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# FIELD GUIDE

EQUIPPING MEN TO BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS



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## IT TAKES A TEAM

We just wanted to say thank you for trusting your spouse to us for this season of "The Forge". We want to prepare you for what's going to happen.

First of all, he's going to be attending a monthly session with the entire men's group. Those dates are shown in his packet. (First Wednesdays).. He'll have to be on time, showing up at 6:30pm most of the time. The meetings will all end before 9pm.

Then throughout the mentoring seasons, he's going to meet monthly in his small group with 4-6 other guys from the group. These times are determined by the group leader and what works best for the small group as a whole.

Every month, he's going to read (half) a book. For some guys, this is easy. For others who aren't in the habit of reading, this is going to be tough. These books are about how to be a better husband, father, leader, Jesus-follower, etc. They're good for him! So, try to support him and encourage him to read the books early in the month rather than putting it off until the end. Help him turn off the TV and do the work.

He's also going to be memorizing a couple Scripture verses each month. If he'll let you, help him by asking him to recite the verses from time to time. Heck, you might even want to memorize some of them along with him.

What's rewarded is repeated. Praise every single step of growth you see in him. You wouldn't believe how badly he wants your praise and approval.

The most important thing you can do for him is pray for him - seriously pray. Ask God to give him "eyes to see" and "ears to hear" what He has for him through these next 9 months of intentional discipleship.

Ask God to shape him, mold him and challenge him to become all he can be in Christ. We are going to do all we can to help him learn how much God loves him as His son. And to learn how much God can be trusted with every aspect of his family, his business, his health, his relationships - everything

**We are excited about the journey  
we're starting together.**

**Coastal Church**



## DISCIPLESHIP COMMITMENT

We are hereby making a commitment to the following:

- I desire to be an all-in Jesus-follower, husband, father, son, friend, disciple-maker and leader.
- I will take direct, unfiltered feedback and I will do everything in my power to receive it in love and to learn from it. I will avoid defensiveness, realizing that when I defend, I lose the opportunity to learn. I commit to being open in examining myself: my personality, my past, my habits, my anger, and my responses to people. I want to learn and be more like Jesus in every fiber of my being.
- I commit to attend every meeting and outing, to be there on time, and to complete all my assigned homework. I understand and agree that I will have to say "no" to important things in order to meet this commitment, and I am willing to do so. After we lay out our schedule for the 9 months I will manage my other commitments around the dates we've selected for meetings and retreats.
- I understand that my coach and group will make a significant investment in me. Because it would be unfair and disrespectful to do otherwise, I commit to the entire season and to finishing well. I also recognize that my coach pledges to give the same level of commitment, dedication, and energy to me. He will visit with each of us sometime during the year; and he will attempt to teach and lead from a humble, transparent and loving heart.
- I recognize that this discipleship process is based upon Jesus, His message, and His plan for our lives. I will be vulnerable about my relationship with Him, for the purpose of growing my faith.
- I commit to total confidentiality. What is said in the group stays in the group. This confidentiality does not supersede the law and must never cover up a current or future threat to the health or well-being of another person.
- I commit to pay it forward by investing in others for spiritual purposes. I will be a disciple-maker in whatever way the Lord leads including the possibility of leading discipleship groups of my own.
- I discussed this commitment with my wife and she fully supports my involvement. She willingly relinquishes the time it will take to attend the sessions and outings and to do the reading and homework, with the goal of my becoming a godlier man.

**SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPOUSE'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**LEADER'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_





# THE FORGE

## 2026-2027

NUMBER	MONTH	LARGE GROUP	TOPIC & TASK	SMALL GROUP READING	MEMORY VERSE
1	September 2026	September 2	<b>SURRENDER</b> Lay It Down	Stand Firm and Act Like Men by Joby Martin Introduction + Chapters 1-4	Proverbs 12:1 (NLT)
2	October 2026	October 7	<b>COURAGE</b> Pick It Up	Stand Firm and Act Like Men by Joby Martin Chapters 5-8	Joshua 1:9 (NLT)
3	November 2026	November 4	<b>BROTHERHOOD</b> Carry It Together	Stand Firm and Act Like Men by Joby Martin Chapters 9-12 + Conclusion	Galatians 6:2 (NLT)
<b>— CHRISTMAS BREAK &amp; JANUARY RESET —</b> December 2026 – Space for Grace Challenge. January 2027 – 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting. No formal gatherings.					
4	February 2027	February 3	<b>FAILURE</b> How to Fail	Ordering Your Private World by Gordon MacDonald Introduction + Chapters 1-4	2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)
5	March 2027	March 3 *Steak & Fire	<b>FIGHT</b> What It Means to Win	Ordering Your Private World by Gordon MacDonald Chapters 5-9	1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)
6	April 2027	April 7	<b>LEGACY</b> What to Leave Behind	Ordering Your Private World by Gordon MacDonald Chapters 10-14 + Conclusion	Matthew 7:18 (NLT)



**BOOK ASSIGNMENT:**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**STAND FIRM AND ACT  
LIKE MEN**

BY: JOBY MARTIN

**INTRODUCTION +  
CHAPTERS 1-4**

TO LEARN, YOU MUST  
LOVE DISCIPLINE;  
IT IS STUPID TO  
HATE CORRECTION.

**PROVERBS 12:1 NLT**

**TOPIC AND TASK:**

# SURRENDER

**Lay It Down**

Real strength doesn't start with taking more things on.  
It starts with laying them down.

This month, identify one thing you are white-knuckling – a  
grudge, a fear, a need for control, a version of yourself  
you're not ready to let go of.

Write it down. Be specific.

Then take it to God and lay it at the foot of the cross.

**Ask yourself:**

- What am I holding onto that I know God is asking me to release?
- Is there an area of my life where I am performing instead of surrendering?
- Who needs to see me model surrender this month – my wife, my kids, my team?

**Come ready to share what you laid down and what it cost you.**



**PRAYER NEEDS:**

**NEXT MEETING:**

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**NOTES:**

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**BOOK ASSIGNMENT:****MEMORY VERSE:****STAND FIRM AND ACT  
LIKE MEN**

BY: JOBY MARTIN

**CHAPTERS 5–8**

THIS IS MY COMMAND—BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS! DO NOT BE AFRAID OR DISCOURAGED. FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.”

**JOSHUA 1:9 NLT****TOPIC AND TASK:**

# COURAGE

**Pick It Up**

God doesn't call men to comfort. He calls them to courage. This month, identify one thing you have been avoiding – a hard conversation, a commitment you've been putting off, a step of faith you know God is calling you toward. Don't wait until you feel ready. Courage is not the absence of fear – it's moving forward in spite of it.

**Ask yourself:**

- What is the one courageous thing I know I need to do but have been delaying?
- Is there a conversation I've been avoiding with my wife, a child, a friend, or a coworker?
- What would it look like to be strong and courageous in my home this month?

**Do it. Then come ready to share what happened.**

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**PRAYER NEEDS:**

**NEXT MEETING:**

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**NOTES:**

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**BOOK ASSIGNMENT:**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**STAND FIRM AND ACT  
LIKE MEN**

BY: JOBY MARTIN  
**CHAPTERS 9-12 &  
CONCLUSION**

SHARE EACH OTHER'S  
BURDENS, AND IN THIS WAY  
OBEY THE LAW OF CHRIST.

**GALATIANS 6:2 NLT**

**TOPIC AND TASK:**

# BROTHERHOOD

**Carry It Together**

Men were not built to carry their burdens alone. The strongest men are the ones who know how to ask for help – and how to show up when someone else needs them.

This month, identify one man in your life who is carrying something heavy. Reach out. Show up. Carry it with him.

Also identify one burden you have been carrying alone that you need to hand to a brother.

**Ask yourself:**

- Who in my circle is struggling right now that I haven't checked in on?
- Is there something I've been carrying alone out of pride or self-sufficiency?

