

spiritual caffeine

a monthly shot of encouragement and equipping for student leaders



Cadre Ministries

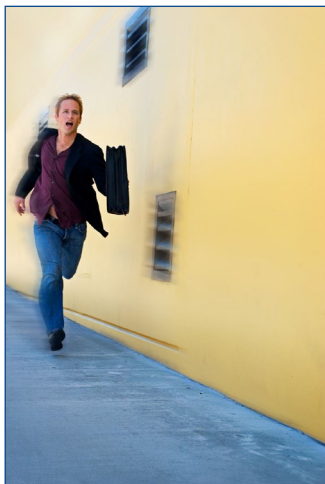
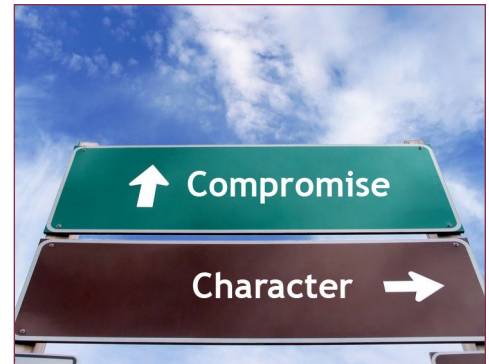
so much at stake

choosing to serve God and flee sin

day 1: resistance

Read Hebrews 12:1–13

Growing up, I hated being disciplined. I was the kind of kid who was mortified if I even felt that anyone was disappointed in me. It doesn't mean I was a perfect kid, but I didn't like to be caught doing anything wrong! However, looking back, I'm glad that my parents could see more than I thought, and that they trained me in righteousness. As we grow up, we have less supervision and external discipline, but ironically, the consequences of our choices are greater. The author of Hebrews warns us to submit to God and discipline ourselves... to resist sin, even if it means shedding our blood. That's how much is at stake. Is there any sin that is entangling you and keeping you from running hard after God? Confess it and choose today to resist it, whatever it takes.



day 2: flight

Read 2 Timothy 2:20–26

When was the last time you fled from something? Why did you do it? Timothy is a young leader whom Paul is training in. And he urges him to flee from the evil desires that are so natural to youth. Why? The purity of his heart is at stake—and with it, his qualification to be someone used by God for great purposes. What does it look like to flee from sin? Are you able to do that when you need to?

day 3: decision

Read Galatians 6:7–10

Little children frequently fail to see the connection between things. Peek-a-boo is fun with babies because they haven't yet figured out the connection between the blanket over their head and their inability

to see you. But a sign of wisdom and maturity is the ability to see how things are interconnected. In particular, discernment allows us to see the implications of our choices. As Paul says, if we sow evil, we're going to reap evil. If we plant good, that's what we'll get. It sounds so simple. But we miss it so often! Every choice you make is sending you in a certain direction on a certain path—and that path has a destination. Are the choices you're making sending you in the direction you want to go? Toward the person you want to become?



day 4: transformation

Read 1 John 3:1–10

You've got to love John's writing—he says it like it is! This is a sobering passage, but an encouraging one as well. "No one who lives in him keeps on sinning." This doesn't mean, of course, that once we've received new life we'll never sin. But it means a transformation has happened, and our lives are on a different course. If our lives are still marked by choices misaligned with God's heart, we have to question if we really know him. But if we do, we're promised that every day he will make us more like himself, until we fully experience holiness when he returns for us.



day 5: protection

Read Ephesians 6:10–20

We wouldn't need armor if we weren't at war. But the truth is, there is a battle raging all around us. A battle for God's honor and for the hearts and souls of his people. And anyone who wants to make a difference for his kingdom will find himself in the cross hairs. That's why the divine protection Christ offers is so crucial! We will never be able to stand strong in the fight without our salvation, his righteousness, a firm grip on the gospel, a knowledge of the truth, and a strong faith. But it is not all defense! Note that Paul lists two offensive weapons we have: the Word of God and prayer, both of which come with his divine Spirit. How frequently do you equip yourself with this armor? Are you prepared for battle?

day 6: allegiance

Read Romans 6:15–23

Only one thing can consume your life. You can only have one master. You used to be a slave to sin, and you had no choice in the matter. But now Christ has set you free! You don't have to serve sin anymore, and you don't have to experience its deathly consequences. You are free to swear your allegiance to God and serve him, reaping the benefit of eternal life. But what are you choosing? Search your heart today, and evaluate where your desires and priorities lie. Can those who observe your life tell that you are sold out to God?

day 7: atonement

Read 1 John 1:5–2:2

The first time I really understood these verses, I wept. John fully understands how much hurt is caused by our sin, and how much it cost Christ to pay for it. He pleads with his readers to fight sin ruthlessly, but he knows that we will fall. So does Christ. That's why 2:1 is such an incredible, unimaginably wonderful verse: When we do sin, there's someone to plead for us. To go to the Father on our behalf and speak up for us. To forgive us, love us, and die for us to take away our sin. There is nothing, absolutely nothing, that is unforgivable if you're willing to give it to him and ask for his mercy. Spend some time today standing in wonder of the grace of God and the sacrifice of his son. Thank him for the purity you have because of him.

