



Men's Golf Fellowship

Speaker Discussion Questions

Benny Yount

Leader Guide

Spiritual Topics: Foundations of Life, Life's Tragedies, and Selfishness

About the Talk

Benny Yount spoke very plainly and openly about his career, spiritual journey and personal life. His story parallels many of our own in life's ups and downs. Let's use some of his transparency to reflect on our own lives and ask some of the questions that we don't usually ask.

Discussion Questions

Benny talked at length about his spiritual journey. He spoke of the time when he bought his dream car, a Corvette, and it didn't fulfill him the way he thought it would. Have you ever had a "Corvette" moment, when you attain something that you have dreamed about and thought would satisfy or fulfill you in a certain way, but it didn't deliver? What was it? Benny went on to tell of his conversion and going to Bible school. He ended by saying that it gave him a great "foundation" for the rest of his life. What are some of your foundational beliefs? What is it that keeps you going, or drives you forward? (*Leader Note: It might help to ask what they put their hope in and what gives them purpose in life, to get at what their foundation really is.*) How did those foundations develop? How were they different, or the same as your father's? **Related Scripture: Proverbs 22:6**

- **Where We're Going: Foundations of your life.** The purpose of this question is to begin to unwrap what these men really trust and what they look to for meaning, purpose and value. The goal is to begin trying to explain that it doesn't deliver what it promises if it is anything besides Christ.
 - **Going Deeper:** Benny was quite direct about how foundational God is in his life now. How foundational is God in your life? Do you wish that He was of greater importance to you? Why is that? What are one or two ways that you could begin to move God more into the center of your life?

- *Deeper Yet:* READ 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. Next READ: Famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright was challenged to build the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, one of the most earthquake-prone cities in the world. As Wright explored the site, he discovered that a solid foundation could be “floated” on a sixty-foot layer of soft mud underneath the hotel, which would provide shock-absorption, yet solid support for the massive building. Shortly after the building was completed, it withstood the worst earthquake in fifty-two years while many buildings around it fell. Mud sounds about as strange a foundation for a building as Jesus does for a life! What does it mean to build your life on Jesus? What hopes and promises are found in Jesus that transcends this life? What promises does He give that would help your foundation become more solid?

Benny opened up about the very painful time in his life when he suddenly lost his son, Sam. He quite openly shared how his life was rocked by that one event. Have you even gone through a personal tragedy, or an event that rocked your life? *(Leader Note: Men will very often choose a business failure or other heartbreaking event to base their answer on. Try to gently challenge them to be more personal).* If you are comfortable, please share it with the group. *(Leader Note: Because of the personal and sensitive nature of this question, you might center the whole discussion on just one man’s tragedy and struggle. That is fine. You can key the rest of the discussion off of just that one person and the group will benefit greatly.)*

Related Scripture: Psalm 34:18

- *Where We’re Going: Dealing with tragedy.* The purpose of this discussion is to challenge the men to open up a little bit about their personal lives and their challenges in order to create trust and intimacy within the group, as well as create an environment where deeper spiritual questions can be broached.
 - *Going Deeper:* How do you typically react to sudden personal or business tragedy? *(Leader Note: It is important to emphasize the sudden nature because who you are deep down is exposed when you don’t have a chance to prepare, i.e. the contents of the sponge are revealed when pressure is suddenly applied).* Keying off the above question, how did you get through that tragedy? How do you still cope with it on a day-to-day basis?
 - *Deeper Yet:* Did the tragedy change you? Did it change your perspective on life? Malcolm Muggeridge wrote: *Contrary to what might be expected, I look back on experiences that at the time seemed especially desolating and painful with particular satisfaction. Indeed, I can say with complete truthfulness that everything I have learned in my*

75 years in this world, everything that has truly enhanced and enlightened my experience, has been through affliction and not through happiness. What is your reaction to what Muggeridge wrote? Agree or disagree? Do you personally resonate with Muggeridge or not?

- *Still Deeper:* Benny explicitly stated that if it weren't for his faith in Jesus and the hope that he would see his son one day in heaven, he did not know how he would have gotten through it. How do you think a belief in God and faith in Jesus would help a person go through intense difficulties in life? Steve, reflecting on what Benny shared, offered how some people might react to the idea of a loving God allowing such a personal tragedy: 1) We put up walls (i.e. turn against God, shut God out of our lives); 2) Put it in neutral (i.e. We don't think too deeply about God and compartmentalize); or 3) We go deep with God (i.e. We ask the hard spiritual questions and come to a conclusion about God in our lives.) Have you ever thought deeply about God at those times of tragedy? If so, what conclusions have you come to? (Leader Note: Some possible scriptures that could be shared: Psalm 23; John 16:33; Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 13:12; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Hebrews 12:15.)

Benny talked about how he has changed over the years, and thus the focus of his car business began changing too. He now described it as being a “front” for ministry and actively looks for ways that his business can help people. Have you ever thought about what you do in terms of helping others? How much of your business career was focused on you and what you could get out of it, versus looking to help others? Is it wrong to be self-focused about your career? Discuss as a group some ways in which it is right and proper to be self-focused in business, but how that sometimes becomes selfishness. (*Leader Note: As a leader, you have to be prepared to challenge some of what is said here. Most people have never considered their selfishness in such a direct way.*) **Related Scripture: Hebrews 6:10**

- *Where We're Going: Self-focused vs. other-focused.* The purpose of this discussion is to help men begin to recognize and grapple with their selfishness.
 - *Going Deeper:* READ Matthew 7:12. Benny spoke of a concept that has become part of his business culture called “GR 101.” As a group, discuss what it means to treat others as you would like to be treated. In general, have you lived your life by the Golden Rule or not? Think of a

specific example or two of how you have treated others as you would have liked to have been treated and share it with the group.

- *Deeper Yet:* READ Philippians 2:3. This is the next step in making the Golden Rule real in your heart. It may be easier to treat someone better on the outside than you think of them on the inside. Think of a person that is below you socially or economically, or better yet, even a person that you do not particularly respect. Once you have that person in mind, consider what thinking of them as more significant or better than yourself might mean. Discuss with the group ways of thinking that might be counterproductive to fulfilling Philippians 2:3
- *Still Deeper:* Continue reading Philippians 2:5-8. How did Jesus fulfill both the Golden Rule as well as Philippians 2:3 perfectly? (*Leader Note: The direction you want to lead the group in is that Jesus did not do anything for selfish or personal reasons. He perfectly and wholly gave his life for our benefit and thought of our lives as more precious than his own.*)

Closing Prayer

Lord, I confess that my eyes are more often on me and my needs than on You and the needs of those around me. Please forgive me and help me to think of others much more often than I think of myself. Amen.