

EMAW Testimonials

Collection for Inspiration

Sam Strader – Texas



“I Want to be a 30 – 60 – 100-fold Man”

Here’s a little bit about me. I live in Justin, TX with my wife Kayce and two kiddos (another due to join us anytime). I recently changed careers, I taught high school and coached for ten years and am now working for a custom home builder. We’ve recently joined the First Baptist Church in Justin, after being at a church in Denton, TX, where we previously lived, for the past 10 years.

I heard about EMAW through a friend of mine, who pastors in Greenville, TX. He told me about the EMAW study a few months back and how it was changing his life and the lives of the guys he was doing the study with. I don’t remember his exact words but essentially, he’s been through seminary and numerous programs at the church we met at but has grown and experienced more life change through EMAW than all the other programs and studies he’s been a part of. I was encouraged by his testimony and the positive change I saw in him and got excited about experiencing that myself and decided to purchase the books.

I trusted Christ as a freshman in high school and have experienced seasons of growth and closeness in my walk with Christ since then but have not seen significant growth in my walk for some time. I find that I'm easily distracted by lesser things and am not the man/warrior/husband/father I want to be.

I was planning to just read the books myself and didn’t realize it was only meant to be used in a group context until I spoke with John Degner. I contacted John because I thought I hadn’t received my books, turns out my father had picked up the package and hadn’t told me about it. John gave me more info on EMAW, sent me the links about starting a group, and told me about the Zoom meetings; tonight, was the first meeting I was able to make.

So I had not intended to lead a group, but I am excited about the material and the impact it could have not only on my own life but the lives of other men in our church. I want to be a 30, 60, 100-fold man, and right now I am not. I want to walk closely with Christ and not be distracted/focused with/on lesser things. I liked your description in the meeting of EMAW building “oaks of righteousness.”

I plan to meet with the pastor of our church this week and ask if he has/knows any guys in the church who he thinks might be interested in EMAW. I anticipate him having several guys I can reach out to, who I can set up a meeting with. I plan to have the initial meeting about the commitment element, have a follow up meeting, and then begin. In the meantime, I plan to pray for whoever will be a part of the study.