



ALL IN and ALL Out – Peak Challenge 2014

ALL IN – Part One – “Today’s World”

We are a self absorbed culture here in the US.

We want what we want, when we want it and NOW. Instant gratification has replaced delayed gratification.

It is ALL about us and we are encouraged, enticed, persuaded and wooed to go ALL IN for ourselves. ALL IN is so much more.

Poker. What once used to be a friendly game between neighbors, a diversion while in Las Vegas or the scene of many tense moments in our favorite Westerns is now a SPORT... and a national phenomenon. Men and women from small towns and big cities have given up jobs, families and dreams to win a bracelet in the World Series of Poker. It has become a national “sport” and shares space on ESPN with basketball and football. Millions of dollars are at stake. In these poker championships and everyone playing has their own unique style and way of saying to the viewing audience “look at me”. Celebrities are created and fortunes are won.

“All in” in poker conjures up images of the player moving all of his chips into the middle of the table and calling the other player’s hand. Based on his hand and the prospects of the soon to be dealt “river card” not helping his opponent, He stands up and says he is “all in”. Risky. Bold. Selfish.

All in, in so many ways in today’s world, is selfish and self-centered. We want to have more, win more, be more and so we bet it all, spend it all, seek it all.

However, in God’s Kingdom, “all in” means something completely different and has far more lasting significance and impact than a winning hand, a bigger car or a better title. It is not about us and our desires. Going all in is an outward focused lifestyle, seeking to love, serve and care for others first... just as Jesus did for us. It is counter-intuitive in today’s world to go “all in” for others. It is the “all in” that we must pursue.

Questions – have your group speak to and discuss these questions.

1. What in your world do you go “all in” for?
2. Is it for your benefit or someone else?
3. Who are you going “all in” for? Why?
4. Are you “all in” in following Jesus or have you invited Jesus to follow you?
5. What might God be calling you to pray about and take action in terms of being “all in” for others?



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ALL IN – Part Two – “The Church has left the building”

As followers of Jesus, many of us have connected to the local church. We serve on boards. We lead ministries. We teach Bible classes. We serve the less fortunate. We are doing God’s work in so many Ways.

Take a step back and think about why you do those things.

Are we so focused and task oriented on doing God’s work, on accomplishing a specific task, that we miss out on the amazing things the He has for us in the relationships and journey along the way? Are we tuned into God’s work as it takes place on Sunday mornings or Wednesday nights and miss out on what He has for us in the 6/22 (the six days and 22 hours outside of the church service). Has the Church left the building?

Mark Batterson, pastor and noted author, reflects that anytime God is about to do something amazing in our lives, something that will allow us to bless and impact others as well as ourselves, He calls us to consecrate ourselves to him. To set apart. Consecration means full devotion – all in. A divestiture of self-interest.

“Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.” Joshua 3:5

The people of Israel were given this word... and so are we.

Consecration – going “all in” for God – is not just the following: Going to Sunday service. Doing morning devotionals. Raising your hands in worship. Serving as a volunteer. Those are good things. But it is more than behavior modification and doing good deeds. All of those things and more are a result, a response, a manifestation of an “all in” consecration lifestyle. A Mark 12:28-34 obedience.

*Teacher, what is the greatest commandment? The most important is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your mind and with **all** your strength. Mark 12:28-34*

Questions – have your group speak to and discuss these questions.

1. Has your relationship with Jesus become too comfortable?
2. Are you bored with your faith?
3. Has church become more routine and less “holy adrenaline”? Why?
4. Have you – the Church – left the building? How so?
5. How can you be consecrated daily?
6. Who do you need to help keep you accountable to that?



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ALL IN – Part Three – “A full tank for home”

Many of us are married. Many have had the joy of having children.

