

HOPE RISING

collective



A Community Enrichment
Series – “The Road to Brave”

HOW CONNECTING
IMPACTS YOUR LIFE

INTRODUCTION TO THIS SERIES



Getting to know you

Do you

1. Use Crest toothpaste?
2. Get your news online?
3. Check Facebook more than 2 times a day?
4. Use mustard on your hotdog?
5. Squeeze the toothpaste in the middle?
6. Did not make the bed this morning?
7. Like ketchup on your steak?
8. Have Life 107.1 as a preset on the radio?
9. Hate spinach?

Do you...

10. Like to take walks?
11. Fear Lightening?
12. Dislike the cherry on top of a sundae?
13. Drive over the speed limit more than under it?
14. Go one day without watching TV?
15. Take advantage of volunteer opportunities?
16. Eat out at least 3 times a week?
17. Keep the thermostat above 72 degrees?
18. Like to garden or work out in the yard?
19. Wish you had a different job?

Introduction

Life can be full of complex situations and relationships that are difficult and disappointing until you put things in perspective. A full and complete life, moves problems from the forefront, into a perspective that includes scriptural principles and relationships based on a foundation of faith in God.





What are
some of the
things that
affect our
relationships?

Criticism

Inferiority

Perfectionism

Families

Disappointment

Trust/Doubt

Communication

Trials

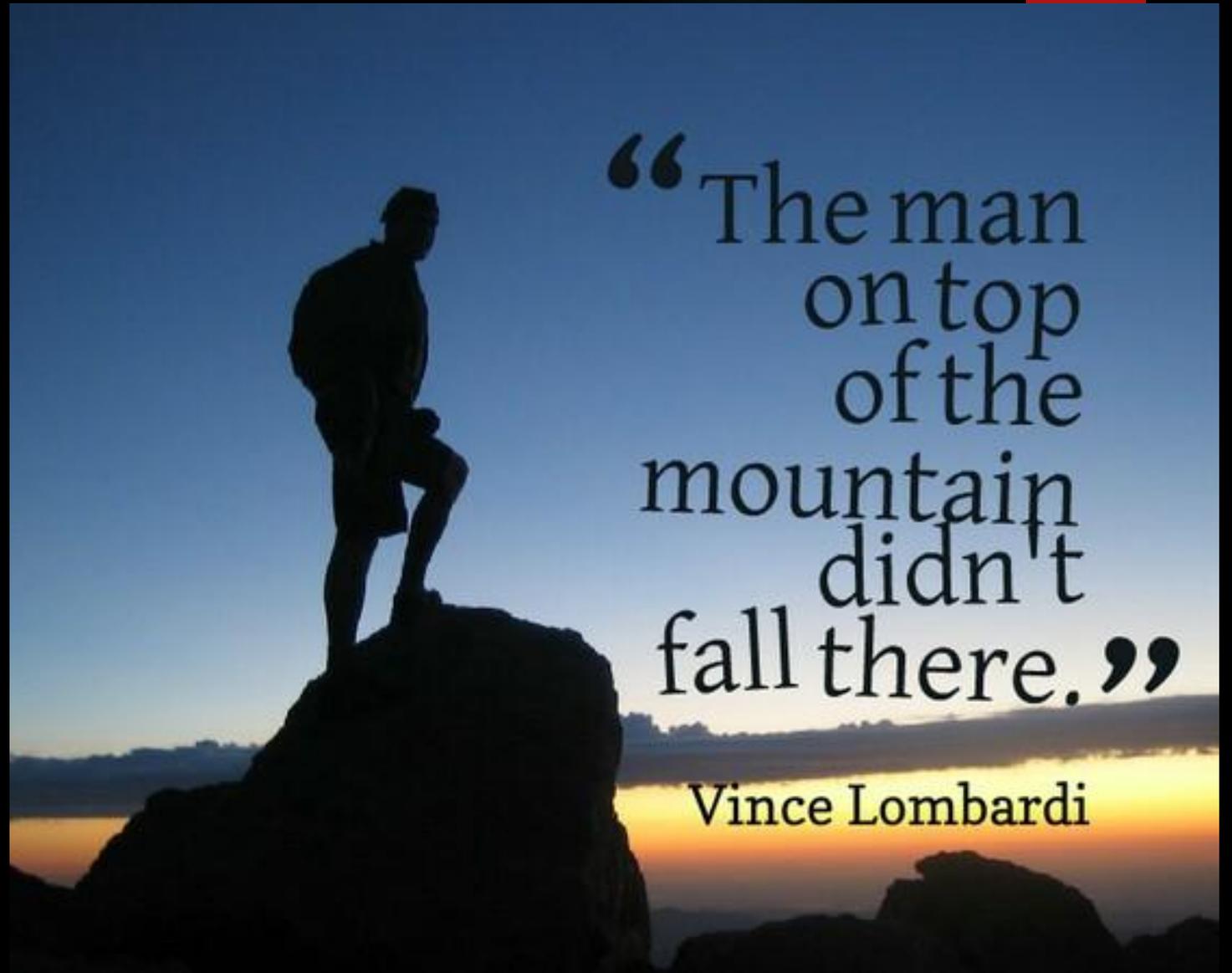
How we dated

Birth Order



Fear is a
factor that
affects how
we lead.

This series is designed to help us understand that faith and scriptural principle can guide us into a life full of challenges that move us closer to Him.



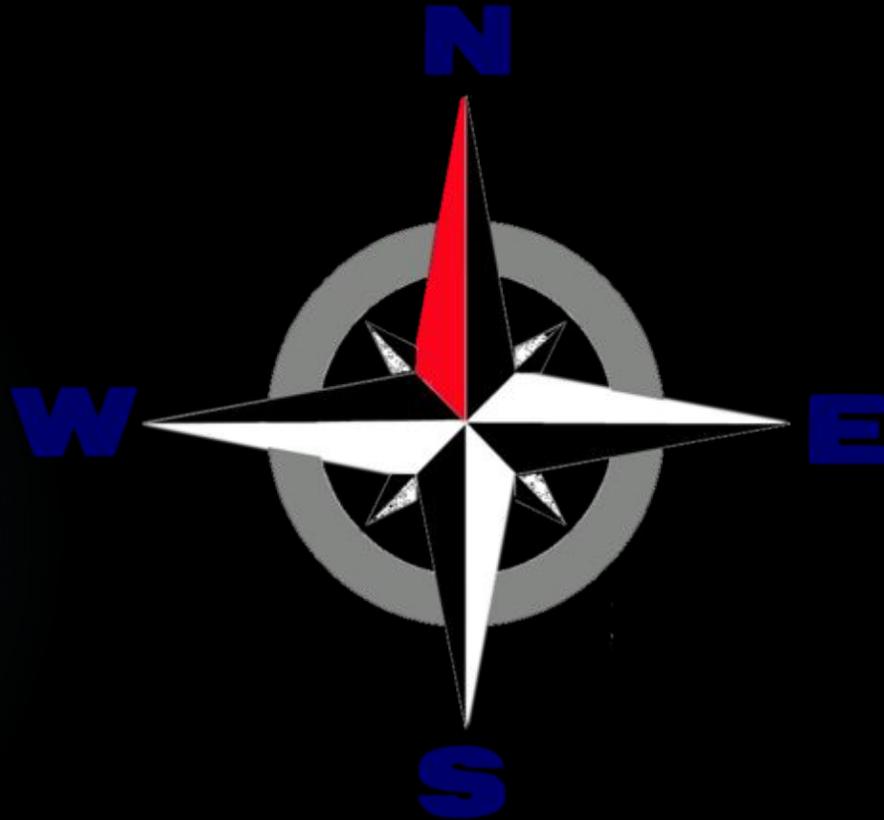
“The man
on top
of the
mountain
didn't
fall there.”

Vince Lombardi

In today's world, we need to look at God's solutions to everyday problems and live life to it's incredible potential. It will help us understand that in Christ we are too powerful to be defeated or overcome.... we are invincible.



Culture is teaching us not to be discriminating or pass judgement – that both of these are wrong. What IS wrong is not having a guiding principle or compass to guide us through life and help us make decisions.





How to Handle Criticism

WHEN THEY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING GOOD
TO SAY ABOUT YOU.

