill's mission as he seeks to help Gerry grow in Christ?

Bill must walk with Gerry through his pain, comforting him and helping him to grow in Christ likeness.

© 2010, CBMC, Inc. You are free to duplicate this material for your personal ministry, provided you give proper credit to CBMC or our attributed sources. For more resources like these, see www.cbmc.com.

c. Isaiah describes a mature follower of God as an oak of righteousness. What do you think it means to be an oak of righteousness and what kind of a picture does that evoke to you?

A person who has deep roots into the word of God and drinks from it regularly and provides shade for many others – brings others to Christ and helps them grow.

6. As you think about Gerry shouting at his stepson, how easy is it to imagine him becoming an oak of righteousness, displaying the Lord's splendor and renewing other people in "ruined cities"?

It is not necessarily easy. However, it illustrates the goodness and grace of God who can grow Gerry into an oak of righteousness if he yields his life to Christ.

7. Do you think it was right for Bill to be discipling Gerry when Bill's own life-even his marriage-was under so much stress? Why?

Yes. God allows and causes the suffering in our lives so we can comfort others in their struggles and have first-hand experiences to share with them. None of us have become completely like Christ.

Suggested Additional Reading:

Read chapter 1 of *Lifestyle Discipleship*

© 2010, CBMC, Inc. You are free to duplicate this material for your personal ministry, provided you give proper credit to CBMC or our attributed sources. For more resources like these, see www.cbmc.com.