

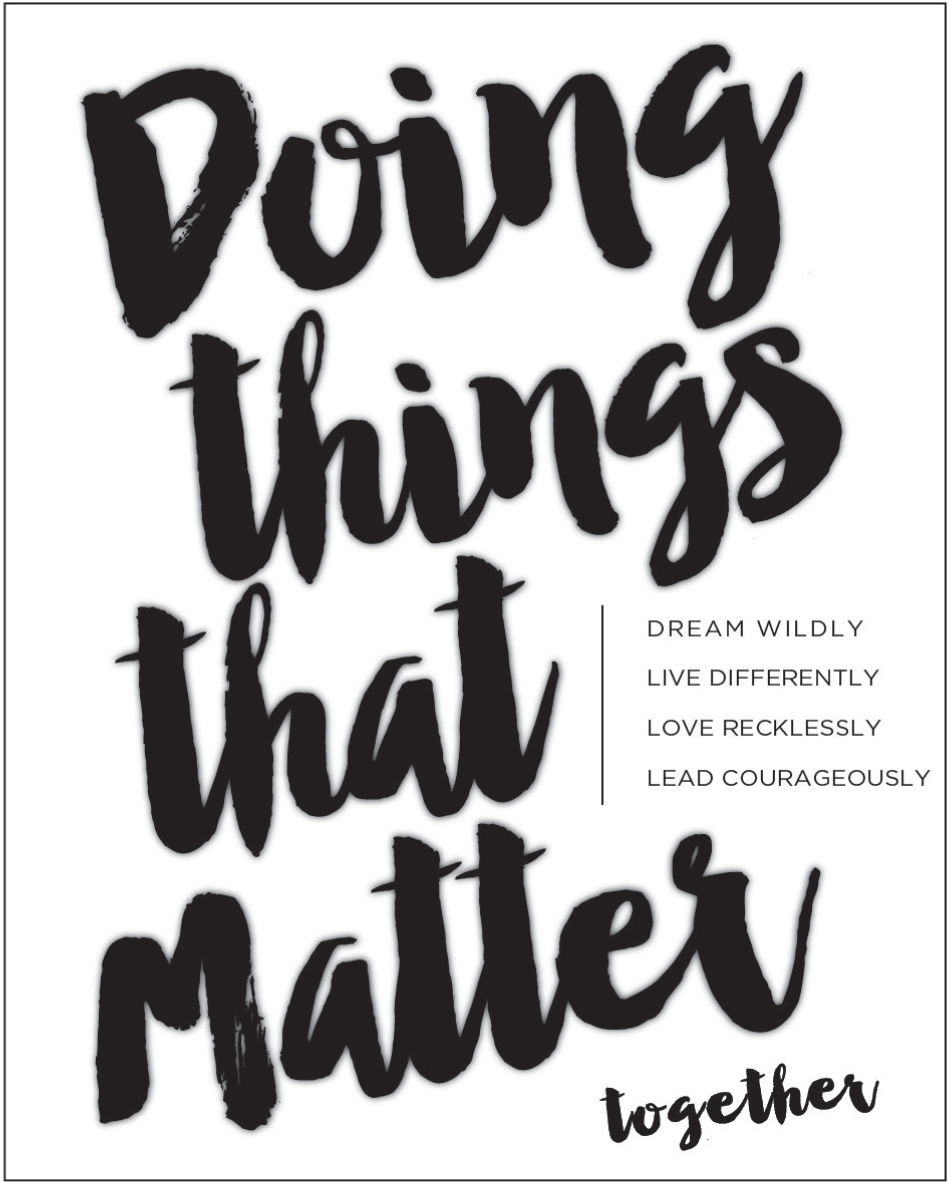
Doing things that matter

DREAM WILDLY
LIVE DIFFERENTLY
LOVE RECKLESSLY
LEAD COURAGEOUSLY

together

5 SESSIONS THAT MATTER
FOR GROUPS | MENTORS | LEADERS

TIM MANNIN



**5 SESSIONS THAT MATTER
FOR GROUPS | MENTORS | LEADERS**

TIM MANNIN

Doing Things That Matter Together

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tim Mannin is a pastor and church planter. In 2012 he and his wife Christie started OKC Community Church. Located in the heart of Oklahoma City, their church aims to help people experience the love of Jesus and His gift of *life to the full*. Tim also writes and coaches for LEAD222, an coaching network of church leaders. Tim and Christie are living the dream in OKC along with their four children, Emily, Carys, Addison, and Greyson.

