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-Dr. Mac Pier, Founder, Movement.org & Concerts of Prayer, Greater New York

THE
MISSION
DRIVEN MANTM

SET FREE TO LIVE FREE!

Curriculum Manual

The Mission-Driven Man

First Edition, 2021- V-2-101323

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"If God's grace doesn't help the builders, they will labor in vain to build a house." (Psalm 127:1, TPT)

All glory to you, Lord Jesus. Your love and truth have overwhelmed my mind, will, and emotion. Thank you my God, Savior, Friend, Brother, and model for manhood.

My bride, Debbie, the gift of grace is in you and before me as I sleep and wake each day. I shake my head in awe and thank God for you.

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I would like to dedicate this book to Paula DiBernardo, truly one of the best friends, assistant, and woman of prayer any author could ever ask for. She left some highly flawed men for her one perfect Man, Jesus Christ.

Paula DiBernardo (July 18th, 1965 - April 6th, 2018)

WELCOME TO THE MISSION-DRIVEN MAN

"As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world." (John 17:18, NASB)

*"In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world,
I give them a mission in the world."* (John 17:18, MSG)

My Brother,

Welcome to *The Mission-Driven Man: Set Free to Live Free*. I'm glad you made the decision to participate in this curriculum. It's full of high-impact, grace-filled training that will challenge you, inspire you, and teach you how to successfully fight the good fight of faith.

As our society is rapidly changing, many men are left with the question: "What does it mean to be a man?" You're about to embark on an adventure that will answer this question. The series is designed for you and a band of brothers who will walk with you through the mission to which your Father in Heaven has called you.

Christianity entitles our mission the "Great Commission." It is a co-mission because, by God's amazing grace, He actually calls you and me to work together with Him to complete the work He has prepared for us. This mission requires us to first *become* disciples, and then to "go and *make* disciples." This ancient call to greatness is the same today as it was two thousand years ago when men were first recruited by Jesus to become disciples.

Jesus was the original Mission-Driven Man. We are infused with His spiritual DNA as sons and soldiers. As sons, we have a privileged position in God's eternal Kingdom. As soldiers, we have a responsibility to fight against the spiritual forces that oppose us.

I pray you have a life-changing experience that benefits you and the lives of those you love. Let's come to full attention now and fall in, for our Commander-in-Chief, Jesus Christ, awaits us!

With great expectations,

Scott Caesar

HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

There are eight sessions in *The Mission-Driven Man*, intended to be conducted over eight weeks of training. The manual is designed to be used with the accompanying videos. In it, you will find exercises and fill-in-the-blank sentences for each participant to complete after watching the videos. You will find that your experience will be best when done with other men in small groups.

SUGGESTED STEPS FOR EACH SESSION:

- 1. Before you begin:** Read the introduction of the session you are doing that week (done at home in advance).
- 2. Begin session:** Turn to the note page entitled "Video with Scott Caesar." Write your notes on the page provided as you watch the video.
- 3. After the video:** Choose a man to lead the group in completing the fill-in-the-blank sentences together (answer key is in the back of the manual).
- 4. Next:** Turn to the section titled "Mission Brief" and follow the instructions to engage in the activity and discussion in a group of two to five men.
- 5. At home after each session:**
 - Turn to the "Training in Truth" section. Every day, read a Bible passage(s) as indicated. Follow the instructions provided.
 - Turn to the "Prayer Journal" page. Pray the prayer written there, and feel free to write comments in the spaces provided.

5. **Repeat** these steps for each session of the curriculum.

Let the Mission begin!



SERIES INTRODUCTION

It was 1995. The winner of the Academy Award for Best Picture, *Braveheart*, was playing in movie theaters. I went, which was rare, as men from Brooklyn never go to afternoon movies solo! But this day was an exception.

I sat there alone that afternoon watching the heroic tale of Scotland's liberator, William Wallace. It was one of the greatest Christlike parables I had ever seen—one of a man sacrificing his life for a magnificent mission to which God had called him.

I, like most men, am a sucker for the “man-of-valor-fighting-for-a-cause-greater-than-himself” deal. Mel Gibson's portrayal of William Wallace played upon the passion strings of my heart. Wallace's signature mission statement came hours before his execution: “Every man dies; not every man really lives.” The story climaxes with his last dying

breath, as Wallace cries out his life's purpose and driving motivation: “FREEDOM!”

You could have stuck a fork in me at that point. I was done.

I share this benchmark time in my life not to promote that movie, but to explain what followed. The small theatre crowd left, but I was frozen to my chair, emotionally stunned as tears streamed down my face. I could not understand why the story rang such a loud bell in my soul. Why had it impacted me so powerfully?

As I shared my experience with some friends, I came to realize that this was not a strange or unique reaction. They, like me, had a passion for a meaningful life mission, one that is divinely born into the heart of every man.

William Wallace's story bears witness not only to freedom but to his Christian faith. He had the power every spiritual son and victorious soldier possesses. He knew *who he was* as a free son of God. He knew *what* his mission was, and most important, *why* he had to fight. He fought for the crystal-clear *vision of freedom that Christ gave at the Cross*.

When I saw that movie, I had been a follower of Jesus Christ for ten years, although my spiritual life at that time could have been characterized more as a "bored again" Christian rather than a "born-again" Christian. My faith was passion-less, never really experiencing the presence and power of God that is talked about in Holy Scripture. Even though I had accomplished some meaningful things in my work and for my family, I was a spiritually hollow man without much reason to get up in the morning.

Fortunately, I came to realize that only a *Christ-centered life* could fill the God-shaped hole in my and every man's heart. You see, every man needs to be filled with a mission that is worthy of God's calling and empowerment.

Brother, our search for authentic manhood ends today as it did 2,000 years ago. It's found in the God-Man, Jesus Christ, and His gospel that makes men whole. They give a man identity and meaning on the inside and a purpose to wake up to on the outside.

Once a man permits Christ's divine grace and love to train his soul's muscle, God enlists him in Heaven's army. He is now empowered with vision and purpose. For what, you may ask? The answer is heard by listening in on the conversation between Jesus and Father God as recorded in the John 17 prayer of *The Message Bible*, where we see Jesus pray, "In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world" (John 17:18, MSG).

Man of God, your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to know, love, and serve the Lord. God the Father sent Jesus Christ to Earth on a *search and rescue mission* for men who would follow and accept His seemingly impossible mission. Jesus was the original Mission-Driven Man. We are infused with His DNA—first as first-born sons, then as soldiers. He calls us out to fight this good fight of faith. Welcome to The Mission-Driven Man™, *Set Free to Live Free!*

**"Are you tired? Worn out?
Burned out on religion?
Come to me.
Get away with me and you'll
recover your life.
I'll show you how to take a
real rest. Walk with me and
work with me—
watch how I do it. Learn the
unforced rhythms of grace.
I won't lay anything heavy or
ill fitting on you.
Keep company with me and
you'll learn to live freely
and lightly."**

**Jesus Christ
Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)**





SESSION ONE OPERATION FREEDOM: SET FREE TO LIVE FREE

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

INTRODUCTION

It's 50 AD. A proud group of Galatian men are reading a letter sent from their spiritual father, the Apostle Paul. In the letter, Paul lovingly but strongly warns his guys about falling back into ways of the world. He emphasizes the difference between a gospel of *good* and the one true gospel of *grace* through Jesus Christ who set them free. In his warning to them, Paul implies that they seemed to have forgotten that Christ came not to make men good, but to make men *free*.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul wrote in Galatians 5:1, "It is for freedom that Christ has come to set us free. Stand firm then and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the yoke of slavery."

(Continue reading through page 8.)

The yoke of slavery was clearly evident in the Galatian believers' lives, and they may have been asking questions that so many of us men ask today, such as:

"If Christ set me free, why do I still struggle with pride, anger, and lack of self-control?"

"Why, after following Jesus for years and being set free, do my words, thoughts, and wandering eyes irritate instead of liberate me?"

"Why do I still have issues with trusting God and other people?"

Brother, can it be that when we fail to operate in the *grace* that Christ gave to us, we cut ourselves off (Galatians 5:4) from the very *power* of Christ to live free?

Part of your mission is to reflect God's character in a unique way we call "Christlikeness." Christlikeness is evident in a true disciple of Jesus. It requires a man to first fight the civil war that rages between his flesh and the spirit within. Only then can a man engage his mission, as the Apostle Peter put it, to "live as free people."¹

PASSPORT TO FREEDOM

This passport to freedom is found in God's grace and in our trust in Christ alone. We are called to live free, but we must also understand that freedom has boundaries. These boundaries exist not to limit our freedom, but to protect it. They are found in the Word of God.

Boundaries are like borders. Just as every country guards its borders, so also are Christian men called to guard their hearts from lies masquerading as truths. These lies appear in the form of self-centeredness, disappointment, confusion, and

*Christ came not to make men good
but to make men FREE.*

fear. When we live outside freedom's boundaries, we will always default back into the ways of the world, which is bondage.

To avoid the snares of bondage, a man must know his "why," as in, "**Why** should he fight to live free?" A Mission-Driven Man must not only know *why* he is fighting, but also *how* to fight. When the rewards and benefits of our faith are vague, when life's pressures hit their peak, we again are likely to default back into the ways of the world. But when Christ is known and the rewards are clear, a man will stay motivated to fight for his mission.

You may be asking, "What does this treasure called 'freedom' look like in a man? What might it look like in *me*?" Let me describe for you five biblical benefits and attractive characteristics of what freedom looks like in today's Christian man.



FIVE BENEFITS OF CHRIST-CENTERED MANHOOD

#1 THE CONTENTED MAN

Contentment is spoken about biblically as a great reward, great gain, and great wealth in Scripture. It is the external glow of peace that surpasses all understanding. It is the thinking man's spirit of a sound mind mentioned in 2 Timothy 1:7. It is seeing the Apostle Paul sitting in a Roman jail cell, bragging about his contentment in spite of his circumstances. Paul lived the truth that contentment is not in getting what you want, but in you wanting what God gives.

#2 THE CONSISTENT MAN

This man is one who is as reliable as the sunrise. He is the one who constantly suits up and shows up in the lives of others. He has learned that discipline—not just desire—determines a man's destiny as one of freedom's boundaries. His consistent living is rooted in Christ Jesus, for it is God's grace that empowers him to say no to distractions and sinful habits. This cooperative effort with God amplifies the Holy Spirit's fruit of self-control in him.

#3 THE CONFIDENT MAN

This man, like David, is a man after God's own heart. His confidence is not rooted in pride, but in his relationship with Father God. When others threaten his peace, he maintains a godly swagger. He may not know all the answers, but knows well the One who does. He's a man of steel and velvet, balanced in grace and truth.

#4 THE COURAGEOUS MAN

This is the guy who applies a ruthless trust to the strength God has given, for as wisdom is the application of knowledge, so courage is application

of strength. God commands his men all throughout Scripture to be *rak chazak*, a Hebrew phrase meaning "strong and courageous"—and there was no better model of courageous manhood than Jesus.

#5 THE COMPLETE MAN IN CHRIST

The word "complete" in the Bible intertwines with the words "perfect" and "mature." This man is not a finished product, but a man in process, as God, who began this good work in him, will complete it. He has answered the three questions in his life that every man asks: "Who am I? Why do I exist? What will I do?" He knows who he is, why he exists, and what he should do with his life. He knows what his mission is, because he is a Mission-Driven Man.

You have already been set free by the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. But many of you have bought into the lie that, since you have been set free by Christ, you will always live free. However, the Bible warns us in many places to not fall back into the ways of the world. Know this one truth: you have been set free, but living free is not a one-time event. It is a journey in discipleship, which requires years of training yourself in godliness while fighting this good fight of faith.

"I'm in!" you say. "I want to know and feel the freedom of my faith. What do I have to do?"

Your basic training will start in this session with what we call **Spiritual Physics (SP)**. You may have heard a law of physics that states, "For every action there is always an equal and opposite reaction." Spiritual Physics, however, states, "For every physical action in thought or deed, there is an equal or greater reaction in the spiritual realm."

SP is neither a formula nor a final destination. It is simply a biblical blueprint for living free.

There are eight steps to Spiritual Physics:

Spiritual Physics:

1. If I **know** God, I will trust God.
2. If I know and **trust** God, then I will be able to truly love God.
3. If I **love** God, I will then want to obey God.
4. If I **obey** God, I will abide in God, and He will abide in me.
5. If I **abide** in God, then I am a disciple of God.
6. If I am a **disciple** of God, then I can know the truth of God.
7. The **truth** of God will then set me free.
8. I will be **free** to first receive then reflect God's love to others, and back to God.

These steps are not required for salvation, but are powerful in working out and adding to our faith. Spiritual Physics is not a rule, but a tool for you to examine yourselves in godliness. It is simply a spiritual gauge used to measure growth. For example, if I find myself feeling overly anxious one week and my freedom in Christ is challenged, I pray to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal which of the eight steps in which I may be lacking.

Each of these steps in SP is rooted in Scripture, and you can follow the path from one step to the next by studying the Word of God. We will go into the eight steps and their accompanying Scrip-

ture in this session, but for now just know that this eight-step blueprint in Spiritual Physics will assist a man in living out Jesus' offer of the abundant life.

I believe my mentor, Dr. Edwin Louis Cole, spoke insightfully when he stated, "Some men know just enough about Jesus to be frustrated." You may relate, as I do, for good men know the Word of God, but *great* men know the God of the Word!

I am fully persuaded that for us to experience freedom, we must first know God as Father, Lord, and Savior, and then mature to a relational knowledge of Him as brother and friend. This knowledge, preserved for us in Psalm 139—that the creator of Heaven and Earth loves and knows us so intimately—empowered King David and all who have gone before us to live and die well. Let us as men of God do likewise.

The joy of knowing God is in knowing God knows you.





YOUR ASSIGNMENT

1. **Watch Session #1 Video** with your team.
2. **After the video**, and with your team, complete the fill-in-the blank sentences provided (answer key is in the back of manual).
3. **Next, turn to the MISSION BRIEF** section and follow the instructions for your team activity and discussion time.

TRAINING AT HOME

1. **“Training in Truth”** (daily Scripture verses)
2. **“Prayer Journal”** (read, write, and pray)
3. **Read “Introduction”** section for the next session

After watching the video for this session, complete the fill-in-the-blank sentences with your group.

A PORTRAIT OF FREEDOM

All freedom requires a sacrifice. Your freedom was won at the Cross of Calvary by Jesus Christ. He accomplished His mission on earth: “to set you free” (Galatians 5:1,13). Each Christian man who has been set free is given a mission to _____ (1) free. In order to live free, he must “fight the good fight of faith,” one that he wins. Mission-Driven men must know what they are fighting for.

THE BENEFITS OF CHRIST-CENTERED MANHOOD

This life has rewards, rewards you will never experience in this world without God.

King David knew the rich benefits of walking with the LORD and making Him his “all-in-all.” In Psalm 103, David spiritually commands his soul to praise God and to remember His benefits: *“Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His _____ (2).”*

A man is to remember the benefits of his faith. The Mission-Driven Man experiences five benefits. They are external _____ (3) of an internal _____ (4) won by Christ at the cross:²

The benefits and rewards of Christ-centered manhood come from God. They naturally flow out of an obedient (not perfect) life. These five benefits

are marks of a man who has been set free and now lives free.

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”
(2 Corinthians 3:17)

Benefits	Scripture
Contentment	Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:11; 1 Timothy 6:6; Hebrews 13:5
Consistency	Matthew 13:21; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; 1 Timothy 4:7-8; Titus 2:11-12
Confidence	Philippians 1:6; 2 Timothy 1:7; Hebrews 10:19,35; 1 John 5:14
Courage	Joshua 1:6-7,9; Isaiah 54:17; John 16:33; Romans 12:1
Completeness	Romans 8:15-16; Colossians 1:28, 2:10; Ephesians 4:13; 1 Peter 2:16a

SPIRITUAL PHYSICS

The eight steps of Spiritual Physics comprise neither a formula nor a final destination. They are a blueprint to free living for those who have been set free by Jesus Christ and His sacrificial work on the cross. These steps have formed a well-worn path used by freedom fighters who have gone before you.

A law of physics says, "For every action there is always an equal and opposite reaction." Spiritual Physics says, "For every action in thought or deed, there is an equal or greater reaction in the spiritual realm." Every action identified here is a cooperative work of the Divine Initiator (the Holy Spirit) and a man's faithful agreement, for **God will not do for a man that which He wants to do with a man.**

*"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."
(Galatians 5:1, NIV)*

"I am called to know God. My purpose in this life is in _____ (5) God, that I may glorify Him and reflect His love by living free."

-
- | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1. Know | God | John 17:3, Philippians 3:8 |
| 2. Trust | God | Psalms 9:10, Proverbs 3:5-6 |
| 3. Love | God | 1 John 4:7-8, Mark 12:30-31 |
| 4. Obey | God | John 14:15,21 |
| 5. Abide | God | 1 John 3:24 |
| 6. Disciple | God | John 8:31 |
| 7. Truth | God | John 8:32 |
| 8. Free | God | John 8:32 |

Affirmation

I have memorized and recited the Spiritual Physics. I am enlisted to fight the good fight of faith.

X _____

Team - Sign Off

(Any man in your group may sign off.)

There is nothing more valuable in a man's life than knowing God.³

KNOWING GOD

Your first step in your fight for freedom, outlined in Spiritual Physics, is to "know God." When you think about this step, how well (if at all) do you feel you know God personally?

James 4:8 says, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (emphasis mine). This is a practical and living example of Spiritual Physics! We get to know God by spending time with Him. When you think about it, it really isn't possible to have a relationship with a person you don't actually spend time with. In fact, lack of time spent together is the cause of many failed relationships.

By knowing Jesus (the Son of God), you begin to see the personality of God. When you know God's Word, you know God's Truth, and His standards and values to live by.

I encourage you to pray about this, asking God to reveal Himself to you through His Word. Read your Bible (God's Word) and focus on Jesus and the names He uses to describe Himself.

To know the Son of God is to know the _____ (6) of God.

To know the Word of God is to know the _____ (7) of God.

*"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."
(John 17:3, NASB)*

MISSION BRIEF

Powerful faith has benchmarks in a man's life. He can literally feel the strength and presence of God in areas of maturity and growth. The Bible tells us to take spiritual inventory and consider our ways that we may glorify God and bear much fruit. Paul's challenge to the men at Corinth still rings true today: "Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith" (2 Corinthians 13:5, NLT).

Refer to the statements in the next column, detailing the eight steps of Spiritual Physics. These statements describe what a man would experience and feel if he were to mature and grow in each step.

**Reading the Scriptures
and not knowing the
personality of God
revealed in Jesus Christ
is like watching TV
with the sound
turned off.⁴**

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Which of the eight steps of Spiritual Physics do you feel you have grown in the most?
2. Which of the eight steps of Spiritual Physics do you feel the most challenged in?

Check off two boxes below to answer the questions above:

- I **know** God's truth, character, and personality greater by knowing His Word, His names, and Jesus Christ.
- I **trust** God's kindness and love as a caring, all-sufficient Father. I trust His purpose in my pain and uncertainty.
- I feel more affection and **love** towards God due to my gratitude and thankfulness for His love towards me.
- I feel an increasing power and greater desire to please and **obey** God.
- I feel a greater closeness to God—an indescribable peace and oneness in **abiding** in Him and He in me.
- I feel more comfortable with denying self-rule and living as a **disciple** of Christ.
- I see more clearly the lies I believed and lived. I know who He is and who I am. I believe His **truth** and live in His grace.
- I am **free**: accepted and approved. I have nothing to hide, prove, or fear. I am presently and eternally secure.



Break into teams of three to five men. Share with each other which step you chose for most growth, and which one for most challenging.

