

A vintage car, possibly a Ford Bronco, is shown from a front-quarter perspective. The image is split vertically: the left side is a bright yellow color, and the right side is black and white. The car's front end, including the headlight, grille, and bumper, is visible. A California license plate with the number 2P30667 is mounted on the front. The text 'MANLY MEN' is overlaid in large white letters across the top half of the image.

MANLY MEN

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

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MANLY MEN DISCUSSION GUIDE

"A transcendent cause must exist in a man's life if he is to reach his full potential as a man."

Stephen Mansfield, *Book of Manly Men*

This study is going to be a journey upon which you grow closer to God and the men in your group. Invest yourself wisely into this study and allow God to shape you into the man He has called you to be!

In this study, we are going to discover how to be the men that God has created and called us to be. Over the next seven weeks, we are going to grow together by committing to the following:

1. **The Group:** Make the commitment to attend small group regularly during this study.
2. **The Men:** Commit to connect with the men in our group and develop deeper relationships.
3. **The Book:** Commit to reading *The Book of Manly Men* and ask God to speak to us through our reading.



MANLY MEN

SESSION 1

*Manhood at the most basic level can be validated
and expressed only in action. - George Gilder*



TAKING ACTION

LESSON AIM:

By the end of the lesson, you will realize how we can bring about change through being a man of action. (pgs.15-28)

WARM-UP:

When you were younger, did you ever save up for a really long time to buy something? What was it?

WORD & APPLICATION:

In this week's reading from the book, we learned the first two "Manly Maxims" – these are philosophies or beliefs that we can live by as we seek to be men who live godly, influential lives. These two maxims are:

- **"MANLY MEN DO MANLY THINGS."** In other words, we must be more than just talk – we must be men who take action.
- **"MANLY MEN TEND THEIR FIELDS."** This is telling us that manly men take responsibility for their families, careers, and personal development.

Obviously, implementing these principles in our life is no simple task. Fortunately, as believers we have the Bible to guide us in this area. God desires for each and every one of us to become the men He created us to be, and the Bible shows us how this can be done.

Today, we are going to look at a story in Scripture of a man who exemplified both of these maxims. Like many of us, Jacob had a troubled upbringing. He was involved in a lot of family conflict, and when we join him in this story, he is alone, separated from his family, with no clear plans for his life. He ends up moving in with Laban, who is a distant relative, and starts working for him in the fields tending sheep.

In this “Rock bottom moment,” Jacob doesn’t wallow in self pity. Instead, he hatches an ambitious dream. You see, he is head over heels in love with Laban’s younger daughter Rachel, and wants to marry her. Let’s turn to Genesis 29 to read what happens:

READ GENESIS 29:18-20.

What does it say about Jacob’s commitment to take action that he worked seven years to win Rachael?

How can this serve as an example to us for how we should serve our spouse, family, or other responsibilities?

READ GENESIS 29:22-26.

Jacob was cruelly tricked by Laban – it is hard to comprehend how disappointed he must have felt in this situation.

Most men would have given up at this point or sought revenge , but Jacob did not. Even though his plans had not worked out in the way he expected, he was determined to get Rachael.

READ GENESIS 29: 27-30.

Jacob ended up working 14 years for Rachael. He gave a significant part of his life – some of his best years – working for a dishonest and deceptive person. He did this because he knew this was best for Rachael – for their future together.

How can Jacob's resolve and determination inspire us to be men of action?

What situations are you facing right now that require you to keep fighting, even when you really want to give up?

As believers, we can rest in the fact that God is in control of our situation, even when our plans aren't working out the way we expected. Sometimes, God's way is longer and harder than our way. But, in the end, God's way is always better for us and for everyone around us.

CALL TO ACTION:

Passivity is often times what keeps us from being the man that God desires for us to be. Just like Jacob, we must be willing to take action to receive all that God has for us.

Identify an important area in your life that you have been neglecting (i.e. finances, fitness, relationships, family) then create a plan to move forward.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

NEXT WEEKS READING:

Maxims 3-4 (pgs.29-40)

MANLY MEN

SESSION 2

*We are changed. We craft a contagious culture.
People feed on this culture and change the world*
- Stephen Mansfield



CONTAGIOUS MANHOOD

LESSON AIM:

By the end of the lesson, you will realize the power of your influence.

