

The Accountability Step



Accountability is the practice of _____ our will by surrendering our choices to wise counsel.

Group Exercise A

When your accountability is compromised you may:

- Have issues you're too ashamed to talk to anyone about.
- Have liberal standards based on culturally accepted norms.
- Rarely admit when you're wrong.
- Frequently tell white lies and don't always tell the whole truth.
- Mostly be a loner.
- Have a hard time asking for forgiveness.
- Don't think the details of your life are anyone else's business.
- Try to figure things out on my own without asking for help.
- Think that most of your problems are someone else's fault.
- Fail to seek advice even when you are an emotional wreck.

Group Exercise B

Accountability Scriptures

 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands in not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)

 Where no counsel [is], the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors [there is] safety. (KJV) For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure. Proverbs 11:14 (NIV)

? What blind spots have you noticed in your own romantic relationships?

 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. Proverbs 15:22 (NIV)

? What are some of your weaknesses that hinder your judgment of character?

- Rushing into a relationship too soon.
- Being overly trusting.
- Misguided compassion.
- Ignoring the advice of family and friends.

- Haven't quite figured it out yet, but I keep making the same mistakes over and over again.

📖 Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. Proverbs 27:6 (NIV)

📖 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Psalm 1:1,3 (NIV)

? What are some things you can do to be cautious in friendship and guard your heart?

📖 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice. Proverbs 12:15

📖 As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17 NIV

📖 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who cherishes understanding prospers. Proverbs 19:8 (NIV)

? Which of the Five F's (faith, family, friendships, finances, fitness) is most important to you? Why? Which is the least? Why?

📖 Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise. Proverbs 19:20 (NIV)

? What do you think about the common expression that love is blind? Do you think you can control who you fall in love with?

? It's been said that we will be the same person in five years except for the people we meet and the books we read. If that's true, what people do you want to sprinkle in your life?

Group Exercise C

If you struggle with accountability, try these action points:

❖ **Pray for a _____.**

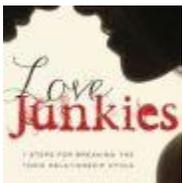
Pray and ask the Lord to direct you to a trustworthy person of the same sex that will challenge you in your walk with the Lord.

❖ **Establish Godly _____.**

A network of firm believers allows you to obtain a multitude of counsel when you need

encouragement, advice or prayer. Lonely people are prey for the enemy's schemes. If you want more friends, show yourself friendly and seek to become a friend (Proverbs 18:24).

- ❖ Nurture _____ relationships.
- ❖ Give permission for others to put you on the _____ .
 - Are you _____ the Lord?
 - Are you _____ daily?
 - Are you _____ the Word?
 - Are you _____ for the goal?
- ❖ Have a _____ system.
- ❖ Take _____ .
Ask your accountability partner if they see areas of weakness in your life, such as blame, bitterness, selfishness, jealousy, idolatry, hatred, gossip, pride, tendency toward addictive behavior, sexual immorality or seductive behavior or dress, strife, anger or rage.
- ❖ Pinpoint false _____ .
In areas where the word of God is not your standard, in order to get victory in that area, you must find the root of your false belief. Until you find the root, the enemy can hold you captive to sin. Once you identify the false belief, begin to erase the false belief and replace it with the truth.
- ❖ Set _____ for your future.



Reading Assignment for Next Week: Yes

Chapters 24-26