TRAINING IN TRUTH

(TO BE COMPLETED AT HOME)

OPERATION FREEDOM SCRIPTURES

As you study the Bible verses:

1. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through the Word of God. (Hebrews 4:12)
2. Read the Bible verse aloud. (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2-3)
3. Meditate—think upon it. Ask God about it and wait. (Psalm 119:15)
4. Each day, write two words that come to mind for each verse.
5. Check off the corresponding box to the verse(s) you just read.

DAY 1

“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.” (John 17:18, NASB)

“In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.”
(John 17:18, MSG)

Key Words: _____

DAY 2

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:7, ESV)

“Fight the good fight of the faith.”
(1 Timothy 6:12a, ESV)

Key Words: _____

DAY 3

*“It is for freedom that Christ has set us **free**. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”* (Galatians 5:1, NIV)

*“Live as **free people**.”* (1 Peter 2:16a, NIV)

Key Words: _____

* Bold - emphasis added



DAY 4

“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” (John 17:3, NASB)

“Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ.” (Philippians 3:8, NLT)

Key Words: _____

DAY 5

“And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, for You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.” (Psalm 9:10, NASB)

“And you shall love the Lord your God **with all** your heart, and **with all** your soul, and **with all** your mind, and **with all** your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31, NASB)

Key Words: _____

DAY 6

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And **he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.**” (John 14:15,21, ESV)

“All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.” (1 John 3:24, NRSV)

Key Words: _____

DAY 7

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you **abide** in My word, you are My **disciples** indeed. And you shall know the **truth**, and the truth shall **make you free.**’ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:31-32,36, NKJV)

Key Words: _____

X _____

Team - Sign Off

(Any man in your group may sign off.)

* Bld - emphasis added

**TAKE A FEW MOMENTS
TO PRAY THIS PRAYER:**

THIS WEEK

Lord, thank You for sending Jesus to set me free. Teach me now, dear Father, how to live free. Thank You for hearing this prayer, that I may fight the good fight of faith. I am a mission-driven man.

Father, thank You for revealing yourself in greater ways. I see Your character through the names by which You describe Yourself. I understand Your truth more through Your Word. I am getting a glimpse of Your personality by knowing Christ Jesus, Your only begotten Son. I am thankful for this revelation.

Lord, the greatest joy of knowing You is in knowing that I am known by You. You know me better than I know myself, great God. Who am I that You should think of me all day when I don't think of You all day? You put me ahead of details that hold the universe together. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. It overwhelms my heart and overflows my intellect. I am secure, safe, and stable in Your arms, Father.

Because of Your love, I open the chambers of my inner man and invite You inside my heart. I trust You with my life, Lord. Search me and examine the thoughts and motives of my heart, for we are Father and son. Test me, so You may reveal any anxious thoughts in me that are not of You.

Show me, Lord, what things I have given first place to besides You. Lead me to a rock that is higher than myself, so I may see your eternal will and purpose for all things.⁵

God, if I know You, I will trust You. If I trust You, I will truly love You. If I love You, Lord, I will obey You. And if I obey You, I will abide in You and You in me. If I abide, then I am Your Disciple. If I am a Disciple, I will then know the truth. If I know the truth, I will live free—for the one Jesus has set free is free indeed!

God, I ask that You (write your specific request):

I surrender my concerns and worries about (write the specific source of concern):

Father, what aspect about You should I focus on today, so that I may know You better? (Write your impressions below. What do you feel God is saying to you?)



SESSION TWO

THE STEAL-TH CONSPIRACY: GUARDING YOUR HEART

**Above all else,
guard your
heart,
for everything
you do flows
from it.**
Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

INTRODUCTION

In our previous session, we spoke about Jesus coming to Earth on a search and rescue mission to save the lost and to set the captives free (that's you and me). He came to open the sin-centered jail cells of our lives. And, with your agreement to have Him as Lord of your life, He empowered you to walk out of that cell and be set free. ¹ It doesn't stop there, though. Jesus not only *set* us free but made a way for us to *stay* free in His love. ²

To accomplish this, He left us a map to follow in the Word of God. He also defined His warrior-like aspects that we are to imitate in our own lives. Exodus 15:3 tells us, "The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is His name." David sings out to His King, praising Him, "Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." ³

(Continue reading through page 20.)

A man must have a game plan—a strategy for this life. He must also know his enemy's strategy so he can guard against attacks and set up a defense perimeter.

As you are reading this, you may be asking, “If all this is true, if Jesus really did fight and die for us and our freedom, why, after all this time as a Christian man, do I still struggle so much with discouragement and the ways of the world?”

Maybe the answer is that no one ever told you that you are opposed and in a fight. **Jesus was opposed**, and so are you.

Maybe no one ever taught you how to recognize the enemy and how to fight the enemy. God says we are at war. Yes, when smacked with insults resulting in hurt, we are called to turn the other cheek and to overwhelm our enemy with kindness. But when evil threatens to put a knife to the throat of a loved one, or our freedom is at stake, or when the Word of God is attacked, *warfare* is required, not turning the other cheek.

The word “warfare” in the original language of the Scriptures means “strategy.” A man must have a game plan—a strategy for this life. He must also know his enemy’s strategy so he can guard against attacks and set up a defense perimeter. This is the focus of Session Two, “The Steal-th Conspiracy: Guarding Your Heart.”

Roman soldiers slept, ate, and fought with two weapons at their side at all times: their sword and shield. No soldier in his right mind

would attempt to combat a foe without his shield to guard against the offensive attacks of the enemy. Today, many in the Church fight with the Sword of Spirit⁴ (i.e., they may know their Bible), but lay down their shields of faith, which are needed to put out fiery darts targeted for their hearts.

Why the heart? The heart is the spiritual headquarters of man. It is where both salvation and evil can take place. It’s where the Word of God and the freedom we protect reside. King David knew a heart filled with God’s Word was the key to freedom, saying; “I have treasured your word in my heart that I may not sin.”⁵ The writer of Proverbs commands us, “Above all else guard your heart for everything you do flows from it.” Other translations of the same verse say, “It determines the course of your life. It is the source of life.”⁶

This is precisely why our heart is the target of Satan’s schemes, and why we need to guard it so fiercely. We must first set up a defensive perimeter to defend the heart: guard against what comes in, guard the treasure stored in it, and, lastly, guard what comes out of it.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GUARDING OUR HEARTS

What enemies are we guarding our heart from? To identify them, we will look at what Jesus says in Mark 4:2-20, in what is called *The Parable of the Sower*. Here Jesus tells us that the Word of God is the seed, and that the soil is the heart of man, and there are three enemies to the seed sown in our hearts: **Satan, self, and society**.

Let’s work our way in reverse. Verse 19 reveals Enemy #3, “the cares of this world.” The believer is commanded not to conform to and think like society dictates.⁷ Society promises but never seems to deliver on the contentment and happiness it offers outside of Christ.

Next is Enemy #2: Your “self.” Verse 17 tells us

the Word of God attracts conflict. Conflict is ever present in a man's "flesh" which is hostile towards submission to the Spirit of God.⁸ A man's habits and *thinking* can be more of an enemy than both society and Satan. In other words, we are our own worst enemy, and are in spiritual danger when we believe the lies we tell ourselves.

We now come to Public Enemy #1 and the focus of our warfare. In verse 15, Jesus identifies the enemy as Satan. The timing of his attack is "immediately after the Word is sown." The place of attack is our hearts; as the CEB version says, "he steals the word" from our hearts.

The devil is a fallen angel with no authority or power to act outside God's permission. The Bible confirms this when it tells how Satan had to ask permission from God to test both Job and Peter.⁹ Remember this: Satan only exists by God's sovereign decree. Only God is sovereign, and He is in complete control of your life. And, because of His finished work on the cross that secures your adoption as God's son and a co-heir of salvation, Jesus will never leave you nor forsake you to the hands of evil. Thus, Satan can only work as an instrument to

God's plans and purposes.

Our mission in this session is not to pay more mind to Satan than should be, but to know our enemy so we may protect and guard the word of freedom sown in our hearts. The Apostle Paul prepared for battle knowing his enemy's strategy and how he works, saying, ". . . so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes."¹⁰ He told the Ephesian men, "Do not give the devil an opportunity."¹¹ Jesus came to empower us with the permission and authority to guard our hearts while dominating the devil at every turn through God's power, authority, and Word.

Jesus came to give us His life in more abundance. Satan's mission is to steal, kill, and destroy.¹² This is the strategy of Satan. He cannot touch Jesus. He tried and failed, and was disarmed at the cross, so his tactics turned to trying to steal, kill, and destroy Christ's Church (you and me). Your enemy comes to **steal your identity**, so you don't know who you are. He comes to **kill your purpose**, so you don't know why you exist. He comes to **destroy your mission**, so you don't know what to do.

Military forces use stealth bombers to avoid detection so that they may effectively deliver bombs of destruction on their enemies. Likewise, your enemy, Satan, deploys stealth bombers filled with lies and deceit to conduct air raids on your mind and heart. The attack may be unseen, but is felt in how a man thinks, speaks, and acts.

**A man's habits and
thinking can be more
of an enemy than
both society and Satan.**



In this session of *The Mission-Driven Man*, we are going to attempt to expose this “Stealth Conspiracy” against your life. This conspiracy, if allowed, can enslave a man’s mind. It must be taken seriously, for we men may not be in danger of *losing* our lives, but are in danger of *wasting* our lives.

THWARTING SATAN’S PLAN

Satan’s plan is to cause a downward spiral to sin that starts with lies. His goal is to build strongholds brick by brick in your heart. And so Satan’s assault begins by feeding you lies about God, His Word, other people, and yourself.

Once you listen to the lies Satan has whispered, he will tempt you with worldly values attaching themselves to your desires. You will be able to resist at first, but if you are not guarding your heart, eventually you will compromise.

After you compromise comes accusation. This is where Satan, or the “accuser,” as he is called in Scripture, starts his rant against you. The man who lies, he calls a liar, the man who sins, a hypocrite, and one who lusts, a pervert. He follows your pain with questions: *If God really cared, He would have helped you by now. God must be mad at you.* You then consider these accusations, and let the “you are” settle into your identity. The downward descent continues as you keep listening to the accusations in your mind. Feelings of condemnation then sprout up in your heart. You become worn down; you feel like a failure.

**Satan speaks in your present,
exposing evidence from your past,
that you may fear your future.
God speaks into your present,
promising hope for your future,
in spite of your past.**

The whisper of, *You are . . .* now becomes *I am . . .* as you begin to agree with the lies and accusations hurled against you. This agreement now gives authority to the Kingdom of Darkness. You have done for the devil what the devil could not do for himself: “For when a man agrees with the lie, he empowers the liar.” With your agreement and belief, you have re-armed him who had been disarmed.¹³

This is the goal of the Steal-th Conspiracy.

HERE’S THE GOOD NEWS

But now the good news! God uses your weakness to build the grace that perfects His strength in you.¹⁴ Satan speaks in your present, exposing evidence from your past, that you may fear your future. God speaks into your present, promising hope for your future, in spite of your past. The Bible tells us that “God separates the godly man for himself.”¹⁵ Because of our Lord’s sacrifice, that man is *you*. The God-Man called the Christ knew no failure or defeat, but as a man, Jesus had a choice. There is no win without the option to lose. Jesus had an option and chose courageous manhood. He chose victory. Likewise, let you and I guard our hearts and not rearm Satan, who has been disarmed.

In all this, Jesus was the fulfillment of God’s perfect design and purpose for manhood. The “good news” of the gospel is that God bestowed upon you His grace and power, so you may fulfill the destiny and purpose He has called you into. Jesus was the original “mission-driven man.” We as His disciples are also called to be mission-driven men—set free to live free!



YOUR ASSIGNMENT

1. **Watch Session #2 Video** with your team.
2. **After the video**, and with your team, complete the fill-in-the blank sentences provided (answer key is in the back of manual).
3. **Next, turn to the MISSION BRIEF** section and follow the instructions for your team activity and discussion time.

TRAINING AT HOME

1. **“Training in Truth”** (daily Scripture verses)
2. **“Prayer Journal”** (read, write, and pray)
3. **Read “Introduction”** section for the next session

After watching the video for this session, complete the fill-in-the-blank sentences with your group.

DIVINE INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Jesus Christ came to Earth on a search and rescue mission (Luke 4:18, John 3:16), not to make men good but to make men free (Galatians 5:1,13; Romans 6:18). By Christ's redemptive work on the Cross, I have been set free to live free. To stay free, I must fight the good fight of faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

JESUS CHRIST—THE MODEL FOR THE MISSION-DRIVEN MAN

He Was...

Trained — by Father God (Luke 2:52; Hebrews 2:10; 1 Peter 4:1-2).

Tempted — by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 5:8-9).

Triumphant — by the Word and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 4:4,7,10; Colossians 2:15).

Jesus was _____ (1) and so am I. (Matthew 4:1-11). My mission is opposed and affected by an unholy trinity of trouble. They are:

_____ (2) (The Spiritual)

_____ (3) (My Flesh)

_____ (4) (The Culture)

My own _____ (5) and _____ (6) can be more of an enemy than Satan and Society.

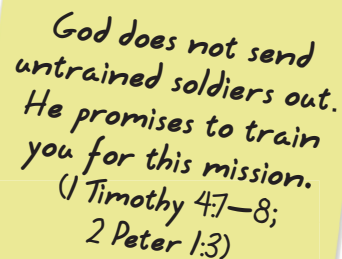
The Devil may be mighty but is not _____.(7)¹⁶ "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." (1 John 4:4, NIV)

Jesus' mission included destroying the works of the Devil (1 John 3:8). We must know our enemy (2 Corinthians 2:11).

Satan's objective is to: _____ (8), _____ (9), and _____ (10) (John 10:10).

1. Steal your _____ (11) so you do not know who you are.
2. Kill your _____ (12) so you do not know why you exist.
3. Destroy your _____ (14) so you do not know what to do.

Satan operates in _____ (15) mode. (Genesis 4:7; 2 Corinthians 4:4, 11:14; 1 Peter 5:8).



God does not send untrained soldiers out. He promises to train you for this mission. (1 Timothy 4:7-8; 2 Peter 1:3)

MISSION BRIEF

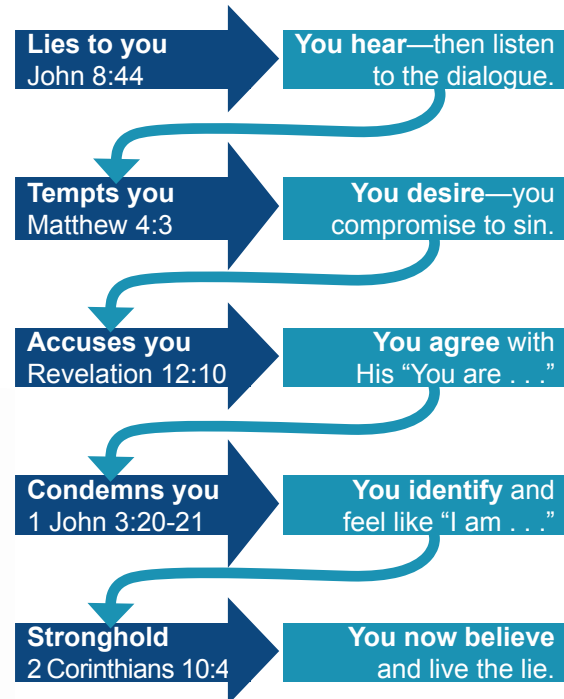
Satan's strategy is to:

1. **Lie to us so we will live in delusion.** His objective is to change life's scorecard so you will fear death, value performance, and not feel like a son, but all alone like a fatherless orphan. His objective is to get to our hearts through our minds and build a lying stronghold that says, "I must control and rule my own life."
2. **Lure us to lust after the world's values and standards that promise but never can deliver.** He switches the price tags on the things and people in our life, so we make them god things (idolatry). He surrounds us with a "fog" to confuse our primary *purpose of knowing and loving God*. When a man takes a good thing and makes it a god thing, it becomes a bad thing!

3. **Get us to passively neglect our gifts that are to be used for serving God and our fellow man, and use them just for ourselves.** He destroys a man's mission by causing thoughts of uncertain fear and doubt about the man's ability and worthiness, as well as the cost. This is so the man will lose heart and leave the mission.

The Devil's Part

Man's Part



A stronghold's collateral damage manifests itself in disappointment over one's life and worthiness. Another name for this is *shame*. Shame lives like a low-grade fever at unseen levels of the soul, and creates fear-driven lives. Men who are held by this stronghold always feel the need to prove and protect themselves through performance instead of walking in grace.

When a man takes a good thing and makes it a god thing it becomes a bad thing.



A MAN'S STATEMENT OF IDENTITY

The following table lists statements of identity. In the left-hand column are statements that Satan uses to build strongholds of doubt, self-condemnation, and shame in your mind. But regardless of whether or not there may be some truth in these accusations, they do not change the truth about who you are now that you are in Christ. The good news is that our Father uses your weakness to perfect His strength in you, and He is continually making you a new kind of man in Jesus Christ. This is true whether you feel like it or not.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

What may the Holy Spirit be saying to you? Take a moment here to pray and ask God to examine your heart, like David did, when he said, "Search me, O

God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties and see if *there is any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24, NIV).

Ask the Lord, by His Holy Spirit, to help you choose one or two identity statements from the left-hand column in the table below. These are things you may have felt in the past or may even still struggle with today.

Break into teams of three to five men. Share with each other which statement(s) below you most identify with.



"I AM" IDENTITY STATEMENTS

Strongholds: Lies Believed	Truth: Who God Says I Am
I am guilty. I have a lot of regret.	I am forgiven for my past. (1 John 1:9)
I am not smart enough, I am indecisive.	I have a sound mind that can ask for and receive wisdom. (Philippians 2:5; 2 Timothy 1:7; James 1:5)
I am alone. I feel broken, out of place, different.	I am a complete, accepted, and approved man in Christ.
I am lustful. I cannot control my desires.	I am a man of maturing values and desires by God's grace. (Philippians 1:6; Titus 2:11-12, NIV)
I am fearful. I feel anxious and restless.	I am so loved and approved. I am free to try and fail at anything. (1 Peter 5:6-7)
I am inadequate. I feel like I am never good enough.	I am affirmed by my Father in Christ; I am sufficient. (Isaiah 43:4)
I am a fake and a hypocrite.	I am who God made me to be. No more, no less. Love is genuine and authentic and so am I.
I am an angry man. I am frustrated often.	I am patiently learning to accept God's will and others in my life. I am trusting God more.
I am prideful, controlling, and manipulative.	I am a work in progress. God will complete what He started. (Philippians 1:6)
I am unable to love others and unlovable; I feel alone.	I am beloved and give God pleasure. (Isaiah 43:4; Matthew 3:17; Ephesians 1:5)
I am an insecure man. I constantly need the approval of others.	I am a son of Father God, and called brother and friend of Jesus.
I am a lazy man. I am not consistent. I lack discipline. I just don't have what it takes.	I am a man who has the spirit of self-discipline, self-control, and sound mind. (Judges 6:12; Romans 8:37; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 2 Timothy 1:7)

TRAINING IN TRUTH

(TO BE COMPLETED AT HOME)

THE STEAL-TH CONSPIRACY SCRIPTURES

As you study the Bible verses:

1. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through the Word of God. (Hebrews 4:12)
2. Read the Bible verse aloud. (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2-3)
3. Meditate—think upon it. Ask God about it and wait. (Psalm 119:15)
4. Each day, write two words that come to mind for each verse.
5. Check off the corresponding box to the verse(s) you just read.