Speaker & Questions

If you would like to contact Tim about an opportunity to speak at an event or your church, or if you have any questions, please go to www.doingthingsthatmatter.com or you can contact him directly at timmannin@okccommunitychurch.com.

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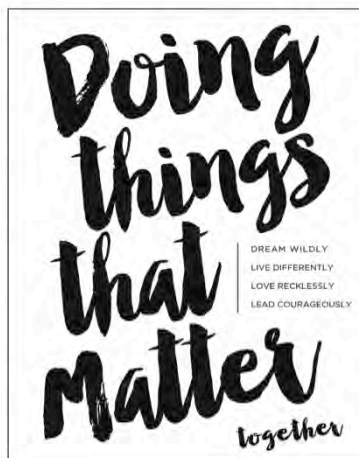
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This material is intended for use in conjunction with *Doing Things That Matter*.

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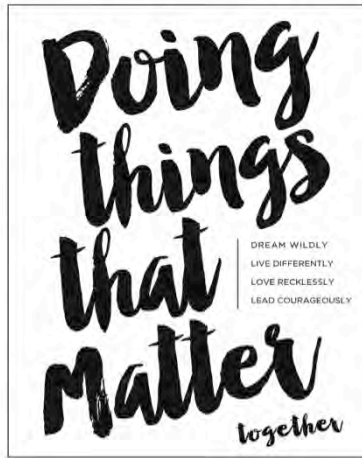
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A FEW WAYS YOU CAN USE THIS LEADER GUIDE

1. Small Group Leaders: Curriculum for Adult or Youth small groups.
2. Mentoring: A leader guide for mentors/ discipleship.
3. Ministry Leaders: content for teachings series, group ministry, events, retreats, etc...

HOW TO USE THIS LEADER GUIDE

1. Use as a supplemental resource with the *Doing Things That Matter* book.
2. Each session has an introduction, leader notes, discussion questions, and an application experience.
3. Time Frame: 5 Sessions done at your own pace.
(suggested pace...weekly or bi-weekly)



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SESSION ONE

A NEW CONVERSATION

INTRODUCTION

To begin the *Doing Things That Matter Together* study we need to simply start a conversation. Conversations are where so many great things begin! Conversations about dreams, passions, and areas of discontent often lead people to doing some of the greatest things of their life. As humans, one of the common pursuits we have is to lead a life that matters. Depending on the story, values, or upbringing one has the definition of *what matters* will vary greatly. In this first session, start a conversation about what matters in this life.

Chapter one, pushes us to consider what are we doing with our life and to listen to that voice beckoning us to come! God desires more than the mediocre versions of living so many give themselves to, and instead he promises us life to the full!

LEADER NOTES

1. Prior to Session One, participants should have the book, *Doing Things That Matter*, and should have read Chapter One, *The Silent Beckoning*.
2. Scriptures: John 10:10, Matthew 7:13-14
3. Print copies for each participant of this sessions "Do Something Experience."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SPEND TIME IN CONVERSATION WITH THESE QUESTIONS

*Note: If possible, allow time for people to share thoughts that stood out for them from the book.

1. What was the first "realistic" thought you had about what you wanted to *do* when you grew up?

2. As you've matured what things have you adopted as "*things that matter*" from the following influences? (Give 1-2 examples for each)
 - From parents, guardians...
 - From culture, media, and you social crowd...
3. The story of our life is a walking billboard for what has truly mattered to us. What does the story of your life the last couple years tell? What would be the 2-3 things that have mattered most (good or bad)?

QUESTIONS FROM CHAPTER ONE, "THE SILENT BECKONING"

4. This is a book about life... What about life right now is good and right? What about life is not so good and/ or challenging?
5. Does John 10:10 encourage you? How does it remind you of the battle that we face in this life?
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10, NIV)
6. How does Matthew 7:13-14 speak to your heart? Do you look for shortcuts? Is your pursuit of life or God vigorous? Why or why not?
"Don't look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don't fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life—to God!—is vigorous and requires total attention." (Matthew 7:13-14, The Message)
7. Does your daily life represent what you say you believe? If so, how? If not, what challenges are you facing?
8. Do you feel a sort of *silent beckoning* within your life, something bidding you to come? Describe.

DO SOMETHING

- Hand out copies of the "Do Something Experience" to each participant.
- Review and discuss the experience.

