

XAVIER CORNEJO

STUDY GUIDE



# THE BRIDGE

*From Possibility to Reality*





# THE BRIDGE

STUDY GUIDE

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XAVIER CORNEJO



# THE BRIDGE

*From Possibility to Reality*

**STUDY GUIDE**



AVAIL

# *Contents*

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	6
<b>1. STRATEGY</b> .....	12
<b>2. CLARITY</b> .....	18
<b>3. PEOPLE</b> .....	24
<b>4. PLANNING</b> .....	30
<b>5. PREPARATION</b> .....	36
<b>6. TIME</b> .....	42
<b>7. EXECUTION</b> .....	48
<b>8. EVALUATION</b> .....	54
<b>9. THE PAIN IN THE PATH</b> .....	60
<b>10. GROWTH</b> .....	66





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ESTRATEGIA

# Introduction





**MAY OUR FOOTPRINTS NOT ONLY TAKE US TO  
OUR DESTINY, BUT MAY THEY ALSO FORGE  
A TRAIL FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW.**

## **REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND**

As you read “Introduction” in *The Bridge*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

What battles exhaust you when you simply think about fighting them?

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What sparks a flame in you when you feel like you have exhausted all of your inner resources to engage in battle?

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What talents do you take into life's daily battles with you?

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Beyond talent, what have you relied on in the past to give you strength?

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## REFLECT ON

*Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

—Isaiah 40:28-31 (NIV)

Consider Isaiah 40:30-31 and answer the following questions:

What comfort can you take in the truth that God does not grow tired or weary?

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When have you had to submit to His understanding because you could not fathom it, and you were exhausted trying to?

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How does hoping in the Lord renew a person's strength?

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What possibilities are you hoping to turn into realities?

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What forward steps have you taken in spite of the uncertainties of the future?

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As of this moment, what is on the other side of your bridge?

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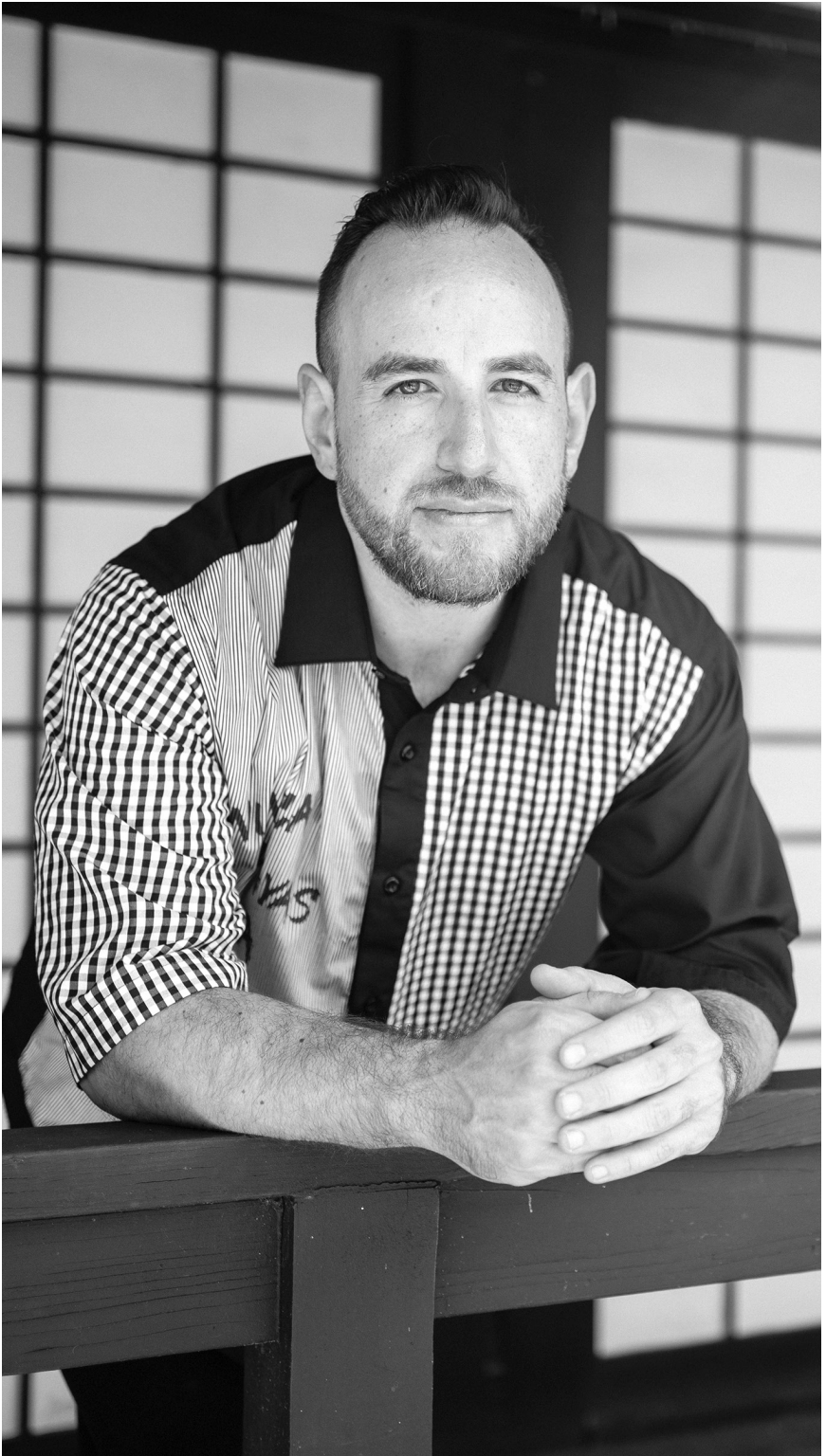
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1