DAY 1

*“The LORD is a **warrior**; the LORD is his name.”*
(Exodus 15:3, NIV)

*“Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD **mighty in battle**.”*
(Psalm 24:8, NIV)

Key Words: _____

DAY 2

*“Your word I have **treasured in my heart**, that I may not sin against You.”* (Psalm 119:11, NASB)

*“**Above all else, guard your heart**, for everything you do flows from it.”* (Proverbs 4:23, NIV)

Key Words: _____

DAY 3

*“The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, **Satan comes immediately** and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and **they have no root in themselves**, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word,*

* Bold - emphasis added



and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.” (Mark 4:14-19, NKJV)

Key Words: _____

DAY 4

*“When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, **having triumphed over them through Him.**” (Colossians 2:15, NASB)*

*“Finally, let the mighty strength of the Lord make you strong. Put on all the armor that God gives, so **you can defend yourself against the devil’s tricks.** We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world. So put on all the armor that God gives. Then when that evil day comes, you will be **able to defend yourself.** And when the battle is over, you will still be standing firm.” (Ephesians 6:10-13, CEV)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 5

“So that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.” (2 Corinthians 2:11, NASB)

*“The thief’s **purpose** is to steal and kill and destroy. My **purpose** is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” (John 10:10, NLT)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 6

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8, ESV)

*“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the **accuser** of our brethren has been thrown down, he who **accuses them before our God** day and night.’” (Revelation 12:10, NASB)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 7

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1, NIV2011)

*For whenever our **heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.** Beloved, if our heart does **not condemn us,** we have confidence before God. (1 John 3:20-21, ESV)*

Key Words: _____

X _____

Team - Sign Off

(Any man in your group may sign off.)

PRAYER JOURNAL

TAKE A FEW MOMENTS
TO PRAY THIS PRAYER:

Lord, thank You for sending Jesus to set me free. Teach me now, dear Father, how to live free and guard my heart from freedom's enemies, Satan's schemes, society's values, and my own ungodly thinking. Thank You for hearing this prayer, that I may fight the good fight of faith.

Lord, I thank You that You have made me in Your perfect image. Today, I confess the sin of believing lies that are distorting my godly identity and causing me to see myself as less than who I am in You. I ask You to forgive me. As You expose the enemy's lies today, I choose to forgive myself as well as all those who may have spoken lies to me and have contributed to the ungodly ways I see myself. I renounce and break agreements with those lies, and choose to accept the truth about who I am in Christ. In the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.

A Man's Prayer of Affirmation

(Read out loud) *"Abba Father, I now see that neither my behavior nor even my thoughts define who I am. I choose not to accept what Satan or the world says about me, but only You! This is regardless of how I feel. I affirm that I have a God-given identity. I am a new man, created by God's design, according to His Word. I am complete in Jesus, who forgave me, then exchanged my sin for His righteousness. I choose to make God the final authority on who I am. Since God said it, that settles it!"*

THIS WEEK

God, I ask that You (write your specific request):

I surrender my concerns and worries about (write the specific source of concern):

Father, what aspect about You should I focus on today, so that I may know You better? (Write your impressions below. What do you feel God is saying to you?)

MISSION MEN

C.T. Studd

World-Class Athlete and One of the "Cambridge Seven" that Changed the World for Christ

"It's good to have a great heart searching. It's better to make a great heart-resolve. But, if instead of obeying, we squat among the sheep, leaving our few hard-pressed brethren to tackle the wolves by themselves, verily we are but Chocolate Christians." (From *The Chocolate Soldier, or Heroism: The Lost Chord of Christianity* by C.T. Studd)

C.T. Studd (1860-1931) was born to a wealthy family that enjoyed all the privileges of British aristocracy. He came to faith in Christ, along with the rest of his family, when his father converted while C.T. was in university. C.T. chose to forsake the glory of the world for a difficult life dedicated to serving the Lord Jesus Christ. His emphasis was on living a life of faith, trusting in God alone for provision.

When his wealthy father died, he left C.T. approximately three million dollars by today's standards. C.T. gave away his entire inheritance to be used for the Moody Bible Institute, for George Müller mission work, and for the Salvation Army in India and other ministries. C.T. trusted God to provide for his and his family's needs as he served as a missionary.

Whenever they ran short of money—which was often after giving his own away—C.T. and his family found God faithfully supplied their needs. "Funds are low again, hallelujah! That means God trusts us and is willing to leave His reputation in our hands," said C. T. on one such occasion.

MISSION MEN

Jim Elliott

Missionary and Martyr

"We are so utterly ordinary, so commonplace, while we profess to know a Power the twentieth century does not reckon with. But we are "harmless," and therefore unharmed. We are spiritual pacifists, non-militants, conscientious objectors in this battle-to-the-death with principalities and powers in high places. Meekness must be had for contact with men, but brass, outspoken boldness is required to take part in the comradeship of the Cross. We are "sideliners"-coaching and criticizing the real wrestlers while content to sit by and leave the enemies of God unchallenged. The world cannot hate us; we are too much like its own. Oh, that God would make us dangerous!" - Jim Elliott

Jim Elliot was a missionary who passionately pursued the opportunity to share the gospel with the Huaorani tribe, a group of Ecuadorian indigenous people considered violent and dangerous to outsiders. Motivated by the knowledge that this people group was destined to eternity apart from God, in 1956 Jim and four associates sought to make contact with the Huaoranis. Sadly, this tribe lived up to its reputation by slaughtering Jim and his four friends shortly after meeting them.

Later, Jim's wife, Elisabeth, would courageously return to the Huaorani tribe to finish Jim's mission. By God's grace, the entire tribe placed their faith in Jesus Christ. Jim's journal was later found to contain this now-famous entry: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."



SESSION THREE

PICK UP YOUR SWORD: THE POWER OF 4

**So then, brothers,
stand firm and
hold to the
traditions that
you were taught
by us, either by
our spoken word
or by our letter.**

(2 Thessalonians 2:15, ESV)

INTRODUCTION

Last session, we were trained to recognize Satan's strategy of attack—he comes to steal, kill, and destroy by stealing the Word of God from our hearts through our minds.

When Jesus was in the desert being tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:4,7,10), He resisted by retaliating three times, saying, "It is written," "It is written," "It is written." His rebuke of Satan, then, is our mandate to live by today: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God."¹ In this session, we will learn to retaliate as Jesus did; using our first choice of spiritual weaponry: the Word of God.

Men who consider the Bible to be the Word of God possess a biblical worldview. They believe the Bible is inspired, inerrant, infallible, inherent, and inseparable from God himself. Author Timothy Ward says, "The Word of God is actually an extension of God himself."²

(Continue reading through page 34.)

Mature believers submit their lifestyle to Scripture. Immature believers submit Scripture to their lifestyle.

There are two main sources of trouble that seem to hinder God's Word from effectively working in our lives. The first is unbelief in the Bible, and the second is false expectations about the Bible. Unbelief, much of the time, is not so much the absence of faith as it is the presence of pride in wanting to control one's own life. This is a collision that every mature believer experiences eventually. As your sin collided with the cross (and lost), unbelief must now collide with Christ Himself.

Jesus Himself was the Living Word. If anyone could have gotten by without the written Word, it would have been Him. And yet, we see that it was everything to Him. More than anything else, He showed us the Word as inseparable from Himself, both as God and as man.

The "cross collision" illustration, a crisis every believer comes to, begs the question: how can a man believe and trust in Christ—and the fact that Jesus Himself confirms the truth and validity of the Scriptures—and yet not person-

ally believe that the Bible is true? This is a glaring inconsistency indeed.

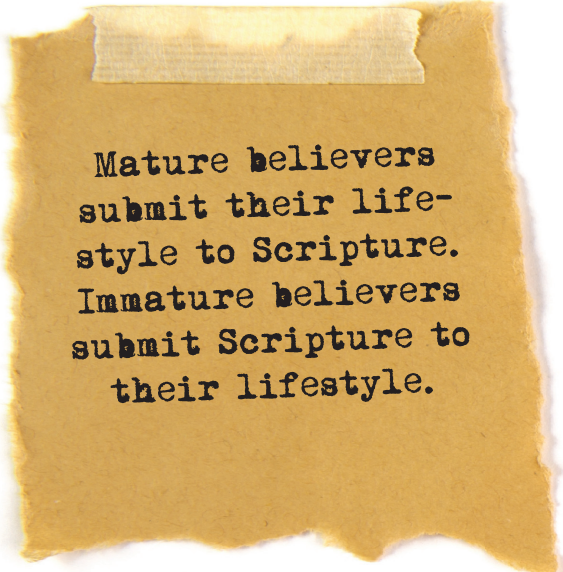
You may have just experienced that inevitable collision; Jesus Christ and the Word of God have collided with your unbelief. Maybe you've realized for the first time that what you say you believe and what you actually believe are not the same thing. This is a great realization to have, because now you can do something about it!

According to *The Bible in America*, a report from the American Bible Society and Barna Research Group, the majority of Americans hold the Bible in high regard. It indicates that two-thirds of Americans believe the Bible contains everything a person needs to know in order to live a meaningful life. And, although just one-third of Americans profess to read the Bible at least once per week, the majority of Americans (61 percent) express a desire to read the Bible more often.³

This research tells us that we may not merely have a belief problem; it seems we have a practice problem. You see, like in business, our spiritual lives need a proper work ethic and proper expectations in order to thrive. Much of men's lack of Bible engagement is not only due to unbelief, but also to false expectations. Many men are under the impression that if they attend church weekly, and casually read the Bible, they will grow spiritually. That is an example of false expectations.

Some Christian men say, "I read the Bible, then forget. It has no lasting effect on me." Well, neither does bathing or brushing your teeth. That is why God says we should do it daily.⁴

Having these false expectations has taken its toll on Christian men today. The Apostle Paul said that it is for "freedom that Christ came to set us free,"⁵ yet research tells us that out of 50,000 Christian men surveyed, 50 percent are in bondage to fearful and anxious thinking, feeling like they can-



**Mature believers
submit their life-
style to Scripture.
Immature believers
submit Scripture to
their lifestyle.**

**The Bible is not true
because it changes your
life, it changes your life
because it is true.**

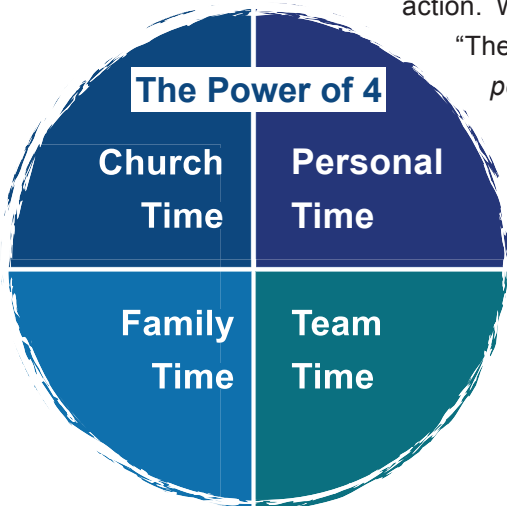
not please God, and feeling spiritually stagnant.⁶ The reality is that the man who attends church weekly and only casually reads the Bible will have no spiritual growth. More specifically, The Center for Bible Engagement said that participants in their study who read the Bible one to three times a week experienced little to no effect on fear and anxiety in their lives—no effect on sexual immorality, and no effect on getting drunk, doing drugs, or even slowing destructive thoughts.⁷ In other words, lukewarm Bible engagement yielded the same results as no Bible engagement at all. The man who attends church weekly and only casually reads the Bible will have no spiritual growth.

Conversely, the research indicates that a man who is consistent in reading or hearing the Bible four or more times per week experiences life much differently than a man who doesn't.⁸ Indeed, the statistics show a much higher level of health and stability for the man more engaged in the Bible, despite having the same life challenges as the one who doesn't engage regularly.

So, if consistent Bible engagement is the key to spiritual health and maturity, then we need a plan of action. We call this plan,

“The Power of 4.” The *power* is in God's Word. The *plan* is four touches of Scripture.⁹

You'll see from the diagram there are four quadrants of time spent in



the Word. Your first touch is **church time**. This is where you worship and hear the Word each week. The second touch is your **personal time** alone with God. The third touch is **team time**. Team time is when a group of men meet and discuss God's Word each week. And the fourth is **family time**, where you touch God in your home with those closest to you.

We will give attention to each of the four quadrants, but our focus in this session will be on the touch of **personal time**. In what I believe is our most important touch, our objective here is to provide a framework for what your time and attitude should look like, and how to achieve the desired benefits.

Proverbs 4:6 says, “Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.” Personal time alone with God is the barometer of a man's spiritual integrity. It is where the power of Christlike manhood is forged.

When we talk about personal time, we see it primarily as being time spent with God in prayer.

What is prayer? Simply put, prayer is talking and listening to God. Prayer is not a monologue of asking God to bless us, but a dialogue between two people—one human, one divine.

Much of our prayer time can be “wordless” (not spoken out loud or framed with traditional words). “Word prayers” are valid, and an essential part of our prayer life—but do not constitute all of it. Personal time with God is not limited to talking to Him, but is also reading His Word, quietly listening and then writing key words or thoughts that come to mind. So, we talk, read, listen, and write.

You may ask, “How to do I start? In my personal time, what do I talk to God about?”

Talk to God about something He loves to talk about: His Word. King David did this in Psalm 119, consistently using the phrase in his many petitions, “according to your Word, Lord.” God’s Word transcends Heaven and Earth. When men pray, their words are released into the spirit realm, creating agreements in the Kingdom of Heaven.¹⁰

Your personal time with God will continue to flourish and grow if you understand one key way in which God answers prayers, which is consistent with His nature and ways. Many times when we go to God to remove a problem, He chooses not to remove the problem, but rather to give us Heaven’s perspective of it.

We can often pray from a wrong perspective and with false expectations. Problems can dominate our personal time with God. This confused state confounds and discourages us when we don’t receive expected answers, and we wind up accusing God of being aloof, or worse, uncaring.

Seeing those problems from God’s perspective is the key to staying in the game in your prayer time. Problems are designed to drive you to God’s purpose. What God does not send on purpose, He uses for His purpose. The best way to hear God is to see your problem through the perspective of His nature.

Effective spiritual weapons require effective spiritual strategies. And that’s what the Power of 4 does for you. It gives you a weekly strategy and weekly accountability to the Word of God.

Man of God, there is a feeling that you have sensed all your life. This feeling has a voice that gives hints of who you really are and what you are meant for. The voice starts with a most gentle invitation, “Come and talk with me.”¹¹ It never pulls or pushes and is passionately patient. Your response to this voice determines your destiny.

The Power of 4 in your life will change you forever, because that’s just what the Word does. The Word brings life because of what THE Word (Jesus) did on the Cross for you and me. Jesus IS the Power that is able to transform your life through the four touches of God’s Word. My brother, please know that Biblical men are not consistently great, but great at being consistent.

**Biblical men are not
consistently great,
but great at being
consistent.**



YOUR ASSIGNMENT

1. **Watch Session #3 Video** with your team.
2. **After the video**, and with your team, complete the fill-in-the blank sentences provided (answer key is in the back of manual).
3. **Next, turn to the MISSION BRIEF** section and follow the instructions for your team activity and discussion time.

TRAINING AT HOME

1. **“Training in Truth”** (daily Scripture verses)
2. **“Prayer Journal”** (read, write, and pray)
3. **Read “Introduction”** section for the next session

After watching the video for this session, complete the fill-in-the-blank sentences with your group.

JESUS CHRIST – DOMINATING THE BATTLE IN THE DESERT

Jesus _____ (1) the devil’s attack.

Jesus _____ (2) the devil’s temptation.

Jesus _____ (3) with the Word of God.

When faced with each temptation, Jesus retaliated by quoting Scripture. He replied three times, saying, _____ (4) (Matthew 4:4,7,10). Jesus started and ended His ministry on Earth pointing us to the Scriptures.

Can a man truly believe in Jesus Christ and not believe in what Jesus says about Scripture’s reliability? To believe in Jesus Christ as

Lord and Savior and not in the Bible creates a _____ (5) in a man’s faith.

A man’s first choice of weaponry is the Word of God. The Word of God is called the “Sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12). To fight for freedom, a man must pick up his sword. That sword—the Bible—is inspired, inerrant, infallible, inherent, and _____ (6) from God Himself.

In a survey of more than 50,000 Christian men, 50 percent said they still struggle with fear, anxious thoughts, and feeling spiritually stagnant.

The Center for Bible Engagement® found that there was little to no difference between those who engaged their Bible three times per week than those who did not read the Bible at all.

It appears we Christian men have not only a belief problem, but a _____ (7) problem.

BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW:

If you believe that the Bible is...

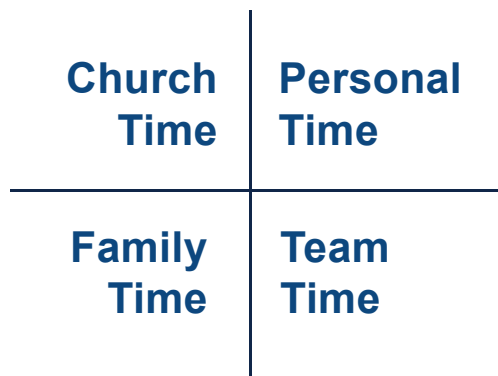
INSPIRED,
INERRANT,
INFALLIBLE, AND
INHERENT TO AND
INSEPARABLE FROM GOD HIMSELF...

...you possess a biblical worldview.



THE POWER OF 4

Why read or listen to the Bible four times each week? According to research conducted by Back to the Bible's Center for Bible Engagement,^{®12} those who engage the Bible four or more times per week experience life much differently than those who don't! Indeed, statistics show a much higher level of health and stability, despite life's constant challenges.



Those who DON'T read or listen to Scripture at least four times a week are much more likely to:

- Experience feelings of fear and anxiousness
- Engage in sex outside of marriage
- Habitually get drunk
- Experience destructive and toxic thinking

The _____ (8) is in God's Word. The plan is four _____ (9) a week. A "touch" is an opportunity to read or listen to Scripture while reflecting and responding in some manner.

A man's _____ (10) time with God is his most important touch.

- He **prays** by talking to God.
- He **pours** out his heart to God (even the ugly).
- He seeks God's **purpose** in his problems.
- He asks God for Heaven's _____ (11).
- He waits patiently for God's peace.

The degree of a man's spiritual integrity is in direct proportion to his personal time alone with God.

MISSION BRIEF

SPIRITUAL INVENTORY: HOW AM I DOING?

“Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don’t drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need first-hand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it.” (2 Corinthians 13:5, MSG)

Pray, then answer the two questions below:

Which weekly touch of the Word (Power of 4) do you feel you fulfill best? (circle one)

Church Time	Personal Time
Family Time	Team Time



Which touch, if increased or added to your faith, do you think would result in more of God’s power and peace in your life? (circle one)

Church Time	Personal Time
Family Time	Team Time



Break into teams of three to five men. Discuss with your team which one of the four touches needs to be increased or added to your life and why.

TRAINING IN TRUTH

(TO BE COMPLETED AT HOME)

PICK UP YOUR SWORD SCRIPTURES

As you study the Bible verses:

1. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through the Word of God. (Hebrews 4:12)
2. Read the Bible verse aloud. (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2-3)
3. Meditate—think upon it. Ask God about it and wait. (Psalm 119:15)
4. Each day, write two words that come to mind for each verse.
5. Check off the corresponding box to the verse(s) you just read.

DAY 1

*“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, ‘**If You are the Son of God**, command that these stones become bread.’ But He answered and said, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:1-4, NASB)*

“It is written . . . It is written . . . It is written.”
(Matthew 4:4,7,10)

Key Words: _____

DAY 2

“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17)

*“For the word of God is alive and active. **Sharper than any double-edged sword**, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*
(Hebrews 4:12, NIV)

Key Words: _____

DAY 3

“Have you not read?” (Jesus Christ, Matthew 19:4)

Jesus replied, “Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God.” (Matthew 22:29, NLT)

* Bold - emphasis added



"Is not my word like fire," declares the Lord, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"
(Jeremiah 23:29, NIV)

Key Words: _____

DAY 4

... not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."
(Hebrews 10:25, NASB)

"Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit." (Hebrews 13:17, NLT)

"Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other."
(1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, NLT)

Key Words: _____

DAY 5

"My heart has heard you say, 'Come and talk with me.' And my heart responds, 'Lord, I am coming.'"
(Psalm 27:8, NLT)

"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." (Jeremiah 29:12, NIV)

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. (1 John 5:14-15, NIV)

Key Words: _____

DAY 6

"I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare my trouble before Him." (Psalm 142:2, NASB)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."
(Philippians 4:6, NIV)

"Let him have all your worries and cares, for he is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you." (1 Peter 5:7, TLB)

Key Words: _____

DAY 7

"Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:8-10, ESV)

"From the end of the earth I will cry to You; when my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the rock that is higher than I." (Psalm 61:2, NKJV)

Key Words: _____

X _____
Team - Sign Off
(Any man in your group may sign off.)