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

DOING THINGS THAT MATTER TOGETHER

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DO SOMETHING

A DOING THINGS THAT MATTER EXPERIENCE

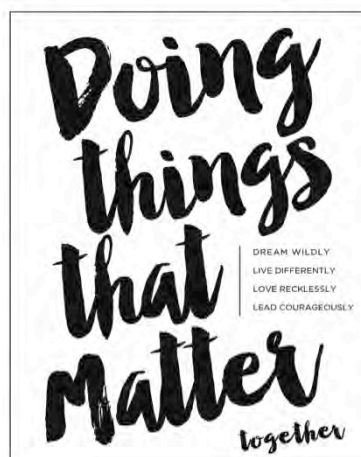
CREATING NEW CONVERSATIONS

In chapter one, I (Tim) tell the story of encouraging my kids to “do things that matter” every day as they enter their school. What if you took on the daily challenge to do things that matter for one week? Obviously for many of us we already are doing things that matter every day through our kindness, love, and actions, but this challenge is an intentional focus to do things on purpose...specifically aimed at our conversations.

For one week choose to have at least one conversation per day that matters. What does that mean? It means choose one person per day to talk to with one of the following intentional purposes:

- A conversation to give encouragement to someone.
- A conversation to ask questions (about life, growth, etc...) and to learn from someone.
- A conversation to express gratitude for the impact someone has made in your life.
- A conversation with your spouse, good friend, or mentor about the idea of your *silent beckoning*.
- A conversation to ask someone about his or her story. (perhaps you'll share yours too)
- A conversation to ask someone how you can pray for him or her.
- A conversation of forgiveness with someone you've needed to reconcile with.

Choose to do any of these multiple times, or to do all of them once. You can obviously create your own intentional conversations. The hope is that every day your conversations grow in purpose and impact!



SESSION TWO

DREAM WILDLY

INTRODUCTION

What if we allowed the impossible to become possible? Throughout scripture we learn that we serve a God that can do anything. That doesn't mean He *will* do anything we desire, however He will do things we could never imagine! This session will push you to dream about *who you are becoming!* Dreams aren't only reserved for entrepreneurs and creatives; no, they are for all of us! Our lives are brimming with the potential to imagine and dream for life to the full. What if we unleashed our God-given ability to dream for the people and places we intersect every day? What would happen then? Doing things that matter will often begin with dreams about who you want to become as a friend, neighbor, spouse, or parent. The world will do everything it can to suck us into a system of normalcy and living a status quo life, but God reminds us (if we let him) that our life is a blank canvas waiting to be imagined with Him.

LEADER NOTES

1. Prior to Session Two, participants should have read chapters two and three:
Becoming a Dreamer & Scale the Walls of Normalcy
2. Scriptures from Chapter Two: Exodus 14:10-22, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Romans 12:1-2
3. Scriptures from Chapter Three: Jeremiah 1:5, Acts 3:1-10, Mark 10:47-51, Ephesians 3:20-21
4. There is quite a bit of content in these two chapters. You may want to focus on one chapter for your discussion (feel free to choose where/ how you focus).
5. Print copies for each participant of this sessions "Do Something Experience."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SPEND TIME IN CONVERSATION WITH THESE QUESTIONS

*Note: If possible, allow time for people to share thoughts that stood out for them from the book.

QUESTIONS FROM CHAPTER TWO, "BECOMING A DREAMER"

1. Have you ever struggled while seeking God's will for your life? Describe. How do verses like Romans 12:1-2 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 shape your understanding of God's will?

2. What are a few things that God has *already spoken* that you need to pursue becoming?
3. How would you describe what you do? How would you describe who you want to become?

QUESTIONS FROM CHAPTER THREE, "SCALE THE WALLS OF NORMALCY"

4. How has the idea of normalcy impacted decisions you've made about your faith, family, career, relationships, or future?
5. Do your prayers and requests to God resemble the blind beggar at the temple gate? Are they too small? Too normal?
6. If Jesus asked you, "What do you want me to do for you?" what/how would you respond?
(Remember he asked this question of Bartimaeus in Mark 10)
7. Have you followed the prescribed action plan provided by others for your life more than you've considered the blank canvas that God has given you to create a masterpiece with him? If so, describe.
8. How could we help one another pursue dreams in our lives?

DO SOMETHING

- Hand out copies of the "Do Something" Experience to each participant.
- Review and discuss the experience.

