

DO HARD THINGS: Collaborate – Week 3

(notes available online to follow)

INTRO

Series: Do Hard Things based on a book written by 2 teenagers.

- The One who made you has high expectations of you right now at your age.
- Five challenges, hard things, to apply to your life daily.
 - Ring finger = Get out of your comfort zone.
 - Middle finger = Go beyond what's expected.
 - Did anyone do the challenge last week?

HOOK

“If you don’t have a purpose bigger than yourself, you become your own purpose.”

– Ron Luce

Katrina: Katrina, at 15, was a Christian girl who was interested in anything to do with clothing and fashion. Her goal was to found a designer company, but a fashion company that values modesty which she calls a “forgotten quality.” Her desire was to dress well and please the Lord with how she dresses. She came to the question, “What is modesty?” She found lots of reasons to be modest, but couldn’t define exactly what modesty is. She came to the conclusion it was a heart issue first and dressing immodestly was just one symptom of it. She figured a lot of girls were asking similar questions and even wanted to get the perspectives of some Christian guys. What did they believe was modest?

Running polls and communicating with girls from all over was a bigger task than she could do alone. She found therebelution.com and working with the Harris brothers, began a Q/A thread. In 7 days there were 350 questions from high school students from all over the WORLD. Apparently, it was a common question. She worked together with a team to build an online survey. Together they would form questions, track answers, build a website, and create photo illustrations. She recruited a techy guy from Canada to work remotely and even her sister joined her in helping compile the information they were getting back.

They finally released a 148 questions survey hoping for 100 guys to fill it out. After 24 hours, 120 guys had responded. After 3 weeks, 1,700 guys from 48 states and 26 countries. There were 3,290 pages of data to sort through! After 2 weeks of processing and several all-nighters, the survey was complete. Now, she needed to get the information gathered from the survey the exposure it deserved.

She recruited over 130 teens to mention the survey on their blogs, send emails, and hand out info at schools and churches.

“That morning when I went on to find the link to the results, the website took about five minutes to load. I thought it was very strange, and when it finally did load, people kept saying that the survey was kicking them off. In my ignorance of the Internet, I thought maybe a couple

hundred people were on there. Later, when I was messaging a friend, she said ten thousand people looked at it in the FIRST HOUR. It was so many that the server had actually shut down. I couldn't believe it! I was so excited that I was jumping around the house yelling, "Ten thousand people in the first hour!" despite the fact that I had a sore throat and fever at the time. It wasn't until later that we got the full report: even with the server down for over an hour, the survey had received 420,000 hits in the first 12 hours." – Do Hard Things

BOOK

1 Corinthians 12:14-20 - *For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.*

- God designed His kingdom, His church, to be a collaboration of many unique people cooperating together to do what no individual could do alone.

LOOK

1 Peter 4:10 – *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

- EX. Parable of the Long Spoons
 - He gave us all gifts, passions, talents, and purposes, but they aren't meant to benefit us. They are meant to benefit each other – His body/church/kingdom.
 - **We are "many" called to work together in unity towards a purpose greater than ourselves.**

HARD THING #3 – the Thumb: COLLABORATE = "co-labor"

- Anytime you take on something bigger than yourself, you recruit!
 - Forming an outreach, making a video, organizing an event, forming a band, changing a policy at your school.

What did Katrina do?

KEY: Share your passion with others and delegate.

Only you can #1 get out of your own comfort zone. Only you can #2 go beyond what's expected or required of you. But, only you can't take on a purpose larger than your own personal talents, resources, and time.

- Our culture celebrates lone wolf heroes, but that's just not reality.
- If we engage only our own resources and abilities, our projects won't get off the ground. INSTEAD, look around and ask, "Who can tackle this with me?"

EX. All stand up on the floor – "Reach as high as you can."

- This is the ceiling of your ability to do something hard.
- Collaboration opens up new heights beyond what you alone can reach.
 - Pic of human pyramid.

Synergy - the interaction of elements that when combined produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements.

- (Ex. $1 + 1 = 3$)
- 1 horse can pull 2,500 lbs; 2 horses can pull 5,000 lbs? Nope. 12,500 lbs!!!

1 Corinthians 12:14,18-20 - *For the body does not consist of one member but of many... 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.*

Acts 6 – The apostles were dedicated to sharing the gospel of Jesus. They were traveling, debating, writing, preaching, and leading the communities. However, a big need arose in the church. Many widows didn't have enough to eat. Both preaching and feeding were important. They recruited and empowered a team to distribute food to the hungry. The ministry of the church expanded into something bigger than any one person. It was now caring for people spiritually and physically because of collaboration.

EX. Dr. Smith's class on missions. He would regularly ask for prayer requests from the students. Often he would hear a need (not enough money, needing help with something, etc.) and pause. He would sit in silence until the class pulled together to take care of it.

10 Tips for Collaboration

1. Start with good questions:

- a. What is God saying to me about this idea?
- b. Am I the one to lead? If not, can I help get things going?
- c. What are my strengths and weaknesses?
- d. Who can I recruit who can compensate for my weaknesses?