**Bold - emphasis added

PRAYER JOURNAL

TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO PRAY THIS PRAYER:

Lord, thank You for sending Jesus to set me free. According to Your Word, Father, teach me now how to guard my heart using the Word, which You call the Sword of the Spirit. Jesus affirmed that Your Word is inseparable from You, dear God. Holy Spirit, when I doubt, remind me to pick up my sword as Jesus did.

Empower me to submit to Your Word through Your Church and our leaders. Open my heart to hear Your wisdom from family or friends that affirm and speak Your Word.

Lord, you say, "Come and talk with Me," and my heart responds, saying, "Lord, I am coming." So I pray and pour my heart and its worries out to You. You already know me better than I know myself. Lead me to a rock that is higher than I, that I may see Your perspective and purpose for my life.

A Man's Prayer of Affirmation (read out loud)

Abba Father, I am a godly man whom You have separated for Yourself (Psalm 4:3). According to Your Word, I lay my requests before You each day and wait like a soldier ready for Your answer (Psalm 5:3).

The Peace of God that passes all understanding will guard my heart and mind in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7). I intentionally choose to spend personal time with You each day, Lord.

I am by Your Holy Spirit empowered to do so! I am a consistent man in Your Word of Life, which has set me free. I pick up my sword each day to protect the freedom You came to give me.

THIS WEEK

God, I ask that You (write your specific request):

I surrender my concerns and worries about (write the specific source of concern):

Father, what aspect about You should I focus on today, so that I may know You better? (Write your impressions below. What do you feel God is saying to you?)



SESSION FOUR

A MAN OF ORDER IN A WORLD OF CHAOS: THE FAMILY MISSION

Mission-driven men are commissioned with the Holy Spirit to use the Power of 4 to create a Christ-centered family.

INTRODUCTION

The biblical account in Genesis of Earth's first recorded marriage reveals one of creation's greatest wonders: the marital oneness Adam and Eve shared in the Garden. Yet, biblical history finds no more tragic a fall from grace than that same relationship. God gave Adam and Eve free will, and with that same free will, they chose disobedience. At the Creation, God took Earth's chaotic disorder and created order. Later Adam took God's order and created chaotic disorder.

God gave Adam and Eve a world with divine authority, purpose, and order. The order was God first, then Adam and Eve. Adam disordered God's order placing EVE first, then ADAM, and GOD last. The problem was not that Adam listened to Eve. The problem was that Adam did not listen to *God*. The responsibility, that Adam and Eve were given to guard, (Continue reading through page 46.)



When a man is out of place, his wife is misplaced, his children are displaced, and God is replaced.³

guide, and govern within God’s ordained governmental structure, was compromised. It was called sin then, and still is today. Even in today’s Church, so many men’s lives are out of order because their *loves* are disordered.

With this in mind, our family relationships and our responsibilities relating to God’s Word will be the focus of this session. (Note, the importance of family time in the Word is just as vital for the single man as for the married man.) As you can see in The Power of 4 diagram below, we have four quadrants representing time spent in the Word:



The fourth weekly touch of God is **family time**, taking place in your home with those closest to you. Let’s begin with how we are to biblically regard and relate to one another in our home, starting with the marriage relationship. In Ephesians 5, we read, “...submit to one another

out of reverence for Christ. For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord . . . For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her . . .”¹

“Submission” is a word that may strike unnecessary fear and confusion in the hearts of women and men alike, depending on to whom it’s applied. The word “submit” in the original Greek is *hypotasso*, an ancient term for a military general arranging soldiers in the “best order, to accomplish the strategic objective; ‘to arrange under one’s authority,’ in order to execute a mission.”² “Submit,” then, in this context isn’t about exercising control over someone else; rather, it is a call for man to order himself and his family according to God’s Word.

Biblical submission doesn’t involve any inequality between parties, because Jesus submitted to the Father every day of His life on Earth. It’s not something a wife steps down to, but it’s something that both a husband and a wife, together, step up to before God. Mutual submission is not an act of weakness, but an exercise in humility and love.

Since we are in a study for men, let’s focus here on our own part. The Apostle Paul exhorts us in his letter to the Ephesian church by saying, “For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her . . .” This is where we must start—with ourselves.

How could we expect anyone, no less a wife, to submit to a husband who does not spiritually submit *himself*, first to God, and to God's authorities in his life? Wives have faith in husbands who have faith in God. Period. A wife is more likely to submit to the irresistible glory of God when it is reflected by her husband. When a man does not submit to God, meaning God's Word and authority in his life, he is out of order.

Paul goes on in the Ephesians passage to explain, "For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church."⁴ Here, Paul exhorts men to fully accept their God-given responsibility to model Christlike love, starting with their wives. Paul goes on to say, "In the same way (as Christ laid down His life for the Church), husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church."⁵

Note that only a person with a designated role can accept its responsibility. This verse tells us that the husband and father has the responsibility to be the "spiritual head" of the family. Headship, like sonship, is a position of the new man in Christ—sonship upon conversion, headship upon matrimony. This is initiated by God as a position, but activated by the man's obedience. He must have set in his mind that he will lead in gentleness and love. Gentleness always errs on the side of grace. This gentle leadership is strength under control. It is not passive, but kind and yielding to wisdom.⁶

Responsibility in any leadership role—family or otherwise—can be approached in three degrees, which are applicable not only with our families but with life in general. The first is **exclusive responsibility**, which says, "If I don't do it, nobody will." The second is **primary responsibility**, which says, "If I don't do it, I am still bound to see that it gets done." The third is **mutual responsibility**, which says, "If I don't get it done, someone else will." Let's give some quick examples here of each:

In the family context, **exclusive responsibility** for a man includes loving his wife and fathering his children, in that order. No one else should or can ever do that for him.

It is the **primary responsibility** of the man to establish and uphold the priority of the Word of God into his home. No matter which spouse is equipped with greater biblical knowledge per se, the responsibility remains that of the man to ensure that regular family discipleship happens.

Mutual responsibility shares responsibility with others. (This may work successfully at your job, but not in teaching the Word and godly values to your children!)



“But,” you may ask, “*how* does man love his wife as Christ loved the Church? What does it *look* like?” My friend, Dr. A.R. Bernard, illustrated this point when he told the story of how, when he told his wife Karen of his appreciation and undivided love for her, she smiled and asked, “Why do you love me?”

Dr. Bernard replied, “For no reason.” He went on to share with her the many things he admired about her, but he repeated, “I love you for no reason.” Dr. Bernard knew THAT truth carried more weight and witness to his love for her than to list all the things that he admired her for. What Dr. Bernard was saying to his wife was that his love for her was not conditional on any one thing about her that may change, but that it was unconditional and existed for no specific reason other than because of his covenant love for her.

Covenant love is an agreement more binding than any contract, yet more loving than any human emotion. It is a stunning blend of law and love, of duty and desire.⁷

Jesus Christ loves the Church three ways. He loves her unconditionally, sacrificially, and redemptively. A man is to love his wife as Christ loved the Church in three ways as well: unconditionally, sacrificially, and redemptively.

He *unconditionally* loves her by refusing to judge her weaknesses and faults. An insecure and self-centered man views his wife’s weakness as though it is a negative reflection on his manhood.

He *sacrificially* loves her by re-ordering his life and preferences for hers. Jesus sacrificially gave up His will for Father God’s will and, thankfully, what was best for us. Why? Because that’s what love does. Love looks to benefit another at the expense of self.

Lastly, like Christ, he *redemptively* loves her by rescuing her from trouble, sadness, and fear. The word “savior” in Ephesians 5:23, also defined as “redeemer,”⁸ speaks to this quality.

Mission-driven men are commissioned with the Holy Spirit to use the Power of 4 to create a Christ-centered family. The Power of 4 is a helpful framework to consistently make the Word a priority in our lives.

The power of each touch is Christ and His Word. By His love and Spirit, we guide our families by our own example, and by establishing the priority of God’s Word, grace, and unconditional love in our home. Let us press into this God-given responsibility .



YOUR ASSIGNMENT

1. **Watch Session #4 Video** with your team.
2. **After the video**, and with your team, complete the fill-in-the blank sentences provided (answer key is in the back of manual).
3. **Next, turn to the MISSION BRIEF** section and follow the instructions for your team activity and discussion time.

TRAINING AT HOME

1. **“Training in Truth”** (daily Scripture verses)
2. **“Prayer Journal”** (read, write, and pray)
3. **Read “Introduction”** section for the next session

After watching the video for this session, complete the fill-in-the-blank sentences with your group.

In Genesis, we read the account of how Adam wrongly placed agreement with his wife above agreement with God. The problem was not that Adam listened to Eve. The problem was that Adam did *not* listen to God.

Similarly, many men's lives are out of _____ (1) because their loves are disordered. When a man is out of order, his wife is misplaced, children are displaced, and God is re-



placed. To the extent that we keep our own lives, loves, and priorities in order, our households, too, will be in order. That's where "The Power of 4" comes in.

The Power of 4 is found in four touches in the Word of God per week. These Four Touches are **Church Time, Personal Time, Team Time and _____ (2) Time** in the Word. There is no greater legacy a man

can leave to those closest to him than the truths and principles mined from the Word of God.

UNDERSTANDING BIBLICAL SUBMISSION

"Biblical submission" can also be expressed as "equality in order." Similarly, Christlike "headship" is the acceptance of responsibility, not superiority. The responsibility God gives a man is to _____ (3), guide, and govern what has been entrusted to him.⁹ The degree of _____ (4) a man accepts is in proportion to the maturity he walks in, for "maturity does not come with age, but with the _____ (5) of responsibility.¹⁰ Every man has three degrees of responsibility to his family, as well as to those closest to him; these are:

_____ (6) responsibility

_____ (7) responsibility

_____ (8) responsibility





How a man speaks and treats those closest to him is how he would run the world if it were his to run."¹⁴

life and rights for hers. He redemptively loves her when he _____ (15) her from trouble, sadness, and fear.

Another analogy of a covenant love expressed in marriage is that found in the story of Boaz and Ruth, in the Old Testament book of Ruth. Boaz, who was a distant relative or “kinsman” to Ruth, redeemed her and established himself as her protector and provider (and so was a type of Christ). Similarly, husbands are to be the “kinsman-redeemer” to their wives and children. This is how a husband loves his wife “as Christ loved the Church.” I believe that as Boaz gave Ruth a place of honor and dignity, so husbands have the opportunity to “wash the daily dust” of life off their wives and children with the Word of God.

Of course, this necessitates that we be IN the Word on a daily basis! When God’s Word is not in

_____ (16) place, a man is out of place, his wife is misplaced, his children displaced, and God is replaced.

A man’s relationship with his wife is based on covenant love, which is an agreement more binding than any contract, yet more loving than any human emotion. It is a stunning blend of law and love, duty and grace. God designed for men to love their wives with a _____ (9) love through oneness in marriage, as Jesus Christ loves the Church.¹¹

Jesus loves His bride, the Church, in three ways:

_____ (10)

_____ (11)

_____ (12)¹²

A man unconditionally loves his wife when he _____ (13) to judge her weakness and fault. He sacrificially loves her when he _____ (14) his

MISSION BRIEF

The degree of responsibility a man accepts is in proportion to the maturity he walks in, because maturity does not come with age, but with the acceptance of responsibility.¹³

THREE DEGREES OF RESPONSIBILITY: A MAN'S ROLE

- **Exclusive Responsibility:** "If I don't do it, no one else will."
- **Primary Responsibility:** "If I don't do it, I'm still bound to see that it gets done."
- **Mutual Responsibility:** "If I don't do it, someone else will."

Question to think about:

What degree of responsibility would you assign the following areas of your life?

Exclusive Responsibility = "E"
Primary Responsibility = "P"
Mutual Responsibility = "M"

Write the letter of your choice at the end of each sentence:

To know and love God personally, growing closer to Him _____

Covering my wife with prayer and washing her with the Word _____

Teaching my children the Word of God (Family devotions) _____

Providing moral guidance and discipline for my children/grandchildren _____

Providing materially/financially for my family _____

Protecting the home and family _____

Serving God through my church or ministry _____

Giving generously to the work of Christ _____



Break into teams of three to five men. Discuss with your team which one responsibility needs greater attention in your life.



TRAINING IN TRUTH

(TO BE COMPLETED AT HOME)

A MAN OF ORDER SCRIPTURES

As you study the Bible verses:

1. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through the Word of God. (Hebrews 4:12)
2. Read the Bible verse aloud. (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2-3)
3. Meditate—think upon it. Ask God about it and wait. (Psalm 119:15)
4. Each day, write two words that come to mind for each verse.
5. Check off the corresponding box to the verse(s) you just read.

DAY 1

*“So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, ‘This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called “woman,” for she was taken out of man.’ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become **one flesh**.” (Genesis 2:21-24, NIV)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 2

*“**Submit** to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, **submit** yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:21-22, NIV)*

*“For the husband is the **head** of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church **submits** to Christ, so also wives should **submit** to their husbands in everything.” (Ephesians 5:23-24, NIV)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 3

*“Husbands, **love your wives, just as Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the **washing with water through the word**, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to **love their wives as their own bodies**. He who loves his wife **loves himself**.” (Ephesians 5:25-28, NIV)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 4

“He said: ‘LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way.’” (2 Chronicles 6:14, NIV)

* Bold - emphasis added

*“Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life. I will make an everlasting **covenant** with you. I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David.” (Isaiah 55:3, NLT)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 5

*“Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood. For **your Maker is your husband**—the Lord Almighty is his name—the Holy One of Israel is your **Redeemer**; he is called the God of all the earth.” (Isaiah 54:4-5, NIV)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 6

*“Fathers, don’t stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the **training and instruction of the Lord**.” (Ephesians 6:4, HCSB)*

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-9, ESV)

Key Words: _____

DAY 7

*“He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will **gently lead** the mother sheep with their young.” (Isaiah 40:11, NLT)*

*“But if anyone does not **provide for his own**, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Timothy 5:8, NASB)*

Key Words: _____

X _____

Team - Sign Off

(Any man in your group may sign off.)



THE PROVERBS 31 MAN PRAYER JOURNAL

THIS WEEK

THE FAMILY BLESSING

As men, it's important to create a standard of encouragement in our homes. Bless (*eulogeo*, in the Greek) each member of your household with God's words to build them up. **Read the "Priestly Blessing" in Numbers 6:24-26 and consider saying this prayer for your wife and family daily for 30 days.**

TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO PRAY THIS PRAYER:

Father, I love You and give You praise for caring about my family's faith and my mission to lead them as the spiritual head of my home. Thank You for reminding me of my oneness with my wife.

Lord, lead me and guide me in the responsibility to spend more time in the Word each week with my family. As you told Moses and Moses told Aaron to pray a blessing over Israel, I pray Your Name over my family so that You may bless them, Lord.¹⁵

"Nothing is more appealing than speaking beautiful, life-giving words, for they release sweetness to our soul and inner healing to our spirit." (Proverbs 16:24, TPT)

The Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace.

(Numbers 6:24-26, NASB)

THE PROVERBS 31 MAN

A Proverbs 31 man leads and blesses his wife and family with words of affirmation. Read Proverbs 31:28-29, written about a wife of a man who verbally blesses and honors his noble woman.

What ways could you further bless and be an example to your family of God's love through the Word to build their faith?

Write your answers on the lines below (e.g., model "thankfulness" by always saying grace before eating or asking a family member to do so; model "dependence on God" by pulling the family together for prayer in times of trouble and sickness):



SESSION FIVE S.E.A.L. TEAM: A BAND OF BROTHERS

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
(John 13:34-35, NIV)

INTRODUCTION

We begin in Mark 2:1-5, the passage I like to call “Friendship of the Mat.” When Jesus returned to Capernaum, the news spread quickly that he was back home. Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside.

While he was preaching God’s Word, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn’t bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they opened a hole in the roof above Jesus’ head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. **Seeing their faith**, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “My child, your sins are forgiven.”¹ Their loyal faith made their friend whole, as Jesus instructed him to stand, pick up his mat, and go home—healed!

(Continue reading through page 58.)

What type of faith did this band of brothers have that did not distract Jesus, but attracted His gaze? Maybe their faith alone was not what attracted Jesus.

The man came before Jesus carried on a mat—and walked out carrying his mat in his arms.

The Bible frequently mentions how vital friendship is to our freedom, and how rewarding it can be in our lives. Why then are Christian men, generally speaking, not more intentional in its pursuit?

The writer of Proverbs affirms this tendency and offers a warning, saying, “Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.”² Did you get that? Isolation leads to an unhealthy mind; one that likely will make wrong decisions. It’s an epidemic that starts with isolation, then progresses to the social disease called loneliness, for a lonely man is not one who does not know anybody, but one who nobody knows. My friend, men are as sick as their secrets and as healthy as the friendships they build and sustain. **Our goal in this session is to uncover the value of godly friendship and provide a simple blueprint to intentionally pursue it.**

In 1 Samuel, we find David hitting the height of stardom as the Michael Jordan of the Israelite Army. There was just one problem. King Saul viewed David’s success and popularity with the evil eye of envy. Saul’s jealousy led him to attempt to kill David. This drove David into the wilderness to hide with only one person, one loyal friend: the heir to Israel’s throne, Saul’s son, Jonathan.

*“Jonathan, Saul’s son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and **strengthened his hand in God**. And he said to him, ‘**Do not fear**, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. **You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you**. Saul my father also knows this.’ And the two of them made a **covenant** before the LORD. David remained at Horesh and Jonathan went home.”³*

Jonathan engaged David in the four ways every great friend and ally does when his brother is hurting and fearful. He **strengthened** David’s hand in the Lord; not in and of himself, but in the Lord. He did this by **encouraging** David, confirming God’s promise to David, saying “You will be King!” He also **admonished** David’s fear-driven mind, saying “Do not fear,” and replaced it with a faith-driven mindset. Lastly, Jonathan sacrificially **loved** David by first risking his life in going to him and willingly giving up his rightful place as king. Jonathan strengthened, encouraged, admonished, and loved David.

The Apostle Paul gave instructions regarding the same four ways of brotherly love, here recorded in 1 Thessalonians in the Amplified Bible: “Therefore, **encourage** one another and edify (**strengthen**) one another, just as you are doing. And we earnestly beseech you, brethren, **admonish** (warn and seriously advise) those who are out of line [the loafers, the disorderly, and the unruly]; **encourage** the timid *and* fainthearted, help *and* give your support to the weak souls, [and] be very patient with everybody [always keeping your temper].”⁴ Paul seals it in his letter to the Romans, saying, “**Love** one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”⁵

In summary, brothers are to:

- **Strengthen** one another
- **Encourage** one another
- **Admonish** one another
- **Love** one another

We have taken the first letter of each of the four ways to express brotherly love and created the acronym “S.E.A.L.” to represent a small group of Christian men who put these four ways of masculine friendship into practice. We call this band of brothers a “S.E.A.L. Team.”⁶ S.E.A.L. Team is a brotherhood that will *accept you, relate to you, and sustain you* with permission to fight the good fight.

The first letter in the S.E.A.L. Team acronym stands for STRENGTHEN. A S.E.A.L. Team brother *sustains and supports* his friends through times of trial. He bears up his brother’s burden like it is his. This is the strength of oneness and unity that Jesus prayed for you and me in the Gospel of John.⁷ John Piper has said, “Every Christian group that exists ought to exist to strengthen each other’s hands in God and not in man.”⁸ We are to point the weak and struggling man to God whose divine strength is made perfect in man’s weakness.

