

Climbing Up Five-Week Study Guide

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This Study Guide is given for either a five-week or ten-week study. If you choose a different time frame, adjust the assignments accordingly.

For friends/family members, have them think through both their preparation for receiving the former prisoner as well as what the prisoner is thinking in preparation for release. For assignments given in the questions, friends/family members should think through how they will prepare for the prisoner's return.

Five-Week Study

I. Assignments

- A. Read the Foreword, Introduction, Chapters 1-4 and answer questions at the end of the chapters.
- B. Read Chapters 5-10 and answer questions at the end of the chapters.
- C. Read Chapters 11-16 and answer questions at the end of the chapters.
- D. Read Chapters 17-24 and answer questions at the end of the chapters.
- E. Read Chapters 25-27 and Appendices, then answer questions at the end of the chapters.

II. Questions to consider as a group

A. Week 1

1. What were the three most important ideas from your reading and reflection?
2. Think about where you grew up and reflect on the unspoken rules of culture you adopted. In other words, what did you learn from your family or community?
3. Study the American sub-culture diagram. Based on where you lived, worked, and were educated, where do you fit and why?
4. Review the eight elements of prison culture (Cp) and give an example where you have observed each of them in your experience.
5. For each of the six potential clashes with culture, describe how you felt when you read about each one. Were you surprised by any of them? Did you want to argue that they were not true in your experience?
6. What will you do differently as a result of this section

B. Week 2

1. What were the three most important ideas from your reading and reflection?
2. Think about the 3-3-3-12 Principle and for each time period, list the dangers and opportunities you foresee for yourself upon release.
3. How might the double-culture shift affect your re-entry experience as you adjust to life in Christian community?
4. Describe in your own words the difference between “finding your identity” and “forging your identity.”
5. Of the four areas needed to escape people-pleasing, which one is the most difficult? How will you accept this truth so God can forge your identity to be like Christ?
6. What will you do differently as a result of this section?

C. Week 3

1. What were the three most important ideas from your reading and reflection?
2. Discuss the schemes of the devil to deceive you and truths from God’s Word that counter the lies Satan uses on us.
3. Why is it important to spend more time and energy controlling your thinking than it is controlling your circumstances?
4. What is unique to your context that God might use for His glory upon release from prison?
5. What would have happened if Lewis did no planning and just launched out on the Expedition, confident everything would work out?
6. What will you do differently as a result of this section?

D. Week 4

1. What were the three most important ideas from your reading and reflection?
2. Talk about a time when you have made a good plan, with good intentions, and someone (or some event) thwarted your efforts.
3. In your re-entry, what are some ways that you might experience dead vision?
4. How can you tell the difference between Spirit-led boldness and human-centered impulsiveness?
5. How do you feel when you hear that the journey of re-entry will take 12-18 months or more?
6. What will you do differently as a result of this section?

E. Week 5

1. What were the three most important ideas from your reading and reflection?

2. Consider the nine principles of learning wisdom listed above. For each one, describe an example where you applied the principle well or ignored it and it turned out badly.
3. Think through your re-entry plan. For each of the nine principles, imagine a decision you will need to make where that principle would be helpful.
4. What were the three most helpful ideas in this book and why?
5. What will you do differently as a result of this section?