

— MAN — LIFE — LEGACY —

Sermon Series Kit

— *Four Sundays* —

A four-week preaching series that fills the eight-week Track
and sends your men into it already diagnosed.

MEN

DISCIPLESHIP

LEADERSHIP

LEGACY

HOLY
BIBLE

BUILD THE MAN

BUILD THE LIFE

BUILD THE
LEGACY

Preach
Equip
Mobilize
Change Lives

Companion to Build the Man · Field Manual One

DR. CEDRIC J. SHELBY

MAN - LIFE - LEGACY

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READ THIS PAGE FIRST

How This Works

Four sermons. Not eight. You preach the whole Man–Life–Legacy system across four Sundays, and the men work stage one for eight weeks in a group. The series is the front door. The Track is the house.

THE RUNWAY

Preach the four Sundays before the group launches, not during it. The series is what fills the room. A man who hears the diagnosis on Sunday One has three weeks to sit with his own score before he is asked to commit to eight weeks of work.

- **Sunday One** — Take the Structure Assessment. No commitment asked for yet.
- **Sunday Two** — Name the Track, name the start date, open sign-ups.
- **Sunday Three** — Last call for sign-ups. This is the Sunday that reaches the married men.
- **Sunday Four** — Ask publicly who will run the next group.

The Track starts the week after Sunday Four and runs eight sessions.

WHAT EACH SERMON CONTAINS

Primary text and supporting texts, a one-sentence objective, a three-move outline, key teaching points, an illustration with a fallback option, the connection back into the system, four application questions, and the ask to say from the pulpit. Everything in brackets is yours to fill in.

ONE THING TO HOLD

The eight-week Track covers Build the Man only. Field Manuals II and III exist as books, but the group programs for them are not built yet. Sundays Three and Four preach the full system and point men to the manuals — they do not promise a Life group or a Legacy group. Do not add that promise.

WHAT THE MEN NEED

- Every man in the group needs his own copy of Build the Man. \$16.99 on Amazon. There is no bulk discount and no shared copies — the work is written in the margins.
- The church needs one facilitator and the Leader Guide, which is free.
- The Pastor Guide covers selecting that facilitator. Read it before you name anyone.

Strength Without Structure

Capable men do not collapse because they are weak.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:24–27 — the two builders.

SUPPORTING TEXTS

Proverbs 24:3–4. Luke 14:28–30.

SERMON OBJECTIVE

Every man leaves knowing that being capable is not the same as being built, and that he cannot tell from the outside which house he is standing in.

OUTLINE

I. Two houses on the same street

Read the text slowly and let the men notice what is missing from it. Jesus gives no difference in size, appearance, cost, or craftsmanship. Both men built. Both houses stood. From the road you could not tell them apart, and that is the whole point of the picture.

II. The storm did not build the failure. It revealed it.

The rain, the floods, and the winds hit both houses equally. The weather is not the variable. The failure was finished long before the day it showed, which is why the text says great was its fall — not sudden, great. What looks like a collapse is almost always a disclosure.

III. The difference is not effort. It is what the effort was set on.

Verse 24 does not divide the men into hardworking and lazy. It divides them into the one who heard and did, and the one who heard and did not. Sand is not sloth. Sand is a foundation nobody ever inspected.

KEY TEACHING POINTS

- Both builders worked. Neither was idle. Effort is not the dividing line in this text, and it is not the dividing line in a man's life.
- A house standing is not evidence that a house is sound. Standing is the default condition right up until it is not.
- A man cannot diagnose his own structure by how he feels or by what he produces. Both of those readings come from the parts of his life that are already strong.
- There is no warning light on a life. That is exactly why it has to be inspected on purpose.
- This sermon is not asking men to try harder. It is asking them to look underneath.

ILLUSTRATION

Use the pole yard. Forty feet up, the standard does not move, because the cost of getting it wrong is absolute — and everything is inspected before a man ever climbs. Then bring it home: a house looks fine from the street right up until the day it does not. If you have your own story of something that failed long before anyone saw it fail, use that instead. Personal beats borrowed every time.

THE MAN-LIFE-LEGACY CONNECTION

This is the diagnosis Sunday. The Structure Assessment is the inspection the sermon just argued for — eighteen questions, about five minutes, a score out of 100 with separate readings for Man, Life, and Legacy. Do not preach the Track yet. Preach the inspection, and let the men find their own number before you invite them to anything.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Which part of your life gets inspected regularly, and which part has not been looked at in years?
2. Where are you producing well enough that nobody has thought to ask how you are actually doing?
3. If something in your life gave way in the next twelve months, what would it most likely be — and would it be sudden, or would it only look sudden?
4. Who in your life is close enough to see the foundation and honest enough to tell you what they see?