# Strategy



STRATEGY IS WHERE I GIVE MY  
GOALS, MY LONGINGS AND MY  
DREAMS THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO COME ALIVE. XAVIER CORNEJO



THINKING DEEPER INTO THE DETAILS IS THE KEY THAT OPENS THE DOOR TO A BETTER TOMORROW. NO MATTER THE RESOURCES YOU HAVE AT HAND, YOU CAN ALWAYS INCREASE THE RESOURCES YOU HAVE IN YOUR HEAD.



## REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND

As you read “Strategy” in *The Bridge*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

In what areas of life do people strategize? What does that look like?

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Whom do you admire for his or her ability to strategize? What has that ability earned for that person?

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How would you encourage someone who feels that the years have slipped away, yet his or her dreams have not come to fruition?

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Considering what you hope for is waiting on the other side of your bridge, what research have you done to determine how you'll reach it?

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Where are you right now in relation to the other side of your bridge?

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## REFLECT ON

*Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.*

—Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)

Consider Proverbs 19:21 and answer the following questions:

What situation can you think of in which detailed plans were put into place, but the endeavor was a failure nonetheless?

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How can a person prioritize the Lord's purpose, so any plans that person makes will prevail?

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How would you encourage someone who is unsure if his or her pursuits are godly?

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What resources do you possess—in your hands and in your head—to lead you toward triumph?

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How will boldness and courage help you when you feel like you are not making enough forward progress toward your goal?

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What is your attitude toward potential strategy changes? Traditionally, how determined or stubborn have you been when it comes changing your plans?

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Whom do you admire for using his or her failure as a tool to success? What is that person's story?

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# Clarity



CLARITY IS THE AIR I NEED TO BREATHE  
TO REACH THE MOUNTAIN PEAK.