Secondly, a S.E.A.L. is to ENCOURAGE by edifying and esteeming other men. How? By building and speaking words of life and destiny. To honor a man with a word is to instill courage. Your words of encouragement may be the only thing that stand between another brother’s discouragement and his divine destiny.

**Brotherhood takes
a man to a place he
will not go to on
his own.**

David, the poet warrior, is listed among the greats of biblical faith. Yet he still needed to be encouraged. Jonathan said to David, “You will be King.” Jonathan gave David permission to believe God again. That’s what brothers do. We remind each other what God has said and promised.

Thirdly, the letter “A” in S.E.A.L. stands for ADMONISH. A S.E.A.L. admonishes his brother by *appraising and then appealing* to the man’s habits and thinking. He is to put in place a Biblical pattern of thinking and principles. Paul confirms this practice, saying, “Concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to *admonish one another.*”⁹

It is interesting to note that the word “admonish” in the original Greek language was a compound word from the words “mind,” and “to put; place.” *It actually means* “to put in mind.”¹⁰ Paul used this word for instruction, teaching, and correction in sound doctrine. We are to put into our brother’s mind a pattern of godly thinking.

Many versions of the Bible use the word “warn” instead of the word “admonish.” It is an accurate definition, but *how* we warn a man is key. Admonishment should never be a large part of a S.E.A.L.’s



Condemnation
punishes a man
for his past,
but correction
prepares him
for his future.

relationship. It should only be engaged when you notice potential patterns and habits of speech that may lead to sin. We define sin in this context: any thinking, speaking, or action that may hinder the flow of the Holy Spirit in a man's life.

We all need a few guys who will not condemn us, but who are willing to correct us when needed, for, while condemnation punishes a

man for his past, correction prepares him for his future. A man will never grow beyond his ability to receive correction

The **fourth and final way a S.E.A.L. Team brother operates in is LOVE.** The Apostle Paul tells us that the love of God brings freedom. The brotherhood of God helps to maintain that freedom in a man's life.¹¹ Jonathan "loved David as himself,"¹² which empowered Jonathan to risk his life by submitting his needs to David's anointing to be the next King of Israel. The love we are speaking of here is a battle-worn, brotherly love that abides in the "agape zone of sacrificial living" for one another.

Man of God, a S.E.A.L. Team will give you the permission needed to take some mountains for God and family. Permission comes from an intimate ally, a friend, or small group sewn together by each member's need and desire to grow in Christ. God intends for us to weave our lives together. The Bible calls this "fellowship." WE call it S.E.A.L. TEAM! **To hear and see Christ, we need to hear and see our brothers in Christ, for men who seek to know God's will must seek men who know God well.**

Men who
seek to
know God's
will must
seek men
who know
God well.





YOUR ASSIGNMENT

1. **Watch Session #5 Video** with your team.
2. **After the video**, and with your team, complete the fill-in-the blank sentences provided (answer key is in the back of manual).
3. **Next, turn to the MISSION BRIEF** section and follow the instructions for your team activity and discussion time.

TRAINING AT HOME

1. **“Training in Truth”** (daily Scripture verses)
2. **“Prayer Journal”** (read, write, and pray)
3. **Read “Introduction”** section for the next session

After watching the video for this session, complete the fill-in-the-blank sentences with your group.

_____ (1) takes a man to a place he will not go to on his own.

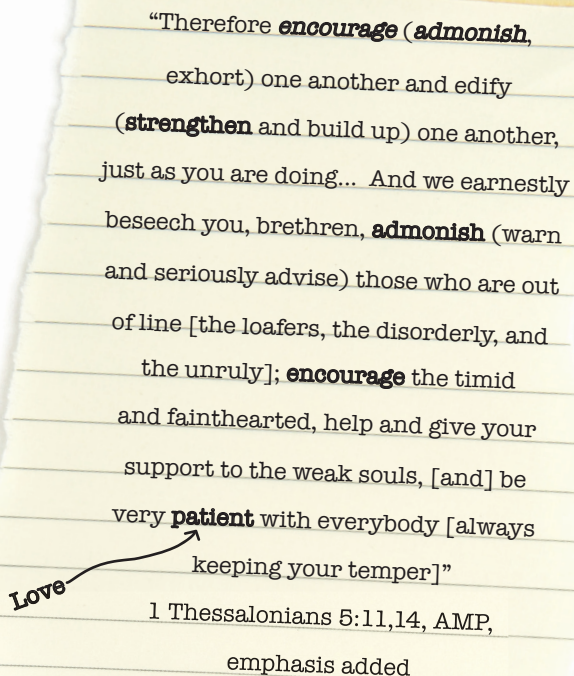
Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.
(Proverbs 18:1, ESV)

“A _____ (2) man is not one who does not know anybody but one who nobody knows.”

Your mission will take you into areas of life that may reveal a fervent faith as well as feelings of frustration and failure. Both are a normal part of your spiritual journey. We have found that this road is best traveled with a team of other men. We call this band of brothers a “S.E.A.L. Team.”

S.E.A.L. stands for “Strengthen, Encourage, Admonish, and Love.” A S.E.A.L. Team is comprised of two to four other men (three to five in total) who will walk with you through this mission. It’s a brotherhood that will *accept you, relate to you, and sustain you* as you fight the good fight. You will hold each other accountable to the work you will be asked to engage in at home each week.

In the Scriptures, we read that “Jonathan, Saul’s son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and **strengthened his hand in God**. And he said to him, ‘**Do not fear**, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. **You shall be king** over Israel, and **I shall be next to you**. Saul my father also knows this.’ And the two of them made a **covenant** before the LORD. David remained at Horesh, and Jonathan went home” (1 Samuel 23:16-18, ESV, emphasis added).



“Therefore **encourage** (**admonish**, exhort) one another and edify (**strengthen** and build up) one another, just as you are doing... And we earnestly beseech you, brethren, **admonish** (warn and seriously advise) those who are out of line [the loafers, the disorderly, and the unruly]; **encourage** the timid and fainthearted, help and give your support to the weak souls, [and] be very **patient** with everybody [always keeping your temper]”
1 Thessalonians 5:11,14, AMP,
emphasis added

Love →

A S.E.A.L. covers his brothers in hand, head, habits, and heart. He is to:

STRENGTHEN: *a man's hand in the Lord* by becoming one with him. The Hebrew word for strengthen, *chazak*, means “cling to, uphold, join to, cleave to, straighten, restore, [to become one with]” (see 1 Samuel 23:16). *Rak Chazak* is an Ancient Hebrew war cry meaning _____ (3) and Courageous.

ENCOURAGE: *a man's heart* by building him up in the Lord, by speaking the promises of God, and by honoring him with words (see Ephesians 4:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews: 3:13).

ADMONISH: *a man's habits* by appealing to him, and by putting in place a pattern of biblical thinking and principle (see Romans 15:14; Ephesians 4:15).

LOVE: *a man* with your sacrifice of time, treasure, and talent for your team—brotherhood (see John 15:13; Romans 15:7; 1 Corinthians 13:4; Hebrews 13:1).

“Condemnation punishes a man for his past, but _____ (4) prepares him for his future.”

A S.E.A.L. Team Member loves his friend in four ways (see Romans 15:7; Galatians 6:2; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:14). He:

Strengthens by _____ (5) his brother's burden. He is his brother's keeper!

Encourages by _____ (6) words of hope, promise, and destiny to him, as God is the promise keeper.

Admonishes by _____ (7) patterns of behavior that may lead to potential trouble and sin.

Loves by _____ (8) his brother, but not his standard for sin.

Jesus said, “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”¹³ This is only one of over 50 “one anothers” in the Bible: they all refer to individuals coming together “as one.” This speaks to unity, commitment, and selfless devotion.

"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10, ESV).



MISSION BRIEF

**Mediocre men want authority
without accountability.
They want respect without
responsibility.**

Instructions:

1. Read the quotes below.
2. Circle your choice below each quote.

“Accountability will not provide all you need, but you need all it provides.”

- (1) *Disagree* (2) *Somewhat agree*
(3) *Agree* (4) *Strongly Agree*

“A lonely man is not one who does not know anybody, but a man whom nobody knows.”

- (1) *Disagree* (2) *Somewhat agree*
(3) *Agree* (4) *Strongly Agree*

“Men who seek to know God’s will, must seek men who know God well.”

- (1) *Disagree* (2) *Somewhat agree*
(3) *Agree* (4) *Strongly Agree*

“Brotherhood takes a man to a place, he will not go to on his own.”

- (1) *Disagree* (2) *Somewhat agree*
(3) *Agree* (4) *Strongly Agree*

“A believer’s most dangerous association is not the unbeliever, but the believer who lives like an unbeliever.”

- 1) *Disagree* (2) *Somewhat agree*
(3) *Agree* (4) *Strongly Agree*

“No greater love has any man than to put his own needs in submission to that of another’s.”

- (1) *Disagree* (2) *Somewhat agree*
(3) *Agree* (4) *Strongly Agree*

“Encourage each other **every day** while you have the opportunity. If you do this, none of you will be **deceived** by sin and become stubborn.” (Hebrews 3:13, GW, emphasis added)

“Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another.”
(Proverbs 27:17, NASB)

Think about the accountability questions below. Circle the three (3) questions that you think would be the most helpful in your faith and life if you were asked by a Christian brother each month.

- (1) Have you been able to get **personal time** alone with God?
- (2) Have you prioritized time with **your family**?
- (3) Have you been praying with or for **your wife and children**?
- (4) Have you been attending **church**?
- (5) What has been dominating **your thinking lately**?
- (6) Has your mind been “**wondering**” and eyes “**wandering**” lately?
- (7) Is there something that we can **pray** about together?

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT

Which one of the questions circled above would be most important to you?

Why? _____

Do you have anybody in your life asking questions like the ones above? Who?



Break into teams of three to five men. Discuss with your team one accountability question of your choice

TRAINING IN TRUTH

(TO BE COMPLETED AT HOME)

S.E.A.L. TEAM SCRIPTURES

As you study the Bible verses:

1. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through the Word of God. (Hebrews 4:12)
2. Read the Bible verse aloud. (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2-3)
3. Meditate—think upon it. Ask God about it and wait. (Psalm 119:15)
4. Each day, write two words that come to mind for each verse.
5. Check off the corresponding box to the verse(s) you just read.

DAY 1

*“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in **unity**! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.” (Psalm 133:1-3b, ESV)*

*“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love **serve one another**. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Galatians 5:13-14, ESV)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 2

*“Whoever **isolates** himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.” (Proverbs 18:1, ESV)*

*“A man of too many friends comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks **closer than a brother**.” (Proverbs 18:24, NASB)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 3

*“Love one another with brotherly affection. **Outdo one another** in showing honor.” (Romans 12:10, ESV)*

*“Iron sharpens iron, so one man **sharpens** another.” (Proverbs 27:17, NASB)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 4

*“And Jonathan, Saul’s son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and **strengthened his hand in God**. And he said to him, ‘Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul my father also knows this.’ And the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. David remained at Horesh, and Jonathan went home.” (1 Samuel 23:16-18, ESV)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 5

*“Therefore **encourage one another** and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV)*

“When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need—words that will help others become stronger. Then what you say will do good to those who listen to you.” (Ephesians 4:29, NCV)

*“But **encourage one another** daily, as long as it is called ‘Today,’ so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.” (Hebrews 3:13, NIV)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 6

*“And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to **admonish one another.**”(Romans 15:14, NASB)*

*“Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should **gently and humbly** help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.” (Galatians 6:1, NLT)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 7

*“**Greater love** has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13, RSV)*

*“A new command I give you: **Love one another.** As I have loved you, so you must **love one another.** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you **love one another.**” (John 13:34-35, NIV)*

Key Words: _____

X _____
Team - Sign Off
(Any man in your group may sign off.)



PRAYER JOURNAL

TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO PRAY THIS PRAYER:

Jesus, I pray in agreement with the words You spoke, which say:

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.” (John 17:20-23, NLT)

Lord, thank You for inviting me into oneness—a relationship of unity with You and the Father. I humbly accept this, something only allowed by Your sacrificial death on the cross and Your resurrection. I thank You for commanding blessing upon our oneness as well as my unity with my brothers.¹⁴

Abba, I agree with Your Word that says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”¹⁵ I now see, Father, how badly we need each other. Lord, I want to hear from You and realize how You, at times, speak through a man’s friends. I acknowledge, Lord, that brotherhood can take me to a place that I cannot go to alone. I accept Your call to build my life with a band of brothers.

THIS WEEK

Lord, I ask for wisdom and discernment in recruiting my SEAL Team. Father, bless me with a fellowship that I may grow with in my love for You. Bless us that we may glorify You and be the answer to Your prayer to be one, as You and the Father are One! I pray this in Your name, Jesus.

Father, thank You for providing me with a fellowship of like-minded brothers.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR S.E.A.L. TEAM

Your S.E.A.L. Team, including yourself, should not be less than three (3) and no more than five (5) men. In the spaces provided below, list two to four (2-4) prospective men to pray about including in your team. Upon agreement to the S.E.A.L. Code of Honor (found in Session Six, following), these men may then be counted as a Seal Team brother.

Names of Men to Consider

MISSION MEN

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Theologian, Pastor, Nazi-Resistor, and
Martyr for Christ

"Sin demands to have a man by himself. It withdraws him from the community. The more isolated a person is, the more destructive will be the power of sin over him."
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Dietrich Bonhoeffer is perhaps best known for his opposition to Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich, and for his championing of Christian community ("brotherhood") and the Church as the physical manifestation of Christ on Earth. Stirred by his convictions, Bonhoeffer did not wait until the atrocities of the Nazi regime were made plain before him to start his resistance to Hitler's rule. Bonhoeffer began to publicly speak out against Hitler as early as 1933, when the Nazi party first rose to political power and Hitler was appointed as chancellor.¹⁶

After over a decade of resisting the Nazi regime, through means both covert and explicit, Bonhoeffer was arrested and imprisoned. He spent the final two years of his life in prisons and concentration camps, before being executed for his crimes on April 8th, 1945, just weeks before Hitler's death and the collapse of the Nazi empire.¹⁷ Bonhoeffer faced fierce and dangerous opposition to his person, his career, and his faith, yet he stayed true to his convictions and continued to declare Christ and resist oppression until his dying breath.

MISSION MEN

John Wesley

Preacher and Founder of the Methodist Church

"Faith is a divine evidence and conviction, not only that 'God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,' but also that Christ 'loved me, and gave himself for me.'"
(From *The Scripture Way of Salvation* by John Wesley)

John Wesley, best known for founding the Methodist church, was a young man who was driven and disciplined. He practiced all the religious sacraments of the Church of England and strived to live a sinless life, telling everyone who would listen to repent and turn to Jesus Christ.

John was really good at "being good." But over the years, he encountered Moravian Christians who seemed to glow with the love and peace of God. John realized he lacked this peace and radiant joy. He had been preaching about God's love, but it had only been an intellectual assent to that truth.

One day, at age 35, after hearing preaching on the grace and mercy of God, John had an experience in which he "felt his heart strangely warmed" as he considered the message. For the first time, he realized all the striving for good works and being a religious performance addict could not save him from his sin. He realized for the first time the love God had for him personally, and trusted in Christ alone for his salvation.

That moment changed his life and the course of the history of the Church in England and America. John began to preach the gospel of grace, riding on his horse throughout the countryside. Throngs would come and hear him preach in the fields of England and America about the free gift of salvation and God's love towards them. By the time he died in 1791, he had ridden 250,000 miles on horseback, and the Methodist church he started had 135,000 members and 541 itinerant preachers.



SESSION SIX **CODE OF HONOR:** **HOW TO BUILD BROTHERHOOD**

"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." (Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12, NLT)

INTRODUCTION

Previously on the *The Mission-Driven Man*, we spoke about freedom, your freedom won at the Cross by your Savior, Jesus Christ. We saw Jesus opposed and now know that we are too. We trained ourselves to recognize our enemy's stealth strategy to enslave our souls. We saw how Jesus modeled spiritual warfare with what should be every man's first weapon of choice: the Word of God.

The framework of the Power of 4 showed us that spiritual maturity is most likely to occur if we engage God's Word in four ways each week. We discovered the value of godly friendship and then provided a biblical blueprint to what it looks like.

(Continue reading through page 72.)

We found in Scripture four ways that Christian brothers are to relate to each other. As Jonathan did with David, men are to:

- **Strengthen** one another
- **Encourage** one another
- **Admonish** one another
- **Love** one another

This is how we arrive at the name “S.E.A.L. Team.”

In Session 5, you were trained on what a S.E.A.L. Team is. In this session, your training will give you practical steps on HOW to build and maintain a S.E.A.L. Team of lifelong friendships. Hopefully it will answer some of the questions you have such as:

- Am I ready for a S.E.A.L. Team?
- Where do I start?
- How do I form or join a team?
- What type of men do I look for?

These are all great questions that we will answer in this sixth session, entitled “Code of Honor: How to Build Brotherhood”

HOW TO BUILD GODLY FRIENDSHIPS

Why is the “how to” so vital? Any man can start a friendship, but few know how to sustain one. Author Tim Keller says, “You will not make it in life unless you are great at choosing, forging, and keeping terrific friendships.” This session will help you learn how to choose, forge, and maintain terrific *biblical* friendships.¹

S.E.A.L. Code of Honor provides us with guiding principles for this kind of relationship. The following list can be regarded as a “code of conduct and integrity” to guide you on how

to create and maintain a healthy team of lifelong friends.

Code 1: Count the Cost - Commitment

Jesus, when He was laying down His plan for discipleship, said, “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.”² *Enough of what*, you may ask? Intentionality and commitment! Like in any great endeavor, a S.E.A.L. Team must be a consistent priority in order to be successful.

Code 2: Not Easily Broken - Quantity and Quality

The number and type of men you choose to team up with are vital aspects to the success of not only your S.E.A.L. Team, but your life as a whole. As the author of Ecclesiastes wrote, “A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is *not easily broken*.”³ That is why three should be the minimum as well as five the maximum. A strong team will avoid two extremes when choosing its members. One is the perfect man and the other is the man whose faith is not a priority. The perfect man you already have as a friend. His name is Jesus and there is no other perfect man. Other men might appear to be perfect and even think they have it all together, but that’s not reality. You want to find someone who is more in touch with himself and open to seeing and sharing life with you.

The other side of the coin from the “perfect man” is the one who is a “believer” in name only. **A believer’s most dangerous association is not the unbeliever, but the believer who lives like an unbeliever.**

Code 3: Hold the Line – Leadership

Over the years, we have found that when men start reaping the tremendous fruit of brotherhood, they

tend to loosen their grip on the line of vertical leadership in their life. This leadership is not on your S.E.A.L. Team, but is found in your spiritual mentor or pastor.

There is one thing that your pastor or spiritual mentor possesses that members of your S.E.A.L. Team may not: spiritual authority from God, as well as accountability to God over your soul. Hebrews says, "Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit." ⁴

Code 4: What Happens in S.E.A.L. Team Stays in S.E.A.L. Team - Confidentiality

Confidentiality is one core foundation that creates safety for a man to talk about tough areas of life without fear of it getting out. Proverbs says, "Those who talk about others tell secrets. But those who can be trusted keep things to themselves." ⁵

Code 5: The Gift: Accountability

My friend and mentor, Dr. Edwin Louis Cole, taught me that "mature manhood does not come with age, but with the acceptance of responsibility and agree-

ment to accountability."⁶ We all need watchmen on our wall who may see things we miss on life's battleground. The Apostle Paul confirmed this to the Church, saying to the Corinthians, "So then, each of us will be accountable to God,"⁷ and to the Ephesians, "Therefore, submit to one another."⁸ Simply defined, accountability requires us to give an account of what we agreed to do or not do, and what we actually did and said.

