

INCLINATION WORKSHOP

Shatter the Deception



IDCCST
Christian Education



Second 8th Week Ministries

Second 8th Week Ministries

INCLINATION WORKSHOP LESSON 01 INTRODUCTION

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Offered by Second 8th Week® Ministries

<http://www.s8wministries.org/>

God's Intelligent Design for Christ-Centered Spiritual Transformation® (IDCCST®) Christian curriculum

INTELLIGENT DESIGN FOR CHRIST-CENTERED SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE SOUL®
IDCCST®

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IMPORTANT: Course Prerequisite

In order for us to cover all of the following material, we require all attendees who are new to The Inclination Workshop to have viewed the basic tutorials and practices regarding your cycles of growth found in the courses “Why Christians Suffer” and the “Jezebel Yoke” that are available free online. These are important building blocks for your understanding. We also require attendees to study the curriculum prepared for this workshop.

Why Christians Suffer: <http://www.s8wministries.org/course.php?id=15>

The Jezebel Yoke: <http://www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=119&lesson=aspiration---the-jezebel-yoke>

The Inclination Workshop Curriculum

The Inclination Workshop was created as part of God’s Intelligent Design for Christ-Centered Spiritual Transformation® (IDCCST®) Christian education offered by Second 8th Week Ministries to provide believers with the right tools to understand how to overcome themselves, the world, and the devil as the Bible says, “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)

This curriculum can be used as an individual study guide or facilitated through group discussion. It supports both the “Jezebel Yoke” course and “Why Christians Suffer” course and is designed to work with the “Spiritual Workout Results Guide”(SWRG). It is meant to be flexible, allowing you to work from any particular focus presented in either course. You are encouraged to track your daily results using your SWRG as the workshop progresses.

Workshop Goals

(1) The Inclination Workshop steers believers through a 5-step planning process designed for you to overcome yourself, the world, and the devil. (2) Learn how to use the Spiritual Workout Results Guide (SWRG) to track results. (3) Understand the 8 Steps used by the natural man to build new shields. (4) Course is based on the 3-phase cycle of growth: revelation, resistance, and reward. The course is meant to assist believers as they move into the resistance phase to identify the natural rhythms that tend to occur.

The Inclination curriculum will cover 18 separate inclinations of man. Why is it important to learn the 18 inclinations of man? Because God called us to overcome. The first step and the hardest is to overcome is ourselves. We are our own worst enemy. We have to find out why that is.

Materials

1) Course curriculum: Lesson Planner

Download here: <http://s8wministries.org/direct-downloads/inclination-workshop-lesson-01.pdf>

2) Spiritual Warfare Wheel: The 5-Step Planning Process

Download here: <http://s8wministries.org/direct-downloads/spiritual-warfare-wheel.doc>

3) 18 Inclinations of Man <http://www.s8wministries.org/general.php?id=52>

4) 8 Steps to Building New Shields

Download here: <http://s8wministries.org/direct-downloads/8-steps-to-building-new-shields.doc>

5) Spiritual Workout Results Guide (SWRG)

Download here: <http://s8wministries.org/speciality-pdf/spiritual-workout-results-guide.pdf>

6) SWRG Users' Manual

Download here: <http://s8wministries.org/speciality-pdf/SWRG-Users-Manual.pdf>

7) Power Point Presentation

Download here: <http://s8wministries.org/direct-downloads/inclination-workshop-lesson-01.ppsx>

Lesson One: Course Introduction

S1) Open Power Point to slide #3 and State the Learning Goal

Opening Scripture: “Jesus said, These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

Workshop Goals: (1) The Inclination Workshop steers believers through a 5-step planning process designed for them to overcome themselves, the world, and the devil. (2) Learn how to use the Spiritual Workout Results Guide (SWRG) to track results. (3) Understand the 8 Steps used by the natural man to build new shields. (4) Course is based on the 3-phase cycle of growth: revelation, resistance, and reward. The course is meant to assist believers as they move into the resistance phase to identify the natural rhythms that tend to occur.