If pressed, a man would almost certainly admit that his wedding day and the births of his child or children are the most important and memorable days of his life... except for Peak Challenge of course! ☺

Something special happens on those days. Time slows down. Moving from a single man to one now fully sharing His life with a woman is a paradigm shift. Going from a couple to new parents of this little life that is wholly reliant on you is a paradigm shift.

Your wedding vows were spoken and in them you declared your “all in” commitment to her. When your child was born, there were so many thoughts going through your mind... many centering on how you were going to go “all in” to love, raise and support this child. If your child was baptized, you declared in front of others that you were going to go “all in” for him or her.

Years go by. Careers. Moves. Financial strains. Kids grow up. You and your wife age.

Are you still “all in”?

If we are honest, we will acknowledge that there are times when the shine of “all in” has worn off a bit. We work hard at our profession to provide for our family’s needs. Yet when we get home, our tank is often empty and our “provide” ends on the easy chair watching football.

We avoid conversations with our wife and children. We use tiredness as an excuse. Developing our relationships with our kids and our wife – especially mentoring a love of Jesus to them – becomes “hard work” and a task that we do not have energy for. Our tanks are empty.

Men – we need to be all in for our families and it starts with being all in with Him. Your greatest mission is your family. All in means finding ways to have a full tank for your wife and children after work. All in means actively being the spiritual leader of the household. Your wife and children ache for this! Go all in for the things that matter the most.

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Questions – have your group speak to and discuss these questions.

1. Has the “all in” for marriage and children waned? How? Why?
2. Do you feel you have an empty tank when you get home from work?
3. Have you replaced your greatest mission at home with workaholicism or a hobby?
4. What things can you pray about and do to ensure an “all in” focus at home?
5. How can you be accountable to that and who can keep you accountable?



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ALL IN – Part Four – “A shared life of discipleship”

When Scripture talks about “church”, it means community. The term “oikos” is a Greek origin and is found in the Word. It means household or descendants forming a family. Our American culture would interpret that as the nuclear family and even that interpretation has been eroded. But the Greek meaning is far greater than that. It encompasses family, neighbors, coworkers, friends and those with whom we come into regular contact.

A shared life. Little fellowships of the heart that are outposts for the Kingdom.

The Book of Acts speaks of this shared life in many contexts, but a few examples can be found in Acts 2:42 and 12:12.

As John Eldredge has noted in his book *Waking the Dead* “Anytime an army goes to war or an expedition takes to the field, it breaks down into little platoons and squads. Men and women fight bravely for each other in these units as that is where devotion is. You cannot be fully devoted to a mass of people; devotion takes place in small units, just like a family.”

Going “all in” means committing to a shared life of discipleship. Jesus chose the course of selecting and discipling ordinary unschooled men and living a shared life with the 12 of them. He spoke and preached to the masses but loved and taught and mentored a group of 12 and an inner circle of three... for three years! The greatest teacher of all time has set out for us the lifestyle and gathering context in which we are to live a shared life.

Questions – have your group speak to and discuss these questions.

1. What does a shared life of discipleship look like for you?
2. Do you have a “fellowship of the heart”? Describe it.
3. Are there others in your life that are willing to be an oikos – a family on mission?
4. What is God saying to you about this and what are you going to do about it?
5. Need resources? Talk to your tribal leader, contact the Band of Brothers Network or check out www.weare3DM.com or www.dwelling114.org For some basic information.

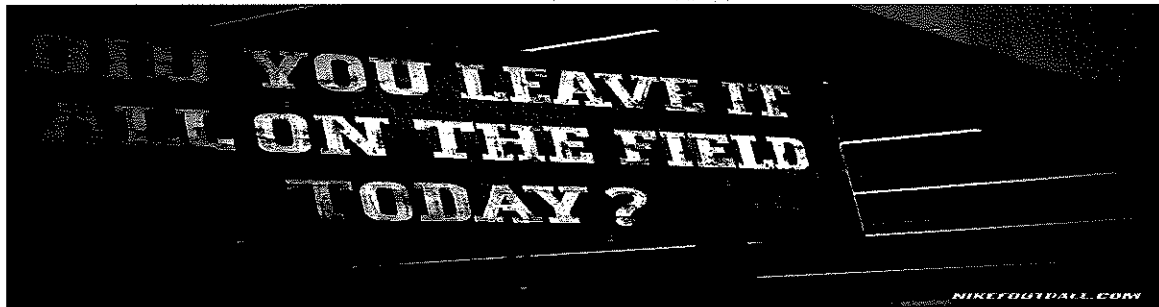
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ALL OUT – Part One – “Leave it all on the field”

