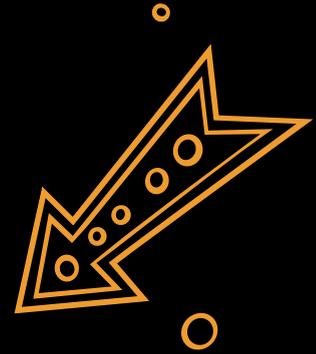


BAD BET 3



**ACCOMPLISH
AT ALL COSTS**



NAME THE GAME

We live in a culture in which ambition is valued. Resumés, degrees, the type of cars we drive, the trips we take, the size of our organization or bank statement—these are just some of the ways we measure and share our accomplishments with those around us. Ambition and striving to be successful aren't all bad and sometimes, they can be very good. But they can also be dangerous and, if we're not careful, drive us to become people we don't want to be.

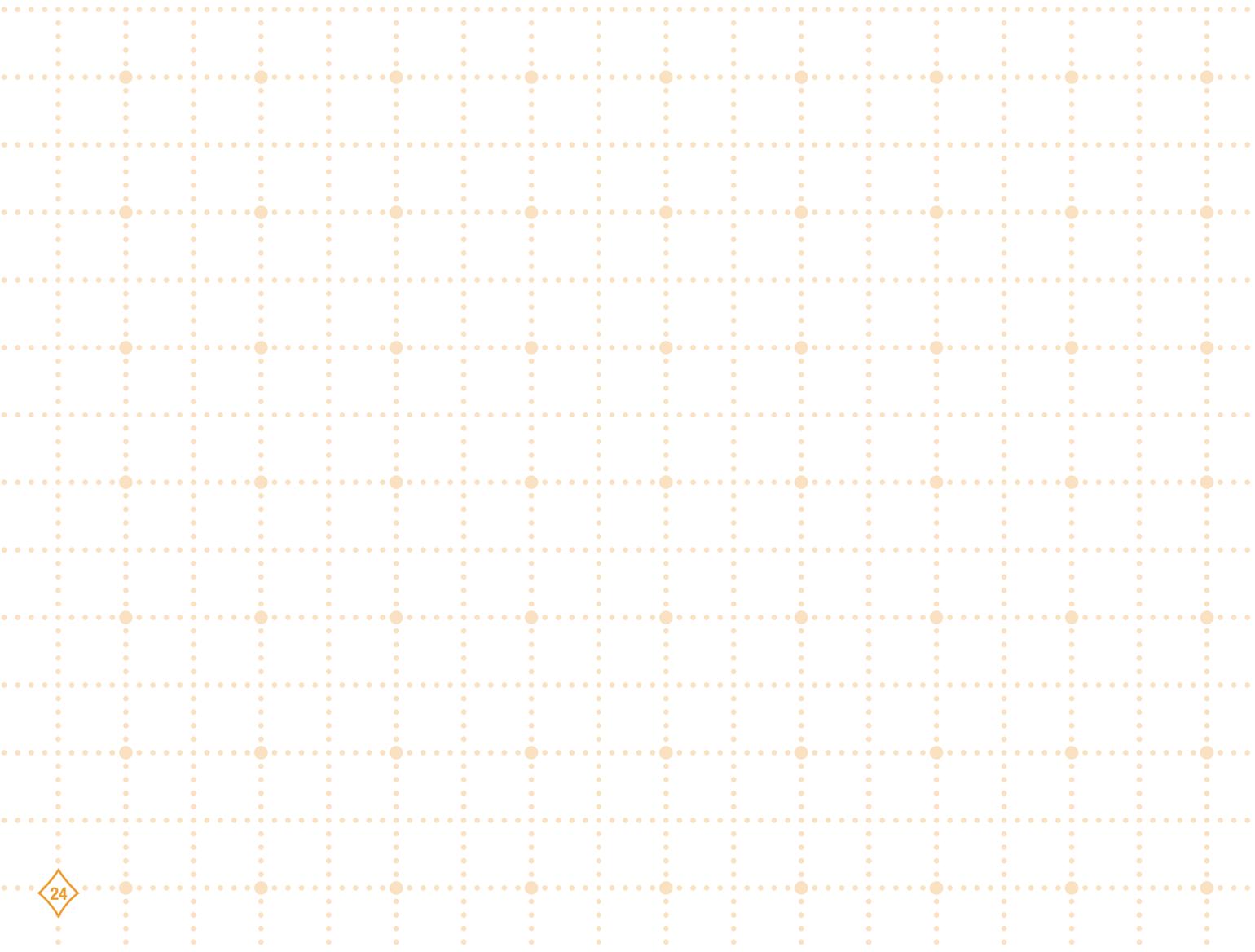
- ◆ As a kid, what accomplishments were you most proud of? Which of your trophies or certificates would you have displayed most prominently? And, back then, if you could choose one area to succeed in, what would it have been?
- ◆ Do you think we live in an ambitious, results-driven culture? Where do you see this the most?