S2) Power Point slide #4 View Spiritual Warfare Wheel: 5-Step Process

This diagram illustrates the 5-Step planning process (Spiritual Warfare Wheel) to overcome ourselves, the world, and the devil: (Step 1) identify the natural rhythms that tend to occur, how they are inclined to follow that rhythm, (Step 2) assess our vulnerability to the inclination, (Step 3) identify the deception, (Step 4) identify God’s perspective, and (Step 5) overcome.

The natural man deals with his vulnerability by building new shields. . . We are inclined to do that! Understand the 8 Steps used by the natural man to build new shields and find out how to break the cycle.

The Inclination curriculum will cover 18 separate inclinations of man. Why is it important to learn the 18 inclinations of man? Because God called us to overcome. The first step and the hardest is to overcome is ourselves. We are our own worst enemy. We have to find out why that is.

S3) Power Point slide #5 Review SWRG

Take out your SWRG. If you haven't done so, you may want to refer to the manual for detailed instructions on how to use the Spiritual Workout Results Guide at a later time. For our purposes today, we're going to quickly review the guide to see where you are going to record your daily encounter with the inclination of man.

On the top of the Guide you're recording your workout with the top 3 tools of the covenant, then identifying the revelation. The Guide then moves into resistance and you are asked to identify the emotion(s) while in resistance. Scroll through those cute guys: are you experiencing anger, frustration, are you sad, feeling hopeless, experience low self esteem, or have thoughts of suspicion? Next you're asked to identify the inclination of man. The SWRG is helping you tie the emotions to the inclination. We're going to spend more time on this as the workshops progress. This is simply an SWRG walk through.

Next you are asked to identify the facet of the flesh that is being challenged when your spiritual growth cycle moves into resistance, and to identify the yoke you are carrying. The remainder of the SWRG focuses on your choice of faith, reflection, reward, goals, and motivation.

Q & A: Take 5 minutes to answer any question about the SWRG in relation to our purposes today.

S4) Power Point slide #6

Scripture: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every *thought* to the obedience of Christ," (2 Corinthians 10:5)

As the scripture states, God also called us to bring every thought into captivity to Christ. What are those thoughts that need to be taken captive? We have to find out where our soft spots are, where we are vulnerable to the adversary. We can then overcome ourselves, the world, and the devil. To do that we need to learn about the inclination of the natural man.

You may consider this your initial training period, but keep in mind that the Holy Spirit, your life coach, is there too, to train you each step of the way. The Holy Spirit teaches you how to reflect on the grace of God much like a fencing instructor demonstrates how to use the sword to defend yourself, how to position your body, how to guard yourself against your opponent.

The Holy Spirit will show you how to use the grace and truth of God to shatter Satan's deception. He is also going to show you where your vulnerable spots are so that you don't leave yourself open to the Deceiver to overcome you. This daily training continues until the Lord receives you back to Himself.

S5) Power Point slide #7

What's going to happen as we dig through this workshop is that you'll be given time to acclimate yourself to the cycles of your growth.

While you are in training though, learning these steps, you'll naturally be focused on the movement of your cycle of growth, and getting familiar with the inclination of man God is identifying for your overcoming. You'll be focused on learning new language and new skills. During the learning curve you'll be talking a lot about resistance, aspiration, and the inclination of man, but after a while you're going to find a balance and the focus is going to fade into the background as you grow in confidence of the grace of God.

It's much like learning the correct way to work out. If you've ever had an exercise instructor, via video or live at the gym, you're going to be told that you have to learn this stuff: how to hold the weigh properly, where to position your arms, how to avoid movements that will cause injury, to keep breathing, why you need to breath, at what point of the exercise movement to exhale, what's working for you and why, and when to grab some water.

At first it seems impossible to remember all of this and keep it going, so the instructor will continue to remind you, "Are you breathing? Don't hold the weight too tight!" and you'll realize you've been holding your breath and your knuckles are white!

After a few months though, you'll be hearing the same instructions and you'll realize, with a smile, that you've got it! Everything is flowing as it should and you're seeing results!

Discussion Question

When in a new learning curve, what are some things that can be done to insure you retain information and learn key points?