Code 6: Nothing to Hide - Transparency

We men tend to put up walls around our hearts in order to project a strong and faithful front. The paradox is that men connect far greater at the depth of their weakness than at the height of their strength. A good portion of the enemy we are fighting is our pride, and a man cannot win his private war against pride without two things in Christ: humility and friendship. Both seem to weaken pride, as both require submission to other men.

Authentic manhood bears the truth that relational transparency brings healing to the heart and health to the bones. The Apostle James agreed with this, saying, "Confess to one another therefore your faults and pray for one another, that you may be healed *and* restored."⁹

The paradox is that men connect far greater at the depth of their weakness than at the height of their strength.



Code 7: Slow to Speak - Questions Not Answers

In Proverbs, it says, “Listen before you answer. If you don’t, you are being stupid and insulting.”¹⁰ One of the most important lessons I have learned in life is that when a man seems to have **all** the answers to the questions you ask, well, he himself might just need to grow a bit. You shouldn’t expect that the men in your S.E.A.L. Team are necessarily going to have all the answers to your questions. Sometimes they will provide helpful advice and wisdom, but their main purpose is to be slow to speak, ask questions, and point you to the One who knows the answers: Jesus Christ!

Code 8: Culture of Honor: “YOU GO, WE GO!”

In the movie *Backdraft*, there is a brotherhood of firefighters who use the creed “YOU GO, WE GO!” to signify their commitment to one another. The depth of their bond is realized at the climax of the film, when Kurt Russell’s character, Bull,

is holding his partner up by the arm over a blazing inferno as the building burns down around them. Even though Kurt knows his partner is secretly an arsonist responsible for several deaths, he does not give up on him. Rather than let his brother fall to his death, Bull shouts the mantra of their brotherhood “YOU GO, WE GO!” as they both fall into the fire together.

Why is this modern-day parable so moving to us men? Maybe it’s because we see the honor Christ paid to you and me when we deserved dishonor.

S.E.A.L. Team brothers say, “You struggle, we struggle!” Quite often during overwhelming times for a man, the best thing you can do is walk with him in his valley, rather than to try to fix him or his problems. Just point him to the One who knows all the answers, Jesus. Scripture says, “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”¹¹ Christlike men create a culture of honor in every S.E.A.L. Team. **YOU GO, WE GO!**

**Christlike
men create
a culture
of honor.**

**You go,
we go!**





YOUR ASSIGNMENT

1. **Watch Session #6 Video** with your team.
2. **After the video**, and with your team, complete the fill-in-the blank sentences provided (answer key is in the back of manual).
3. **Next, turn to the MISSION BRIEF** section and follow the instructions for your team activity and discussion time.

TRAINING AT HOME

1. **“Training in Truth”** (daily Scripture verses)
2. **“Prayer Journal”** (read, write, and pray)
3. **Read “Introduction”** section for the next session

After watching the video for this session, complete the fill-in-the-blank sentences with your group.

S.E.A.L. CODE OF HONOR

S.E.A.L. Team Brothers are to:

- _____ (1) one another
- _____ (2) one another
- _____ (3) one another
- _____ (4) one another

The principles in the S.E.A.L. Code of _____ (5) are like guard rails, or “God rails,” for biblical friendship, between which we can walk and be guided. They ensure a culture that will yield spiritual growth in all men. This code consists of the following principles:

S.E.A.L. Code 1: Count the Cost

A S.E.A.L. Team, like anything we would expect to be successful, requires _____ (6). Levels of commitment will vary in each man. A man’s commitment can be gauged by his consistency in meeting with his team.

S.E.A.L. Code 2: Not Easily Broken

_____ (7) and quality are of equal importance. Teams should consist of no less than three (3), and no more than five (5) men

on a team. There is no “perfect man” for S.E.A.L. Team. On the other hand, realistically, some men would not be an asset to the team. Discernment is key. Keep in mind that **a believer’s most dangerous association is not the unbeliever, but the believer who lives like an unbeliever.**

S.E.A.L. Code 3: Hold the Line

Remain close to your vertical _____ (8). Continue to hold the line of counsel, submission, and obedience to the spiritual leadership placed over you in the Church (your spiritual mentor, not on your team).

S.E.A.L. Code 4: “What Happens in S.E.A.L. Team Stays in S.E.A.L. Team”

_____ (9) is one foundational principle that creates safety for a man when speaking about and trusting areas of his life to the other men on his team.

S.E.A.L. Code 5: The Gift of Accountability

Mature manhood does not come with age, but with the acceptance of responsibility and agreement to accountability. A S.E.A.L. Team is sustained by brothers who hold each other accountable, yet dwell in _____ (10), relatable, and sustainable Christlike relationships.

A believer's most dangerous association is not the unbeliever, but the believer who lives like an unbeliever.

**"You will not make it in life unless you are great at choosing, forging, and keeping terrific friendships."
Tim Keller**



S.E.A.L. Code 6: Nothing to Hide—Transparency

Confident manhood bears open and honest relational _____ (11). It brings healing to the heart and head, and health to the bones. Scripture tells us, “Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed *and* restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart].¹² Tell about yourself and on yourself!

S.E.A.L. Code 7: Slow to Speak—Questions not Answers.

Your time with each other should primarily consist of asking _____ (12) of each other. The Four Touches provide a great framework for your questions. They are a great place to start.

S.E.A.L. Code 8: Culture of Honor—“You Go, We Go”

Honor is at its best in a culture of friendship where men are valley walkers not escape artists.

S.E.A.L. Team brothers say, “We will walk through this together. You struggle, we struggle!
“ _____ (13).”

Successfully Initiating Your S.E.A.L. Team

1. Pray. Ask God if this is what He wants for you and the men you are considering to be part of your team at this time. Your Prayer Journal page in both Sessions Five and Six provide prayers and the space to write a list of men to consider.
2. Engage one of the men on your list, maybe by inviting him to talk over a cup of coffee or lunch. Tell the brother what you are considering and ask him to pray about it. Then follow up in a few days with him. If he’s not interested, don’t take it personally. Not every man is ready.

S.E.A.L. TEAM MEN ABIDE BY A CODE OF HONOR

Romans 15:7; Galatians 6:1-2; Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; Hebrews 3:13

CODE	Key Concept	Scripture
1. Count the Cost	Commitment	Matt. 5:37; Luke 14:28-33; James 5:12
2. Not Easily Broken	Quantity/Quality	Prov. 12:26, 17:17; Eccl. 4:12; Gal. 6:1-2
3. Hold the Line	Vertical Leadership	Prov. 11:13, 17:9
4. What Happens in S.T.	Confidentiality	Prov. 17:9, 27:17; Matt. 18:15; Gal. 6:1
5. The Gift	Accountability	Prov. 27:17; Eph. 5:21; Heb. 4:12,13; Jas. 5:16
6. Nothing to Hide	Transparency	Ps. 32:3; Prov. 28:13; Jas. 5:16
7. Slow to Speak	Questions	Prov. 10:8; Eccl. 10:14; Jas. 1:19
8. Culture of Honor	You Go We Go	Rom. 12:10, 15; Gal. 6:1-5; Heb. 13:3; 1 Cor. 12:26

MISSION BRIEF

A MAN-LIFE PARABLE

Choose one man to read this out loud to your group. Discuss the questions that follow, giving each man a chance to participate.

Dave was by all measures a successful man. He was a good husband and a great dad. He loved his wife and adored his kids. He was the picture of the “family man.”

Dave was also successful at his job and was considered one of his company’s most productive workers. In spite of all this success at home and work, Dave was a somewhat humble man, always crediting his Christian faith and God’s grace when people would remark about his achievements.

One night, while entertaining a female client at dinner, one drink led to another and Dave found himself being invited to the client’s hotel room to discuss business further. Dave hesitated, knowing what could potentially happen with this attractive lady, but he felt strong enough in his faith and his love for his wife to resist any temptation. Dave accepted her offer.

Dave awoke the next morning dreading what he vaguely remembered. Anxiety invaded his mind, as he hoped what had happened the night before was only a dream. It wasn’t. Dave had fallen as hard as a rock.

His mind was immediately assaulted with guilt and condemnation. A voice whispered in his head, “My life as I knew it is now over!” The question he asked himself was, “What should I do now?”

The woman Dave had slept with cared little for him. For her, it was business as usual. As she got dressed, she casually said, “I’ll call you about the deal when I get into the office next week.” She promptly left on her scheduled flight back home to her family. But for Dave, things were very different. He was wrecked and overcome by remorse. He took the day off work just to think about what he had allowed to happen.

The shame Dave felt over the next few days was more than he could bear. He knew he needed help, but Dave could not think of anyone he could call. He was a man with many friends, but few he felt he could trust with such a deep, dark secret. If word got to his wife, kids, or work, life as he knew it *would* be over.

As one week turned into another, Dave could not help but think of another “Dave” he knew from the Bible: King David, a man known as “a man after God’s own heart.” David concealed his own sin after he committed adultery with Bathsheba.¹³ This offered Dave little comfort.

The pain and torment of living with his secret started to make Dave feel sick. He felt trapped between the need to come clean to someone and the devastating consequences to himself and his family. But he knew he had to tell someone. Who would be his first call? Whom could he trust beyond a shadow of a doubt?

Dave finally realized he really had no one man he could trust. There was no one who had ever cared enough to press through the smiles and superficial greetings on Sundays to ask the hard questions. He had no man he felt accountable to.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What should Dave do? What would you do? Who would be *your* first call?

2. Why is accountability the gift every man needs but few want? Why do so many men tend to avoid it? Write down one reason that comes to mind:

3. What is one reason you believe men do not have another man in their life whom they can call “best friend”—one whom they are accountable to, who is their “first call”? Record your thoughts below.



Break into teams of three to five men and discuss your answers to the questions above.

A man who confesses his sins in the presence of a brother knows that he is no longer alone with himself; he experiences the presence of God in the reality of the other person.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



S.E.A.L. Team Code of Honor



Questions to think and pray on at home.

4. Read the three statements below. Fill in the blanks with your answer.

I am accountable to

(name).

(Romans 14:12; Hebrews 4:13)

I am accountable to

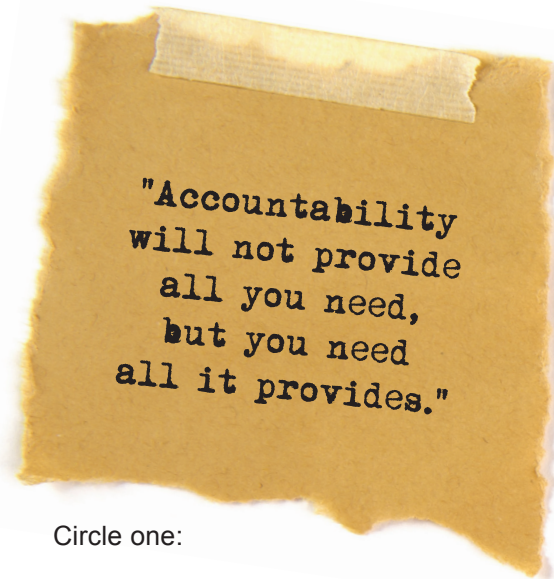
(my spiritual mentor).

(Hebrews 13:17)

My "first call" is

(name).

5. How much do you agree with this statement?



Circle one:

- (1) Disagree (2) Somewhat agree
- (3) Agree (4) Strongly agree

TRAINING IN TRUTH

(TO BE COMPLETED AT HOME)

CODE OF HONOR SCRIPTURES

As you study the Bible verses:

1. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through the Word of God. (Hebrews 4:12)
2. Read the Bible verse aloud. (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2-3)
3. Meditate—think upon it. Ask God about it and wait. (Psalm 119:15)
4. Each day, write two words that come to mind for each verse.
5. Check off the corresponding box to the verse(s) you just read.

DAY 1

*“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the **multitude of counselors there is safety.**”*

(Proverbs 11:14, NKJV)

*“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth **agree** about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.”*

(Matthew 18:19, NIV)

“Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?”

(Amos 3:3, NKJV)

Key Words: _____

DAY 2

*“Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. **Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.**”*

(Ecclesiastes 4:9-10,12, NLT)

Key Words: _____

* Bold - emphasis added



DAY 3

“So then, each of us will be **accountable** to God.”
(Romans 14:12, NRSV)

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.”
(Hebrews 4:13, NLT)

Key Words: _____

DAY 4

“Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should **restore that person gently**. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1, NIV)

Key Words: _____

DAY 5

“Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to **watch over your souls**, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.”
(Hebrews 13:17, NLT)

“Place yourselves **under each other’s authority** out of respect for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21, GW)

Key Words: _____

DAY 6

“Therefore, **confess** your sins to one another, and **pray** for one another so that you may be **healed**. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” (James 5:16, NASB)

“The purposes of a **man’s heart** are deep waters, but a man of understanding **draws them out**.”
(Proverbs 20:5, NIV)

Key Words: _____

DAY 7

“Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”
(Romans 12:10, ESV)

“**Honor Christ** by submitting to each other.”
(Ephesians 5:21, TLB)

“**Bear one another’s** burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2, NKJV)

Key Words: _____

X _____
Team - Sign Off
(Any man in your group may sign off.)

* Bold - emphasis added

PRAYER JOURNAL

THIS WEEK

TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO PRAY THIS PRAYER:

Lord, thank You for Your unchanging kindness and purpose in my life. Thank You for inviting me into relationship with You and the Father. Thank You for providing brothers in my life that are just like me.

The height of Your love connects us at the depths of our weaknesses. In those weaknesses, we become one and strong in You, dear God. Lord, Your Word says, "Can men walk together unless they agree?" No, they cannot.

Father, I am accountable to You. I also ask for You to send men in my life that would want to hold me accountable also. I accept Your call to build my life with a band of brothers. I ask now for You to open my eyes to discern what men You want me to fight this mission with.

And, Father, please bless me with a fellowship, a Church family, with whom I may grow in my love for You. Thank You for providing me with a community of like-minded believers. Amen.

YOUR S.E.A.L. TEAM

Your team including yourself, should not be less than three (3) and not be more than five (5) men. List two to four prospective men to pray about in the spaces provided in the left-sided column. Upon agreement to the Seal Code of Honor, they may sign their names in the right-hand column. If you have not completed this process in Session Five feel free to do it here. If you still need more time, continue to pray and come back to this when you feel the time is right for you.



My S.E.A.L. Team Brotherhood Agreement

_____	x	_____
_____	x	_____
_____	x	_____
_____	x	_____

(By signing, each team member agrees to the SEAL Code of Honor.)



SESSION SEVEN VOICES MEN HEAR AND THE ORPHAN HEART

"You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."

(2 Timothy 2:1, 3-4, NKJV)

INTRODUCTION

If you were picked as the manager for a New Testament all-star team, which players would you pick to play in the game of life?

As managers, we might want to start with the writers of the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. And then there are the Apostles Paul, Peter, and James. And let us not forget one of my favorites; a young superstar who had two New Testament letters written to him that have blessed so many people—Timothy.

The Apostle Paul needed to admonish and strongly caution Timothy against neglecting the gifts God gave him.¹ Paul had to remind Timothy not to be intimidated by anything, especially not comparing himself with other men.² In a verse many are familiar with, Paul writes to his timid protégé: "God has not given you a spirit of fear, but of power, love and sound mind."³

(Continue reading through page 86.)

Isn't it amazing that this "All-Star" in the faith died a martyr for his unwavering faith in Christ, despite apparently struggling with fear and a lack of confidence?

In 2 Timothy chapter two, although Paul calls Timothy a "son" and challenges him to be a soldier, it appears Timothy was limited in his thinking. Somehow there were voices in his head that said,

"You're too young to lead."

"You're not smart enough."

"You're not good enough."

Can you relate? Have you ever felt enslaved by fear or the expectations of others? Have you ever been held captive by voices in your head? We Christian men are set free, but so often live and feel like **slaves**. This is why Paul instructs us, "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with affairs of this life, that he may please Him who enlisted him as a soldier."⁴

Our flesh wants to follow the ways of the world, as it is—in its natural state—hostile to the things of God.⁵ Our flesh wants comfort, conve-

nience, and to compare itself with others. It does not want to fight like a soldier, nor does it desire the Spirit-filled life.

Like Timothy, when in the flesh, we men tend to **entangle** ourselves with the "affairs of this world," and become limited in our thinking. The Apostle John gives fair warning, saying, "Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in **our achievements and possessions**."⁶ The voice of society promises our carnal man what it can never truly deliver. It offers an upside-down version of life that is at best temporal in any gain. We can describe the lies that society would have us live by according to this formula:

"Achievement + Approval = Self-worth."

Many successful businessmen and athletes have been conditioned to think this way, but the toll it takes on their soul is just not worth it. Accomplishment becomes the scorecard for identity. Approval from others becomes the drug of choice. And people become tools to be used instead of loved.

FAITH-DRIVEN OR FEAR-DRIVEN?

Man's Need	God's Purpose	Man's Reward	World's Ways Lead to Fear	Fear of ...
Acceptance	Reconciliation	Forgiveness/ Belonging	→	Abandonment
Approval	Redemption	Sonship/Affirmed	→	Rejection
Affection	Love	Happiness/Joy	→	Intimacy
Aspiration	Glorify God	Purpose/Satisfaction	→	Failure
Accountability	Live Free	Freedom/Security	→	Losing Control

This is how we get stuck in the ways of the world, by seeking to fulfill our needs with things that can't deliver. Many of us, like Timothy, entangle ourselves with the world's values and standards, and then attempt to meet our needs through that system. The only way our needs can be truly met, however, is through God.

These are five basic needs all men have: Acceptance, Approval, Affection, Aspiration, and Accountability. The question for all of us is: will we try to fulfill them through the exercise of *faith* or *fear*?

God has hardwired and embedded these basic needs in every man. He gave us the need for **acceptance** so we would long to be reconciled back to Him. We experience acceptance through the reward of being known and knowing that we belong to Him.

God gave you the need for **approval** so you would seek worthiness through redemption and Sonship. You are rewarded with the affirmation of sonship to the One True King.

He gave you the need for **affection** so that you may build your life on His loving nature. The fulfillment of this one need alone can bring an unexplained happiness and joy to a man's life that will carry him through the darkest days.

He also gave you the need for **aspiration**—specifically aspiration to glorify Him in your mission. God inspires us through this need to aspire to live with an excellence and affection for His honor and glory.

Lastly, God gives men the need for **accountability**. All men need to be accountable to truth. God's word is truth, and a man's freedom always lives between the boundaries of that truth. When accountability exists in a man's life, then

wisdom, guidance, and success emerge.

How a man goes about meeting these five needs will determine the course of his whole life. Trying to meet these needs by ourselves (carnal Christianity) will always lead to frustration, fear, and failure

When you believe you must be accepted by others to feel self-worth, you can be driven by fear of **abandonment**, rather than motivated by a desire for relationship. At times this results in self-condemnation, which is fed by **fear of rejection**.

Many men believe their need for affection can only be met by a woman. Unfortunately, no woman is able to fulfill this need in a man the way God can. A man may have been hurt so many times that distrust and **fear of intimacy** become roadblocks to his happiness.

Great aspirations and ambition outside of God's will always hit a wall. Instead of glorifying God, the motive for success is self-glory which never lasts. Unfortunately, what drives men like this much of the time is **fear of failure** as that terrible inner voice whispers "if you fail then you **are** a failure."

Those who try to fill their needs without the Lord may even appear accountable to a person or



two at work, but rarely do they have accountability in their personal lives. This is because it would risk them being **out of control** of their lives. Controlling one's own life is the foundation of ungodly living. Without asking God to meet these needs, a man has no choice but to pursue them in his flesh, and that will always fail.

WHAT HAPPENS WITH UNMET NEEDS

A man's belief and behavior often reflect his unmet needs. And sadly, the unmet needs a man does not leave at the cross, he tends to dump on those closest to him. As a result, his family usually pays the price for him not living fulfilled in Christ.