WARM-UP:

Name a man in your life who has inspired you and encouraged change in your life?

WORD & APPLICATION:

READ MATTHEW 28:19-20

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Jesus was the greatest catalyst of change in all of history. He was a man that lived for the glory of God and walked with power and confidence. His name and majesty proceeded Him, and wherever he went people experienced change.

When we compare our lives to that of Jesus, we quickly accept that our lives couldn't have the same impact because we are not Jesus. This is far from the truth! Jesus said in John 14:12 that whoever believes in Him will do greater than He did!

What are some of the reasons that cause us not to walk in the authority Christ says we have?

Matthew 28:19-20 gives us the commission to go and be the change the culture needs. Our responsibility as Christian men is to bring God glory and make disciples. When we do this, we give an opportunity for both the younger and older generations to experience true authentic manhood, which is attractive and transformative.

Who is a man in your life that has impacted you through their godliness, character, work ethic, etc?

What are some of the excuses we use to back down from the challenge of being a contagious man of godly influence?

What are some issues that we face as a community, and how can we address them through the way that we live?

How does knowing our identity in Christ affect our impact?

CALL TO ACTION:

Realize that your life impacts others. Keep an eye out for opportunities this week to encourage and inspire other men.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

NEXT WEEKS READING:

Honor, Legacy, Friendship (pgs.49-86)

MANLY MEN

SESSION 3

The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith. - Billy Graham



LEGACY

LESSON AIM:

To realize that as men we have an opportunity to impact generations through the values and righteousness we exude.(pgs.49-86)

WARM-UP:

What comes to mind when you think of leaving a legacy?

WORD & APPLICATION:

READ HEBREWS 11:4

“By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead”.

What does it mean when the scripture says, “And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead?”

Most people think of legacy as only leaving the inheritance of money and material possession, however this scripture reveals that legacy can pertain to the intangible character, righteousness, and integrity of a man.

Hebrews chapter 11 is known as being the faith chapter in scripture. This scripture highlights and celebrates people like Abraham, Abel, Enoch, and Jacob for their commitment to obedience and trust in God. The statement that Abel still speaks even after his death has nothing to do with anything supernatural, but it has everything to do with the legacy he left. Even after his death we still learn from

his relationship and commitment to God. He left behind a Legacy of Faith. We all will leave a legacy. However as men of God we must choose to leave one that puts high value on righteousness, character, faith, and integrity.

What do you desire for your life to speak after you die?

How does finding the good in even the worst of situations help us to build a healthy legacy?

According to Philippians 3:13-14, what is needed in order to move forward?

How does knowing our identity in Christ affect our impact?

CALL TO ACTION:

“ Finally, act! Attempt “great actions.” Stop excusing. Stop relieving yourself from duty. Do! Step Out! Move Forward! Achieve where you were supposed to fail. Make a difference where you were supposed to be inept. Answer the curses with a life well lived.” – Stephen Mansfield(pg.70)

CLOSE IN PRAYER

NEXT WEEKS READING:

Blessing, Quest, Humor (pgs. 87-121)

MANLY MEN

SESSION 4

*...Man humor confronts fear and prepares the heart
for action. – Stephen Mansfield*



HUMOR AND JOY

LESSON AIM:

By the end of the lesson, men will be reminded not to take life so seriously and find joy through the goodness of God. (pgs. 87-121)

WARM-UP:

What is a funny story that you enjoy telling to friends?

WORD & APPLICATION:

READ PROVERBS 17:22

Throughout life it is easy to get so caught up in responsibilities, goals, and hardships, which can lead to becoming stoic and dry. Life is short and is full of twists and turns, but humor can bring about a healthy relief for our soul.

Humor is a benefit of God's grace that He allows us to enjoy. **Proverbs 17:22** reveals that even in the midst of emotional pain and anguish, laughter can become a medicine.

When was a time in your life that laughter made a very tough time bearable?

Take stock of your own sense of humor for a moment. Have you used this valuable gift in place of anger, bitterness, and hate?

