



Men's Golf Fellowship Speaker Discussion Questions

Kem Wilson Jr.

Leaders Guide

Spiritual Topics: Family, Success, Relationships, Retirement

About the Talk: The interview given by Kemmons Wilson Jr. centered around how his business life and family relationships were shaped by his faith in God. What is a good balance of work and family life? What is a good definition of success? How should we view failure? These are questions that bear reflection and self-examination as we consider our lives.

Discussion Questions

- Kemmons talked a lot about family. Along the way he said, “The most important business is the home.” and “Time is everything in a relationship, Hurry is its death.” What are your values in regards to family? What role did faith in God play in your family? If you had to come up with a ‘one-liner’ that describes your family values, what would it be? Are there any regrets where your family is concerned? If you had it to do over again, what specifically would you change? **Related Scripture: Joshua 24:15 – The importance of faith and family**
 - Where we’re going: Spiritual Relationships. The goal of this section is to encourage them to talk about their relationships in their family; that good relationships just don’t happen, but take time. It is the same with spiritual relationships within the family, the family of God (the church) and their relationship with their Savior, Jesus Christ. Time is a must.
 - Going Deeper: Steve, in his interview, asked a very probing question: “Can’t you have a great family without Christ?” Well can you? Asked in a positive fashion, “What does a faith in Jesus Christ bring into a loving family that wasn’t there before?” Here we want to bring out that Jesus brings a depth in relationships in terms of openness, honesty and transparency. Read 1 Sam 18:1-4 in the ESV and notice that their friendship was at the “soul” level. Explore what that actually means?
- Kemmons said, “Experience comes from bad judgment, Good judgment comes from bad experience.” Do you think that is true? Do you think that failure is a good training ground? Describe a time when you failed and what ‘good’ came of it. What did you learn? Was there a principle that you never forgot as a result? When you failed as a child growing up in your household, how was it handled? **Related Scripture: 1 John 1:9 – The Freedom to Fail**
 - Where we’re going: Spiritually speaking, admitting failure (i.e. Confession) is Good. The goal of this section is to help men understand that when you fail spiritually (sin), it is good to admit it (confess it) because a repentant lifestyle breeds growth.
 - Going Deeper: Read Ps 51. This Psalm was written by King David after his sin of adultery with Bathsheba. What made David a great man in God’s eyes is that he was willing to admit his failure (confess) and ask for forgiveness (repent). It is critical to encourage your group to live this type of repentant lifestyle on a daily basis, not just before Communion once a month! When was the last time they asked for someone’s forgiveness? When was the last time you asked God for forgiveness? To go even deeper, consider what James 5:16 encourages us to do!
- Kemmons claimed that, “Success is a good goal, but a terrible God.” What are some good goals you have had in your life (e.g. a robust retirement, a low handicap, a successful career, live in certain communities, have certain friends, etc.)? Now honestly, do you feel looking back over your life that

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any of your goals became a “god” to you? Have any of those goals taken such a priority in your life that other important things suffered? How can having bad priorities in your life hurt your family, friends and your faith in God? Kemmons went on to say that, “True success comes from being in the center of God’s will.” Kem explained it as having 1) Balance; 2) Joy; 3) Peace; and 4) Fulfillment in your life. How would you say you did in those areas in your business career? Would you say that you were in the center of God’s will according to that scale? How about now? **Related Scriptures: Ex 20:1-12 –**

Priorities set by God

- Where we’re going: Godly Priorities. The goal of this section is to help the men understand that God should set the priorities in a life and that when we misplace priorities, it necessarily causes damage. Only when the priorities are placed in the right order (God, Family, everything else) does a person have peace (i.e. experience being in the center of God’s will)
- Going Deeper: Read 1 Timothy 6:6-9 and 2 Timothy 4:9-10. Scripture teaches us that it is actually spiritually dangerous when we do not prioritize our life as God says. It can include being ineffective for God, distracted by what the world offers, putting your faith on the back burner and even includes walking away from God! How serious should we take our faith in Christ? Are they willing to take our faith as serious as they took their career? What would that look like? (Time, sacrifice, intellect, their talents, etc. cf. Lk 10:27)
- Toward the end of the interview, Kem talked a bit about finishing strong. He used a great golf analogy of being on the back nine in life. You’re not quite as strong and fast, you’re a little more cautious, not as willing to take chances, a little more aware of your limitations and need to be more calculating and strategic as a result. But he said, “Why not finish strong and birdie 18!” How do you want to finish strong? What goals do you still have that are NOT centered on you (i.e. your bucket list) but other-centered? Perhaps use this time as a group to brainstorm some ideas on what finishing strong might look like in a life. **Related Scriptures: 2 Tim 4:6-8 – Finishing well**
 - Where we’re going: Finishing Strong. The goal of this section is to help the men understand that retirement does not mean that their greatest accomplishments are behind them and that God can use them powerfully to accomplish great things for Him.
 - Going Deeper: Help the group think of people in Scripture who ‘finished strong’ (Noah was 600 when God called him to build the Ark, Moses used the last 40 years of his life to lead Israel out of slavery, Paul, (2 Tim 4:6-8), John wrote the book of Revelation when he was in his 90’s!) Now read John 19:28-30 with finishing strong in mind. It is important to recognize that of all the great things Jesus did in his life, his greatest accomplished was at the very end of his life...his sacrificial atonement for our sins! Discuss what Jesus accomplished on the cross. He absorbed our sin and gives us his righteousness (2 Cor 5:21). He gives us an examples of serving rather than being served (Matt 20:28; Jn 13:13-17) He teaches us what sacrificial love actually looks like (1 Jn 4:9-10; Eph 5:1-2, 25).
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Closing Prayer: Lord, help me to give myself over to your priorities and not my own. Teach me that my walk through this life is not just about me, but about my family and those around me. Give me a new heart that is not divided between what I want and what you want and may I have the humility to realize more and more your great love for me (**Based on Ps 86:11-13**)