The man whose needs go unmet often feels a numbness to God's love. This has been referred to as the "orphan heart." The man with an orphan heart feels like he is always striving for something, and at times feels like he isn't good enough, strong enough, or manly enough. This man constantly lives with a subconscious need to prove himself to God, to others, and to himself. He is self-reliant and attempts to control all

aspects of his life. The problem is that though the man with an orphan heart believes in God, he does not believe what God says about who he is, and as a result misses out on the very things that will satisfy his soul.

At times this man protects himself by criticizing and finding fault with others, and uses jokes and sarcasm to build his wall of protection. He pretends to be conquering the world in business or focusing on his successful family when in reality he is really just pretending.

If you feel stuck in this identity, there is a way to be free. Timothy was stuck and Paul provided the way out in his letters to him in 1st and 2nd Timothy. Paul greeted Timothy reminding him who he was in Christ, saying, "You therefore my **son**, be strong in the grace that is in you in Jesus Christ."⁷

Man of God, we are not called to fight without first being called "sons," for **soldiers please God by what they do, but a son pleases God by who he is**. The antidote to the orphan heart, the key to meeting all our needs, is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Bible says perfect love casts out all fear.⁸ That perfect love is found in God the Father's voice and love. It is called "sonship." This is a position granted to all who trust Christ as savior. When received, sonship meets all our needs, calms all our fears, and empowers all we do.

As we will discuss in our next session, an orphan heart is never displaced but only replaced by a son's heart, for when God remakes a man, He renames the man. He calls him "son."





YOUR ASSIGNMENT

1. **Watch Session #7 Video** with your team.
2. **After the video**, and with your team, complete the fill-in-the blank sentences provided (answer key is in the back of manual).
3. **Next, turn to the MISSION BRIEF** section and follow the instructions for your team activity and discussion time.

TRAINING AT HOME

1. **“Training in Truth”** (daily Scripture verses)
2. **“Prayer Journal”** (read, write, and pray)
3. **Read “Introduction”** section for the next session

After watching the video for this session, complete the fill-in-the-blank sentences with your group.

The Apostle Paul called Timothy **“Son”** and challenged him to be like a **“Soldier.”** Paul knew that a Christian man can be set free, but still live and feel like a _____ (1).

We men tend to _____ (2) ourselves with the “affairs of this world.” (2 Timothy 2:4). We often find ourselves conforming to the world’s values, instead of being transformed by Biblical truth. (Romans 12:2). The Apostle John wrote on this topic too, saying, “Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our **achievements and possessions**. These are not from the Father, but are from this world” (1 John 2:15-16, NLT).

Society constantly speaks to us with voices that whisper ungodly standards and values we come to believe. We call this a _____ (3), which is a lie believed then lived.⁹

SOCIETY’S VOICES OF SUCCESS:

- *“The greatest shall be the smartest and sexiest.”*
- *“Manhood is measured by money and muscle.”*
- *“Strength is perfect by showing no weakness.”*
- *“Whoever wants to save his life will control his life.”*
- *“Significance is achieved through success.”*

Scott shares about his stronghold with performance addiction. He tells about how achievement and _____ (4) from others used to determine his self-worth. He was a “performance-driven man.” Can you relate to this?

MATURE MANHOOD

Next, let’s talk about the five basic _____ (5) of mature manhood:

- Acceptance
- Approval
- Affection
- Aspiration
- Accountability

Psychologists and counselors¹⁰ agree that every man has basic needs that generally must be fulfilled in order to live an emotionally healthy life. When these needs are met, then feelings of safety, stability and security are enjoyed, but when they are not met many men feel unsafe, unstable and insecure.

A man’s belief and behavior often reflect his _____ (6) needs. **The unmet needs a man does not leave at the cross, he tends to dump on those closest to him. How a man treats and speaks to those closest to him is how he would run the world if it were his to run.**

A man's attempt to fill these God-shaped needs apart from God results in stress, restlessness, and anxiety. He often feels a lack of acceptance, approval, and affection, while experiencing a numbness to God's love. This is referred to at times as the "orphan heart." A man with an _____ (7) heart longs to be accepted and approved of, but has the inability to do so. There seems to be a disconnect in his soul that prevents him from trusting God and others.

"After all is said and done, the real cause of human anxiety, fear, depression, obsessive compulsive disorders, and panic disorders is man's alienation and separation from his Creator, and therefore his estrangement from himself, God, and others. A godless man is an orphaned child whose spirit suffers from separation anxiety. Without God, a man is a fatherless and motherless child."¹¹

Dr. Joseph Arasmos

THE VOICE OF THE "ORPHAN HEART"

A man with an orphan heart constantly strives to prove and _____ (8) himself. He tends to _____ (9) who he is not to others and himself.

Striving and feeling numb are two indicators that we are trying to find our worth in something

other than Jesus. The antidote to satisfying every man's needs is found in Jesus Christ!

*"And my God will supply **every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.**"*
(Philippians 4:19, ESV)

As our **Savior**, He has not left us without acceptance (Reconciliation) through forgiveness of sin.¹²

As our **Father**, He has not left us without approval (Sonship) through redemption.¹³

As our **Brother**, He has not left us without a love (Affection) that is better than life.¹⁴

As our **Captain**, He has not failed to lead us in a meaningful mission. (Aspiration)¹⁵

As our **Teacher**, He has not left us without His plumb line of truth—His Word. (Accountability).¹⁶

Jesus said, "I promise that I will **never leave you** helpless or abandon you as **orphans**—I will come back to you!¹⁷ This tells us an orphan heart is never displaced, but only _____ (10) by a son's heart.

God has not given you a spirit of fear, but a Spirit of power, love, and _____ (11).¹⁸

**When God remakes a man,
He renames the man...**

...He calls him SON.

MISSION BRIEF

HEART REFLECTION AND INSPECTION

How do you view yourself? Do you lean more towards the “orphan’s heart” or the “son’s heart”? For each topic in the table below, check the box next to the one that most closely describes how you feel.

THE ORPHAN HEART ✓	TOPIC ✓	THE HEART OF SONSHIP ✓
God is Master and Punisher. I must obey and be good to earn His love.	Perception of God	He is a loving Father who knows what’s best for me. He is in total control.
I am independent and self-reliant. I need to be in control. Trust not!	Trust / Dependency	I depend on God and trust His will for my life. I co-labor with Him.
I strive to prove myself. I protect myself from being rejected. I constantly need approval.	Acceptance / Approval	I am accepted and approved by God by grace. The favor of man is enjoyed as a gift, rather than a desperate need. I feel stable and secure.
I must perform to attract attention and be worthy of love. I never feel noticed.	Affection / Love	I am loved unconditionally, sacrificially, and redemptively by God through Jesus Christ. I feel His peace and presence.
These are duties and obligations to perform. The more I do, the greater my approval.	Prayer / Bible	These are a pleasure and delight to look forward to. I can’t get enough!
My achievements and approval from others determine my self-image. I compare myself to others.	Self-Image	I have value because I am chosen by God, I belong to God, and I am known by God.
I criticize my family when my own needs are not met. They must be good/moral to earn my approval.	Wife / Children	I love them unconditionally, sacrificially, and redemptively. I demonstrate my love through physical and verbal affection.
I am often jealous of my friends’ success and popularity.	Friends	I am happy for the success that my friends achieve. I compliment them.
I resist submission to authority because it results in loss of control. I get suspicious over motives.	Authority	I am submissive to the authority God has placed in my life. It is established by Him for my own good.
I tend to see the bad in others, and criticize them. When they look bad, I look good.	Faults/ Weakness of Others	The grace that God gives me, I extend to others in spite of their sin and flaws.
When corrected or admonished, I hide and seek to protect myself.	Correction / Admonition	I am open to correction in my life because God often speaks through others.

What needs do you think are important to men?

Place a number (1-5) in each corresponding box, with (1) being least important and (5) being the most important.

Acceptance Approval Affection
 Aspiration Accountability

How about you? Which need do you feel might have been unmet in your life, and may still frustrate and confuse you at times? Check one or two below. Pray before answering.

Place a number (1-5) in each corresponding box, with (1) being least important and (5) being the most important.

Acceptance Approval Affection
 Aspiration Accountability



Break into teams of three to five men. Discuss with your team which need(s) you rated as being most important to men. Then, which need you feel might have been unmet in your life.

TRAINING IN TRUTH

(TO BE COMPLETED AT HOME)

VOICES MEN HEAR SCRIPTURES

As you study the Bible verses:

1. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through the Word of God. (Hebrews 4:12)
2. Read the Bible verse aloud. (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2-3)
3. Meditate—think upon it. Ask God about it and wait. (Psalm 119:15)
4. Each day, write two words that come to mind for each verse.
5. Check off the corresponding box to the verse(s) you just read.

DAY 1

*“You therefore, **my son**, be strong in the grace that is in you in Christ Jesus. And the things that you heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You therefore must endure hardship as a good **soldier** of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare **entangles** himself with affairs of this life, that he may please Him who enlisted him as a **soldier**.”*

(2 Timothy 2:1-4, NKJV)

Key Words: _____

DAY 2

*“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and **do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery**.” (Galatians 5:1, NIV)*

*“You have been **severed from Christ**, You who are seeking to be justified by law; You have **fallen from grace**. You **were** running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?” (Galatians 5:4,7, NASB)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 3

*“See to it that no one **takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception**, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.” (Colossians 2:8, NASB)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 4

*“Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and **pride in our achievements and possessions**. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.” (1 John 2:15-16, NLT)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 5

*"It was for us, too, assuring us that God will **accept us** in the same way he accepted Abraham—when we believe the promises of God who brought back Jesus our Lord from the dead."*
(Romans 4:24, TLB)

*"Death ruled like a king because Adam had sinned. But that cannot compare with what Jesus Christ has done. God has been so kind to us, and he has **accepted us** because of Jesus. And so we will live and rule like kings."
(Romans 5:17, CEV)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 6

*"And my God will meet **all your needs** according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 4:19, NIV)*

*"I **promise** that I will never leave you helpless or abandon you as orphans—I will come back to you!"
(John 14:18, TPT)*

Key Words: _____

DAY 7

*" . . . so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the **adoption as sons**. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Galatians 4:5-6 , NASB)*

*"The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your **adoption to sonship**. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."
(Romans 8:15-16, NIV)*

Key Words: _____

X _____

Team - Sign Off

(Any man in your group may sign off.)



PRAYER JOURNAL

TAKE A FEW MOMENTS
TO PRAY THIS PRAYER:

Father, You call me son and soldier! You call me a soldier to fight the good fight; You made me a son to receive Your power to love. I thank You for Your sacrificial love on the cross. You came and died to set me free. You tell me to live free, and not fall back into slavery and entangle myself in the world's ways.

Lord, I confess and renounce affections for this world that may be hindering my acceptance of Your love and grace. I repent, Father, for relying on the world's solutions instead of on You, Lord. Open my eyes, Father, that I may clearly see the unmet needs in my life. I refuse to dump my unmet needs on my family and friends, and so I now leave them at the foot of the cross.

Lord, You are sufficient to meet all my needs according to Christ's riches in glory. I now agree, believe and confess this truth, that I may trust, love and obey You. (Philippians 4:19) Grant me the grace to receive Your Fatherly love. Strengthen me, Lord, that I may strengthen my family and other men in my life. I train myself in godliness. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**A man may not be able
to stop the ungodly
voices, but he can stop
believing them.**

THIS WEEK

God, I ask that You (write your specific request):

I surrender my concerns and worries about (write the specific source of concern):

Father, what aspect about You should I focus on today, so that I may know You better? (Write your impressions below. What do you feel God is saying to you?)



SESSION EIGHT

THE LANGUAGE OF SONSHIP: SPOKEN BY A FATHER, UNDERSTOOD BY A SON

And you did not receive the "spirit of religious duty," leading you back into the fear of never being good enough. But you have received the "Spirit of full acceptance," enfolding you into the family of God. And you will never feel orphaned, for as he rises up within us, our spirits join him in saying the words of tender affection, "Beloved Father!"

(Romans 8:15, TPT)

INTRODUCTION

John Wesley (1703-1791) was the founder of the Methodist Church. He wrote his own translation of the New Testament. He's said to have preached over 40,000 sermons while riding over 250,000 miles on horseback.¹ Yet John Wesley confessed in his journal that he felt like he was not a Christian at all (see page 68).

You might wonder how Wesley could do all of these things and yet not even feel like a Christian. Listen closely to what he wrote in his journal: "I had even then the faith of a servant, though not that of a son." Despite everything John Wesley accomplished, he had never entered into a relationship with God as Father and experienced a personal relationship with Him as His son.²

(Continue reading through page 98.)

John Wesley accomplished great things for God by God, yet he felt numb to the love of God. He, like many of us, had the heart of an orphan and not that of a son. The love of Father God was not yet received by him. Wesley did eventually come to know the love of the Father. The better news is that *you* can also receive a greater portion of this love. “Receiving God’s love is experienced through the position of ‘sonship.’”

The only way a Christian man loses the “fight” is if he loses sight of his identity in Christ. We men seem to find it easier to serve God than to receive God’s love for us. With that in mind, let’s take a step in defining this word “sonship.” The dictionary defines it as “the relationship of son to father.”³ In the Greco-Roman culture of Paul’s time, the father was responsible for the legacy left to his firstborn adult male son. Even more striking, the word for sonship in its original language (which we will discuss a bit later) actually meant “adopted son”—which makes this concept even more impactful for us today.

“Sonship,” as understood in Greco-Roman society, was the position we were all given upon our conversion to Christ. John wrote in his Gospel, “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”⁴ Paul also wrote this truth to the Galatians, “For you are all sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ Jesus,”⁵ and to the Christians in Rome, pointing out again that our sonship is given immediately upon our conversion, through the Holy Spirit.⁶

"Many Christian men have the fight of a soldier and the faith of a servant, yet lack the freedom of a son."

In this last session, your final mission, we come full circle to the freedom Christ came to Earth to give you and me through sonship. We will explore four aspects of sonship:

- Inheriting the DNA of Sonship
- Understanding the Language of Sonship
- Receiving the Gift of Sonship
- Following the Model for Sonship

INHERITING THE DNA OF SONSHIP

Every believer, upon conversion, is “born again” into sonship. The original Greek word *anagennaō*, used for “born again,” can be seen in the English words “gene,” “genetic,” and “gender.” It is truly a term signifying inheritance. In a similar way to how we receive our DNA from our biological parents, we receive our spiritual DNA from our heavenly Father.⁷

God knew you and planned to love you as His son before the Earth was even created: “For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ.”⁸

This Spiritual DNA of Sonship was even sewn into the very fabric of creation. God created man to be... like Father ...like Son. Genesis 1:27 says “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”⁹ You have heard this before, but did you know the Hebrew word for male is *zakar*? “Every male person is *zakar*, a man designed by God to reveal something about God by the way he relates.”¹⁰ The word is actually used for the word “remember” throughout the Old Testament. In creation’s context, it means “to make a mark, to be remembered; to build a memorial to remember.”¹¹ Like a son who reminds us of his earthy father’s features, males are to remind people of God’s glory...like Father, like son.



In the Psalms, David writes this, “I will proclaim the LORD’s decree: He said to me, ‘You are my son; today I have become your father.’”¹² God even promises to father David’s son Solomon, saying, “I will be his father, and he will be my son.”¹³

God has a thing for fathers and sons. He sent His Son to Earth, saying to Jesus upon His baptism, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”¹⁴ Paul explains this in his letter to the Galatians, “But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.”¹⁵

UNDERSTANDING THE LANGUAGE OF SONSHIP

With Scripture confirming our adoption as sons, you might ask “Why do I relate to the orphan heart more than to being a son of God?” What I came to learn was that **sonship has a language** to it, one that, when spiritually understood, changes the way you think, feel, and love. This is what the Apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesian church—that they would be strong enough to understand the depth and height of God’s love for them.¹⁶

When Ephesians 1:5 speaks of our “adoption to sonship,” those three words really represent one word from the original Greek language, *huiothesia*. This word in Paul’s time was used to refer to the process of adopting a son, a mystical blend of love and law involving a father choosing an adult male as his new son. This son was given the position and status in the family known as “firstborn.” As firstborn, he would be granted an inheritance to his new father’s wealth.

Do you understand the gravity of this word “adopted”? You and I are adopted into God’s family as first-born royalty—princes to the one and only King of the universe, like we were His only son. He sees and loves us as he sees and loves Jesus.¹⁷

Let’s illustrate how the language of sonship is understood differently by a man who sees himself as a loved son versus a man who sees himself as a servant:

Sonship is a spiritual gift of God, a position in God’s royal family.

SON HEARS:

Father: *"Son, you are loved by me and I have entrusted a corner of my Kingdom to you."*

Son: *"Father, what may I do to please you in this work?"*

SERVANT HEARS:

Father (perceived by son as a "master"):

"I have work for you to do. If you fail to do well I will punish you and condemn you."

Son (feeling like a "servant"):

"I must obey and do well to earn God's love and my salvation."

RECEIVING THE GIFT OF SONSHIP

We constantly have to remind ourselves that this gift is by the grace of God. Paul had to remind Timothy of his sonship. God's Word reminds you and me of our sonship. God's Spirit provides full acceptance, approval and affection meeting all our needs while replacing our orphan heart with the heart of a son.

Man of God, sonship is not achieved, but received. To experience God's gift of sonship, a man must first want it. Jesus promises to give it, if you ask for it. To experience God's gift of sonship, a man must simply **agree, believe, and confess** (ABC). He must *agree* in his mind, *believe* in his heart, and *confess* with his mouth. A son of the living God agrees, believes and confesses that he is **chosen** by God, he **belongs** to God, and he is **known** by God.

FOLLOWING THE MODEL FOR SONSHIP

No topic on sonship would be complete without focusing on our model for sonship, our Lord, Savior, Brother and Friend: Jesus Christ.

Jesus did not come to model fatherhood, but to model sonship for you and me. Although equal to Father God, Jesus humbly emptied himself of the privilege of deity and took on the role of Servant, Savior, and Son.¹⁸ Jesus not only emptied Himself, but was emptied *of* self. Jesus had the full measure of the Spirit as a man is only filled with the Spirit to the degree he is emptied of self.

The perfect Son said further, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same way."¹⁹ He was a perfect Son to a perfect Father, so that you and I may become sons too.

God speaks in love. His love is manifested in His Son Jesus, whose death and resurrection made you and me adopted sons of God. You are fully accepted and approved of by your Heavenly Father—and no man who is intimate with God will ever be intimidated by man. This freedom you experience in sonship fulfills the very mission Jesus came to Earth for: to set men free. My prayer is that you remain spiritually receptive to the truth that has set you free, so that you may live free as sons of our loving Father.

Our Savior was the original Mission-Driven Man. Your freedom and eternal destiny was His mission. Praise God—mission accomplished! Let us now resolutely receive His commission to live free and set other men free so that they too may live free.



YOUR ASSIGNMENT

1. **Watch Session #8 Video** with your team.
2. **After the video**, and with your team, complete the fill-in-the blank sentences provided (answer key is in the back of manual).
3. **Next, turn to the MISSION BRIEF** section and follow the instructions for your team activity and discussion time.

TRAINING AT HOME

1. **“Training in Truth”** (daily Scripture verses)
2. **“Prayer Journal”** (read, write, and pray)
3. **Read “Introduction”** section for the next session

After watching the video for this session, complete the fill-in-the-blank sentences with your group.

Many Christian men have the fight of a soldier and the faith of a servant, yet lack the _____ (1) of a son. The only way a Christian man loses fight, is if he loses _____ (2) of his identity in Christ.

