

good morning! Welcome to I'm running. I'm. Well, you I mean we're going to have a social hour. We're going to turn the music up to light. You can't hear each other What? The If you're right, you hippies. Yeah, you have no here. What you say, All right, guys. Good morning. Glad you're here. What a morning man I hear Paul is coming this afternoon, according to the calendar, is supposed to be here this afternoon. Well, summer is not letting go anytime soon. It's going to hang on right until this afternoon. Guys Um! It's coming in this morning and was listening to a song on the radio, and I was just kind of wondered about about this because of some personal things with me, and kind of a conflict I had yesterday with my brother. I thought, man, you know this is just this just stinks it on this age, and still have issues with siblings and trying to work through that, and you know, did not respond wrong without, you know, trying to take an inventory of where I am or what I was doing. You Never mind, I didn't do anything wrong. It must have been him. So as I realized it wasn't me. The song came on radio about grace grace. Every day. God gives grace every morning, I mean, and I get enough grace this morning to get me through today. Cover me from yesterday, and I get through it today. You know what being a line is about as well daily conversion to your brothers. Maybe your brother brother, or maybe to your brother sitting next to you this morning. Confession of what you're facing your fears, your concerns. What's happened to you, what you've done to somebody else confessing it, and then receiving God's grace. Today, Today God extends grace for us today. We're not promised tomorrow. Don't, worry about them all. Let's take it today. The only father we thank you for the opportunity of gathering here, or I thank you for my brothers here. I thank you for feel for the leadership team, for ceasefire for the breakfast. God! It's your grace you're restoring. You're calling the Sab Healing of wounds. Forgiveness of our sin. Your grace is sufficient. We ask for your grace. Today we confess our sins. Lord, we ask that you walk with us, and you're naive me right. Come in morning, gentlemen. I'm excited about our time together this morning, having just come from. Ah, the best deer camp ever incredible! God moved in the hearts of men at Ebenezer Place this past weekend, and the next one is October, the twenty first through twenty third. So if you haven't been sign up, if you have been, we'll be in that circle certainly on Saturday, and next week Blair and I are going to kind of do a little um update, and on our construction zone it's exciting to see the new construction coming together, so we'll do a little show until next week. God offers us music as a way to awaken our heart. I want to offer you a song this morning, Don't. You look at the words there on the back of your nose this morning, as we continue in our in this series, Lion Maker, the title of the Today's session is Lions and um, I can't take credit for this song, because Ron Tesdell stumbled on it, and Ron sent it to us, and I was going to show another. We're going to play another song, Ron, and you sent this, and it's just like no dude. This this is the song, This this is it so? The words just to share a little bit with you. Follow the words there at the beginning, God of Jacob Great, I am King of angels, Son of man, voice of many waters, song of Heaven's throne, louder than the thunder. Make your glory know hell, hell, Line of Judah! Let the lion roar, hell hail line of Judah! Let the lion roar. Now you hear the voice of God, and may he direct our hearts toward becoming more like Jesus, as we see the metaphor of the lion, God of I am voice, a man. Song of heaven strong, we know to There I know you. There it I got you the here I know to he's a prepare the way of the in the You can't do it to the you be raised up, be raised up, we may not. Oh, you raise up, we may know. Amen. Let the lion roar! Amen! Amen! Like a strong cup of coffee that'll get you blood flowing. This be on the alert. Stand firm in your faith. Act like men. Be strong. The words from first Corinthians one thousand six hundred and thirteen. The this morning we continue in this series: Lion Maker, you to turn over to second Timothy two, two, second,

