This group is meant to facilitate discussion and meaningful conversations. The information below is derived from this week's outline.

Weekly Discussion Theme: Influence

- Leader shares: Influence is something we all carry, and the more we understand it, the more empowered we become to create meaningful change for ourselves and others. It doesn't require perfection, a title, or a big platform. It begins with how we show up. When we notice the quiet ways we impact others through kindness, courage, and choosing to keep going even when life feels messy, something powerful happens. We start to attract people and opportunities that remind us we matter. Even the struggles become stepping stones, and pleasant surprises often show up in unexpected ways. No matter what your past looks like, you still have something valuable to offer. You can be the example someone else needed to see, and that influence grows when you allow yourself to be present, real, and open to the possibility that you are already making a difference.
- **Group shares**: Can you think of a time someone inspired you by how they showed up, or a time when their reaction reminded you how much influence matters?
- Acknowledge: THANK YOU for sharing!

Verse: Matthew 5:14 (NIV): "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."

- Spiritual Application: This verse reminds us that each of us carries a light within, something placed by God to shine into the lives of others. Influence is not about status or perfection. It is about showing up with love, courage, and grace in everyday moments. Even when we struggle or fall short, our light still matters. When we choose to keep going, to speak life, and to treat others with kindness, we set an example that can quietly inspire those around us. God does not ask us to be flawless. He asks us to be willing. Your presence, your growth, and your honesty can brighten someone's path in ways you may never fully see. Let this verse be a reminder that your influence is real, valuable, and never meant to be hidden.
- **Group shares**: Is there anything that holds you back from seeing yourself as someone who influences others in a meaningful way?
- Acknowledge: THANK YOU for sharing!

10 Gentle Ways to Grow Your Influence Naturally

- 1. Just show up. Being present matters more than having it all together.
- 2. Really listen. Giving someone your attention makes them feel valued.
- 3. Speak with kindness about yourself and others.
- 4. Be honest about your journey. It helps others feel safe to open up too.
- 5. Quiet encouragement can make someone's day.
- 6. Try something even if you're unsure. Courage is contagious.

- 7. Own your mistakes with grace.
- 8. Celebrate others without comparing.
- 9. Be gentle with yourself.
- 10. Let your actions reflect what matters to you.

Group shares: Which of these stands out to you the most, and is there anything you would add?

Acknowledge: THANK YOU for sharing!

Leader Sharing: Influence can be found in how we show up, how we respond to challenges, how we speak, how we listen, and how we care for ourselves. Growing in this way can be meaningful and even fun as we notice small changes in ourselves over time. Influence often builds quietly through everyday moments, not just big accomplishments. Many people do not see themselves as leaders, but each time we choose patience, honesty, or kindness, we are making a difference. Sometimes it means stepping out of our comfort zone while giving ourselves grace along the way. Be proud of the effort it takes to keep showing up. You do not have to be perfect or have all the answers to influence others. Your presence, your growth, and your willingness to keep going are already having an impact.

- Leader shares: An email will be sent shortly containing today's outline, along with a
 request to share resources discussed today. Additionally, you'll find essential links for
 joining the group, as well as links to join our Facebook group or follow us on social
 media to stay connected.
- **Closing:** As we close our group meeting, I encourage everyone to share anything else in your hearts and minds or to ask for prayer requests.
- Stay connected: imperfectpaths.com

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