If you have played sports as a young man or coached a sport that your child may have been involved in, You are familiar with the pre-game speech and the concept of “leaving it all on the field”.

You or your athletes have put in the time. Lots of hard practices, with hours of pain and hard work... all pointing to a singular purpose of winning the next game, the season championship. To leave it all on the field means to exert maximum effort, to hold nothing back and to sacrifice greatly for the team.



Men – we LOVE to do that! Most of us at one point or more in our lives, relished the challenge to expend ourselves to the limit and go all out in whatever sport or adventure that is set before us. We love competition that pushes us against others and pushes us internally as well.

As we grow older, that all out attitude may find its way into our lives when it comes to the pursuit of money or the chase of careers. We can go all out in that adventure to earn a better title, a bigger paycheck, more responsibility and respect from peers. Culture gives the strong stamp of approval to that.

But have our “leave it all on the field” experiences taught us the most important field of all to impact? The field itself that God has for us is not made of hardwood, nor is it grass with striped lines on it. It is your everyday world and the people in it. Your mission field. The place where Jesus says in Mark 12:31 “Love your neighbors as yourselves”.

What if you exerted maximum effort in your mission field?

What if you help nothing back in your relationships with the people you see in your daily routines?

What if?

Questions – have your group speak to and discuss these questions.

1. Do you have an example of a situation where you “left it all on the field” in some adventure or sport?
2. How hard was it and are you glad now that you did it?
3. Were you always sure of what was going to happen? Why or why not?
4. Did you have a leader/coach/training partner that you put your trust in? How did they lead you?
5. What might God saying to you to “leave it all on the field” in your mission field?



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ALL OUT – Part Two– “Rescue shops”

In many ways, we have become accustomed to the Americanized Gospel.

Stay with me here for a minute...☺

The Americanized Gospel?? We want God on our terms. The Gospel is a free gift, paid for through God’s grace in giving to us a savior we did not deserve. It costs nothing, but it demands everything. We like the cafeteria style choices in life and the same is true with faith. Just a bit of that and tad of this. We want everything God has to offer without giving anything up. We want to buy in without selling out. In essence, we speak and present ourselves as people that are following Jesus when the reality is in many cases that we are really only asking Jesus to follow us. Mark Batterson calls it the “inverted Gospel”.

Last year at Peak Challenge, one of our main focus points was risk and the connection to Mark 8:35. If you want save your life, you must lose it... if you lose your life for Jesus and the Gospel, you will save it.

That is bold.... And convicting. That is all out.

C.T. Studd was a missionary in many places around the world in the early 1900s. He had an incredible passion to bring bold faith to people where they are at. He spurred on the Church to do just that.

“Some wish to stay within the sound of church or chapel bell. I’d rather run a rescue shop within a yard of hell.” - C.T. Studd

As the Western Church in the 21st Century, it is crucial for us to always have at the forefront of everything we do our purpose as believers – to love Him and to love others and bring them to know, love and follow Him.

Going ALL OUT for the sake of others. Making rescue shops a reality in our worlds.

Questions – have your group speak to and discuss these questions.

1. As believers, do you see elements of the American Gospel in your lives? How so?
2. What are signs that believers in our culture are playing it safe and not really counting the cost of following Jesus?
3. What does an “all out” life look like to you?
4. What dreams do you have for the Church to be “all out”?
5. What would a “rescue shop” look like in our world?
5. What might God be calling you to pray about and take action in terms of being “all out” for others?