2. Walk with the wise.

- a. **Proverbs 13:20** - Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.
- b. Questions cont.: What is the advice of my parents and others I trust?
- c. Who are those in your life who are more experienced, mature, walked with the Lord longer = wise? If we want these qualities involved in our projects we need to be surrounding ourselves with these kinds of people.
 - i. **Hint:** For insight, experience, and resources target adults. For time, energy, and trends, target teens. Bring them both together for success = SYNERGY.

3. Utilize your family – Home field advantage

- a. They have the greatest concern with your being successful.
 - i. Harris family (from the book) has family conferences
 1. Dad – main speaker
 2. Oldest brother – leads worship
 3. Mom – organizer
 4. Sister – coordinates volunteers
 5. Younger brother – mailings
 6. 7 y/o brother – helps with everything
- b. This may be idealistic, but just one family member having skin in the game will make a big difference for you.

4. Use technology.

- a. Connect with people, Research, Promote, Raise money
- b. Be careful of time assassination.

5. Treasure constructive criticism.

- a. “You don’t know what you don’t know.”
- b. It won’t feel good, but if you’ll choose humility, receiving feedback WILL be the difference between “OK” or “good” and “great.” The fastest way to grow is by receiving constructive criticism.

- i. Not all criticism is fully accurate or understanding, but if it's coming from someone who cares, you should always considerate it and try to grow from it.

6. Give away credit and avoid taking it.

- a. Promote each other instead of looking for glory. It energizes your team. Your organization is a creature with many legs not a pogo stick. Distribute praise to all the legs holding it up.

7. Expect a nightmare or three. (Four nightmares may mean you planned poorly.)

- a. The inevitable nightmares that come with collaboration on big projects are Red Bulls for your prayer life.
- b. Look for God's hand at work because He is at work.

8. Give grace and mercy.

- a. Other people are imperfect too! Doing things that are difficult and bigger than you will require patience, humility, and a nearly endless supply of forgiveness.

9. Motivate.

- a. Before beginning, decide if the purpose is worth seeing it to the end. It may take many people over a long time to accomplish it. Don't give up.
- b. Make that purpose clear and easy to communicate. Keep that purpose always in front of the team.
 - i. Elevate's purpose: We exist to elevate Jesus by discipling students.
 - ii. EX. Lick and seal 200 envelopes. It sounds discouraging unless you have a grasp on the purpose which motivates you towards the goal.

10. Measure success.

- a. Success isn't just accomplishing big goals, but how well you did together.
- b. 70% rule – If someone can do something 70% as well as you can, let them do it.
- c. Success = personal firsts, spiritual breakthroughs, tough lessons learned, nightmares overcome, and small victories.
- d. Be aware of pros and grows to praise and learn.

EX. Summer Allen founded Destin-Nation to bring toiletries and other needed to communities in remote places of the Appalachian Mountains. She saw a need and recruited family, friends, and most of our youth group to collect, sort, and distribute supplies.

Jesus had the biggest mission. His purpose was to reach the whole earth with the good news of God's salvation. He recruited and trained 12. Those twelve recruited and trained and those recruited and trained. On and on UNTIL . . . someone told you about Jesus. The highest purpose you can have, the thing you can do which is FAR bigger than you is to accept Jesus' mission:

- **Matthew 28:19-20** – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
 - Jesus never meant to do this as solo acts, but together.

1 Corinthians 12:14, 18-20 - *For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.*

RECAP

- God designed us as believers with unique gifts with the potential to unite for a purpose bigger than any one of us.
- To take on a hard thing bigger than yourself, you'll have to collaborate.
- The key to collaborating is sharing your passion with others and delegating.
- Wisdom, constructive criticism, giving away praise, and forgiveness will be necessary for effective synergy.
- The highest purpose which all Jesus-followers are called to is participating in His kingdom. Let's go!

TOOK

Challenge: What's a project you were planning to do by yourself? Recruit help and use 3 of the above 10 tips.

EX. Conclusion to Katrina's story: “Together, we can accomplish great things for God, starting today. At the time, nothing seemed at all strange, but when I look back on it now, it totally blows me away. We were all eighteen or younger, I was only fifteen. It makes me wonder, what more is possible when teens work together? There were about five main people working on the Modesty Survey. Imagine what we could do with a team of one hundred people!” – Do Hard Things

eGroup Questions

1. What does the ring finger, middle finger, and thumb represent?
2. “If you don’t have a purpose bigger than yourself, you become your own purpose.” What does this quote mean?
3. What is the significance of God’s church being many members making up one body?
4. What did Pastor Dominick say the key to collaboration was? (Share your passion and delegate.)
5. What does it mean to delegate? Why is it critical for success?
6. What are the many benefits of delegation?
7. What are the pros and cons of constructive criticism?
8. What did Pastor Dominick mean when he said, “Expect a nightmare?”
9. What’s the best way to motivate your team? (Always keep the purpose in view and give genuine praise)
10. Where can you exercise some of these tips THIS week?