



# **Dead Dogs on the Highway**

# **Study Guide**

# Dead Dogs on the Highway

## Chapter 1 Study Guide

Page 2: "Early wounds and deep wounds from later on are huge in shaping a person's entire future unless there is true forgiveness to erase the negative impact."

What are some early life events, or major happenings that have shaped you for good or for bad?

For my grandfather, the fight seemingly was about money. What was the real issue he was struggling with?

What caused that to be a great issue in his life?

Page 3: "No amount of compensation will satisfy the demands of a spiritual stronghold."

What are some of your core struggle areas? What are some of the ways you have tried to feel better about these areas or how did you try to "fix" them?

How should you approach your spiritual struggles in a way that would bring spiritual healing?

Review the details of the story from Chapter 1 that illustrates that a spiritual stronghold is not limited to a single generation. What kinds of things do your parents or grandparents struggle with that might be contributing to your struggle areas?

Forgiveness happens when there is a total surrender to God. We must believe that God is truly God and that He will handle things. What basic prayer was prayed over the house and family that brought victory?

The title of the book is "Dead Dogs on the Highway." What truth about the spiritual realm does this title illustrate?

Some people go into a kind of emotional/spiritual shut down because of their wounds. Why is this not healthy?

The timeless nature of the spirit realm means that Jesus' actions on the cross are still completely effective today. What do you have to do to activate the power of what Jesus did on the cross so that you can receive healing from woundedness?

Are there issues that you can share with others to be prayed over right now?



# Sitting in the King's Seat

## Chapter 2 Study Guide

We participate with God in the forgiveness process. He has caused us to sit "in the King's seat." What are some examples of God not going beyond the choices of man?

What are some biblical examples of God responding to the words or requests of man to bring extraordinary results?

One thing that makes it easier to forgive is if there is ... (p. 10).

A person who feels obligated to forgive or pressured to forgive, seldom is able to get to a place of truly forgiving. How do we do a better job of giving people a clear choice to forgive or not to forgive?

Another concept that makes it difficult to forgive is the "divine eraser." What is meant by this phrase?

A person who has been victimized must consider the cost of two futures. In the case of adultery, describe the cost of the two futures.

The outcomes of sin cannot be eliminated. The king's decision merely determines who will pay and how they will pay. What are some ways that your decisions have "transferred" payment either to yourself or onto others?

In a situation that has been painful for you and difficult to let go of the hurt, what would it mean for you to "sit in the king's seat"?



# The Stripes of Partnership

## Chapter 3 Study Guide

"When we get saved, we become an extension of the intercessory work of Christ" (p. 13). God calls us to use our influence to bring others to Him. How can the way we handle wounds help bring others to Christ?

"For salvation to occur, God has to negotiate with a king" (p. 14). What are some ways God "negotiated" with you to draw you to Himself?

"All true dominion must be consistent with God's nature. All other dominion is nothing but a temporal illusion" p. 15). Intimidators often seem to have a great deal of power. How is their power an "illusion"?

"Everyone else who messes up needs stripes. But as for me, now that is a different story. I need a second chance. I need forgiveness" (p. 15). We generally want to operate with two standards: one for ourselves and one for others. Do you tend to be harder on yourself or others? Give examples.

"Stripes. Willingly taken and then handed to God" (p. 15). Consequences cannot be eliminated, only transferred. Think of a time when you absorbed the consequences of someone else's foolishness. Did you take the consequences willingly or did you have the negative outcomes forced on you? If you did take the consequences willingly, did it make a positive difference in the situation? Share answers with others.

"Every person who then sins against Peter is handing a part of his dominion over to God as long as Peter willingly hands off that potential offense to God. Stripes." (p. 16). When a person sins against us, how does that sin translate to God having authority to work in their lives?

If we choose to harbor bitterness, what outcome do we experience in the spiritual realm?

What does the person who willingly receives stripes deserve? How might he receive a reward in this life? How will God respond to him on judgment day? What impact will it have on his life in heaven?

Romans 8:16-17 tie together the topics of the presence of God, the authority of God, and suffering. Kings are called to sacrifice for the good of the people. How is sacrifice needed if you are to be a godly influence on those around you?

What life situations can you see that you need to think differently about the way you respond to others?



# The Myth of Weakness

## Chapter 4 Study Guide

The way biblical forgiveness is taught often makes it appear weak. Explain how forgiveness seems to be the “weak” way out.