XAVIER CORNEJO

**DEFINING WHAT YOU WANT GIVES YOU THE POWER TO PURSUE IT, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT GIVES YOU THE STRENGTH TO ACHIEVE IT. IF YOU CANNOT SEE CLEARLY, YOU WILL NEVER CHASE YOUR DREAM CORRECTLY BECAUSE YOU WILL NEVER KNOW WHICH BRIDGE TO CROSS TO REACH YOUR GOAL.**

## **REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND**

As you read “Clarity” in *The Bridge*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

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At this point, how would you answer Xavier’s questions: “Where do I want to go, and how will I get there?”

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What role has imagination played as you’ve envisioned your bridge, possible routes to reach it, and endeavors to cross it?

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What does clarity look like in your mind?

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What have you found gives you the most clarity when your way appears dimly lit or the path is ambiguous?

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How is people's creativity clouded in times of crisis?

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## REFLECT ON

*I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

—*Psalm 119:104-105 (NIV)*

Consider Psalm 119:104-105 and answer the following questions:

What “wrong paths” might the psalmist be referring to in verse 104?

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How does God’s Word—the Bible—illuminate a Christ-follower’s path, so his or her feet don’t stumble?

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What clouds might “interfere” with the view of your beautiful mountain’s peak?

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What is your plan for dissipating those clouds?

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Who in your life helps you maintain physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual clarity? What does that person do, and what are the results?

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On what do you base God’s approval for the future you envision?

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3

# People



UNITY GIVES RISE TO LOYALTY.

XAVIER CORNEJO

**MAY YOU ALWAYS HAVE A GENUINE DESIRE TO HELP OTHERS, TO INSPIRE OTHERS, AND ABOVE ALL THINGS, TO SERVE OTHERS. ONLY THEN WILL YOU GENERATE THE IMPACT YOU WANT TO CREATE.**



## **REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND**

As you read “People” in *The Bridge*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

Is your natural inclination to go fast or go far? Go alone or together? What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of each?

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With whom have you chosen to walk toward his or her mission? What has that looked like?

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What is your experience with working on a team? Does your experience reflect the evidence?

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If the measure of your life will be evaluated based on the number of people you've helped on your way up, on a scale of 0 to 10—0 being none, 10 being many—how do you think people would measure your life? How would you measure your life? Explain your rationale.

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When have you and another person chosen to embark on separate journeys? What were the feelings then? How are your feelings about that separation now?

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## REFLECT ON

*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

—Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NIV)

Consider Ecclesiastes 4:11-12 and answer the following questions:

What wisdom do you see in these verses?

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How did Christ reflect this wisdom in his interactions with people?

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How could you encourage someone who is discouraged by a lack of support from family, friends, coworkers, etc.?

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What is your greatest challenge when it comes to giving and taking advice?

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Who are your most precious treasures? What has caused those people to be so valuable to you?

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Whose footprints guide, inspire, and motivate you? What specifically do those people do that impacts you?

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What footprints are you attempting to leave for those who follow you?

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# 4

## Planning

WHEN IT COMES TO THE BATTLES FOR YOUR GOALS, ANY IDEA CAN BE LIKE A SHARPENED WEAPON

XAVIER CORNEJO





THE FIGHT FOR YOUR GOALS DESERVES YOUR ALL, AND YOU MUST FIGHT WITH ALL YOUR SOUL. IF YOU DO SO, YOU WILL HAVE ALREADY WON.



## REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND

As you read “Planning” in *The Bridge*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

Remind yourself of the following before starting to make your plan:

What place are you attempting to reach?

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Who is guiding you or walking with you toward that location?

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Xavier asks, "What steps do I need to take to cross the bridge to what I aim to obtain?" and, "What can I do to go from where I am to where I want to go?" What other questions guide your planning?

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As you write your ideas, keep in mind that they should inspect the past, inspire the present, and innovate the future.

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Which ideas are you tempted to discard? Why does Xavier say you should keep them?

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What kind of moments light up your imagination? How might your list of ideas be enhanced if your imagination were lit?