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

DOING THINGS THAT MATTER TOGETHER

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DO SOMETHING

A DOING THINGS THAT MATTER EXPERIENCE - DREAM WILDLY

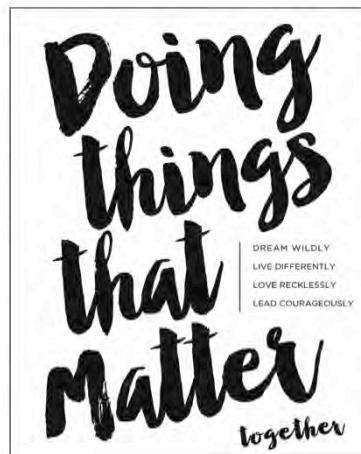
WHO ARE YOU BECOMING?

When most people talk about dreaming it often leads to “*what we do*,” however, this discussion intends to begin with a different focus by asking, *who are you becoming*. Chapter two talks extensively about the opportunity to dream about who you are becoming. For example, how can you dream about how you show kindness and love towards others, or the type of neighbor, family member, or friend you want to be? For this “*Do Something*” experience you can utilize the example found near the end of chapter two and write down the various roles you have in life and dream about who you want to be within those things!

Grab some paper or a journal and write down a few dreams about who you want to be as a spouse, sibling, child, parent, student, co-worker, neighbor, teammate, etc. It’s suggested that you write down 2-3 dreams for each of the main things you are in this life. This practice is intended to focus and unleash your dreams on the people and places you intersect every day, instead of allowing dreams to remain in some distant, imaginary place.

Start dreaming about the life you actually have!!

Once you have some dreams written down commit to praying over them for a number of weeks and see what God begins to do in and through you!



SESSION THREE

LIVE DIFFERENTLY

INTRODUCTION

What if every day you made choices that caused you to live differently? Being different can have both negative or positive connotations, depending on the situation. For example, there is weird different, but there is also “cool” different. The kind of different it takes to follow Jesus is neither. It’s about things like *shining like the stars of the universe...in a crooked and depraved generation* (Philippians 2). The world needs Christ followers who desire live the gospel in such a way that it transcends every aspect of who they are. The gospel reorients everything about life and it should lead us to be people who carry ourselves differently. As believers we share the privilege to be His church and to advance His story. Many in this world are losing interest and belief in God, largely because they lost their interest in church. Together, we must do the things that will matter to help people *taste and see* a different reality about God and the His Church.

LEADER NOTES

1. Prior to Session Three, participants should have read chapters four and five:
Living the Gospel & The Church Doesn't Matter
2. Scriptures from Chapter Four: Genesis 22, Luke 9:23-25
3. Scriptures from Chapter Five: Acts 17:16-23, Psalm 34:8, Galatians 5:22-23
4. Print copies for each participant of this sessions “Do Something Experience.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SPEND TIME IN CONVERSATION WITH THESE QUESTIONS

*Note: If possible, allow time for people to share thoughts that stood out for them from the book.

QUESTIONS FROM CHAPTER FOUR, “LIVING THE GOSPEL”

1. Does being different ever scare or intimidate you? Would you rather blend in? How can being different for Christ not be a weird, strange or bad different?

2. What do you need to let go of in order to pick up the cross?
3. What does it mean for your everyday life to live the gospel?
4. What is that thing in your life that feels like you are at the edge and you need to jump? How will this cause you to live differently? How will this step help you live the gospel?

QUESTIONS FROM CHAPTER FIVE, "THE CHURCH DOESN'T MATTER"

5. What are some common challenges the church faces in your community?
6. How could the church tell a different story? Speak into the culture and into our communities in new ways? (Skinning the pineapple)
7. What is one way that you could live differently and as a result *be* the church (on a personal level) the best way you know how?
8. If zero responsibility is placed on outside entities (i.e., government, state-led academic institutions) what is needed for the church to matter in your community?

DO SOMETHING

- Hand out copies of the "Do Something Experience" to each participant.
- Review and discuss the experience.

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

DOING THINGS THAT MATTER TOGETHER

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DO SOMETHING

A DOING THINGS THAT MATTER EXPERIENCE - LIVE DIFFERENTLY

THE CHURCH MATTERS

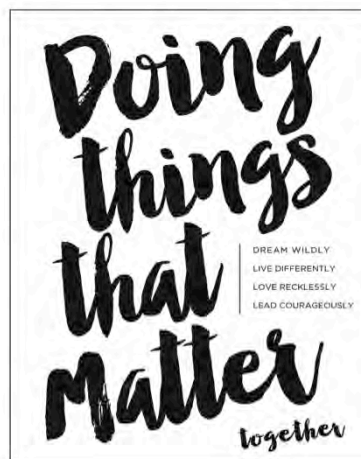
The scriptures teach us that living the gospel will require a life that values and embodies different things from what we often see in the world around us. This isn't intended to be a "strange" different or even "cool" different - this sort of different is about *bringing life* in to a world that often feels broken and dying.