SET THE TABLE

WATCH THE VIDEO FOR SESSION 3

Use the space below to take notes (or doodle, whatever works best for you).



SHUFFLE THE DECK

- 🔥 Where have you seen the silly or even dark side of ambition in friends, family, or our culture?
- 🔥 Have you personally experienced the darker or more dangerous side of ambition, where you felt it driving you to become a person you didn't want to be? How?
- 🔥 Is ambition all bad? How can it be good? What does it take to pursue "good" ambitions?

Read **Philippians 2:3-4** and **1 Thessalonians 4:11-12**.

- 🔥 What do you think it means to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life? Does that mean it's wrong to want to be really successful or well-known?
- 🔥 In Philippians, Paul tells us that we are to be driven by unselfish ambition, which is really hard to do. Most of us are driven by other things: other peoples' approval and acceptance, power and position, and wealth and possessions, among other things. If you're honest, what are the things deep down that drive you the most?
- 🔥 What would it look like for you to be ambitious for others? How can you strive to make sure others in your life are set up for success?

We all want to be here for something bigger. God has implanted that desire in each of us. And the good news is God wants to use us to make a difference, to be ambitious for His mission. Take five minutes to do the **Closer Look Activity** on pages 26-27 and think more specifically about what this means for you.

- 🔥 Share some of what you wrote down in the GPS exercise. How does your GPS clarify where you could be a Here For Good person?
- 🔥 How are you doing with using your GPS to serve others? If you aren't using them right now, how could you start? Is there a team you could join?

Ask God to help you fight the pull towards selfish ambition. And pray for wisdom in how to use your drive, gifts, strengths, passions, and stories to lift others up.

CLOSER LOOK ACTIVITY

USING YOUR GPS

In a world in which it is easy to be “here for me,” God is calling us to be here for good. He is at work bringing His hope to a broken world, and He invites us to join Him in what He is doing. As you think about being a here for good person, it helps to consider your GPS (G: Gifts and strengths; P: Passion; and S: Story). God uses all three of these things to make a difference in our world. Take a few minutes to assess yourself in each of these categories.

G

GIFTS/STRENGTHS

God has designed and equipped you to make a difference! Write down a few ways you feel uniquely gifted to help others. It could be serving, teaching, leadership, hospitality, artistic expression, or something else. Think through what you’ve learned about yourself from any previous assessments or feedback from others.

P

PASSIONS

God has given each of us strong feelings for certain causes or people. Who or what are you particularly passionate about? Write down some things that fit this category.

S

STORY

God uses our experiences, particularly the hardest ones, to minister to others **(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)**. What ups and downs in your journey do you think God could use to specifically comfort or help someone else?



DAILY DEVOTIONAL



READ

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-8

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.

REFLECT

Everything pales in comparison to Jesus. Take a moment to think deeply about how this truth changes your outlook for the week.



READ

PHILIPPIANS 3:10-11

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

REFLECT

Make it your ambition to know Christ more today. Ask Him to reveal more of Himself to you.



READ

2 PETER 1:3

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

REFLECT

God has given all you need to live a godly life. Rest in His power and strength today.



READ

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

REFLECT

Is there a person in your life you can help comfort? God uses our stories, hurts, and hardships to help others.



READ

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

REFLECT

God has designed you with great care, to accomplish good works. How can you be here for good today?