Timothy, two two is one of the verses. That's kind of our anchor versus for this series. Last week I kind of concentrated on be a disciple. Today. We're going to talk about a little bit more about. Go, be, and go go, make disciples. Second Timothy two, two, says this I'll start with verse One. So, my son, throw yourself into this work, for Christ. Pass on what you heard from me. Pass on what you heard from me in simple terms: don't be a consumer also be, or Don't just be a consumer, but also be a giver. The whole congregation saying, Amen to reliable leaders who are competent to teach others to in your study Bible. That verse reads something like this in verse two, and the things which you've heard from me, the presence of many witnesses, the these entrust of fateful men who will be able to teach others also. Take what you've been given, and give it to others. So if you pick up your pen right now. I want you to write down five guys that you wish. You are in this room right now. There's five guys that are good friends that could easily be in this room right now. Who would you like to be in this room with you this morning? Five guys put it? Put him down. I'm not talking about Hamburgers here. That's right with five guys with fries. Now five guests pass it on which you have heard even this morning that you might pass on to somebody else might be your son who could be your daughter? Five people that need to be more tuned to what we're doing here this morning I started this series. There, on the back of your notes, is a lion Maker Declaration. I'm going to read this again. I'm not going to read this every week to go through this series. But I want you to be aware of this. It will be on the back of your nose, so you can look at it as we go. This is a personal declaration that I wrote out when Carla over in Belize, celebrating our fortieth wedding anniversary. Excuse me in uh late May will quit living as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at death. Be the line I will set god-sized goals. I will pursue God-given passions. I will go after a dream that is destined to fail without divine intervention be the lion. I'll stop pointing out problems I'll become a part of the solution. I'll stop repeating the past. I'll start creating my future. Be the liar, I will face my theaters. I will fight for my dreams. I'll grab opportunity by the main and not let go. Be the line. I'll face my fears. I'll fight for my go, go the me. I will live like today is the first day and last day of my life. I'll burn sinful bridges. I will blaze new trails. I will pursue the next adventure be alive, I will live for the applause of nail Scarn hands. I will not let what's wrong with me, and keep me from push spring. What's right with God be the lion, I will dare to fail. I will dare to be different. I will quit holding out. I will quit holding back. I will quit running away. I'll use my gifts and brokenness to impact others. I will seek to be a brother and bother to other men. I'll live in community. I will fight. I will be alive. The meal May you take that and be inspired, and even write it out in your journal and personalize it. Write it as I wrote it, and then you just kind of put your twist on it. Write it out in your own words. And again, as I've mentioned to you. I'm. I'm. Using this book chase the Lion, by Mark Patterson. Um. If your dreams, if your dream doesn't scare you, it's too small. It's a subtitle. This is kind of our resource for this. It's my inspiration for our series. I would strongly recommend to read this book. Yeah. Some of you have already started doing that. So as we begin this morning, I have three questions for you. It is actually the same three questions from last week. I'll change the questions eventually as well. It should get him right, you know. So so you've got to do well on today's test since it's the last one of last week. So I want you to go over this again. Question number one: What is your intentional and deliberate plan for growth? Because, as we go through this series, I'm. Giving you a template for personal growth in it, and it doesn't matter so much of where you are, as it matters where you're headed, and if you don't have a plan, then you don't have a direction, and if you don't have it written down, then you don't have a plan. So I'm going to give you a template through this series, and even this morning. But I want you to write down a plan for your personal growth. So just take

a minute and write down one goal in terms of your personal growth. Right now. What would you say? Plan for my growth? I need to grow and finish that centers I need to grow. How do you need to grow in my book which can be purchased at the back? Um! Two books. Lions were born to roar and be the lion, and in the lions that were born to War Book we make it a strong point that a lion, as opposed to a bull, familiar or turtle, is committed to growth, and most men, in my experience in working with men through the years are not committed to growth. We're we're committed to our retirement plan. We're committed to our golf game we're committed to our football team. Go vols, you know, stuff like that, but it's the idea of really committed to growth, maturing and growing up becoming what God intended us to be. So question number two. I'd ask you to respond to. Who is your Who Who are you praying for, committed to help focused on as someone you want to see, grow and mature? And again, I would just direct you to that list of five, and as we go through this series I want you to have that list of five. Get them here, pray for them be committed to somebody outside yourself, I mean. I'm telling you if if you're not really um responsibly praying for another person that