S6) Power Point slide #8

Now let's apply that spiritually to the covenant of Jesus Christ. The courses and workshops are designed to walk you through the paces, to teach you the rhythm of your spiritual growth cycle, how to use the tools, how to reflect, how to identify the 5 facets of the flesh, how to identify the inclination of man, how to identify the yoke you are carrying, how to identify when your cycle moves into the resistance phase, the need to keep the grace flowing. You are brought back again and again, are you reflecting? Are you wrestling with the grace of God?

Your covenant instructor is saying, "You have to learn this stuff!" And at first it seems a lot to take in, but after a few months, you've got it and things are flowing as it should. You learn to listen to your life couch, the Holy Spirit, as His instruction continues to remind you of these things. The reminders will also be in the teachings coming from Second 8th Week Ministries.

At first, there is a lot of focus is on the need to identify the inclination you are overcoming. Satan did a magnificent job to hide these things from you and it's great that the Holy Spirit is bringing

this out in the open where you can see it plainly. You now have a chance to shatter the deception! You too can do it! I know you can! All you have to do is trust faith to the right tools.

S7) Power Point slide #9

And so, during the training period, you're going to emphasize these things you are learning and your discussions are going to focus on these distinctions and distortions. But I want you to get from the beginning that your vulnerability is not your testimony—Christ is your testimony.

Resistance is not your testimony—Christ is your testimony.

As we see illustrated here in this humorous illustration: “We find the defendant not guilty because she was in resistance.”

It is common, while in training to hear believers talk about “being in resistance” or “I’m in a heavy cycle right now”. The language of the covenant is Christ, not the cycle. Our conversation should be Christ, not the cycle. What happens sometimes is that the training becomes a person’s conversation instead of Christ. You don’t want that to do that.

Your training is for the purpose that Christ become your conversation. The testimony that comes out of the training is what you’re going for. The movement of your cycle of growth becomes second nature. You’ll easily spot the inclination of man as the training takes over.

Don’t worry, you’ll be striving for that balance with the help of the Holy Spirit. If a person continues to testify of resistance or heavy cycles after the training, you’ll know she didn’t get it and is in need of one-on-one assistance. She’s trying to learn this thing without the anointing of the Holy Spirit or going too deep with it, trying to swim the ocean to prove she’s got it; And God is not asking you to do that, dear friend.

Discussion Question

Why does it seem as if the language of resistance dominates the language of the covenant and sometimes becomes the testimony in place of Christ? Discuss the various points made in the material above.

S8) Power Point slide #10 Where are you vulnerable?

Where are you vulnerable? The question is not trivial. The tie between your vulnerability and the 18 inclinations of the natural man is something you experience every day. Undoubtedly, you already are very familiar with your natural inclinations and know what an inclination is, but let’s review the definition anyway.

Discussion

Discuss the illustration as it relates to human vulnerability to fix things. What is the tie between the inclination and our vulnerability? We are discussing this before we define what an inclination is to give us an opportunity to draw from what we already know and experience.

S9) Power Point slide #11 Meaning of Inclination: The Definition

INCLINATION (reference: *thefreedictionary.com*)

A natural tendency; a leaning of the mind or will to do, prefer, or favour one thing rather than another; propensity; disposition of mind.

(Disposition: A habit or a tendency to act in a specified way.)

(Tendency: A predisposition to think, act, behave, or proceed in a particular way.)

(Propensity: preference, or attraction)

S10) Power Point slide #12: The Natural Rhythm That Tends to Occur

The inclination of man explains to us the natural rhythm that tends to occur in our thinking pattern that God challenges in our growth cycles. These are habits of thinking, acting, behaving, or proceeding that we are attracted to and come back to over and over again. This is an ingrained way of thinking that has become a part of us.

S11) Power Point slide #13: Why Are We Inclined To . . .

Why are we inclined to hold onto anger, resentment, blame, and guilt?

Why are we inclined to project for peace and security?

Why are we inclined to think negatively?

Why are we inclined to shield ourselves with aspiration?

S12) Power Point slide #14: Why Are Vulnerable To . . .