- *Do you use humor only to wound and control?*
- *Do you use humor to hide issues that need to be addressed?*

READ GALATIANS 5:22

Many can benefit from the gift of humor, however joy only comes from the Lord. Joy is a mindset that reminds us of God's goodness, even when circumstances are not. According to **Galatians 5:22**, joy is not just an emotion but a fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

CALL TO ACTION:

Be intentional about using humor to bring encouragement to all those around you. If you are accustomed to using jokes to wound and control people, repent to God and apologize to those who may have been hurt.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

NEXT WEEKS READING:

Restoration, Self -Education, Wildness (Pgs. 123-160)

MANLY MEN

SESSION 5

Don't ask yourself what the world needs, ask yourself what makes you come alive, because what the world needs are men who have come alive.

-John Eldridge



EDUCATION AND WILDNESS

LESSON AIM:

By the end of the lesson, men will see that cultivating our educated side and our wild side are both compatible in God's kingdom.

WARM-UP:

If you could pursue any hobby without being concerned about time or finances, what would you do?

WORD & APPLICATION:

In this week's reading, we read about the important principles of restoration, self-education, and wildness. Restoration and self-education have to do with our ability as men to keep moving forward. As godly men, we need to treat every circumstance we face as a learning opportunity. The world looks down on failure, but in the kingdom of God, there is no failure – only the opportunity to learn and become better.

Wildness speaks of every man's inherent need to engage in risky, physical activity. God created us to push ourselves by taking on challenges and doing things that seem impossible.

At first glance, the concepts of self-education and wildness can seem incompatible. The world tends to give us two options. We can become educated and forsake our manhood, or we can pursue masculinity at the expense of our intellect. In God's Kingdom, however, we can and should pursue both.

The apostle Paul is a great example of a man of God who demonstrated all three of this week's characteristics. Before becoming a follower of Christ, Paul went through a rigorous education. The Bible tells us that he was a student of Gamaliel – one of the leading religious teachers

of that era. Paul essentially went to the Harvard of his day. After receiving Christ, Paul continued to study and learn, spending many years learning about Jesus before beginning his ministry.

All of this education paid off. God sent Paul all over the Roman Empire to preach the Gospel.

LET'S READ ACTS 17:16-18.

Paul was in Athens, which was the intellectual center of the Roman Empire. He came under attack for his faith in Christ from people who thought they knew more than he did about spiritual matters.

Have you been in any situations recently where you came under attack for your faith? How well were you able to respond?

Paul's response to these attacks is amazing.

READ ACTS 17:22-23 AND ACTS 17:30-32.

Paul refuted every argument that was raised against the Gospel. While some of the intellectual elite continued to mock him, there were others whose hearts were open to the Gospel.

What is your strategy to grow in your knowledge and understanding of God?

Despite all his education, Paul was not a wimp. Scripture also shows us that he endured many difficulties for the Gospel – he was beaten multiple times, arrested, imprisoned, and more. Let’s look at one situation where Paul’s wildness comes shining through. In Acts 28, we find Paul in the midst of a big adventure. He was on a boat, sailing for Rome, when a huge storm came and caused the ship to sink. He and his fellow travelers arrive safely on shore, only to encounter more challenges.

READ ACTS 28:1-6.

As a result of Paul’s miraculous encounter with a poisonous snake, many people on that island came to Christ.

How does Paul’s “wild side” change your perception of him?

What are you doing on a regular basis to cultivate your own inherent need to be “wild”?

• How can you do more in this area?