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## REFLECT ON

*Then the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”*

—Joshua 6:2-5 (NIV)

Consider Joshua 6:2-5 and answer the following questions:

What place were the Israelites trying to reach? How was God guiding them to their location?

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What would have happened if Joshua had discarded God’s plan?

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How does God’s method for conquering Jericho encourage you to consider every possible route to and across your bridge?

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What resources—physical, emotional, and financial—do you feel you are lacking? What role will potential play as you consider ways to make up for the need?

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When has it seemed like an opportunity has passed you by, but a better tomorrow was on the horizon?

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Xavier only regrets the defeats he suffered because he gave up. How do you deal with defeat?

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Think of different ways your plans to reach and cross your bridge can fail. List two to five solutions for each of those issues.

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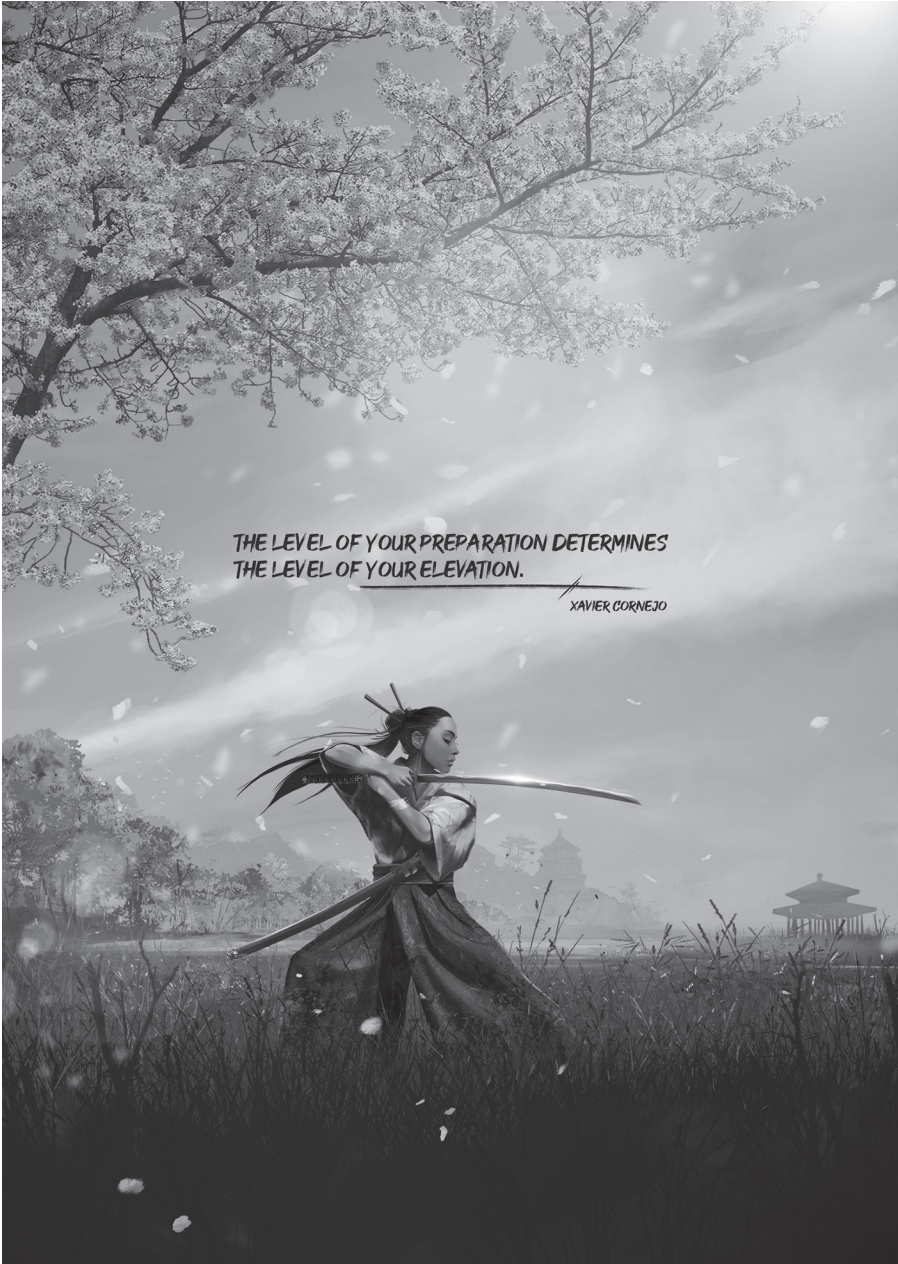
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5