What we are going to discuss:

Definition of Criticism

Questions we need to ask related to criticism

Why as a leader or in relationships we don't like criticism

How to Handle and Respond to Criticism

Biblical Response to Criticism

How can we offset Criticism

The Encouragement Factor

When you were young
what kind of criticism
affected you?



What are some of the different ways people respond to criticism?



Can you give an example of how criticism helped you?



Can you give an example of criticism that had an affect on you?



Defined

Criticism is
the act of
making
judgements.





“No Leader is exempt from criticism,
and his humility will nowhere be seen
more clearly than in the manner in
which he accepts and reacts to it.”

Chuck Swindoll

We will learn a lot about a person when we see
how they respond to criticism.

Questions:

- ▶ Does criticism affect our faith?
- ▶ What is the difference between criticism and accountability?
- ▶ What are some of the different ways people respond to criticism?
- ▶ Does criticism affect your confidence as a leader and in relationships?

Whenever you do something worthwhile you can expect to be criticized - often unjustly. *





Most of us don't like criticism
for several reasons:

- ▶ Criticism hurts.
- ▶ Criticism attacks our self-esteem.
- ▶ Sometimes criticism reminds us of the past.
- ▶ Criticism often leaves us defenseless.

We can handle criticism by:



Admitting that it exists.

Do we ever pretend that it is not happening?

Acknowledge that it hurts.

Why does it hurt? How does it cause us to feel?

We need to ask:

1. How or who is criticizing me?
Internet, Boss, Friend
How does that change things?
2. Why is someone criticizing me?
What is the purpose of the criticism?
3. Is there truth in the criticism?
4. Is the critic right?



Why?

People Criticize
because:

They see something wrong or incomplete.

They are insecure people who are always finding fault with others.

They are angry bitter people who are always finding fault.

They are pressured people – individuals whose patience is wearing thin such people cannot tolerate imperfection.

They are people with very high standards for others and sometimes themselves.

**REMEMBER - CRITICISM OFTEN ARISES OUT OF THE
CRITIC'S PERSONALITY AND STRESSES.**

How should I respond to Criticism?