“To say that forgiveness means we cannot still pursue some kind of justice or restitution is to neuter major portions of Scripture” (p. 18). Psalm 99:8 makes it clear that God forgave and still took vengeance on their deeds. If that is true, what does forgiveness actually mean in terms of how we respond to others?

We always need to deal with our own hearts first. Until we let go of the offense, we cannot honestly consider what choices should be made in response to another person. What kinds of things can we do to get our heart to a point that we are surrendered to God, and no longer angry?

“Doing nothing back to a person is a viable choice and should be considered, but it is not the only choice!” (p. 19). Share an example of when doing nothing in response to an offense was a good choice. Share an example when doing nothing would have been a poor choice.

“To do life, we do have to judge, but we don’t have to condemn” (p. 20). Condemnation is about being negative toward or against another person. Sometimes it is a difficult call to know whether we are being realistic or negative. How do we know if we have let go of the pain and are truly being honest in a situation?

What do you tend to care the most about—your current pain/pleasure or the good of others? Where do you need to discipline yourself to walk in a way that truly loves others in a way that helps them grow?

“If we have fear, we have not fully dealt with our own hearts” (p. 21). Where do you have tension in your life in a way that would indicate something is not fully handed off to God?

“If we really care about the eternal state of others, everything changes radically” (p. 22). Being a doormat is not caring about others but only about self. It leaves the other person in a perpetual place of being a jerk. Share places where you have taken the easy way out when being a biblical influencer would have meant a stronger response.



"It (forgiveness) is an effective transfer of pain or injustice to God, so that the heart of the one who has been wounded is open and able to hear and obey what God wants in the situation" (p. 23). How should this definition of forgiveness change the way you live?

## Life Choice

### Chapter 5 Study Guide

"The biggest battle with forgiveness is not in the head but in the heart" (p. 24). Many times, for us to forgive, we have to make consistent life choices over a period of time. What are some places where you have found it hard to forgive? What is the deep place of pain that is involved in this struggle with forgiveness?

Are there places where forgiveness feels like a denial of what is right or what is important to you? What can you do to get God's perspective on this area of your life?

What are some of the imprints that you have accumulated in the deep areas of your pain?

When we can just "forgive," it is usually in an area that is a lower value area for us. What are some examples of things you were able to forgive without great difficulty?

What are some examples (p. 26) where a person gets "offended" by someone trying to help them? What causes this offense?

"But because we have elevated some value of our own to a place of god-like status, God is not able to inhabit the place we occupy. And without Him, we are powerless to forgive" (p. 27). We cannot forgive the deeper wounds without God's help. What area of your life consistently produces you woundedness? What area of your life needs to be more fully given to God? What would you need to do to give that area to God?

Deeper forgiveness is death to self and choosing to be accountable to others who are healthy in an area where we are not healthy. Who do you have or who should you have in your life to help move you toward long term heart change?



# The Stakes of Partnership

## Chapter 6 Study Guide

"The impact of the dead dogs is much higher than we could ever imagine, but not for the reason that we think" (p. 29). What was the impact of the unforgiveness on my grandfather? How did it radiate for generations?

What are some of the positives that came out of the same area the cause of the unforgiveness?

"My grandfather saw an event merely as an instance of his rights being violated. God saw it as an opportunity to change a heritage" (p. 30). Where is God at work in you to try to build a new heritage? (Hint: it is usually tied to areas where you struggle with unforgiveness!)

What are some of the things we focus on when we are trying to forgive? How do we shift from the more temporal focus to a "heritage" focus?

What does it look like for God to keep His heart open?

"Actually holding a person accountable is most effective when the heart has softened and a relational connection is reestablished" (p. 31). Our instincts tell us that "coming down hard" should happen when we are angry or even as a way to help us feel better about restoring relationship. When we are angry, what is usually the best reaction? When should we press others at a higher level?

How did Abraham's place of pain become a motivation for him to follow God?

How did Abraham transition from selfishly following God to becoming more like God?

"That is how we do forgiveness. We need to look for fertile soil. We don't have the time or the energy to do relationship with everyone we meet, but we need to hear God's heart and focus on those He desires for us to touch" (p. 32). This quote tells us that pain



should not be the central question in our relationships. What helps us know that we are to continue in a relationship or to minimize that relationship?

"In some cases, receiving forgiveness requires more change than a person is willing to make ... or possibly even able to make" (p. 32). Are there those to whom you have offered to restore relationship, but they didn't have the ability to respond in any positive way? Share some examples.

Look at the list of questions in the first column of page 33. If we approach others with the same open heart that God has, how do we answer those questions?