# Preparation

THE LEVEL OF YOUR PREPARATION DETERMINES  
THE LEVEL OF YOUR ELEVATION.

XAVIER CORNEJO



**WHAT ARE YOU DOING TODAY FOR YOUR TOMORROW?  
WHAT ARE YOU PREPARING YOURSELF FOR? IF  
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT AND HOW TO OBTAIN  
IT, YOU NEED PREPARATION TO ATTAIN IT.**



## **REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND**

As you read “Preparation” in *The Bridge*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

Whom do you admire who consistently trains to reach his or her goals?  
What has been the outcome of the training?

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How have you prepared yourself to win some of the battles you’ve  
fought in your past?

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Xavier believes that goals are not reached in a day. Instead, they are reached daily. What is the difference? What goals do you attempt to reach daily?

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How great is your willingness to know and your disposition to grow?

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Do you prefer thinking or fighting? Why is it imperative you develop both skills as you pursue your destiny?

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## REFLECT ON

*Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

—1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NIV)

Consider 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 and answer the following questions:

When are you tempted to simply run the race or play the game instead of aiming for the prize?

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What does it look like when someone is running aimlessly or boxing the air? How can that imagery be applied to the pursuit of one's dream?

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In what ways might you have to make your body—including your heart and mind—your slave?

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Whom do you know who has had to reinvent him or herself because the original invention didn't fulfill its purpose? What were the results of the reinvention?

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What critical places do you expect to encounter in your passage toward your bridge? What is your plan to get past them?

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Where can you find the glory of victory in your daily routine?

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How can you be intentional as you not only plan but also prepare to reach your bridge?

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6

# Time

MAY TIME NOT BE THE ONLY ONE TO LEAVE ITS MARK;  
IN YOU; MAY YOU ALSO LEAVE YOUR MARK IN TIME.

XAVIER CORNEJO



DON'T WORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY. WORRY ABOUT WHAT YOU WILL DO TODAY TO REACH THE PLACE THAT IN YOUR TOMORROW YOU LONG FOR. THE PAST HAS NEVER DEFINED A PERSON; ONLY ONE'S DAILY DECISIONS CAN DO THAT.



## REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND

As you read “Time” in *The Bridge*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

How do you view time—its quantity, speed, value, etc.?

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How well do you master your time? On what criteria do you base your assessment?

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How could you encourage someone who feels like he or she never has enough time or doesn't know where the time has gone?

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How can a person balance living in the moment with keeping in mind what he or she desires to obtain over time?

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How much time are you anticipating it will take you to reach and cross your bridge? How are you preparing yourself to make the most of that time?

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## REFLECT ON

*There is a right time for everything: a time to be born ... a time to die; a time to plant ... a time to harvest; a time to kill ... a time to heal; a time to destroy ... a time to rebuild ...*

—Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 (NLT)

Consider Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 and answer the following questions:

Why do you think King Solomon chose extremes when he reflected on time?

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How can his words help you when you are feeling desperate to reach your goal?

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Conversely, why might it be appropriate—as Xavier believes—to grow desperate to maintain the rhythm of your walk?

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How can you project yourself over time, so you are not frustrated when it seems like important moments have passed?

