

Biblical Masculinity in a Broken World

Men's Mentoring Group Discussion Guide

Key Scripture

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Aim of the Discussion

To understand the difference between toxic masculinity, passive masculinity, and biblical masculinity, and to challenge one another to become men who reflect the character of Christ.

Welcome and Check-In

Have each man answer:

- What has been one highlight of your week?
- What has been one challenge you've faced recently?
- Where have you seen God at work in your life?

Open in prayer.

Understanding Masculinity Today

Read Together

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Introduction

Paul combines two things our culture often separates: **strength and love**. Biblical masculinity is neither aggressive domination nor passive withdrawal. It is Christ-like strength expressed through humility and love.

Read and Discuss

Toxic Masculinity

- Uses strength for self.
- Controls and dominates.
- Demands respect.
- Sees vulnerability as weakness.

Passive Masculinity

- Avoids responsibility.

- Withdraws from leadership.
- Remains silent when courage is needed.
- Leaves others carrying the burden.

Biblical Masculinity

- Takes responsibility.
- Leads through service.
- Protects and nurtures.
- Walks in humility.
- Uses strength for the benefit of others.
- Reflects the character of Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. Which of these three descriptions do you see most often in today's culture?
2. Which tendency do you personally struggle with more: passivity or control?
3. Why do you think there is so much confusion around masculinity today?

Summary

Healthy masculinity is not about power, status, or control. It is about taking responsibility and using your strength to serve others as Jesus did.

Following the Example of Jesus

Jesus was never passive, yet He was never controlling. He demonstrated courage, conviction, humility, compassion, and sacrificial leadership.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you see Jesus displaying strength?
2. How do you see Jesus displaying humility?
3. Can a man be strong without becoming aggressive?
4. Can a man be gentle without becoming passive?
5. What area of Jesus' character do you most need to develop?

Personal Reflection

Ask each man to complete this sentence:

"If I followed Jesus more closely as a man, I would..."

Biblical Masculinity at Home, Work, and Church

Most men don't live out masculinity in theory. We live it out every day as husbands, fathers, sons, friends, employees, leaders, and church members.

Discuss

In the Home

- What does servant leadership look like in marriage?
- How can men lead without becoming controlling?
- What are practical ways to lead spiritually at home?

As Fathers

- How can men protect and nurture their children?
- What kind of example are we setting?

In the Church

- What does servant leadership look like in the local church?
- How can men contribute positively to the church family?

Reflection Question

Where is God calling you to take greater responsibility right now?

Becoming the Man God Created You to Be

Read Together

Growing into biblical manhood requires:

- Intentional discipleship.
- Healthy habits.
- Accountability.
- Community.
- Learning from mature godly men.

Discussion Questions

1. What is one habit that has helped you grow spiritually?
2. Who has influenced your walk with Christ the most?
3. What is one area where you need accountability?

Weekly Challenge

This week:

- Spend time in Scripture every day.

- Initiate one spiritual conversation.
- Take responsibility for one area you've been avoiding.
- Contact another man for encouragement or accountability.

Handling Failure as a Godly Man

Introduction

Every man fails.

We make poor decisions. We lose our temper. We neglect responsibilities. We fall short in our marriages, parenting, work, friendships, and spiritual lives.

The difference between a godly man and an ungodly man is not perfection. The difference is how he responds when he fails.

Many men respond to failure in one of two unhealthy ways:

Passive Response to Failure

- Make excuses.
- Blame others.
- Withdraw from relationships.
- Feel sorry for themselves.
- Give up trying.

Prideful Response to Failure

- Refuse to admit wrongdoing.
- Defend their actions.
- Become angry when corrected.
- Hide their weaknesses.
- Pretend everything is fine.

Biblical Response to Failure

- Takes ownership.
- Repents quickly.
- Receives correction humbly.
- Makes things right where possible.
- Depends on God's grace.
- Gets up and keeps moving forward.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do men often find it difficult to admit failure?
2. How has pride affected your ability to grow?
3. Which unhealthy response do you tend toward: withdrawal or defensiveness?
4. Why is confession and accountability important for spiritual growth?
5. What does genuine repentance look like in everyday life?

Read Together

Proverbs 24:16

"Though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again..."

Personal Reflection

Ask each man:

- Where have I experienced failure recently?
- Have I fully owned my part in it?
- What is God teaching me through it?
- What is one step of obedience I need to take?

Summary

Failure does not define a man. How he responds to failure does.

A biblical man refuses to hide behind pride, excuses, or shame. He takes responsibility, receives God's grace, learns from his mistakes, and continues pursuing Christ.

Closing Round and Prayer

Ask each man:

In One Sentence:

- What do you believe is the greatest challenge facing men today?
- What is one change you will make this week?

Closing Prayer

Pray that God would help the group reject both passivity and domination and instead follow Jesus Christ, demonstrating courage, humility, sacrificial love, servant leadership, and responsibility in every sphere of life.

Key Takeaway

Biblical masculinity is taking responsibility, leading through service, protecting and nurturing others, walking in humility, and using God-given strength for the benefit of others while reflecting the character of Jesus Christ.