



The “*BBT 1-2-3*™”  
Sample Curriculum

*PRIORITY PROFILES™ for Today’s Workplace*  
By Charles Stanley

**ADVERSITY**

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A sample of the BBT curriculum begins on the following page.

BBT Overview

BBT provides Biblical leadership development and curriculum to small-group Bible study leaders, helping them grow in their relationship with Christ and equipping them to pour into the lives of others. BBT is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization which exists help people develop their Christian “Faith for Work-Leadership for Life!”

The ministry focus of BBT is developing leaders through small-group Bible studies. BBT groups meet at work, near work (e.g., restaurants, coffee shops, etc.), or at a local church. BBT provides leaders with curriculum that is focused on practical work situations to help participants directly apply Biblical principles to what they do every day ...

To find out more, visit [www.B-B-T.org](http://www.B-B-T.org).

BBT Curriculum: “The *BBT 1-2-3*™”

BBT curriculum is rooted in Scripture and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3*™ curriculum structure (1-Agenda, 2-Group Leader Guide, and 3-Recap) enables the group to have a consistent Biblical basis for discussion during the meetings and connectivity in between.

This sample is taken from the “PRIORITY PROFILES™ for Today’s Workplace” study written by Charles Stanley. This study is a stand-alone study and no book is required.

## ADVERSITY

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Meeting Preparation: Read through the text and scriptures below, and be prepared to answer the discussion questions.

Meeting Agenda

- I) Discussion questions:
1. Read Ecclesiastes 7:14. What does this verse remind us?
  2. Read Hebrews 12:5-11. Give an example of adversity you faced at work and how you responded.
  3. Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. When you face difficult circumstances at work, what advice does Peter give?
  4. Read 2 Corinthians 12:10. How have you been strengthened by you adversities?
  5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. When you are facing tough times, should you focus inwardly or outwardly?
- II) Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer

**Share BBT! Invite someone to come with you next week!**

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### ADVERSITY

**KEY STATEMENT:** *Adversity is a setback from which we can take our greatest leap forward.*

The winds of adversity blow strongly and in every direction. Eventually everyone feels the weight of some severe trial, hardship, misfortune, or setback. Your present situation is not what you anticipated or planned. Why did it happen? Who is to blame?

Did you knowingly and willfully violate your conscience? Is this adversity the result of sin on your part? Is it an act of evil on the part of another toward you? Or is this the work of God?

#### **Choose to Learn from Adversity**

The key to overcoming adversity is the proper response. Finding someone to blame is a dead-end street. If you choose to respond properly you can turn your setback into a steppingstone to greater success. You can advance through your adversity. Your reaction to adversity can destroy you or develop you into the person God created you to be. The choice is yours.

What is the proper response? It is this simple prayer: "God, what are You doing in my life?" The key to turning your adversity into advancement is looking at it from God's viewpoint. No matter what may appear to be the cause, make up your mind to learn from it.

#### **Why Do We Experience Adversity?**

Consider the following: Adversity is God's way of getting our attention. Has He been the priority in our lives, or have we ignored His will for our own? Our difficulties may be a signal that we need a priority change (Matthew 6:33). It is time for self-examination.

Adversity is God's way of reminding us that He loves us. He chastens those He loves (Hebrews 12:5, 6). His purpose is to protect you from completely destroying yourself.

Adversity is God's way of conquering pride. Success often breeds pride, which in turn leads to failure. "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5). Adversity has a way of stripping away pride.

Adversity is God's way of reminding us of our weakness. When your back is to the wall, and there seems to be no way out, you suddenly recognize that you are not self-sufficient. You need the Lord. The apostle Paul learned through his adversity that in his weakness he became strong (2 Cor 12:10).

Adversity is God's way of demonstrating His faithfulness. Your helpless state is God's opportunity to keep His promises to you. "The *righteous* cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles" (Psalm 34:17).

Adversity is God's way of preparing us to comfort others. You become more useful to God and others through your own suffering. You should view your trials as a profitable period of equipping for ministry (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4).

Adversity is God's way of increasing our hatred of evil. Your hardship is often your own making. You reap what you sow (Galatians 6:7, 8). Heat purifies. Hot water keeps one clean.

Yesterday's adversity is strong motivation for today's obedience.

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**ADVERSITY**

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Agenda Question #1:

Read Ecclesiastes 7:14. What does this verse remind us?