Chapter five takes a deep look at the state of the Church in today's culture. We have much to learn, grow, and consider in our role of being the church. In this "Do Something" experience we want to you initiate and do something that matters for, with, or in your church. Consider something like: organizing a serving opportunity in your community, a prayer gathering, or fulfilling a need your church or community have.

Work with a few others to contribute to the life of your church and the story we ought to be living! Most church leaders will welcome the ownership and desire to create and do something!

SIMPLE PLAN

1. Gather with a few and dream about what would be something that matter for your church.
2. Once you have ideas discuss them with church leadership.
3. Create a plan and go after it!
4. Do Something.



SESSION FOUR

LOVE RECKLESSLY

INTRODUCTION

What if we loved God and others with a reckless abandon and a selfless heart? Love sits at the center of everything in life—our relationships with others and our relationship with God. It's no wonder that Jesus chose to make it the centerpiece of his *greatest commandment* (Matthew 22:36-40). The greatest need for every person is love. And it's also our greatest command to give. It's sort of funny that we are called to give out of our greatest need in life. The goodness of God flows from his love for us, so perhaps this helps us understand that the greatest good we can contribute to this world will likewise, always flow from our love.

LEADER NOTES

1. Prior to Session Three, participants should have read chapters six and seven:
Human Good & Neighbors
2. Scriptures from Chapter Six: Matthew 22:36-40, Mark 2:1-5
3. Scriptures from Chapter Seven: Matthew 22:36-40
4. Print copies for each participant of this sessions "Do Something Experience."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SPEND TIME IN CONVERSATION WITH THESE QUESTIONS

*Note: If possible, allow time for people to share thoughts that stood out for them from the book.

QUESTIONS FROM CHAPTER SIX, "HUMAN GOOD"

1. Why do you think God ties loving him to loving others in the greatest commandment?

2. What about the four men from the story in Mark 2 most inspires you?

3. What are examples of acts of human good you could do every day for a month? I encourage you to try this and measure the cumulative impact of consistently showing love in this way.

4. Who is one person God is speaking to you about to show love towards? (You may need to spend time praying and asking God this question)

QUESTIONS FROM CHAPTER SEVEN, "NEIGHBORS"

5. How many neighbors do you know by name?

6. Dream for a moment. Who in your neighborhood, apartment complex, dorm hall, or surrounding community could you begin living out the greatest commandment with? (Perhaps, by starting to have conversations with).

7. How could intentionally loving your literal neighbors stretch you as a Christ follower and be full of all sorts of things that matter?

DO SOMETHING

- Hand out copies of the "Do Something" Experience to each participant.
- Review and discuss the experience.

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

DOING THINGS THAT MATTER TOGETHER

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DO SOMETHING

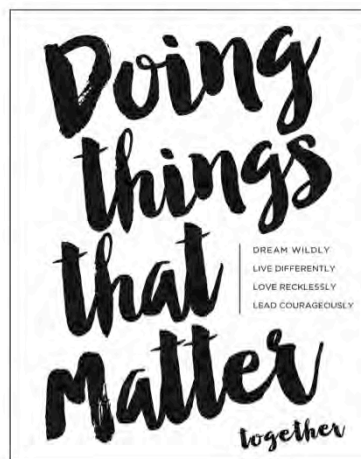
A DOING THINGS THAT MATTER EXPERIENCE - LOVE RECKLESSLY

A NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY

Chapter Seven leans into the greatest commandment from Jesus by asking us to consider our literal neighbors. Do you know them? How are you doing at showing love to them? For this “Do Something Experience” it may take some careful planning and prayer to figure how and when to do it, but you can decide now “if” you’re going to do it. Could you throw a party with some neighbors? It can be big or small - the idea is that you *do something!*

Starting on page 140 of the book some tried and tested tips on “How to Throw a Neighborhood Party” are provided. Here’s a quick summary—further details are provided in the book.

