

ON THE OTHER SIDE

INTRODUCTION

We all want to write a great story with our lives – to get to the other side of those important and sometimes difficult seasons – and see that our faith has deepened, our relationships strengthened, and lives have been productive. Through this series, we will learn what steps to take in order to be able to tell the story we want to tell on the other side. The first step is making sure your direction lines up with your intention.

PART 1

VIDEO NOTES

One thing our moms probably said to us when we were kids is something that really connects with this series: “Sweetie, let me tell you where this leads.” What’s behind this statement? **Our direction trumps our intention every time.** Even though our emotions and desires drive us one way, if we make choices contrary to our original destination, we will ultimately not end up where we wanted to go. This applies to every aspect of our lives – relationships, finances, career, parenting, etc.

Proverbs 7 illustrates that we can all fall prey to temptation to give into things that can make us happy *now* instead of happy *later*. In the proverb, an old man looked out his window and could see a young man, who lacked life experience (and an undeveloped frontal lobe) walking toward a woman’s house. The woman seduced him and led him ultimately down a road that would not lead to lasting fulfillment. The old man knew this would ultimately cost the young man much more than he could imagine.

The truth is, every one of us is susceptible to the voice of temptation, a voice that leads us in a direction that does not match our intention and that will end up with us telling a story we never wanted to tell.

Your **direction** not your **intention** (*not your dreams, not your desires, not your emotion*) will determine the story you will tell **on the other side**.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Read Proverbs 7:6-27. Can you think of a time when you have been the young man? The older man? What happened in the situation?
2. Share some of your desires related to your relationships, finances, kids, God, etc.? What do you want to experience on the other side? Where do you want to be?
3. Buck said, "Your direction, not intention, will determine the story you tell on the other side." What are some of the directions that you have taken in life – good or bad? Where did they lead you?
4. Think about your relationships, God, finances, kids, health, etc. What is the current direction you're headed in those areas? Does your direction in those areas match your intentions?

THIS WEEK

Take an honest look at your directions and intention and invite God into the conversation, knowing that wherever you are, He will accept you and want to walk with you. Choose one area where you feel God is nudging you to go a different direction and write out some practical things you will do to begin walking toward the story you want to tell.

"Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths."

Proverbs 7:25