"But we must get past the problem of pain and see the greater issue of establishing the life of God in each and every situation" (p. 34). How do we maintain the kind of communion with God that we need to have to move past the "problem of pain"?



## Release: Get It!

### Chapter 7 Study Guide

"Everything else I've said about forgiveness is of no value unless there is a letting go of the offense" (p. 35). Explain in your own words two key concepts about forgiveness: Forgiveness is letting go. Forgiveness is transfer.

What is the process a thinker goes through to "let go"?

What can help the "justice" person forgive?

For us to forgive, where does our focus need to end up? What questions help us end up in a healthy place?

What is the process for a more emotion dominant person to forgive?

How does a clear judgment of sin help some get to forgiveness?

"If we revisit our pain without getting release, our pain will end up being deeper than when we started" (p. 38). Unless our pain is transferred to God and His life is transferred back into the place of woundedness, revisiting pain is not helpful. What do you need to do to get your pain transferred to God?

Who do you know that might help you walk through this process in a way that brings real freedom? When and how are you going to pursue the connections that will bring freedom?



# Woundedness Inventory

Give a brief description of any of the following that have happened in your life.

1. Any known activity during the womb for you or your mother
2. Any consistent dream/nightmare activity that might be an indicator of negative spiritual flows or bondage areas
3. Death of a twin or a sibling, even while still in the womb
4. Any other significant losses that affected parents or family
5. Adoption
6. Foster care
7. Parent(s) who left the home
8. Divorce of parents
9. Any significant level of abandonment from a parent (or other major caretaker/covenant partner) leaving to the parent just being consumed with things like work, a hobby, or drugs or alcohol in a way that made him/her emotionally and spiritually unavailable to nurture
10. Any negative step parent experiences or negative experiences with a live-in to one of your parents



11. Any form of abuse
12. Any significant sexual experience or ongoing activity not within the confines of marriage as defined by God (especially experiences at younger ages)
13. Any grotesque or forced sexual experiences even within the confines of marriage
14. Military experiences
15. Acts of aggression or violence toward others
16. Any connection with an abortion
17. Sexual abuse or rape of others
18. Any form of occult activity: (examples: horoscope, Ouija board, psychic readings, tarot cards, manipulated out of body experiences, mind reading, secret order rituals, Satanic rituals, etc.)
19. Any major trauma (from an accident to any significant emotional or physical event)
20. Known generational strongholds
21. Areas of excess in your area of passion

Once areas of woundedness have been identified, you will need to develop a plan of attack for each of the major areas of spiritual bondage. It is not necessary to specifically



pray for healing for every single thing that has happened to you, but it is important to specifically pray over major items. It is also important that prayer over major items be done at a time and in a manner where there is a real connectedness to the area wound (generally meaning a reactivating of the pain), wounding, or sin or aggression that has been a part of your life.

Healing or repentance done from a distance is ineffective. Those who have repeatedly brought woundedness to the surface in some sort of sharing format without actually getting a release from the pain will also struggle believing that "this time" can be different and will bring healing. The healing process should complete a legal transfer at the spiritual level and also bring a change at the experiential level to where the person starts responding to life events in a manner where the pain or in some cases, lack of pain or normal human feeling is gone or subsiding.

Repentance done without ownership is also ineffective. In cases where the person's heart has developed the kind of walls that make him/her incapable of truly seeing or owning the pain he/she creates in others, the person will likely have to go through some kind of rehumanizing process before repentance can be effective.

The plan of attack should identify major items that need a legal transfer/healing. It should also identify "theme" areas of your life that will need to be addressed on a daily basis over a much longer period of time for you to walk in ongoing victory.

Stronghold level experiences:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Spiritual flow areas or sin areas that will need daily work:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Plan of attack:



# Life Plan

## Heart Change

My area of gifting/calling as created by God:

The corresponding stronghold area(s) or spiritual flow that I will need to continually overcome:

The ongoing lifestyle choices I need to make to live an overcoming lifestyle:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

The strategies I need to use if my struggle in my stronghold area starts to accelerate:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

My long term lifestyle choices I want to make to grow into a man of God:

## Finances

My five year vision purchases or savings, etc. includes the following:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

To get there I need to keep my expenses to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ a month...

I need to pay off \$ \_\_\_\_\_ a month...

I need to get a job that would pay at least \$ \_\_\_\_\_ a month...

So that I can save \$ \_\_\_\_\_ a month in order to \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Other Life Goals such as job, education, ministry, hobby, bucket list:



## My Relationships With God

### With Others

What relationships would I like to mend?

What relationships would I like to pursue?

## My Job/Career