THE ASK — SAY THIS FROM THE PULPIT

Before you leave today, take the Structure Assessment. Eighteen questions. Five minutes. It is free and nobody sees your number but you. I am not asking you to sign up for anything yet. I am asking you to find out where you stand.

Build the Man

The foundation is not discipline. It is Christ.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 3:10–11 — no other foundation can be laid.

SUPPORTING TEXTS

Proverbs 25:28. 1 Timothy 4:7–8.

SERMON OBJECTIVE

Every man leaves knowing that discipline is what gets built, not what it gets built on, and that a man who skips the foundation is only postponing the failure.

OUTLINE

I. Somebody else laid the foundation

Paul calls himself a skilled builder, and then immediately says the foundation was already laid. A man does not originate the thing that holds his weight. He finds it, and he builds on it. Every man in the room is building on something today, whether he chose it deliberately or inherited it by default.

II. How a man builds gets tested

Paul warns each man to take care how he builds. The material a man uses is not a private matter, because the test is coming for the structure either way. This is where discipline enters the sermon — not as the foundation, but as the workmanship.

III. There is only one that holds

Verse 11 is the load-bearing sentence. Every other foundation is a substitute that performs well under normal weather. Willpower, reputation, competence, and provision are real materials, but none of them was designed to sit at the bottom.

KEY TEACHING POINTS

- Discipline without Christ is self-rule with better habits. It holds until the pressure exceeds the man, and then there is nothing under it.
- Proverbs 25:28 describes a man without self-control as a city with its walls broken down. He is not called weak. He is called unprotected — the damage comes from outside, through a gap he left open.
- Identity comes before behavior. What a man believes about who he is determines what he does when nobody is watching and the pressure is real.
- 1 Timothy 4:7 uses training language on purpose. Godliness is not a mood a man works himself into. It is a discipline he runs until it is automatic.

- Say plainly that this is not a call to try harder at being a good man. It is a call to be rebuilt from the bottom.

ILLUSTRATION

The lineman's standard: the reason the standard never moves is that the cost of getting it wrong is absolute, and no amount of skill up top compensates for a bad set at the base. Alternate option, if you want something the men see every week — anything that has been repaired repeatedly at the surface while the cause sat underneath untouched.

THE MAN-LIFE-LEGACY CONNECTION

This is the sermon that recruits. The eight-week Track is built entirely on this stage — twelve chapters of Build the Man across eight sessions, one move run seven straight days between meetings. Today is the day you name the Track, name the start date, and open the sign-up.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What is actually underneath your life right now — not what you would say, what is holding the weight?
2. Name one area where you have been repairing the surface for years without touching the cause.
3. Where is a wall down in your city — an opening you have stopped defending because defending it got tiring?
4. What is the one discipline that, if you ran it for thirty straight days, would change the most?

THE ASK — SAY THIS FROM THE PULPIT

We are running an eight-week group for men, starting the week of [DATE]. Twelve chapters, eight nights, one move a week that you actually run. Every man brings his own manual and does his own work. Sign up in the lobby today, and bring one man with you.

Build the Life

The house is the first assignment, not the leftover.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 3:4–5 — he must manage his own household well.

SUPPORTING TEXTS

Nehemiah 4:13–14. Joshua 24:15.

SERMON OBJECTIVE

Every man leaves seeing his home as the proving ground for everything else he leads, and leaves with one thing in it he intends to put back in order this week.

OUTLINE

I. The house is the proving ground, not the reward

Paul puts household management in a list of qualifications, which means the home is not what a man gets to enjoy after he succeeds elsewhere. It is where his fitness to lead anything is demonstrated in the first place.

II. The argument runs from small to large

Verse 5 makes the logic explicit — if a man does not know how to manage his own house, he will not care for the church of God. Scripture reasons from the small structure to the large one, which is the reverse of how most men order their week.

III. Order is care, not control

The word behind manage means to stand before, to lead by going first. It is not policing and it is not micromanaging a family into compliance. It is a man taking his position at the front of the thing he is responsible for.

KEY TEACHING POINTS

- Most men are producing at work while quietly falling behind at home, and calling it providing. Name that from the pulpit without shaming anyone — the room will go quiet, because it is true.
- Nehemiah stationed men at the exposed places by families, and told them to fight for their sons, daughters, wives, and homes. Position was assigned by what a man was defending.
- What is not measured drifts. Money, time, health, and marriage all decline quietly and none of them announces it.
- A man can be present in the building and absent from the household. Physical location is not leadership.

- This is the pillar with the most leaks in it, and leaks are cheap to fix early and expensive to fix late.