CALL TO ACTION:

1. Find a book that will help feed your knowledge about God and scripture.

2. Identify healthy expressions of wildness and commit to allowing them to be consistent parts of your life.
3. Connect with other godly men and find ways to grow as men together.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

NEXT WEEKS READING:

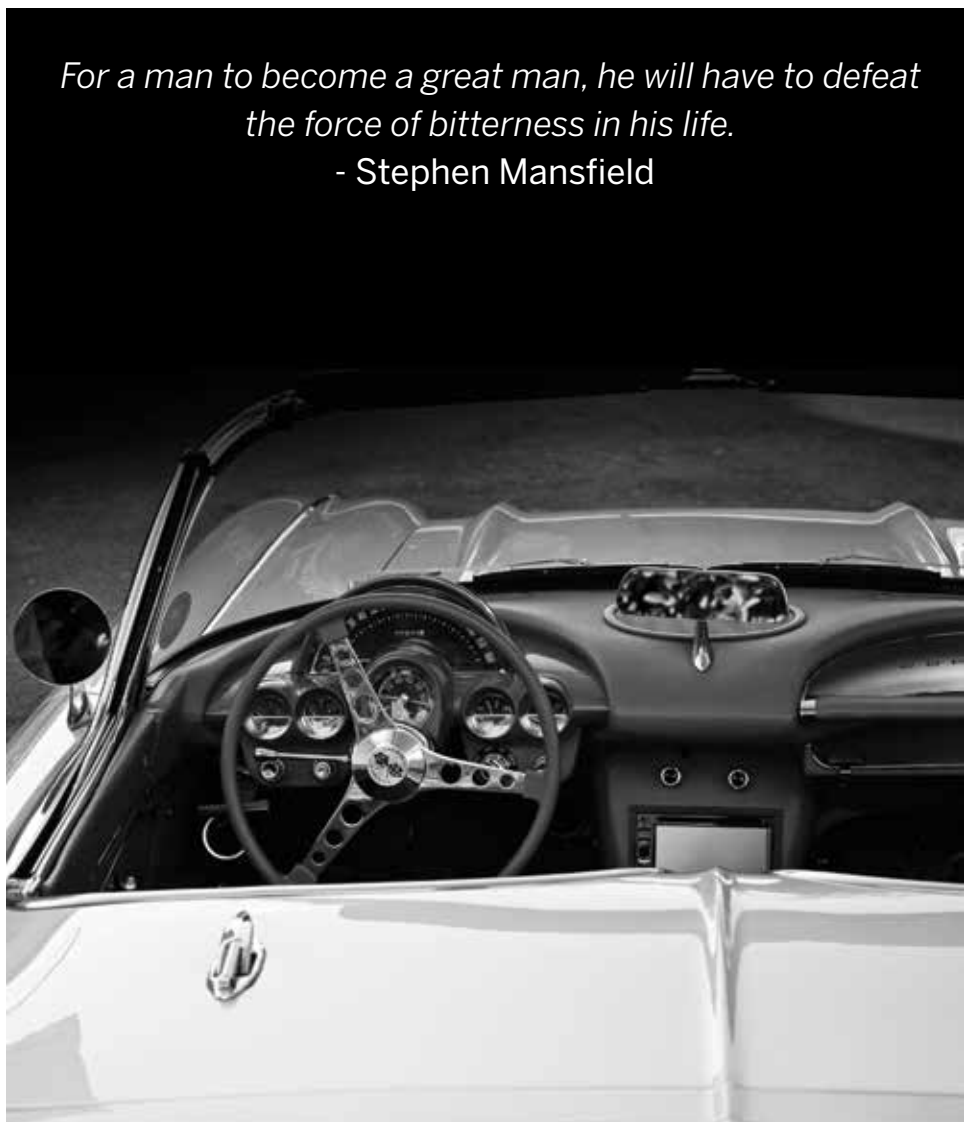
Integrity, forgiveness, suffering (pgs.161-196)

MANLY MEN

SESSION 6

*For a man to become a great man, he will have to defeat
the force of bitterness in his life.*

- Stephen Mansfield



FORGIVENESS

LESSON AIM:

By the end of the lesson, men will be reminded:(pgs.161-196)

- God forgives sins
- We should commit to forsake and confess sins before God and others
- Be willing to forgive others for the sins that are committed against them

WARM-UP:

How do you react when someone says or does something to hurt you, whether perceived or legitimate?

WORD & APPLICATION:

READ PSALMS 32:1-11

Today we will look at Psalm 32:1-11 and hear David's perspective of God's grace and why it's important to live a life free from offense.

David is one of the most talked about characters in the Bible. He was a shepherd, giant slayer, poet and ancestor of Jesus! On the other hand, David was also known as a betrayer, liar, adulterer, and murderer. The Bible doesn't hold back sharing both the good and bad of David's life.

