

MAKE THE CALL MARK RICHT

DISCUSSION GUIDE

CHAPTER 1

1. My high school coach had an expectation in order to be on his team. What are some expectations God has in order to be on His team?
2. My high school coach showed more focus on making not only good football players, but good men. I loved that. Why is this strategy so important in our daily lives?
3. I made the wrong assumption that being Christian meant being perfect. I didn't understand grace. It kept me from making the call to follow Christ. What kept you from making the same call? What is keeping you from making the call now?

CHAPTER 2

1. I mentioned that we never know God's plan. Even in the frustrating moments of the present, God knows the future. What are moments where you have seen God at work in a similar way in your life?
2. There are times in life when we make plans that don't align with God's plans. In the long run, I am so glad God is in control and not me. What are some moments where you have experienced something similar.
3. God took me to coaching, even though I had not really planned on doing it. Where has God taken you?

CHAPTER 3

1. We need God. It sounds simple, but so many of us try to live like we don't. What are some moments where you have tried to make it on your own?
2. Under Coach Bowden, there was only one way to do things: the right way. Many times, we go against what God has clearly told us to do. Why do we do this? Has there been a time that you have done the same?
3. One of the most important things a leader can do is display loyalty to his team. Why is loyalty such an important factor in leadership?

CHAPTER 4

1. Having a routine is not a bad thing. Sometimes a checklist can help us manage our day. But if we're not careful, a checklist can turn into our own way of having control. When are some moments when a checklist has become your way of control?
 2. Making Christ the center of my life brought simplicity. This doesn't mean my life got easier. What are some ways Christ has brought simplicity to your life?
 3. I'm so thankful that God allowed me to follow Him. The longer I have known Him, the more grateful that I have become, the deeper my understanding of His goodness has been. How has knowing God brought more joy in your life?
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CHAPTER 5

1. You'll never know greatness until you humility. Greatness only comes to those who know they don't deserve it. Who has been a model of humility in your life?
2. Even though we know we need humility, there are many times we fail to live humbly. When we do, God is quick to remind us. When was a moment that you have failed to live with humility? How did God bring this attitude to your attention?
3. God loves us enough to give us "second chances." When was a moment when God gave you a second chance?

CHAPTER 6

1. We don't have to have it all together in order to get our lives together. Faith allows us to move forward even in the face of anxiety. How has faith given you the strength to the move forward in hard situations?
2. Think of a moment when you did the impossible. If you took the time to think about it, you probably didn't do it. How has God walked you through the impossible?
3. God has everything under control. He always does. Why do we sometimes struggle with trusting this truth?

CHAPTER 7

1. Being in tune with the Lord is imperative for the flourishing life of any Christian, would you say that you are in tune with God now?
2. The benefit of a close relationship with the Lord comes from trusting well studied communication. Do you know God's word well enough to run a "no huddle offense" in your life?
3. Sometimes, I would call plays for a team that were directed at one person. How has God called you directly to lead for the benefit of those around you?

CHAPTER 8

1. I'll never forget the quality of men that I have had the pleasure to work with. The best staffs are the ones that are unified. Why is unity important among other Christians?
2. Pleasing the Lord should be our end goal for work, but we often put so much emphasis on pleasing others. Why is this harmful to our lives?
3. What are the differences between working hard to please God, and working hard to please others?

CHAPTER 9

1. You can have the best players on the team and go nowhere if you don't really know each other. What makes a good team good?
2. You can't get better if you have never had a mistake to learn from. What has been your greatest life lesson?
3. At the end of this chapter, I mentioned that life is about learning, changing, adjusting, and developing. In what ways has God given you opportunities to grow?

CHAPTER 10

1. It's easy to forget that sometimes God has us where we are for a reason. When is a time God has kept you in place for your own good?
2. The point of mat drills is not quitting even when things are hard. Why is this important today?
3. What would your life look like if finishing the drill became part of the way you live your life?

CHAPTER 11

1. If you have influence in someone's life you are a leader. Who are some of the leaders in your life? What makes the leadership stand out?
2. When I referenced the Law of the Lid, I made the point that if you remove the lid of leadership, there is no limit to what you can do. What kind of leader, do you need to be in order to have that lid removed?
3. Like David, in order to grow well into your next position, you have to be willing to do what it takes to get to that next level. What is holding you back now? What needs to change in your life to move into the next position?