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ALL OUT – Part Three– “Repurposing”

If you are married or have a significant other that watches television, there is no doubt that at one time or another, she has asked or made you watch one of the HGTV remodeling shows – House Hunters, Love it or List it or Property Brothers.

You may have had a tighter grip on your wallet after this experience!

The premise in some of these shows is to take what you have and transform it – transform the space and transform the furniture and accessories – to make the home new.

Repurpose.

I am sure that your wife or significant other can tell you which “repurposing” project worked and which did not.

Men – repurposing is and can be an important element in us going “all out” for our family and wives.

Getting that new house or the upgraded car is nice. Acquiring experiences via expensive vacation trips is awesome. but one of the most crucial things that we can all do is to take our lives and situations and repurpose them for Jesus.

Regardless of where you are at in your relationship with your wife or significant other.... Or your relationships with your children, God can and will use you to repurpose your oikos... your family... into an intentional family on mission. A family committed to Jesus and one which has repurposed its schedules and checkbooks to reflect the redemptive Mission of Jesus.

You are the key. Your wife and children want their man... their Daddy... to lead them. If you have never done so before, watch the “Lead Me” video on YouTube from Sanctus Real. You have what it takes to repurpose your family... to go “all out” for them for eternal joy.

Questions – have your group speak to and discuss these questions.

1. Do you ever feel like you just want to start over with your wife and family because of failures? Why?
2. Name two things that you are grateful for from your family.
3. What would repurposing look like for your calendar and your checkbook?
4. How can you go “all out” in repurposing your family to be a family on mission?
5. What might God be calling you to pray about and take action in terms of being “all out” for your family?



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ALL OUT – Part Four– “All out together for the sake of others”

Follow Me.

Imitate me.

When you think about that... and if you are like any other man... you will have hesitant thoughts. You and I may say “I know me” and when I look at my life, I am not sure that I want someone to follow me or imitate me. If you have children, there are so many times when we want our children to do what we say and not what we do.

But yet God has called broken men and broken women to an incredibly important calling – being a parent.

Jesus simply says “follow me” at the shoreline to Peter, Andrew, James and John. Young men of the trade... not up and coming scholars who were following an important rabbi. Ordinary and unschooled young men. Broken fisherman.

They go ALL OUT. Immediately, they leave their nets and walk with him, believing but not really understanding yet what Jesus means by being “fishers for men”.

An apprenticeship begins for the sake of others. A rag tag group being asked to radically change the world by following and imitating Jesus. They were literally going ALL OUT into the world without all the answers and without a feeling of being in full command of what Jesus was teaching. This three year apprenticeship transformed these young men into world changers.

And then there was Paul. An incredibly humble man, willing to do whatever it took and whatever cost it might require to live for Jesus. Paul was a broken man and he clearly knew that. His story of Saul to Paul is one of extreme transformation. Through it all, even knowing that he was just a sinful, broken man, he says “be imitators of me, as I am of Christ”. Bold. Humble. Focused on going ALL OUT for others so that they too may know the love of the Father.

Where are you? Are you willing to step into the calling that He has for you and go ALL OUT for people in your Family, neighborhood, network or workplace? God’s redemptive mission for this world is to use men like you and me together to say to our apprentices “imitate me as I imitate Christ”. Watch what God will do.

Questions – have your group speak to and discuss these questions.

1. Is it uncomfortable to think of others following or imitating you? Why or why not?
2. Think of times in your life where you have been apprenticed (sports, a certain skill or task, etc) Was the Investment of time by that person important? Why?
3. What did you learn from that apprenticeship and are you apprenticing others?
4. How can we pull together “tribes” of people on mission together going ALL OUT for the sake of others?
1. What might God be calling you to pray about and take action in terms of being “ALL OUT” for others?