you care for another person. You're already dying. I mean. The idea of caring enough is about your own life to care for another person is what gives life to us, and and it's like guys. We are way too incestuous, and I don't use that word lightly in our Christian faith in our life. You know we're naval gazing. When I was on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ years ago at Penn State. I had this professor that he thought I was leading a cult man. He he did not like Campus crusade, I mean. He was woke before Woke was woke, and I sat with him and his or some porch overlooking the golf course just off the campus, and he said, All you all do is just naval gauge. You're just in the naval gauge, and i'm thinking, Dude you, you realize i'm on stand with Campus crusade. We're like the marines of Jesus. We're out there walking the halls of the dormitory. We're out there in the dormitory. We're out there. We're proves in the campus trying to find guys like you to lead to Jesus. But he thought we were just naval gazing. Is that what you do? No. Who are you concerned about besides yourself? Question number three. How do you need help in your own growth? Question. Number one is good. You want to grow, but question number three. It gets us down to this idea of I need help, and most all of us do. I need a coach? I need a mentor. I need a counselor. I have business cards in my pocket. I can help you. I need a father. We never outgrow our need to be fathered, and so don't be afraid to ask for help. Don't be afraid to ask for help, so jot that down. So I want you to take a minute um, and I want you to meet a new friend and talk about what you just wrote. Now you can be as open and as honest, so you can turn your paper over and cover it if you want to. Okay. So meet a friend. Talk about what you wrote Now, you Yeah, it's not. They are. That's a yeah. I'm going to. I can't see that it was all right. I was like to say, God. Yeah, All right. Just pull back together. You can buy your new friend a cup of coffee and continue that conversation. So this idea of um being a lion maker. Lion's roar, lions roar, lions make themselves known. They are active. They're not passive. I assure you that when Adam stood beside Eve and he was eating that fruit. He was not a lion. He was passive. And, by the way, if you ever think that Adam was home alone watching Espn, he wasn't he was standing right beside her in verse Six chapter three of Genesis. She ate the fruit just handed over to him an old passive Adam standing right there, you know. It's like a lion's roar part of the way that we need to get engaged in. The process is being willing to vulnerably acknowledge our brokenness. That's what we do at our coaching weekend. It's so powerful, and I want to show you what that looks like in a movie clip. I want to show you another clip out of lay miserable the liam neeson version one thousand nine hundred and ninety, four, ninety, five whatever. And and and I also want to go back and just make a correction that I've been known to be evangelistic in

my expression I can exaggerate, and last week I had a someone that corrected me, and I appreciate that. What I said. I'm going to show you a clip, and this is the gospel. Um! I should have said, This is a picture. Obviously a movie clip is not the Gospel. Nobody's gonna, you know. Get before God and said, Okay, why should I let you into my heaven? And the answer to God's question, you say? Well, I watched that movie clip at Men's Round Table. So that was a bit of an exaggeration. Obviously the Gospel is simply this: that I am a sinner. I have no hope in my own ability to rid myself of sin, and God in his grace, has made a provision for me in his provision. It is Jesus, in a mysterious way, in a grace-oriented way. When I put my faith in that object that God has provided, and I put my faith. What little bit I have in Jesus that's my only hope for the forgiveness of my sins and eternal life. Then God credits me with complete holiness and righteousness. It is an amazing water into wine transformation. Amen. It's so. That's the gospel. So last week was a kind of picture of the Gospel, as Jesus would say in his parables, The Kingdom of God is like this, and so I want to show you a clip where Jean Valjean continues in his journey, that the Bishop directed him to to really live out belonging to God, and he does, and he becomes the mayor of a town, and he's quite the guy. But he has this story that nobody seems to know about. And in this scene What you see is Jean Valjean comes face to face with his past, and it's so painful because you and certainly I have things about our past, but I wouldn't want gel to be showing slides of some of my past up here. That would be embarrassing. It would be shameful things that i'm not proud of. But it is those sharing pieces of our brokenness that God often wants to use, and that's what our weekends are about. I've seen God use my own failures and my brokenness a whole lot more than my gifts. I want you