CHAPTER 12

1. I'll never forget that conversation in the locker room so many years ago and the kind of pain that can come from a feeling of disloyalty. When was a time you witnessed disloyalty? What about that moment made it hurt as bad as it did?
2. People respect loyalty. You can be talented, hard-working, and experienced, but there's something special about loyalty. Why do you think loyalty is as prized as it is?
3. Who is someone in your life that you would consider to be loyal? What attributes do they have that point to their loyalty?

CHAPTER 13

1. Preparation is key to the success of any decision-making. How do you prepare for the decisions you make in your daily life?
2. We can all think of a moment when it was obvious we weren't prepared for something that needed to be done. What happened in the times you weren't prepared to do the task at hand?
3. Preparation, even though it can be frustrating at times, ultimately leads to freedom. Why is this the case? Is there a time you felt freedom because of your preparation?

CHAPTER 14

1. Out of the box thinking led Katharyn to being our water girl. Because of a simple thought to serve the team, she released herself from the frustrating situation of possibly sitting alone at the games. When has a creative thought given you a similar freedom?
2. Christianity, when you think about it, is out of the box when we think about the world's view of our faith. Following God appears to be strict to those looking from the outside, but following God offers true freedom. How has that freedom looked in your walk?
3. Sin is the true prison. Sin traps us in behaviors we can't escape. God sets us free from sin. What has God set you free from?

CHAPTER 15

1. One of the greatest signs of leadership is knowing when your time as a leader is coming to a close. Have you witnessed a leader that prepared the next leader to take on the work that was coming? What did that look like?
2. Replication is one of the best tools in a leader's tool belt. How can passing the baton well benefit those under your leadership?
3. Turnovers in football and turnovers in life are both hard, but their both a part of the game. Turnovers in life, however, if done well can help a program in the long run. Why is this? What happens if we don't prepare to pass the baton?

CHAPTER 16

1. Sometimes our eyes are just on the next thing. This often keeps us from noticing the blessing that God has given us in the present. What are some things in your life right now that you have not taken the time to thank God for?
2. How has God blessed you? Have you thanked Him for those blessings? What is keeping you from doing it right now?
3. Sometimes having something good happen just makes us feel like we should just keep moving on to the next thing. When we do this, though, we don't fully take time to thank God for what He has done for us. What would that look like with anyone else? Should that not change how we respond to blessings?

CHAPTER 17

1. One of the most dangerous things you can do is to let a single loss beat you twice. How can handling failure the wrong way hinder you from making future decisions?
2. How can handling defeat the right way set us up for success in the future?
3. When was a time that you grew from a failure? What did you have to do to pull a positive from negative situation?

CHAPTER 18

1. Receiving critique can feel personal if it is not handled the right way. What has happened in your life in the moments when you've taken an opinion too personally?
2. When we have to give feedback, we must remember the importance of delivering it with grace. Why is this important?
3. Why are success and relationships equally important when serving on a team?

CHAPTER 19

1. We can all probably remember a time when we've missed out on communicating effectively. When is a time you have not communicated well? What were the consequences?
2. Being mindful about what we say is imperative to leading well. What are the benefits that come from speaking with clarity and grace?
3. When I was asked about my next steps in my career, I had an opportunity to say what or who was in control of my life. I could have shown that my career was most important to me or my walk with God. How does making this distinction change the way we speak?

CHAPTER 20

1. My job as a coach was to make good football players. My call was to make them good men. I believe this was me going above what the job required. Have you done this in your jobs? How so?
2. One of the greatest signs of real manhood is helping someone that can't return the favor. Why is this so important?
3. Living as a real man and feeling like one are two different things. What is the distinction between the two?

CHAPTER 21

1. What is the hardest call you've ever had to make? What drove you to make the call you did?
2. Retiring was one of the toughest decisions I've ever made, but it was the right thing to do. When is a time doing the right thing was the hardest thing to do?
3. Sometimes, making the right call will come with a price? What have you lost with some of your tough decisions?