By setting this out like this, we can now see where vulnerability comes into play. We are vulnerable . . .

1. To our history and we are inclined to go there to fix things and find ourselves.
2. To our state of being. We want peace and security, but we are inclined to search for it in the flesh.
3. To emptiness and are inclined to fill the void by building for self.
4. To lack and loss and we are inclined to follow our instincts to find equity in it.
5. To our own nakedness and we are inclined create many shields to protect our nakedness and justify the flesh.

Discussion

Discuss the connection between our vulnerability and what we are inclined to do, react, think, say, assume, etc.

S13) Power Point slide #15: Where the Mind Leans, the Will Follows

Where the mind leans, the will follows. We are inclined, or lean towards building strong ties with the likeness of self we create for confidence of life. God calls us to build the likeness of Christ, but the aspiration calls us to build a likeness of self. The natural man is trying to find himself in his own history or signature. The natural man trusts what has become familiar to him, and judges by the prejudices he learns. It is this affection that God challenges in order to break the thought patterns that draws us back to the old man.

S14) Power Point slide #16: Examine the Evidence and Make Connections

Look at these important phrases in the above paragraph:

The aspiration builds a likeness of self.
The natural man trusts what is familiar.
This affection draws us back to the old man.

Now think again about your vulnerability....

1. To build an likeness for ourselves
2. To trust in what is familiar to us
3. To be drawn back to identify with the old man

Discussion

Use the material above to discuss why it is necessary for God to challenge the inclination of man. What is the natural man looking for in his/her history? Where do you see God setting challenges? Why does the mind carry a prejudice?

S15) Power Point slide #17: How the Natural Man Deals with His vulnerability

The natural man deals with his vulnerability by building new shields. . . We are inclined to do that!

S16) Power Point slide #18: 8 Steps to Building New Shields

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Vulnerability | 2. Suspicion | 3. Projection | 4. Aggravation |
| 5. Inferiority | 6. Reasoning | 7. Breach of Trust | 8. Building New Shields |

There is a natural rhythm that tends to occur when we realize we are vulnerable. We are first suspicious of others and demand to know the who, what, where, when, why, and how. We project with the imagination a course that will guarantee our peace and security. We experience aggravation because suspicion is the flesh's way of finding equity.

Aggravation is next experienced as we come into conflict with ourselves and others when peace is not found. The mind then reasoning further with each new piece of evidence is filtered through the many layers of prejudice in our minds. A breach of trust is discerned and we build a new shield that we think will be better than the last one.

We think that we're building a shield to protect ourselves and identify ourselves, but we are breaking ourselves down, not building ourselves up. The mind is occupied with its own history and need to build a positive self image. God is ready to break this destructive cycle, my friend.

Discussion

Discuss the material above. Why does the imagination follow the suspicion and the projection follow the imagination? Explain the aggravation. Why does this lead to low self esteem and feelings of inferiority? Discuss how you see these steps talking place in your own life.

S17) Power Point slide #19: Bringing Every Thought Captive to Christ

The inclination of man explains where we are prone to go in our thoughts. God mercifully challenges this habit of mind by providing. . .

1. truth as the new pattern for our mind to go back to over and over again;
2. the record of Christ is our new history, and
3. righteousness is our new state of being.
4. We are no longer empty, for God fills us with the substance of His kingdom as we reflect on His knowledge.
5. We no longer lack anything, for the tools of Christ increase the soul in His virtue.
6. We are no longer naked, for God has clothed us in the robes of the righteousness of Christ.
7. We no longer build for ourselves, but for God.
8. We now trust faith to the tools,
9. We are drawn by grace to identify with the new man.

Discussion

These are points you will come back to in each of the following workshops in this course. Make a plan to keep these points central and make a plan to add to them as the discussions progress. By the end of the course this list should have at least 50 items on it.

S17) Power Point slide #20: The Inclination of Man to Go Back

The inclination of man is to go back to the instincts of the flesh, to build an image of self with that history that supposedly defines who you are. The Deceiver works daily to empty your mind of the knowledge of Christ to bring you back to that vacuous state of mind consequent of the natural man where you will think, believe, and act out the natural man.