INHERITING THE SPIRITUAL _____ (3) OF SONSHIP

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.” (Ephesians 1:4-5, NIV)

*“I will proclaim the LORD’s decree: He said to me, ‘**You are my son**; today I have become your **father**.’” (Psalm 2:7, NIV; Hebrews 1:5, 5:5, NIV)*

*“The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you **received** brought about your **adoption to sonship**. And by him we cry, ‘**Abba, Father**.’” (Romans 8:15, NIV)*

* Bold - emphasis added

UNDERSTANDING THE _____ (4) OF SONSHIP

FOUR ANCIENT GREEK WORDS²⁰

Sonship: “adoption to sonship,” from the Greek *huiothesia* (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:4; Ephesians 1:5). The legal adoption process of an adult son placed in a family; a practice in Roman culture that secured a father’s inheritance and name.²¹

Beloved: “beloved son,” from the Greek *agapetos* (Matthew 3:17, 2 Timothy 1:2). Divinely chosen and loved as the unique and favorite; object of one’s intense affection.²²



Well-Pleased: "in whom I am well-pleased," from the Greek *eudokeo* (Matthew 3:17, Ephesians 1:5). Divine level of pleasure, kind intentions, applause in heaven.²³

Receive: "the Spirit you received," from the Greek *lambano* (Romans 8:15-16). To seize, to take, to bring under one's control on one's own initiative; to take captive; *to receive a judgment of things to which one has a claim.*²⁴

RECEIVING THE GIFT OF SONSHIP

- Sonship is a spiritual _____ (5).
- Sonship is a position in God's family.
- Sonship is received from Father God, by the Spirit of God through the Son of God.
- Sonship is given by God and received by man.
- Sonship is not achieved but _____ (6).

"Sonship is not achieved, but received."

To experience God's gift of sonship, a man is to simply;

- A. _____ (7)
- B. _____ (8)
- C. _____ (9)

A son of the living God:
agrees with his mind,
believes in his heart, and
confesses with his mouth that...

- ...he is _____ (10) by God.
- ...he _____ (11) to God.
- ...he is _____ (12) by God.

The joy of knowing God is in knowing God _____ (13) you!

The joy of knowing God
is in knowing God knows you!



MISSION BRIEF

ROLL CALL TO ROYALTY

Pray and then read this by yourself:

I am a **SON** of Father God and Soldier for Christ.

(Ephesians 6:17; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 1:7, 2:1-4, 4:7)

- I have been given a mission to fight that I cannot win without Christ, but that I cannot lose with Christ.
- I have been given the Spirit of power, love, and a sound mind.
- I have the Word of God as my “sword of the Spirit.” This is how I fight my battles.

I am **ACCEPTED** by God. (Romans 15:7; Ephesians 1:4-6; 1 Peter 2:10)

- I have been forgiven of sin and accepted through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- I can never, ever be forsaken or rejected by Him.
- I have nothing to prove, protect, or pretend, for I am more than enough in Christ.

I am **APPROVED** by God. (Romans 14:17-18; Galatians 4:4-7; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; 1 Peter 2:4-5,9)

- I am affirmed in sonship through Christ.
- I am adopted into His family with the rights of a firstborn son.
- I now seek God’s approval first; I receive man’s approval as favor, not to fill an emotional need.

I am loved with **AFFECTION** from Father God. (Psalm 8:4; Zephaniah 3:17; John 15:13, 17:23; 1 John 3:1)

- As the Father loves Christ, He also loves me. I have Father God’s attention. He is mindful of me.
- God not only loves me, but He likes me.

I am **CHOSEN** by God. (Romans 8:30; Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 2:9)

- I have been handpicked by God, my Father.
- My salvation was not accidental. God appointed it and planned it.
- God chose me to live forever, even though I do not deserve it.

I **BELONG** to God. (Leviticus 20:26; Numbers 3:13; Deuteronomy 21:17; Isaiah 43:1; 1 Corinthians 3:23, 6:19-20)

- I am a co-heir with Christ, who is the Firstborn and who gave me the rights of inheritance.
- I have been crucified with Christ. I am not my own, but owned by Christ. God made me His.

I am a man **KNOWN** by God. (Psalm 139:1-6; John 10:14; Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 8:3; Galatians 4:9; Ephesians 1:5, 2 Timothy 2:19)

- I have been known and cared about since even before I was born.
- I have been watched over and cared for since the day I was born.
- God knows my every thought of doubt and unbelief, yet still He sees His good in me.

I am a **FREE Man**. (John 8:32,36; Romans 6:22-23, 8:15; Galatians 4:7; 5:1)

- I am free from the fear of man, because I am already accepted and approved as a son.
- I have cast all my cares upon Christ. I have all my needs met in Christ. I have been set free.
- I am no longer a slave to habits and frustration. I am free to be myself. I am enough, just being me.

I am your **SON**, Lord. Today you have become my Father. (Psalm 2:7; Romans 8:15; Hebrews 1:5, 5:5)

- I receive my sonship by faith and trust in Christ’s promise.

- I am divinely loved as a unique son of God. God receives a great degree of pleasure in me.
- I have tremendous value because His gentleness has made me great!

I love You, Father,
because You first loved me.
I am Your son.
I am a Mission-Driven Man.

Instructions

- In the statements below about sonship, circle the one that speaks the most to you about your position as a son of God.
- Then, using “Roll Call to Royalty” for reference (previous page), choose a few declarations listed there that resonate with you in your own relationship with God.

I am chosen by God.

I belong to God.

I am known by God.

Circle one of the above statements about sonship that most speaks to you about your position as a son of God.

In **Roll Call to Royalty**, Scott lists statements (declarations) of biblical fact. These truths call for you to stop fighting a fight that Jesus has already won. You are called to fight like a soldier, through your rights as a son, accepting these truths as reality. Take time to pray and ask God to reveal which declaration(s) He wants you to receive personally.

Write one or two of the declarations that come to mind. Don't worry if you don't feel the truth of this declaration right now. Just write down which statements speak to you personally.



Break into teams of three to five men. Discuss with your team why the declarations you chose are meaningful to you.



MISSION MEN

Derek Prince

Christian Leader and Evangelist

Derek Prince was arguably one of the greatest Christian leaders and evangelists of the 20th century. His crusades saw millions saved, healed, and delivered across more than 50 years of ministry. Yet, until the age of 80, Mr. Prince himself suffered with an "orphan heart"-that is, a heart that was unable to fully receive Father God's love for him. This man dispensed God's antidote to depression and oppression to millions of people through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, yet he himself remained afflicted.

One day, God revealed the gift of sonship to Derek Prince. Prince is quoted as saying, "I was praying on the bed one morning and God revealed to me how he felt about me. His fatherly love, care, and affection towards me as a unique son of His was overwhelming. Immediately, without any mental process of reasoning, I knew as a son I could now call God my Father.

"I used the phrase 'Our Father' countless times in ministry for 50 years. Doctrinally, I was clear about the truth of knowing God as Father, but what I received that moment was a personal revelation of [the Spirit Sonship]. From that morning on, it became completely natural to address God as 'Father', or 'my Father.' I now have a personal relationship, not just a theological position. I have been enjoying this new relationship for about two years."¹⁹

TRAINING IN TRUTH

(TO BE COMPLETED AT HOME)

THE LANGUAGE OF SONSHIP SCRIPTURES

As you study the Bible verses:

1. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak through the Word of God. (Hebrews 4:12)
2. Read the Bible verse aloud. (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2-3)
3. Meditate—think upon it. Ask God about it and wait. (Psalm 119:15)
4. Each day, write two words that come to mind for each verse.
5. Check off the corresponding box to the verse(s) you just read.

DAY 1

*“To Timothy, a **true son** in the faith: . . .”*
(1 Timothy 1:1, NKJV)

*“To Timothy, a **beloved son**: . . .”*
(2 Timothy 1:2a, NKJV)

*“You therefore, **my son, be strong** in the grace that is in you in Christ Jesus . . .”*
(2 Timothy 2:1, NKJV)

Key Words: _____

DAY 2

*“He predestined us for **adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ**, in accordance with his pleasure and will.” (Ephesians 1:5, NIV)*

*“And behold, a voice out of the heavens said, ‘This is My **beloved Son**, in whom I am **well-pleased**.’”*
(Matthew 3:17, NASB)

Key Words: _____

DAY 3

*“So that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might **receive the adoption as sons**. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.”*
(Galatians 4:5-7, NASB)

Key Words: _____

DAY 4

*“And you did not receive the ‘spirit of religious duty,’ leading you back into the fear of never being good enough. But you have received the ‘**Spirit of full acceptance**,’ enfolding you into the family of God. And you will never feel orphaned, for as he rises up within us, our spirits join him in saying the words of tender affection, ‘Beloved Father!’”*
(Romans 8:15, TPT)

Key Words: _____

DAY 5

*“Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things **the Son also does in like manner.**’”* (John 5:19, NASB)

Key Words: _____

DAY 6

*“But you are **A CHOSEN RACE**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for **God’s OWN POSSESSION**, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light . . .”*
(1 Peter 2:9, NASB)

Key Words: _____

DAY 7

*You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You **know** everything I do. You **know** what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is **too wonderful for me**, too great for me to understand!”*
(Psalm 139:3-6, NLT)

Key Words: _____

X _____
Team - Sign Off
(Any man in your group may sign off.)



* Bold - emphasis added

PRAYER JOURNAL

TAKE A FEW MOMENTS
TO PRAY THIS PRAYER:

Father, I thank You for giving meaning to my life. You have put me on a mission to love and to serve You. You have given me great value and worth by calling me what You called Your One and Only Son, Jesus. You call me a beloved son. You chose me! I belong to You! I am known by You more than I know myself Father. I thank You for the gift of sonship. I now receive this position in Your Royal Family. I agree with, believe on, and confess this great gift from You as my own.

Thank You for caring more about the hairs on my head than the details that hold the universe together, Father. Your love has overflowed my intellect. It overwhelms my reasoning and is above and beyond what I could imagine. I sit in awe and gratitude, great Father. I thank You.

Lord, grant me the grace to receive Your love as the power for my mission. Father, first You call me to become a devoted disciple called a son, then to go out and to make disciples who become sons. That is my mission that I have been "commissioned" for. Lord, make me more like You. Conform me into Your image so that I may be recognized as a man who is "commissioned" with Your mission, Father. Make me Your "Mission-Driven Man."

I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen

THIS WEEK

God, I ask that You (write your specific request):

I surrender my concerns and worries about (write the specific source of concern):

Father, what aspect about You should I focus on today, so that I may know You better? (Write your impressions below. What do you feel God is saying to you?)

SESSION 1

1. live
2. benefits
3. evidence
4. freedom
5. knowing
6. personality
7. truth

SESSION 2

1. opposed
2. Satan
3. self
4. society
5. habit
6. thinking
7. almighty
8. steal
9. kill
10. destroy
11. identity
12. purpose
13. mission
14. stealth

SESSION 3

1. recognized
2. resisted
3. retaliated
4. It is written.
5. collision
6. inseparable
7. practice
8. power
9. touches
10. personal
11. perspective

SESSION 4

1. order
2. family
3. guard
4. responsibility
5. acceptance
6. exclusive
7. primary
8. mutual
9. covenant
10. unconditionally
11. sacrificially
12. redemptively
13. refuses
14. reorders
15. rescues
16. first

SESSION 5

1. brotherhood
2. lonely
3. strong
4. correction
5. carrying
6. speaking
7. challenging
8. accepting

SESSION 6

1. strengthen
2. encourage
3. admonish
4. love
5. honor
6. commitment
7. quantity
8. leadership

9. confidentiality
10. acceptable
11. transparency
12. questions
13. you go, we go

SESSION 7

1. slave
2. entangle
3. stronghold
4. approval
5. needs
6. unmet
7. orphan
8. protect
9. pretend
10. replaced
11. sonship

SESSION 8

1. freedom
2. sight
3. DNA
4. language
5. gift
6. received
7. agree
8. believe
9. confess
10. chosen
11. belongs
12. known
13. knows



SESSION ONE

1. 1 Peter 2:11-16, NIV
2. Psalm 103:1-2, NKJV
3. Jeremiah 9:24; Philippians 3:8-10
4. Adapted from Eldredge, John. *Beautiful Outlaw: Experiencing the Playful, Disruptive, Extravagant Personality of Jesus*. New York, NY: FaithWords, 2013.
5. See Psalm 139: 23-24

SESSION TWO

1. John 8:36
2. 1 Peter 2:16a
3. Psalm 24:8, NIV
4. Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12
5. Psalm 119:11, NASB
6. Proverbs 4:23, NIV, NLT, HCSB
7. Romans 12:2
8. Romans 8:6-8
9. Job 1-2; Luke 22:31
10. 2 Corinthians 2:11, NASB
11. Ephesians 4:27
12. John 10:10
13. Colossians 2:15
14. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
15. Psalm 4:3
16. John Phillips

SESSION THREE

1. Matthew 4:4,7,10
2. Ward, Timothy. *Words of Life: Scripture as the Living and Active Word of God*. Nottingham, UK: Inter-Varsity Press, 2009, p.31
3. Barna Research, "The Bible in America, Six-Year Trends," <https://www.barna.com/research/the-bible-in-america-6-year-trends/>. Accessed 20 August, 2020.
4. Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:2
5. Galatians 5:1
6. Cole, Arnold, Ed.D. & Caudill Ovwigho, Pamela, Ph.D., "Understanding the Bible Engagement: Scientific Evidence for the Power of 4," The Center for Bible Engagement, August 2012. Free PDF Download available at <https://mens-discipleshipnetwork.com/category/resource/>
7. Center for Bible Engagement
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.

10. Daniel 10
11. Psalm 27:8, NLT
12. Ibid.

SESSION FOUR

1. Ephesians 5:21,22,25 (NIV)
2. Wuest, Kenneth Samuel. *Studies in the Vocabulary of the Greek New Testament: for the English Reader*. Grand Rapids, MI, MI: Eerdmans, 1945, (Vol. 2, Hebrews).
3. Author of this quote unknown.
4. Ephesians 5:23
5. Ephesians 5:28-29
6. James 3:17
7. Adapted from a sermon by Tim Keller.
8. *CBL Greek-English Dictionary*. The biblical concept of a "kinsman redeemer"—a close relative who takes on responsibility to love and care for a widowed woman—is seen in the story of Boaz and Ruth in the Old Testament. Boaz is considered a "type" of Christ in his love and care for Ruth.
9. 2 Timothy 1:14
10. Dr. Edwin Louis Cole
11. Ephesians 5:25
12. Adapted from a sermon by Dr. A.R. Bernard
13. Dr. Edwin Louis Cole
14. Inspired by Wellington Boone
15. Numbers 6:22-27

SESSION FIVE

1. Mark 2:1-5, NLT
2. Proverbs 18:1, ESV
3. 1 Samuel 23:16-17, ESV, emphasis added
4. 1 Thessalonians 5:11,14, AMP, emphasis added
5. Romans 12:10, ESV, bold emphasis added
6. MDN Discipleship Coach Rich Melilla helped formulate this concept.
7. John 17:21-22
8. 2 Corinthians 12:9
9. Romans 15:14, NASB, emphasis added
10. Harris, Ralph W. ed. *The Complete Biblical Library: the New Testament Greek-English Dictionary: Delta-Epsilon*. Springfield, MO, MO: World Library Press, 1986.
11. Galatians 5:13, MSG, paraphrased
12. 1 Samuel 18:1,3
13. John 13:35, NASB

14. Psalm 133:3, ESV
15. Proverbs 27:17, NASB
16. Bethge, Eberhard, and Victoria Barnett. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer: a Biography*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2000.
17. Hoffman, Peter, and Richard Barry. *History of the German Resistance*. Cambridge, MA: M.I.T., 1977.

SESSION SIX

1. Keller, Tim, *Gospel in Life Podcast*, "Friendship," 9-24-15.
2. Luke 14:28, ESV
3. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10,12, NLT, emphasis added
4. Hebrews 13:17, NLT
5. Proverbs 11:13, NIRV
6. Adapted from my friend and mentor, Dr. Edwin Louis Cole
7. Romans 14:12, NRSV
8. Ephesians 5:21
9. James 5:16a, AMP
10. Proverbs 18:13, GNB
11. 1 Corinthians 12:26, ESV
12. James 5:16a, AMP
13. Psalm 32:3-5, 51

SESSION SEVEN

1. 1 Timothy 4:14, 2 Timothy 1:6
2. 1 Timothy 4:12, TPT
3. 2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV
4. 2 Timothy 2:3-4
5. Romans 8:7
6. 1 John 2:15-16, NLT, bold emphasis added
7. 2 Timothy 2:1, NKJV, bold emphasis added
8. 1 John 4:18, bold emphasis added
9. 2 Corinthians 10:4, bold emphasis added
10. Joel and Carol Silberman PhD. Therapist, Craig A. Miller, MS, LMSW, and Dr. Dan Guerra, Psy.D.
11. Dr. Joseph Arasmos, Head of Psychiatrics, 15 Years, South Oaks Hospital, New York
12. 1 John 1:9; Romans 15:7
13. Galatians 4:4-7; Romans 8:15,29-30,
14. Ephesians 1:4-7, Psalm 2:7, 63:3
15. Hebrews 2:10; Joshua 5:14; Mark 12:28-31; Matthew 28:19-20
16. Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
17. John 14:18, TPT, bold emphasis added

18. Paraphrasing the truth of 2 Timothy 1:7 and Romans 8:15

SESSION EIGHT

1. Kiefer, James, John & Charles Wesley: *Renewers of the Church*, 2019.
2. Adapted from Platt, David. *Follow Me: a Call to Die. a Call to Live*. Carol Stream, IL, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013.
3. Merriam-Webster Dictionary
4. John 1:12, NIV2011
5. Galatians 3:26, NASB
6. Romans 8:15, NIV
7. Sheets, Dutch, *Becoming Who You Are: Embracing the Power of Your Identity in Christ*, Baker Publishing Group: 2010.
8. Ephesians 1:4-5, NIV
9. Genesis 1:27, NASB
10. Crabb, Larry. *Fully Alive: a Biblical Vision of Gender That Frees Men and Women to Live beyond Stereotypes*. Grand Rapids, MI, MI: Baker Books, 2014.
11. OT Enhanced Strong's Dictionary
12. Psalm 2:7, NIV
13. 2 Samuel 7:14, NLT
14. Matthew 3:17b
15. Galatians 4:4-5
16. Ephesians 3:18, NLT
17. John 17:23
18. Philippians 2:6-8
19. John 5:19, NASB
20. Resources: TDNT, BDAG, CWSB, Strong's Dictionaries, Greek Lexicons, Louw-Nida, DBWS, Nigel Turner, Christian Words, Discovery Bible Word Helps
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Scott Caesar is the pastor and founder of the Men's Discipleship Network, which has been in ministry to men for well over twenty years. Scott is also the author of *The W.E.A.P.O.N.S.[®] Curriculum for Men* series, as well as a contributing author to the book *How to Disciple Men*.

The Men's Discipleship Network's system of discipleship has seen growth due to gospel-driven events, along with curriculum cementing ***“Truth that Transforms with Training that Sustains.”*** This is all done in partnership with the local church, with over 100,000 men having been trained through this discipleship system.

Many friends and mentors, including the late Dr. Edwin Louis Cole, and Promise Keepers[®] Founder Bill McCartney, have all played a significant role in shaping and molding Scott's approach to discipling men. His passion as an ordained minister, speaker, and writer is to see revival in our churches and families through men who are fully alive with the grace, power, and passion of Jesus Christ.

Scott's teaching assists men in their spiritual growth by replacing the lies of the world with the truth of Scripture, helping them in experiencing the presence and love of God. When men understand their position as sons in God's eternal Kingdom, it enables them to be responsible and active leaders in their homes, churches, and communities. As a result of Scott's ministry, thousands of men have realized the joy of living free as the gospel of Jesus Christ becomes practical and attractive, creating a multiplying effect on other men in their church and community.

Scott is a sought-after men's speaker at church events, retreats, and large events like Men's Discipleship Boot Camp[®]. His greatest thrill is that God calls him “son” through Jesus Christ, his wife Debbie calls him “hers”, and their adult children, Kimberly, Vincent, and Nicholas, call him “Dad.” He and Debbie reside in Massapequa Park, New York.

