



# **Week 11 - Dependable**

## **Day 2**

### **I Knew You Would Come**

This powerful story comes out of World War I. It is a story of the friendship between two soldiers in the trenches. Two buddies were serving together in the mud and misery of that wretched European stalemate. Month after month they lived their lives in the trenches, in the cold and the mud, under fire constantly.

From time to time soldiers from one side or the other would rise up out of the trenches, fling their bodies against the opposing line and slink back to nurse their wounds, bury their dead and wait to do it all over again. In the process, those soldiers forged friendships in the misery. Day after day, night after night, terror after terror, they talked of life, of family, of hopes, of what they would do when and if they returned home.

On one more fruitless charge, Jim fell, severely wounded. While his friend Bill made it back to the trenches, Jim laid suffering beneath the night flares, between the trenches, alone.

The shelling continued. The danger was at its peak. Bill knew that between the trenches, in full view of the night flares, was no place to be. Still Bill wished to reach his friend, to comfort him, to offer what encouragement only friends can offer. The officer in charge refused to let Bill leave the trenches. It was simply too dangerous. As the commander turned his back, however, Bill went over the top. Ignoring the smell of cordite in the air, the concussion of incoming rounds and the pounding in his chest, Bill made it to Jim. Sometime later he managed to get Jim back to the safety. His friend died shortly after Bill had gotten to him. The somewhat self-righteous officer, seeing Jim's body, cynically asked Bill if it had been "worth the risk". Bill's response was without hesitation.

"Yes Sir, it was," he said. "My friend's last words made it more than worth it. He looked up at me and said, "I knew you'd come."

**Who would come for you?**

**For whom would you come and why?**

# **Week 11-Dependable**

## **Day 3**

### **Bear Bryant**

When I was 22 years old as a junior high coach, I attended my first football coaching clinic. The clinic was the Henry Frnka clinic in San Antonio and always had some great speakers. Mr. Frnka introduced Coach Bear Bryant, who was a legend in coaching with numerous national championships in college football. He explained that in February he called and asked Coach Bryant if he would speak at this clinic. He told him the date and the times that he would be speaking.

About a month before the clinic, one of Mr. Frnka's sons asked if they should call and verify if Coach Bryant was still coming. Mr. Frnka said it would be an insult to Coach Bryant. "He said he will be here and he will be here."

**Why do you think this is one of the least developed qualities?**

**If someone were to say that you were dependable, what would that mean to you?**

# Week 11 - Dependable

## Day 4

### Road Builder

David Livingstone was one of the first missionaries to evangelize the continent of Africa. His home church in England sent a message telling him they were going to send more missionaries. They also wanted to know how the roads were. Livingstone sent a response, "We do not need people to travel roads; we need people to build roads."

This country was built by "road builders," people who came from other lands to build roads in this country and to make it what we have today. Consider the following poem.

### The Bridge Builder

An old man going down a lone highway  
Came in the evening cold and gray  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;  
That swollen stream held no fears for him:  
But he turned when safe on the other side  
And built a bridge to span the tide.  
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength with building here;  
Your journey will end with the ending day;  
You never again must pass this way;  
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide-  
Why build you this bridge at eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head,  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said  
"There followed after me today  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This swollen stream which was naught to me  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."      Will Allen Dromgoole

**What road are you building?**

**For whom would you build the bridge?**

# Week 11 - Dependable

## Day 5

### Evaluate Your Week

We've been focused on "Dependable" this week, how did you do? For every goal not met, explain what happened and what you can do differently next week to have success.

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If you completed goals, what did you learn?

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Write down in complete sentences, something that you learned about "Dependable" this week.

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Of the three stories, "I Knew you Would Come", "Bear Bryant", "Road Builder", which had the greatest impact on you? Why?

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### Demonstration:

For each day of the week, give yourself either "+" if you demonstrated this quality or "-" if you did not.

M\_\_\_\_\_ T\_\_\_\_\_ W\_\_\_\_\_ Th\_\_\_\_\_ F\_\_\_\_\_ Sa\_\_\_\_\_ Su\_\_\_\_\_