



PRACTICE “THE RELENTLESS HOW”

PREPARE YOURSELF TO BE A HELPFUL GUIDE

In this episode we identified one significant result of our culture’s obsession with making everything user-friendly. People wind up having far fewer opportunities to learn patience and persistence. Consequently, they avoid things that are complicated and get less practice to strengthen their problem-solving ability. That in turn leaves them feeling a great need for someone to coach them along. “Help me know how to do this!”

What a perfect opportunity for you to give others the gift of guidance and support. Plus, if you are a follower of Jesus Christ, that also gives you a chance to reveal the nature of God. God’s Spirit known as the “Paraclete” (the “called alongside One”) will come alongside you as you offer yourself to come alongside others who will benefit from the guidance you can give. Much of that guidance will flow from your knowledge of scripture, your personal experience, divine wisdom, but also the problem-solving skills you develop using the “relentless how.” Let’s practice that now.

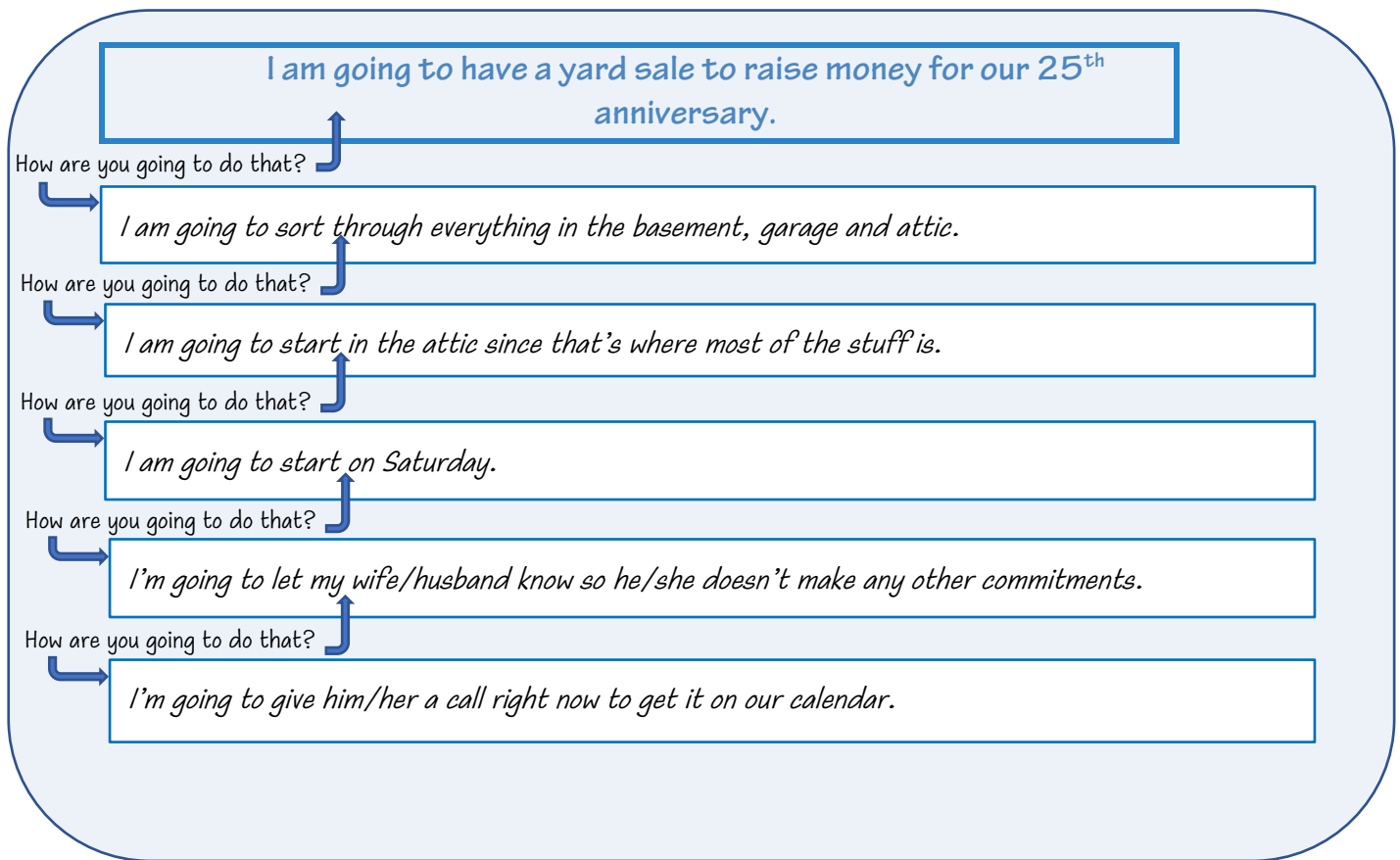
1 Identify two projects, challenging tasks or personal commitments you need to undertake in the next few weeks. Write them in the spaces A and B below. See the sample exercise on page 2.

A	B
How are you going to do that? 	How are you going to do that? 
 	 
How are you going to do that? 	How are you going to do that? 
 	 
How are you going to do that? 	How are you going to do that? 
 	 
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How are you going to do that? 	How are you going to do that? 
 	 

The flowchart above is only an approximation. Many tasks or commitments require more than one element, with each one involving several sequential steps. The idea of the exercise is to start training your mind to think with as much detail as possible about everything the project requires.



SAMPLE RELENTLESS HOW EXERCISE



2 A daily prayer. Lord, I really want to reveal to people that Your nature is to care about the ways in which people need help in sorting through complicated responsibilities or life issues. I want to become more adept at doing that myself so that I will be ready to come alongside others at the right time in the right way. I make no claim to be an expert problem-solver, but just as You come alongside me to give me wisdom when I ask, I now ask for Your help for the sake of guiding others. Amen.

3 A daily posture. Perhaps it goes without saying that if you're going to pray the above prayer, you can expect the Lord will take you up on that request. That means opportunities will come along. You'll have to pay attention and not chicken out when they come. You'll have a tendency to react, "I don't know how to help a person in that situation." Don't shy away. You don't have to give them guidance through hard and fast answers. Rather, guide them by leading them through the "relentless how" process. Ask them what they want to do or hope for then just keep asking them gently, "How are you going to do that?" And then, "How are you going to do that?" And then, keep going along that way. You'll find that the relentless how itself brings clarifying direction, and often in the midst of doing that you may suddenly have a sense of some advice you might give. That's how the Lord works through us. Cool!