1. *Get it on the calendar.*
2. *Chose what kind of party.*
3. *Make and pass our invitations.*
4. *Be inclusive.*
5. *Food is the icebreaker.*
6. *Conversations are the centerpiece.*
7. *Involve others.*
8. *Be transparent.*



SESSION FOUR

LEAD COURAGEOUSLY

INTRODUCTION

What if we never allowed fear to stop us? Fear will be one of the greatest hindrances to our leadership and the hope to do things that matter. However, God hasn't given us a spirit of fear, but rather a spirit of power, love and self-discipline (2 Tim 1:7). The fourth part of the book is intended to pull the themes of the book and our conversations together and call each of us believers to listen to our heart and do something about the things that stir us. Too often we don't *do something* when we're stirred about injustices, dreams, needs, or even the things God calls us to become. It's time we have the courage to respond to what stirs us and to do things that matter!

LEADER NOTES

1. Prior to Session Three, participants should have read chapters eight and nine:
Leading Isn't About Leading & Earthquakes and An Egyptian
2. Scriptures from Chapter Eight: 2 Timothy 1:7, John 13:1-17, Philippians 2:3-11
3. Scriptures from Chapter Nine: Exodus 2:11-15
4. Print copies for each participant of this session's "Do Something Experience."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SPEND TIME IN CONVERSATION WITH THESE QUESTIONS

*Note: If possible, allow time for people to share thoughts that stood out for them from the book.

QUESTIONS FROM CHAPTER EIGHT, "LEADING ISN'T ABOUT LEADING"

1. How have you seen leadership defined and more importantly lived by the world around you? Good examples? Poor examples?

2. Has your courage ever been tested? How?

3. How has your own pride got in the way of your life and leadership?

4. How does Jesus example of leadership and humility in John 13 (and the rest of scripture) encourage you?

5. How does the idea that “leadership is really about followership” impact your life and thoughts about personal leadership? Remember leadership isn’t about who’s behind you following, it’s about who’s ahead of you that you are following.

QUESTIONS FROM CHAPTER NINE, “EARTHQUAKES & AN EGYPTIAN”

6. What stood out for you from the story of Moses’s actions with the Egyptian? What can we learn about what to do and what not to do in leadership?

7. How do you identify with the statement *leadership can be a lonely place*?

8. What are 1-2 things that stir you? (it’s something you care about!)

9. What are some tangible steps you could take towards doing things that matter with what stirs you? (i.e., conversations with new people, prayer, research, etc.)

DO SOMETHING

- Hand out copies of the “Do Something” Experience to each participant.
- Review and discuss the experience.

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

DOING THINGS THAT MATTER TOGETHER

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DO SOMETHING

A DOING THINGS THAT MATTER EXPERIENCE - LEAD COURAGEOUSLY

WHAT ARE YOU STIRRED TO DO?

This book is intended to end with some focus and passion to go and DO SOMETHING. Throughout this study ideas have been presented and these “Do Something Experiences” have been given to help you take practical action steps. The fourth part of the book, *Lead Courageously*, is intended to provide a crescendo for you to feel compelled to respond to the stirring within your own heart.

So instead of providing another idea for you in this “Do Something Experience,” I believe it’s appropriate to ask you a simple question...

What are you stirred to do?

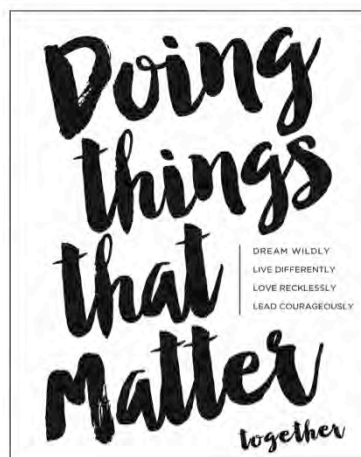
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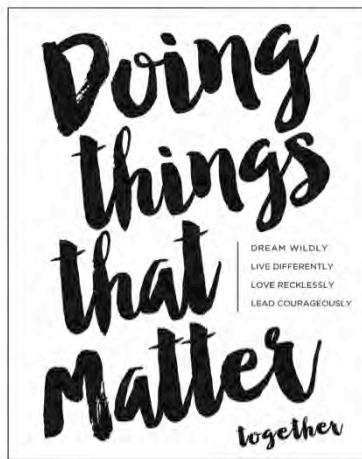
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Really answer the question.

Once you answer that question it’s time for you to go do it. Remember you only have one life to live and no one is responsible for it but you. Have the courage to go after the things that matter to you!

It could be a stirring for your family, your church, your neighborhood, an injustice in the world, a dream you have, or a need you recognize. This experience is yours to decide and pursue. Find it, lead it, do it!





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