to watch this clip, and I want you to think about. Wow! What would you do if you were in the situation? And how much are you ashamed to share your brokenness as opposed to sharing your brokenness in a way that brings honor to Jesus because He has forgiven you, and redeemed you from those failures; and as you share them with humility, God gives grace to the humble. You are healed, and others are invited into the same healing. Jean Valjean, watch. This is this the me! How it going? I can't let you in. It's full. It's for i'm not jammed. We've got two great cases so I can't get it. No, not a chance. And this, unless Monsieur is a public official. There's a seat reserve for them right beside the judge. Best seat in the house. I am the Mayor of Vigo. In the we examine the there's no turbine standing at the bombs. It's an anonymous. Continue the examination. You pretend to be simple, so I give you a simple question to answer. Are you or are you not the convict, Jean Valjean, in the first place? But what's the first? Please answer the question. You're wicked. That's what I was going to say, only I forgot your name. I'm a man who what's the word for it? One of those who doesn't eat every day. I'm i'm hungry. That's the already been found guilty of poaching to answer the prosecutor's question. Did he ask a question? Are you, or are you not, Jean Valjean? You say I was born in Fabro. It's very clever telling me where I come from. It's more than I know. My parents were tramps you don't, in view of the shrewdly contrived denials of the accused who is trying to pass himself off as an idiot. I call the witness, were they to the staff so ordered where they i'll remind you that what you say may destroy a man's life. You must be absolutely certain of your Testament. My memory is good. The best thing I have their cures will rise. Do you recognize this man? Yeah. I was the first to recognize him, so I ought to get credit. Never mind Who was first. Who is he that Jean Valjean? We served nineteen years together in prison. He looks older, of course, looks stupid, or, too. That's probably age. But you're not pressure. Dom. I call the convict. You may step down, Lombard. The accused should remain standing. I repeat my warning. A man's life can be destroyed by your answer. Do you recognize the accused? I can't help but recognize

him. We did. Five years on one chain. What's the matter with you? I no hello, Hey, You miss me? I Hello! I called. They have time to establish. I warn you as well. Your answer can ruin a man. Do you recognize the accused. Yeah, he's your Valjo, the serial, the President. May I address the court? Yes, certainly. This is the man, Loma, a better time. Look at me. You recognize me. I recognize you. You were a little former and too long. I see you're still a stitch, that's all with you, Lombard. Don't. Look at my fancy clothes. Don't look at my scream chin. Look at my eyes. You cause yourself godless right You've got a scar on your left shoulder. I gave it to you the night you tried to kill me. I I pinned you over the stove. Is you the go to your scar? Botan the halloo of your left arm. There's a date tattooed, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine, the year of the Revolution. Show them. I know these men as you look as they don't, and they know me. I am the man you want. I'm Jean Valjean by a jail like the I know you to be a kind. When I was in prison. I was as ignorant and mean and devious as these men here, but not kite, and I wish I could keep my mouth shut and let this poor rights suffer for me. Continue with the investigation, monsieur. You will find further proof that I am powerful, powerful. Any kind of growth on your part, and my part begins with confession and repentance. Hey? A starts it out this way. Hello! My name is Phil and i'm an alcoholic, and all the drunks at the A meeting. Say, welcome, Phil. Glad you're here, guys. We are too easily um covering our brokenness as opposed to being willing to share it, and no healing takes place none until there's acknowledgment of the need for healing. I'm a sinner. No, i'm no better than you. You are no better than me. I am Jean Valjean. But would you sit passively and allow somebody else to take your round? The only one that's ever going to pass for taking your rapid. His name is Jesus, that He did take the rap for you and for me, and that is the Gospel. So, as we begin in this series. The second week into this series. Scripture calls us to be the lion to be a lion maker in two ways: first of all to be a disciple, and they're on your nose. Others suggest to you that through the Jesus model that Jesus grew in four areas, loop two hundred and fifty. Two says that he grew um, he grew socially, or we would just say relational growth, and he grew spiritually in connection to his father. Now I've given you a list of possible ways to break that down. I'm going to grow physically The one area that I would suggest to you. And there's lots of things physically is start exercising. You know your