



## 5 • The Warrior's Mindset

Supplemental Materials:

 **Modern-Day Warriors: Interview Project**

Invite a member of the military—veteran, retired, or active duty—to come and speak to your group about what it means to be a modern-day warrior. Beforehand, organize your questions for your guest. You might ask about his or her warrior code of conduct. You might ask about how he or she serves community and nation. Afterward, send a thank-you letter to show your appreciation.

 **Higher Purpose: Discussion Project**

The groups discussed in this chapter all have a higher purpose, and all the members of the group are united around that purpose. Among the members of your group, what is your higher purpose? How can you best live out your higher purpose as a group? How can each individual contribute toward that higher purpose?

 **Warrior's Mindset: Poetry Project**

The poem by William Wordsworth entitled “Character of the Happy Warrior” describes the ideal warrior. It is excerpted below.

**Character of the Happy Warrior**

By William Wordsworth

Who is the happy Warrior? Who is he  
That every man in arms should wish to be?  
—It is the generous Spirit, who, when brought  
Among the tasks of real life, hath wrought  
Upon the plan that pleased his boyish thought:  
Whose high endeavours are an inward light  
That makes the path before him always bright;  
Who, with a natural instinct to discern

What knowledge can perform, is diligent to learn;  
Abides by this resolve, and stops not there,  
But makes his moral being his prime care;  
Who, doomed to go in company with Pain,  
And Fear, and Bloodshed, miserable train!  
Turns his necessity to glorious gain;...  
More skilful in self-knowledge, even more pure,  
As tempted more; more able to endure,  
As more exposed to suffering and distress;  
Thence, also, more alive to tenderness....  
He labours good on good to fix, and owes  
To virtue every triumph that he knows:....  
Who, whether praise of him must walk the earth  
For ever, and to noble deeds give birth,  
Or he must fall, to sleep without his fame,  
And leave a dead unprofitable name—  
Finds comfort in himself and in his cause;  
And, while the mortal mist is gathering, draws  
His breath in confidence of Heaven's applause:  
This is the happy Warrior; this is he  
That every man in arms should wish to be.

Sometimes it is difficult to understand poetic language. It helps to try to say in your own words what the poet is expressing. Do that as you discuss what is meant by this:

- That the ideal warrior “makes his moral being his prime care.”
- That as the ideal warrior is “more exposed to suffering and distress,” he is “also more alive to tenderness.”
- That if the ideal warrior “must fall, to sleep without his fame,” he “draws his breath in confidence of Heaven's applause.”