



# 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.

## 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 committed 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.



**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

## 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?

*“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*

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

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?

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

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?

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

- 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?



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"?

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?

**Suggested Additional Reading:**

Read chapter 1 of *Lifestyle Discipleship*