body is the temple of God. It's what Scripture says. You got to take care of it, and um exercise is one simple way. How about emotional growth? The one area that I would just mention on that list. And there's numerous ways to grow emotionally is start working with forgiveness. Who do you need to forgive? Powerful the expression of the grace of God that's been given to us that we can extend to another by forgiving those that have harmed us powerful forgiveness. That's hard. Then this, and then the social growth or the relational growth I would just suggest to you One way is choosing to live in community. Get on a team, Get on a team. You need to have three guys that if I sat down with those three guys and said, How's he doing? Those three guys would pretty much be able to tell me ninety percent of your storm, and then your wife knows the other ten percent living in community. And then and then spiritually, guys do not do not underestimate what God wants from you. Oh, what he really wants! Number three there on your list. Evalu what your connection to God, developing an intimate walk with God, Intimacy to know and be known into me. See into me see. So being a disciple is growing in those four areas. And then this morning again, what I want you to really focus on this morning because We spent a lot of time on on this other side last week because I want you to be a kingdom builder. I want you to go as opposed to just sea up. There is too much passivity again. Um, as I've said to you many times before, Eric Maxis is a guy that I believe strongly. And I believe that he is a modern-day cross

between Dietrich Bonhoefer and C.S. Lewis. I listen to his podcast because he has all kinds of people on there. He's just come out with his new book that was released this week. *Letters to the American Church*. I would suggest you read that book a way again to overcome our passivity. We are way too passive. Matthew. Chapter twenty eight. Listen to Jesus words. I had the privilege, and by God's grace being exposed to this passage in like I don't, you know I grew up in a little country church in Hillbilly, Tennessee, but I don't remember ever hearing this person, I mean I'm sure I did. But you know it's just like Oh, but Matthew twenty eight. Listen to this. Jesus undeterred, and I would say, undeterred by just the lack of following in the criticism and the passivity that he saw. Think about, that he was undeterred by that. No one of the things that I so much appreciated about my years on staff with Campus Crusade Bill Bridge, who started Campus Crusade, would say over and over. We're going to focus on what God's called us to do, and we are not going to be deterred by those that criticize us, and we are not going to engage in criticism of us, and I wish I was better. I'm. Certainly not one hundred percent clean on that. But that's what I've tried to live by. Jesus was undeterred by the negative energy, and he said, This God authorized and commended me to commission. You go, go, go, don't, be passive, go out and train everyone you meet foreign, near in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I've commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this day after day after day, right up to the end of the you guys, There is so much about that passage, and I've heard that passage debate, and I mean, I've said in class it's where we're arguing about Baptist. I mean that is so boring to me. It's like I want to. I want to stick a ice pick in my neck. Oh, I believe in baptism, but I'm not interested in sitting in a classroom arguing about it. Dude. There's people dying out there. Let's get on with it. Let's get on with it. You know we're way too passive, trying to figure out the jot and the tittle we're like modern-day pharisees. I don't want to do that. So here's how you become a kingdom Builder. I borrow words from Rick Warren. I don't often give my resources out, but I had a weak moment. Um purpose. A kingdom builder is someone who has purpose. What is the purpose of your life? Think about that. I would just suggest to you, as we go through this series, that you would write out the purpose of your life. Purpose of my life is to honor Jesus when I get up in the morning, and I sit down with my journal. Um! If you read my journal you would see that most of the time I begin. I just got him grateful for another day. May I be a reflection of your love to the world. Use me in whatever way that you choose to use me in. May the fragrant Roma of Jesus be part of my gift to those that I come in contact with something like that purpose. What's your purpose, you know. Retire and play a lot of golf. Come on, you'd get better now. I mean like off. That's great. Invite me. Pay my way. Number two to be a kingdom builder is be committed to the principles of the kingdom. And, guys, what I would say in that what I'm really talking about what Rick Warren is talking about is being committed to the truth and reality of this book, I mean, I I want your Bible to look like an old