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What do you feel is going to be the wisest investment of your time in the present, so you can maintain rhythm in your daily walk?

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How might your physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing be compromised if you don't maintain rhythm in your daily walk?

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# Execution

WHEN WE MASTER EXECUTION,  
WE WILL MASTER VICTORY.

XAVIER CORNEJO



**HOW MANY IDEAS OR PLANS HAVE YOU HAD THAT REMAINED SIMPLY IDEAS AND PLANS? WHERE DID THEY GO WRONG? WAS IT THE IDEA? WAS IT THE PLANNING? OR WAS IT THAT YOU NEVER EXECUTED THEM?**



## **REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND**

As you read “Execution” in *The Bridge*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

Whom can you think of from history or present day who made great plans but never delivered on them? What happened?

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What plans have you made that never materialized? What prevented them from coming to fruition?

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Traditionally, how have you dealt with your or someone else's inability to accomplish a goal?

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Troubleshoot ways in which Xavier's "Enemies of Execution" could prevent you from crossing your bridge?

Too many opportunities

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Lack of effectiveness

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Distractions

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Delaying

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Lack of motivation

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## REFLECT ON

*For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?*

—Luke 14: 28-31 (ESV)

Although Luke 14:28-31 focuses primarily on external resources, consider them in Xavier's context and answer the following questions:

What prevented the builder from completing his tower? How could the builder have prevented this and ended up with better results?

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What is the king having to consider? How is his decision going to affect others in addition to himself?

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How can these situations involving external resources be applied to your desire to cross your bridge?

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Ask yourself the three questions: Who? What? and When? How do their answers lend themselves to your walking toward and crossing your bridge?

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How do you respond to pressure? If Xavier is right, and “today’s pressure is tomorrow’s precision,” how can you make pressure work for you?

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Whom can you enlist to hold you accountable to keep moving forward toward your bridge? How can this person or these people help you?

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What excuses do you hear are most commonly given for failure? How do they reflect a willingness (or unwillingness) to take ownership of one's actions (or lack of action)?

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How would you encourage someone who feels like failure is the norm but desperately wants to reach and cross a bridge?

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8

# Evaluation

YOU CAN ONLY RISE FROM THE ASHES  
WHEN YOU EVALUATE WHY YOU GOT BURNED.

XAVIER CORNEJO





THE BEAUTY OF LIFE IS NOT FOUND ONLY IN THE GREATEST MOMENTS THAT MAY COME OUR WAY, BUT ALSO IN THE SMALL DETAILS OF EVERY DAY. IF WE DO NOT EVALUATE OUR DAYS, WE MAY MISS THE BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS THAT SILENTLY WAITED THERE.



## REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND

As you read “Evaluation” in *The Bridge*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

When have you or someone you know felt like Adonis Creed and reflected, I don’t even know how I lost?

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What ended up being the reason for the lack of success?

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How did the situation get redeemed; how did the path get found again?

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What effective methods of evaluation have you or the people walking with you implemented? How do those methods change with different circumstances?

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How would you encourage someone who feels like assessment and evaluation are forms of criticism?

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## REFLECT ON

*“Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. So I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn’t heal him ...”*

*Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately,  
“Why couldn’t we cast out that demon?”*

*“You don’t have enough faith,” Jesus told them.*

*—Matthew 17:16, 19–20 (NLT)*

Consider Matthew 17:16, 19-20 and answer the following questions:

What situation caused the disciples to evaluate their methods for fulfilling the call on their lives?

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How did they go about the evaluation?

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What options did they have once Jesus revealed to them the secret to their failure?

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As you execute your plan to reach and cross your bridge, how and when are you planning to evaluate your progress?

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How could answering the questions, “How did I get here?” and, “Am I where I want to be?” assist you?

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To whom can you go to ask for honest reflection regarding your progress and realistic adjustments to further it?