Discuss it with the critic
Evaluate the Criticism
Grow from it



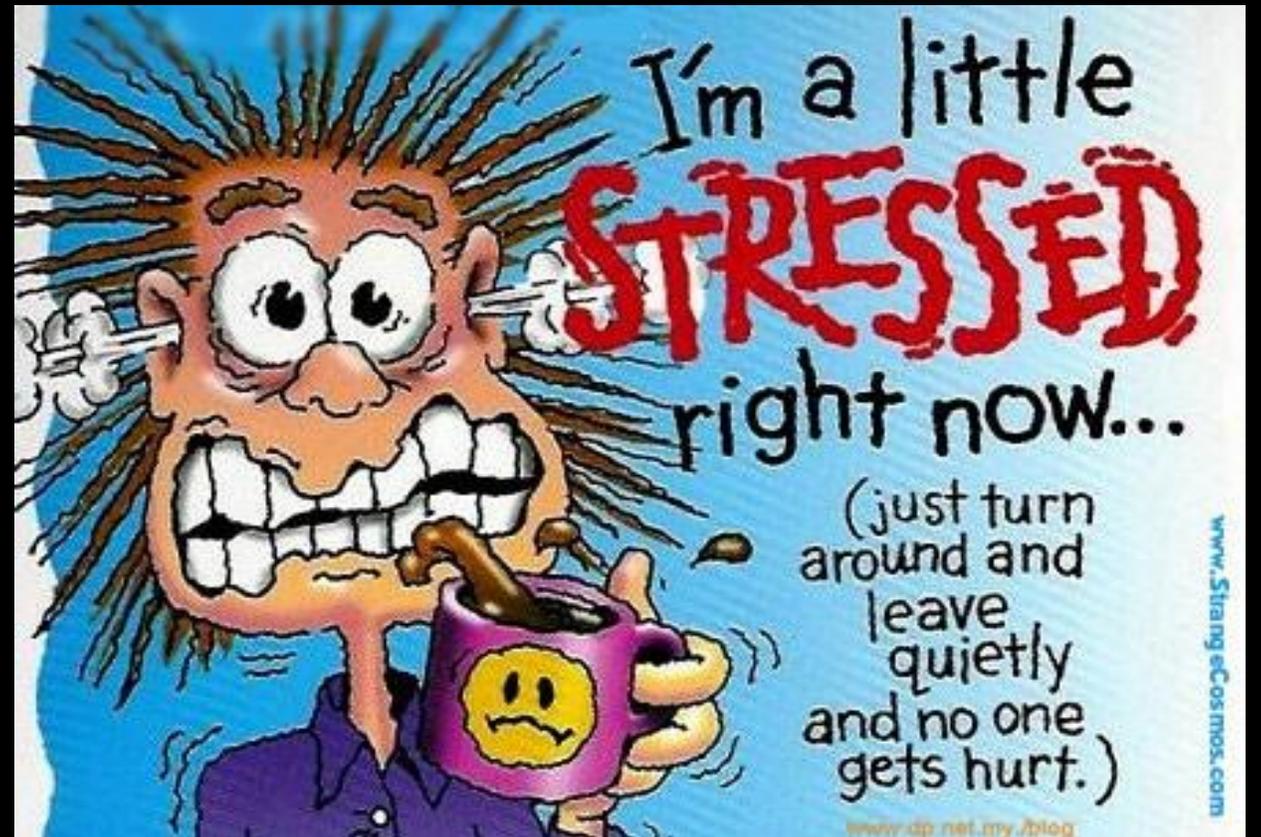
Interdependence

In the body of Christ there ought to be enough personal security on the part of those who have the responsibility to lead, that they can receive criticism and differing viewpoints without reacting defensively.

Author (Chuck Swindoll) says, "In my judgement, some disasters in our country were due at least in part to the fact that some of the subordinates were not willing to state their opinion when it was desperately needed.

When is that important?

Criticism Adds Stress to Life and Leading.



Evaluate the Critic

Don't let it fester in your mind.

Don't magnify it out of proportion.

Don't get carried away by introspection.

Grow from it.

Alert us to things that should be changed.

Maintain a sense of humor – don't take things too seriously.

Paul's response to criticism:

It was his ambition to secure the favor of God, not of men. "For am I now seeking the favor of God? Or am I striving to please men?"



Key - Point to Ponder

James Dobson, on Criticism:

“The right to criticize must be earned, even if the advice is constructive in nature. Before you are entitled to tinker with another person’s self-esteem, you are obligated first to demonstrate your respect for him/her as a person. When a relationship of confidence has been carefully constructed, you will have earned the right to discuss a potentially threatening topic. Your motives will have thereby been clarified.”

What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women (Living Books)

As Christians, we confront not to
embarrass, belittle, tear down or humiliate:
we confront because of our commitment
to help others reach their Potential – full
stature in Christ. - Habecker



every day
best
potential
now
life live
moment
towards
become
constantly
unlimited
possibilities
fullest
today
expectations
highest
see true take
greater
within
full
power



Accountability is one of the least glamorous and most difficult facets of Leadership. It is one of the most necessary and important responsibilities in leadership.

Reaction to Criticism



The Encouragement Factor Criticism Part II



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THE ENCOURAGEMENT FACTOR



How do people encourage you?
How do we discourage each other?

Heb 10:25 “Consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.”

We are to give thought to specific ways we can lift up, affirm and help others.



The eagle that soars near the
sun is not concerned how it will
cross the raging stream.



Principles of encouragement

1. The essence of encouragement is exposure without rejection
2. Encouragement delivers hope
3. The mindset of an encourager is unconditional love
4. Be slow to speak

Specifics

- ▶ Write someone a note
- ▶ List groups who need encouragement
- ▶ Observe and mention admirable character qualities you see in others
 - ▶ Punctuality
 - ▶ Tactfulness
 - ▶ Good Attitude
 - ▶ Loyalty
 - ▶ Tolerance
 - ▶ Honesty
 - ▶ Compassion
 - ▶ Good sense of humor
 - ▶ Vision and Faith
 - ▶ Pay for someone's hamburger



We need each other

“The reason mountain climbers are tied together is to keep the sane ones from going home.”



Hope Rising Collective



We need each other.

Sometimes good things fall apart
so that better things can fall
together.





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