ILLUSTRATION

Anything with a slow leak — a line that loses pressure so gradually that the gauge reads normal for months. Then the domestic version: the room in the house everyone has stopped mentioning. Keep this one gentle. Men will already be doing the math on their own homes by the second minute.

THE MAN-LIFE-LEGACY CONNECTION

Build the Life is Field Manual II, and the group program for it is not running yet. Do not promise it. What you can say is that the eight-week Track is where a man builds the discipline that makes an ordered home possible, and that the home is where the men in the group will see the first results.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. If your household ran for a year on the leadership you gave it this month, where would it be?
2. What is leaking right now that you have known about for more than six months?
3. Name one person in your house who has been getting your leftover attention.
4. What is one thing you can put back in order this week — small enough to actually finish?

THE ASK — SAY THIS FROM THE PULPIT

The group starts [DATE] and there are still seats. If what I described about your house landed today, that is the room to bring it to. Sign up in the lobby.

Build the Legacy

It is not finished until another man can carry it.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 2:2 — entrust to faithful men who will teach others.

SUPPORTING TEXTS

Psalms 78:4–7. Deuteronomy 6:6–9.

SERMON OBJECTIVE

Every man leaves understanding that legacy is transfer rather than memory, and at least one man leaves intending to lead the next group.

OUTLINE

I. What you received was entrusted, not earned

Timothy did not generate what he carries. He heard it from Paul in the presence of many witnesses. A man's first posture toward what he has been given is stewardship, not ownership.

II. Entrust it to faithful men

Paul's filter is faithfulness, not talent. He does not say gifted men or impressive men. The qualification for carrying something forward is that the man can be relied upon over time.

III. Four generations in a single verse

Paul to Timothy, Timothy to faithful men, faithful men to others. The verse builds a chain that does not require Paul to be present in any link past the first. That is the whole design.

KEY TEACHING POINTS

- Legacy is not what people remember about a man. It is what keeps operating after he is no longer in the room.
- The test of transfer is reproduction. If what you built cannot run without you standing in it, you built a performance, not a structure.
- Able to teach others also is the finish line, not the extra credit. A thing has not transferred until the person you gave it to can hand it on again.
- Psalm 78 assigns this to fathers explicitly, and gives the reason — so the next generation would set their hope in God rather than repeat what came before.
- Multiplication is a mechanism, not a mood. It happens because somebody was named, prepared, and handed the thing on a date.

ILLUSTRATION

The man you train to take your place on the pole. You do not hand him the climb on his last day — you start handing it over early, while you are still there to catch it. Close the series where it opened, back at the house: the one that outlasts the builder is the one that was built to be handed on.

THE MAN-LIFE-LEGACY CONNECTION

In the Track, the handoff starts at Session 6, not Session 8. The current facilitator names the next one while the group is still running, and that is how a second group exists. This is the Sunday to ask, publicly, who will run the next one.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Who is currently receiving what you know — name an actual person.
2. What would stop the day you did if you did not deliberately hand it to someone?
3. Who has been faithful in front of you long enough that you should be pouring into him?
4. What is one thing you will begin transferring in the next thirty days?

THE ASK — SAY THIS FROM THE PULPIT

The group that starts this month will finish in eight weeks. Somewhere in that room is the man who runs the next one. If that is you, do not wait until the last night to find out — come talk to me.

Announcement Copy

SHORT — SCREENS AND SLIDES

Strength is not the problem. Structure is. A four-week series for men, starting [DATE].

MEDIUM — BULLETIN

Most men do not collapse because they are weak. They collapse because the structure underneath their strength stopped carrying the weight, and nothing warned them. Beginning [DATE], we are preaching four Sundays on how a man is actually built — and then running an eight-week group for the men who want to do the work. Take the free Structure Assessment at manlifelegacy.com and find out where you stand.

LONG — EMAIL OR GROUP TEXT

Men, starting [DATE] we are going through a series called Strength Without Structure. Four Sundays. We are going to talk honestly about the fact that a man can be capable, respected, and productive and still have parts of his life quietly out of order — and that the failure almost never looks like failure until the day it does.

After the series, we are running an eight-week group. Eight nights, twelve chapters, and one thing each week that you actually run. It is not a class and it is not a book club. Every man does his own work and brings it back.

Start here: take the free Structure Assessment at manlifelegacy.com. Eighteen questions, about five minutes. Nobody sees your number but you.

TWO CHECKS

Before You Preach It

- **1.** The illustrations in this kit point at the pole yard and the house-from-the-street material because that is the shared language of the system. Swap in your own story wherever you have one. A borrowed illustration preached well is still borrowed.
- **2.** The dates in brackets and the sign-up mechanics are the only things this kit cannot fill in for you. Set the Track start date before Sunday One, not after — the whole series points at it.