**Come ready to share both – who you showed up for, and what you finally let someone else carry.**



**PRAYER NEEDS:**

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**NEXT MEETING:**

**NOTES:**

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**BOOK ASSIGNMENT:****MEMORY VERSE:****ORDERING YOUR PRIVATE  
WORLD**

BY: GORDON MACDONALD

**INTRODUCTION &  
CHAPTERS 1-4**

EACH TIME HE SAID, "MY GRACE IS ALL YOU NEED. MY POWER WORKS BEST IN WEAKNESS." SO NOW I AM GLAD TO BOAST ABOUT MY WEAKNESSES, SO THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST CAN WORK THROUGH ME.

**2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 NLT****TOPIC AND TASK:**

# FAILURE

**Failing Forward**

Every man fails. The question isn't whether you'll fall – it's what you do when it happens. Most men don't crash all at once. They drift – slowly, quietly – until one day the ground gives way.

This month, get honest about where you are. Not where you present yourself to be – where you actually are.

**Ask yourself:**

- Is there an area of my life that looks fine on the outside but is quietly falling apart on the inside?
- Am I driven by approval, achievement, and busyness – or am I being led by a calling from God?
- What would it look like to let God's strength show up in my weakness instead of hiding it?

**Come ready to share one honest answer with the group – not a polished one.**

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**PRAYER NEEDS:**

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**NEXT MEETING:**

**NOTES:**

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**BOOK ASSIGNMENT:****MEMORY VERSE:****ORDERING YOUR PRIVATE  
WORLD**

BY: GORDON MACDONALD  
**CHAPTERS 5-9**

STAY ALERT! WATCH OUT FOR  
YOUR GREAT ENEMY, THE  
DEVIL. HE PROWLs AROUND  
LIKE A ROARING LION,  
LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO  
DEVOUR.

**TOPIC AND TASK:**

**1 PETER 5:8 NLT**

# FIGHT

**What It Means to Win**

The enemy doesn't need to destroy you. He just needs to keep you distracted, exhausted, and too busy to tend your inner world. A man whose private world is in chaos is already losing – even if his calendar looks full and his reputation looks solid.

MacDonald argues that the battle for a man's soul is won or lost in the hidden places – how he manages his time, whether he guards his mind, whether he builds rhythms of rest and silence into his life.

**Ask yourself:**

- Am I more alert to the enemy's schemes this month than I was last month? Where is he currently winning ground in my life?
- Is my time budget aligned with what I say actually matters – or am I spending it on whatever shouts loudest?
- What does my private world look like right now – my thought life, my disciplines, my rest? Is it ordered or in chaos?
- What is one specific change I need to make this month to fight smarter, not just harder?



**PRAYER NEEDS:**

**NEXT MEETING:**

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**NOTES:**

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**BOOK ASSIGNMENT:****MEMORY VERSE:****ORDERING YOUR PRIVATE  
WORLD**

BY: GORDON MACDONALD  
**CHAPTERS 10-14 &  
CONCLUSION**

A GOOD TREE CAN'T PRODUCE  
BAD FRUIT, AND A BAD TREE  
CAN'T PRODUCE GOOD FRUIT.  
**MATTHEW 7:18 NLT**

**TOPIC AND TASK:**

# LEGACY

**What to Leave Behind**

A good tree cannot bear bad fruit. What grows out of your life is a direct reflection of what's happening in your roots – in your private world, your disciplines, your walk with God. A man who tends his private world faithfully will produce fruit that outlives him – in his kids, his marriage, his friendships, his church, his community.

What are you leaving behind?

**Ask yourself:**

- If my private world stayed exactly as it is today for the next 20 years, what kind of man would I become?
- What is one thing God has grown in me this year through The Forge that I want to carry forward?
- Who is one person – a son, a friend, a younger man – who needs what I've been learning? How am I passing it on?

**Write your answer to this question before the next meeting:**

**What do I want my family to say about me at my funeral? We'll close the year with it.**



**PRAYER NEEDS:**

**NEXT MEETING:**

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**NOTES:**

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EQUIPPING MEN TO BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS

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