*God allows both good times and bad times to come to everyone. He blends them in our lives in such a way that we can't predict the future or count on human wisdom and power. We usually give ourselves the credit for the good times. Then in bad times, we tend to blame God without thanking him for the good that comes out of it. When life appears certain and controllable, don't let self-satisfaction or complacency make you too comfortable, or God may allow bad times to drive you back to Him. When life seems uncertain and uncontrollable, don't despair – God is in control and will bring good results out of your struggles.*

Agenda Question #2:

Read Hebrews 12:5-11. Give an example of adversity you faced at work and how you responded.

*Who loves his child more – the father who allows the child to do what will harm, or the one who corrects, trains and even punishes the child to help him learn what is right. It's never pleasant to be corrected and disciplined by God, but His discipline is a sign of His deep love for us. When God corrects you, see it as proof of His love, and ask Him what He is trying to teach you.*

Agenda Question #3:

Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. When you face difficult circumstances at work, what advice does Peter give?

*Instead of asking, "Why me?" we should respond to suffering with a new set of responses: 1. Confidence that God knows, plans and directs our lives for the good. It's hard to calculate sometimes, but God always provides His love and strength for us. God leads us toward a better future. 2. Perseverance when facing grief, anger, sorrow and pain. We express our grief, but we don't give in to bitterness and despair. 3. Courage because with Jesus as Brother and Savior, we need not be afraid. He who suffered for us will not abandon us. Jesus carries us through everything.*

Agenda Question #4:

Read 2 Corinthians 12:10. How have you been strengthened by your adversities?

*When we are strong in abilities or resources, we are tempted to do God's work on our own, and that can lead to pride. When we are weak, allowing God to fill us with His power, then we are stronger than we could ever be on our own. God does not intend for us to be weak, passive or ineffective – life provides enough hindrances and setbacks without us creating them. When those obstacles come, we must depend on God. Only His power will make us effective for Him and will help us do work that has lasting value.*

Agenda Question #5:

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. When you are facing tough times, should you focus inwardly or outwardly?

*Many think that when God comforts us, our troubles should go away. But if that were always so, people would turn to God only out of a desire to be relieved of pain and not out of love for Him. We must understand that being "comforted" can also mean receiving strength, encouragement, and hope to deal with our troubles. The more we suffer, the more comfort God gives us... Every trial you endure will help you comfort other people suffering similar troubles.*



## **SAMPLE EMAIL RECAP**

*PRIORITY PROFILES™ for Today's Workplace*  
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### **ADVERSITY**

**Use the sample email below to help you personalize a recap of your last BBT**

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What a powerful discussion on adversity! We all face adversity but today we learned how to embrace it. Thinking of adversity as a way for God to teach us something and/or a way to help someone else may be a brand new perspective for you. This week as you face each day, pray and ask God to help you apply what you learned in the face of adversity.

Next week will talk about ANXIETY. What does pride have to do with worry? Should be a great discussion!



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Topics

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|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Accountability   | 31. Patience           |
| 2. Adultery         | 32. Peace              |
| 3. Adversity        | 33. Persecution        |
| 4. Anxiety          | 34. Planning           |
| 5. Authority        | 35. Priorities         |
| 6. The Bible        | 36. Procrastination    |
| 7. Competition      | 37. Promotion          |
| 8. Confidence       | 38. Reconciliation     |
| 9. Confrontation    | 39. Rejection          |
| 10. Conscience      | 40. Relationships      |
| 11. Contentment     | 41. Rewards            |
| 12. Counsel         | 42. Security           |
| 13. Decision Making | 43. Sowing and Reaping |
| 14. Diligence       | 44. Stress             |
| 15. Employees       | 45. Success            |
| 16. Excellence      | 46. Temptation         |
| 17. Failure         | 47. Time               |
| 18. Faith           | 48. The Tongue         |
| 19. Fear            | 49. Wealth             |
| 20. Forgiveness     | 50. Wisdom             |
| 21. Generosity      | 51. Work               |
| 22. Giving          | 52. Worth              |
| 23. Goals           |                        |
| 24. Influence       |                        |
| 25. Initiative      |                        |
| 26. Integrity       |                        |
| 27. Leadership      |                        |
| 28. Loyalty         |                        |
| 29. Meditation      |                        |
| 30. Money           |                        |