A NOTE BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Thank you for taking a look at the *Morality Lost* study guide.

The book tells the stories. The guide is where you work with them, on your own or around a table with others.

Each chapter gives you a key passage, a Scripture anchor, a short summary, questions to talk through, one thing to try this week, a prayer, and room to write.

What follows are the guide's own pages: how the guide works, and **Chapter 4**, *Character: How Does It Relate to Morality?*, complete and exactly as it appears in the guide. It's the chapter about my father, the same one in the book's reader preview.

> *Character is caught, not taught.*

The guide won't teach it to you. It will help you notice where you caught it, and from whom.

Kerry Ingram
AUTHOR

FROM THE STUDY GUIDE

About This Edition · How to Use This Guide

ABOUT THIS EDITION

For small group use: Read one chapter per session and spend 45–60 minutes on the questions. You do not need to answer every question — find the ones that land for your group and go deep.

For individual use: Move at your own pace. Use the writing space honestly. Let the prayers be real.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

- **Key Passage:** The central idea in the author's own words — the sentence the chapter turns on.
- **Scripture:** A biblical anchor for the chapter's theme — to root the discussion in God's word, not only cultural observation.
- **Summary:** A brief overview of the chapter's main argument.
- **Social Issues Context:** A short framing of the real-world social dimension the chapter addresses.
- **Discussion Questions:** For personal reflection or group conversation. Three to four questions per chapter, moving from personal to communal to faithful response.
- **Personal Action Item:** One concrete thing to try in the coming week — because faith without works is incomplete.
- **Prayer:** A closing prayer for each chapter — to anchor the discussion in dependence on God rather than self-effort.
- **Writing Space:** Lines for notes, reflections, or written responses. Your honesty here is between you and God.

Morality Lost

Chapter 4

Character: How Does It Relate To Morality?

"My father put his tools down, looked up at the sky, and said: I think I'll let it rain."

"The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity." **— Proverbs 11:3**

Summary

Using his father — a Marine and a mason — as the clearest definition of character he has ever known, the author argues that character is what shapes instinct into something reliable over a lifetime. Morality produces character. Character produces trust. A society of people with character is a society that functions. A society without it is one in freefall.

Social Issues Context

The character crisis in American public life — in leadership, in institutions, in everyday interaction — is a

Personal Notes

direct consequence of a society that has lost the moral framework that produces character.

Discussion Questions

1. Kerry's father told the building inspector 'I think I'll let it rain' — no performance, no deliberation. Just a clear sense of what was right.

   Describe a moment when you saw that kind of character in someone you know. What made it recognizable?

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2. The author distinguishes between instinct (the impulse to act) and character (the shape that impulse takes over a lifetime). As a Christian, how does faith shape your instincts over time?

   Can you point to a specific way your character has changed because of your faith?

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3. He argues that character is what shapes instinct into something reliable enough for others to count on across a lifetime — built slowly through family, culture, and faith, not performed for an audience. As Christians, how should we respond when leaders — in government, business, or the church — show, over time, that this reliability isn't there?

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4. What does Proverbs 11:3 reveal about the social consequences of character — and its absence?

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✦ **This Week:** Think of one decision you are facing right now. Ask yourself what the person with the clearest character you know would do — and why. Then do that. And if you watch someone make the harder, quieter choice this week — the one with no one there to see it — ask yourself, later, whether you'd have done the same with no one watching.

Personal Notes

Chapter Prayer Focus:

Lord, build in me a character that does not require an audience. Let what I do in private be what I would do in public — because it is rooted in You, not in what others see.

MORALITY LOST

Study Guide · Christian Living / Social Issues Edition

KERRY INGRAM

Available November 25

Thank you for reading.

Using it with a group? Each participant needs their own copy of the book and their own guide. Plan on 13 weeks, an introduction week and then one chapter a week, with 45 to 60 minutes per session.

FOR READERS

Be the first to know when the book and the guide are available.

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