

Starting Over
#1: Own it

How To Take Responsibility For Our Lives

1. Understand the _____

Genesis 3:12-13 *The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it." Then the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?" "The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it."*

2. Do some _____

a) Where _____

Hebrews 12:11 *No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.*

b) What do I _____

Jonah 1:12 *"Pick me up and throw me into the sea and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."*

(1) Don't _____

(2) Don't tell partial truths and _____

Proverbs 20:9 *Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin"?*

Proverbs 21:29 *The wicked put up a bold front, but the upright give thought to their ways.*

Proverbs 28:13 *Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*

Wise people have problems, foolish people have patterns.

Dr. Henry Cloud

Blame is the parking brake for improvement.

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(emphasize wise, foolish, evil verses again!)

How about all the sex offenders recently = caught! Denied for years. Caught.

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Matthew 7:4 says, “How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?” And, as much as Jonah got wrong, he was right to admit that it was his wrong that was causing trouble for the sailors in

1. In Exodus 32, we read about how Aaron shirked responsibility when Moses was up on the mountain with God. He made a golden calf and an altar on which to worship it. He was asked by Moses in verse 21: “What did these people do to you, that

you led them into such great sin?” Check out Aaron’s excuses and how quickly he casts blame:

* He blames the people for their depravity (v. 22)

* He blames Moses for his delay (v. 23)

* He even blames the furnace for its delivery of a calf (v. 24)
One day, Jesus asked this man a very curious question in verse 6: “Do you want to get well?” This seems like a strange question to ask on the surface but maybe the man really didn’t want to get better.

We have a clue about this because he starts to play the blame game in verse 7: “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” No one will help me and everyone else is rude. Jesus wants to heal him but the man must be willing to be healed. It’s not easy to stop blaming because some of us are very comfortable pointing our fingers at others.

I’m not good at conflict resolution

I’m not very honest with my spouse

I don’t know much about healthy eating

Something in me attracts unhealthy people

I’m not very good at handling my mother

I’m not handling my money very well

I’m not a very forgiving person

My temper is my issue and it’s wrong

I run from intimacy

My strategy with my teen isn’t working

I’m addicted

I’m trying to avoid something from my past rather than processing it in a healthy way

I don’t have enough marketable skills to be easily employed

Susan Jacoby writes about people who profoundly believe they are always losers in the game of life. She calls them “injustice collectors” (Pritchard, “Have You Stopped Blaming Others for Your Problems?”)

- * They endlessly repeat how others have mistreated them.
- * They view the world as hostile and unfair to them.
- * They are “beachcombers of misery” who see each grievance as a treasure to add to their collection.
- * They have a hidden need to feel wronged.
- * They live by the childish notion that life should always be fair to them.