S18) Power Point slide #21: The Inclination of Man Explains God's Deliverance

So then, the inclination of man also explains to us God's deliverance and salvation through Jesus Christ. God daily brings you into a place of strength with Him, challenging the inclination of man so that it will not overshadow your faith. The purpose of this workshop is to make you aware of your natural inclinations to prepare you to recognize that challenge and choose Christ as your shield.

Scripture: "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." (Ephesians 6:16)

A very careful study of the Inclination of Man reveals 18 different inclinations that we deal with on a day-to-day basis. We are going to touch on each one briefly to introduce you to them before we study them in full.

Each study of the Inclination of Man will include discussion questions.

S19) Power Point slide #22-24: The 18 Inclinations of Man

1. To Emotional Profiling
2. To Distrust God
3. To Build Faith on Human Relationships
4. To Justify the Flesh
5. To Judge
6. To Procrastinate
7. To View Faith From the Perspective of Life
8. To Focus on the Wrong Thing
9. To Build Upon Old Foundations
10. To Trust the Moral Code
11. To Make Straight That Which is Crooked

12. To Measure Ourselves by That Law That Condemns
13. To Please Man
14. To Remain Independent of God
15. To be Discontent
16. To Not Care For the Things of God
17. To Seek Equity in the Flesh
18. To Expect the Worst

Discussion

Which inclination(s) do you feel you relate to the most. Which inclination are you the most interested in learning about? Which inclination do you feel is the most damaging?

Closing Remarks

It's what you do under pressure, at the time God is challenging the inclination of man, that really counts. If you treat the thoughts of the inclination as passing thoughts that you just push away to the back of your mind saying, "I won't think about that," that's not the same as identifying it and bringing it under subjection to Christ. You're coping. You're not overcoming. We need to weigh the knowledge and understand the path it leads us down and then overcome by choosing the knowledge of Christ.

If you just push the thoughts away or allow yourself to indulge in them, you're allowing the "seed thoughts" of the Enemy to germinate in your mind and you'll be dealing with a grown crop of thoughts a few hours, days, weeks, and months down the road. God is teaching the church to discern the inclination and to immediately resist the Enemy's plantings.

Let's look at the central points of the lesson again: The inclination of man explains where we are prone to go in our thoughts. God mercifully challenges this habit of mind by providing. . .

1. truth as the new pattern for our mind to go back to over and over again;
2. the record of Christ is our new history, and
3. righteousness is our new state of being.
4. We are no longer empty, for God fills us with the substance of His kingdom as we reflect on His knowledge.
5. We no longer lack anything, for the tools of Christ increase the soul in His virtue.
6. We are no longer naked, for God has clothed us in the robes of the righteousness of Christ.
7. We no longer build for ourselves, but for God.
8. We now trust faith to the tools,
9. We are drawn by grace to identify with the new man.

We are brought before the same choice every day. We will either choose to go with the rhythm of the Spirit or the rhythm of the flesh. So it is important to keep our vessel full of faith to stay prepared to make that choice. There is a reason why truth is called the daily anchor of the soul. It prevents our thoughts from drifting back into the dangerous waters of the flesh. We need truth to

continue to identify with Christ. So, keep in mind that although we are identifying the inclinations to overcome them, we are not identifying with these things. We are identifying with the record of Christ.

Closing Prayer

Thank you heavenly Father for giving me a new perspective in Jesus Christ. I know you are teaching me a new rhythm and new pattern of thinking in Christ, teaching me to identify with the record of Christ and to make active choices of faith throughout the day to lay day the inclination of man.

I know you are challenging my persuasion of thinking. Please help me to identify when the inclination presents itself and how to immediately bring these thoughts into subjection to Christ. I ask for an increase in your grace and that you teach me the art of reflection that I may align my will with yours and daily be transformed into the image of Christ.

Additional Exercise

In the space below, take some headings from your reading(s) and make up some questions that you find the answers to as you read:

1. _____

Question: _____

Question: _____

Question: _____

2. _____

Question: _____

Question: _____

Question: _____

3. _____

Question: _____

Question: _____

Question: _____