

# "Accountability 101"

Justin Worden – January 16, 2008  
Tupos SM - Wednesday Night Live

**Ecclesiastes 4:11-13** = "Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. It is better to be a poor but wise youth than an old and foolish king who refuses all advice. (NLT)

## I. Welcome to Accountability 101

### a. Course description

- i. What is accountability?
  1. Definition = **Accountability** is a concept in [ethics](#) with several meanings. It is often used synonymously with such concepts as [answerability](#), enforcement, [responsibility](#), blameworthiness, [liability](#) and other terms associated with the expectation of account-giving. (Wikipedia)
  2. "Accountability" stems from late Latin *accountare* (to account), a prefixed form of *computare* (to calculate), which in turn derived from *putare* (to reckon). (Wikipedia)
- ii. Why learn about it?
  1. You need it
    - a. Why try to live the Christian life alone? Christian are all around you!
  2. God knew you needed it (each other)
    - a. This section of Scripture is about [companionship](#) and [intimacy](#)
    - b. We've perverted this

### b. Course requirements

- i. How to be accountable
  1. partner
  2. group
  3. accountable to God
- ii. what God expects
  1. total purity
  2. being totally sold out

### c. Course objectives

- i. Why is accountability important?
  1. the Devil is after you

## Exposing the Evil One (Peter Tokar – Directions devotional – 1/7)

*1 Peter 5:8 NIV* – "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

The "Evil One", Satan, is described in this passage as a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour or destroy. What a graphic picture, a lion quietly, ruthlessly stalking its prey, then roaring in ecstasy when he has made his kill. Have you, however, wondered why the lion roars when he makes the kill? Is this some kind of emotional experience for him? Do lions get emotionally caught up in the thrill of the hunt? Hardly!

Lions roar after killing their prey because they are afraid of jackals. You see jackals are opportunist scavengers that wait for the other animals to make the kill and then move in to steal the meal. Lions are afraid of jackals because they travel in packs of six to ten. The lion roars in an attempt to convince the jackals that he is all powerful when in reality, he is going to run away if the jackals show up and press the matter. In essence, the lion is a wimp with a big mouth!

Just as the jackals all too often give the lion too much credit, we all too often give Satan too much credit. When he roars in our life we all too often cower in fear. However, if we are Christ's followers, we need to keep Satan in a proper perspective. Yes, he is a powerful force to reckon with, but he is not like God who indwells us. Satan is not omnipotent, all powerful, like God; he is not omniscient, all knowing, like God. Satan is not omnipresent, existing everywhere simultaneously, like God. Therefore, he is not the intimidating presence we often give him credit for. We can successfully resist him!

2. the Lord is for you (in your corner)
3. What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? (Romans 8:31)

## II. Being Accountable

### a. The benefits

- i. 3 benefits listed in **Ecc 4:11-13**:
  1. [comfort](#) (being there for each other) [v.11](#)
  2. [defense](#) (protection / strength in #s) [v.12](#)
  3. [assurance](#) (not alone = confidence) [v.13](#)
- ii. They will bless you, but the Devil will fight back
  1. He'll do anything to steal, kill, or destroy your accountability ([John 10:10](#))
  2. All the more reason to stay accountable!

### b. Where to be accountable

- i. School (friends = accountability group)
- ii. Online (great resources for internet accountability at <http://www.christianfreeware.org/>)
- iii. Home (ask mom and dad to be accountability partners with you regarding stuff at home)
- iv. Church (Pastor J-Wo always available – 24/7)

- v. Anywhere (cell phone partner – call any hour)
- c. **How to get started** (4 S's)
  - i. Select a partner
  - ii. Set guidelines
  - iii. Seek God
  - iv. Stay connected!
    - 1. don't lose hope... accountability will help
    - 2. maybe not at first, but God will use it
    - 3. trust your Father! (**Jump!**)

A family was awakened by their smoke detector in the middle of the night to discover that their house was on fire. The father ran into the upstairs bedroom of his children and carried his eighteen-month-old baby in his arms while dragging his four-year-old son by the hand.

They were halfway down the stairs when the little boy remembered that he had left his teddy bear in the bedroom, so he broke free from his father's hand and ran back to the bedroom to retrieve it. In the furor and confusion, the father didn't notice that his son wasn't with him until he got outside. By now the little boy was trapped by the flames and smoke in his second-story bedroom. Smoke swirled around him and he coughed and cried out from the upstairs window, "Daddy, Daddy! Help me!"

His father yelled from below, "Jump out of the window, Andy! I'll catch you!"

In the darkness and smoke, the little boy yelled back, "But Daddy! I can't see you!"

Daddy shouted back, "That's okay, son. I can see you! Jump!"

There is a true saying that goes, "I don't know what the future holds, but I do know who holds the future." Do you worry about the future? Are you afraid of what you can't see? Does it seem dark and smoky? None of us can see what lies ahead, but God tells us to trust him and "jump!"

"He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4, NKJV)

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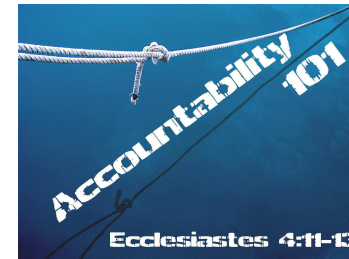
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# Tupos Student Ministries

## Small Group Life Application Sheet

Wednesday, January 16, 2007



Lesson Objective: More of an introduction to and understanding of small group sessions each week and how accountability can play a role!

Tonight's Text: **Ecclesiastes 4:11-13** = "Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? 12 A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. It is better to be a poor but wise youth than an old and foolish king who refuses all advice. (NLT)"

Personal Insights: Allow students to share something new they learned about accountability during tonight's message time.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What is "your" definition of accountability?
2. Do you have an accountability partner or group? Do you think it would be good to have one?
3. Why is accountability important to God? In what ways?
4. Do you think Small Group Time will allow you some accountability? Why or why not?
5. Other thoughts about the benefits of accountability?