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When you’ve exhausted your earthly resources, what comfort can you take from James 1:5 (NIV): “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you”?

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9

# *The Pain in the Path*

WHAT MAKES YOU A  
WINNER IS WALKING  
DESPITE THE PAIN.

XAVIER DORNEJO



THE STORIES, MOVIES OR NOVELS THAT WE FIND CAPTIVATING ARE NOT THE ONES WHERE EVERYTHING CAME EASILY; THEY ARE THE ONES IN WHICH THE CHARACTERS OVERCOME THE DARKEST AND IRREMIABLE MOMENTS THAT MAKE THEIR HEARTS ACHE DEEPLY.



## REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND

As you read “The Pain in the Path” in *The Bridge*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

Whom do you know who has suffered greatly on his or her path toward a bridge? How did that person respond to the pain?

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What pain have you encountered on your previous paths? What has been your traditional response to it?

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How has stagnancy been painful for you or those you know? How is it different from outright pain or fear of failure?

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What allies have walked, breathed, and waited to accompany you through these types of pain on the pathway to your destiny?

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What encouragement would you give to someone on the brink of defeat due to his or her overwhelming desire to give up?

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## REFLECT ON

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything ... Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.*

—James 1:2-4, 12 (NIV)

Consider James 1:2-4, 12 and answer the following questions:

How does a person's perspective change when he or she views life's trials as growing or "maturing" pains?

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What causes people to have the strength to persevere?

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What could joy possibly have to do with trial and testing? What does it look like?

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What do the Lord's crown and a person's reaching and crossing his or her bridge have in common?

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Describe a situation and its outcome in which a person's pain added beauty to his or her story.

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How do you push through the pain and keep walking toward your goals?

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Whom do you know who has truly made his or her bridge easier to reach because the pain of attaining the further bridge was too much?

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What pain do you anticipate encountering on the path toward your particular bridge? What strategies do you plan to implement to push through it?

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10

# Growth



REACHING OUR GOALS IS IMPORTANT; IT HELPS US HAVE A FULL LIFE. WHAT DEFINES YOU, THOUGH, IS NOT WHAT YOU DO; IT'S WHO YOU ARE. YOU CAN RENOUNCE WHAT YOU DO, BUT YOU CAN'T RENOUNCE WHO YOU ARE. ALL OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS CAN FADE AWAY, BUT WHO YOU ARE WILL ALWAYS REMAIN.



## REVIEW, REFLECT, AND RESPOND

As you read “Growth” in *The Bridge*, review, reflect on, and respond to the text by answering the following questions.

How do you differentiate between reaching goals in life and having goals that take a lifetime to reach?

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What decisions do you make each day to grow and broaden your horizon?

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What hope do you find in the research that shows that the human brain can establish new patterns for its dendrite branches when necessary, meaning a person can influence his or her thought patterns?

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Do you consider yourself to have a fixed or growth mindset? What behaviors or thought processes lead you to that conclusion?

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Whom do you know who has an obviously fixed or growth mindset? How is it manifested?

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## REFLECT ON

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

—Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Consider Romans 12:1-2 and answer the following questions:

How do you traditionally worship?

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How can you offer your body as a living sacrifice to God—as a means of true and proper worship—as you follow your path to your bridge?

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What will it or does it look like when you renew your mind? How does it lead to growth?

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What can you do to nurture your own and other people's curiosity?

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What have you learned in an unrelated situation that you can extrapolate into your current situation? How have you applied it?

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Despite changing seasons in your life, what part of you has remained the same? What does that part communicate to you about who you are?

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How can you nurture the part of you that God has made unique to you, so it grows and flourishes and enables you to reach and cross your bridge?

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THERE IS NO BARRIER YOU CANNOT  
SURPASS, BRIDGE YOU CANNOT CROSS,  
GOAL YOU CANNOT REACH, BATTLE YOU  
CANNOT WIN IF YOU JUST DARE TO TRY

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