baseball glove just one flat out. I don't know. You know, you guys, you use your phone, but it's always hard, because when you're looking at your phone when I'm teaching, I don't know if you're scrolling through Facebook, or really reading through Scripture, you know. So that's on you, though you've got to figure that out. So I understand. Committed to God's word eating it like a Zeke. You'll ate the scroll. And what was it like when he ate the scroll? Sweet like honey Every day, every day some of us are starving ourselves spiritually because we never eat from his work. Thirdly, to be a kingdom builder and to be a goer is power. Great power to live in And, Guys, That's where you've got to start living. By faith, you the power of the Holy Spirit is activated by faith. Jesus said to His disciples. Now, when I go, you guys don't do nothing, he said. Don't

do nothing. He said it just like that kind of like that East Tennessee don't do nothing until until the Holy Spirit comes upon you, because when He comes he will empower you to be my witnesses, and He will reveal truth to you so, guys, I would never be able to do what little bit I do in Kingdom building of mentors of mine hadn't taught me about the power of the Holy Spirit, the and I'm not a young guy anymore. But, man, I feel like I'm thirty. You know It's like I've got all this energy died of tomorrow. They die this afternoon, driving back to Fairho. But believe me, if I die, I'll drive with my boots on with no socks, and it'll be great, you know I'll be dancing with Jesus. Ah, to be empowered! You cannot live this Christian life without being empowered by a source greater than you, and His name is Jesus in His Holy Spirit. The third of the Trinity is what empowers us, and allows us to do that which we could never do on our own. This Christian life dude, is impossible. You can't do it. And so many guys. I've been walking with God long enough. I've seen guys laying in the ditch. It looks like the tan death march in terms of people trying to live out the kingdom of God in their own power. The can't do it cannot do it the way Number four, I would just say, if you're going to be a kingdom builder, you're going to have purpose. You're going to live by God's Word, and you're going to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. It's like dude. You've got to get focused on people people living in community um caring for people. Some of us are extroverts, I mean, you know I'm an extrovert. I know I'm energized by people. I don't even like going to the bathroom by myself, you know I'm a tmi, I everyone said, but I, but I love people, and in some of your extrovert I mean introverts, and so it's a little harder for you, I understand. But you don't get a free pass on this people thing. Uh-uh! We're all instructed in second Timothy two two to take what we have learned and pass it all at least your grandchildren, I mean at least that I mean, that's like, you know. That's like a lay up at least that. But how about those guys You work with guys that you've never invited them to men's roundtable? Why not? I mean. This is pretty cool. I mean chicken biscuits for free, you know. Pretty cool. So let me finish with first Corinthians Chapter three. Just this idea being a kingdom Builder. First. Corinthians Chapter three says this, and we'll close with this this morning. First Corinthians Chapter three. I love this, but for right now, friends, I'm completely frustrated by your unspiritual dealings with each other and with God as a client of mine, said One time I'm flustering. You know it was a double planning. You're acting like infants in relation to Christ, capable of nothing much more than nursing at the breast. Now we could. We could prolong that, but we probably ought to move on right there. Well, then, I'll nurse you, since you don't seem capable of anything more as long as you grab for what makes you feel good or makes you look important. Are you really much different than a babe at the breast, content Only when everything is going your way, when one of you says I'm on Paul's side, another says, I'm for a policy. Are you being totally childish guys? I assure you that when you get to heaven, and you stand before the Holy God. He's not going to ask you what committee you were on, what church you actually went to, but he's going to ask you. Did you know, my son? And did you tell others about my son? Those who are ashamed of me? I will say a new We're not guys. I want you to fall in love with Jesus through this series. I want the lion to roar through your life. Lions were born to roar. I want you to be a disciple. Grow Just just be a grower, that's number one, and then, as you are growing, be a goer, make a difference make a difference. It's close and prayer. Finally, thank you for our time this morning. Thank you for each man in this room, or you have brought each man here in order to give him a taste of eternity. May we live out that which we've heard even this morning in Jesus name? Amen. Have a great week.