The quality that made David a man after God's heart is his response after he sinned. He would quickly confess and turn to God for forgiveness, and God quickly extends grace and forgives.

How can the revelation of God's forgiveness towards us impact the way we forgive others?

COLOSSIANS 3:13

Instructs us to forgive others as Christ has forgiven us. When we become Christians we forfeit our right to be offended. We must learn that through God's capacity to forgive, we are empowered to do the same.

Take a moment to evaluate your bitterness level. Don't trust yourself. Ask your wife, older children, and friends. (Pg.183)

- Do they hear you rehearsing the wrongs you have suffered?
- Do they see you excusing yourself from God's will or from achievement with past wounds?
- Do they feel tainted by bitterness you spew?

CALL TO ACTION:

Make a list of those you have not forgiven. Share them with a brother, and pray that God would help you to release them and heal the offense.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Close in prayer thanking God for the forgiveness He extends towards us and ask for help as we forgive others.

NEXT WEEKS READING:

Vision, humility, sacrifice, presence (pgs. 197-245)

MANLY MEN

SESSION 7

The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it.

- Thucydides,

from History of the Peloponnesian War, Book II



VISION AND HUMILITY

LESSON AIM:

By the end of the lesson, men will better understand that humility is an essential component to great leadership.

WARM-UP:

Name one influential person in your life who has helped inspire you to be a better person. How did this person help give you vision for your life?

WORD & APPLICATION:

READ PSALMS 32:1-11

This week, our reading looked at the characteristics of vision, humility, and sacrifice. Once again, we are confronted with the fact that God's definition of manhood is very different from the world's. Most people would agree that having vision is a necessary ingredient to becoming a real man; but most would think that humility and sacrifice are signs of weakness, not greatness.

We are learning in this series that in order to understand true manhood, we need to let the Bible guide us, instead of relying on the stereotypes and preconceived notions found in our culture. The real truth – God's truth – is that a great man leads with vision as well as humility. Just as Christ was a servant to all, so we must be willing to make sacrifices on behalf of those we are called to lead.

A great example of this is Moses. This is a man who was clearly gifted with leadership. God used Moses to rescue an entire nation from captivity and then lead them to the Promised Land. Take a moment to think about the magnitude of this. Imagine if God asked you to lead the entire metropolitan area of New Orleans in evacuating the city and relocating to another state, and you begin to get a glimpse of the leadership responsibilities weighing on

Moses' shoulders. Yet look at how Scripture describes this incredible leader.

READ NUMBERS 12:3.

Moses, the greatest leader of his time, was also the most humble person alive!

Think about that for a moment. What does this suggest to you about the connection between humility and greatness in God's kingdom?

Do you know a godly leader who demonstrates both great vision and great humility?

Moses also made incredible sacrifices for his people. Before becoming a leader, the Bible tells us that Moses spent forty years in exile, a time when God prepared him for his great leadership role. True greatness takes sacrifice. If we are not willing to let go of those things that make us comfortable, we can never make room for the great things God wants to do through us.

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10.

What does this passage tell us about the relationship between our weaknesses and God's strength? What steps can we take to be men of vision, humility and sacrifice?

How are you ensuring that your version of manliness is not merely an act but that it grows from a rugged soul, a principled vision, and an inner devotion to the manly virtues?

How are you staying inspired to live as a manly man?

What are you reading, watching, memorizing, and applying that will make you an exceptional man?

CALL TO ACTION:

Pursue people who live with great vision and leadership and learn how they write vision and make it become a reality.

Decide what small group curriculum your group will use since the Manly Men study is complete.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

WEEKEND SERVICE TIMES

Little Creek **Mandeville**

Saturday 5:30pm // Sunday 9am & 11:15am

Gulf Coast **Biloxi**

Sunday 9:30am & 11:15am

South Shore **Metairie**

Sunday 9:30am & 11:15am

Online.ChurchoftheKing.com **Church Online**

Tuesday 2pm // Thursday 8pm

Sunday 9:30am, 11:15am, & 5pm

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