

HOW TO BE A MAN CHALLENGE

LEARNING FROM THE REAL MEN OF THE BIBLE

ADULT LEADER / SMALL GROUP

INTRODUCTION

By downloading this document, you've taken the first step in an essential journey. You have committed to walking alongside other men as you journey toward becoming the man God has called you to be by learning from the real men of the Bible. This guide, an eight-week companion to the devotional book *How To Be A Man: Learning from the Real Men of the Bible*, will provide you with the framework to have a meaningful time of small group Bible study that accompanies the content you're engaging with in your daily devotions. After eight weeks of reading the daily devotions in the books and meeting weekly to talk through this guide, our prayer is that you'll find a deeper relationship with the Lord, and with the men in your small group.

Look on the next page to learn how the *How To Be A Man Challenge* works.



WHAT IS THE HOW TO BE A MAN CHALLENGE

The *How To Be A Man Challenge* is two-fold. First, we want to challenge you to strive to become the man God has called you to be, and we want you to work to instill this value in the men in your small group. We want this to be so important in your life that you set aside time over the next eight weeks to meet and discuss with other men what God is doing in your lives. Second, in every session, there is a final activity called The Challenge that challenges you to implement a specific task in your life. This is what the challenge is all about.

HOW THE HOW TO BE A MAN CHALLENGE WORKS

This guide is designed to help you have a brief (30 minutes or so) time of discussion and Bible study centered on what you have read the previous week in *How To Be A Man*. There are eight sessions in this guide, one for each section of the book. The idea is to read a particular section of devotions over a week, then meet and go through that week's content in this guide. As such, you'll need A) to have read the previous week's devotions, B) to have your book with you, and C) to have access to a Bible, either a physical one or a Bible app.

THERE ARE THREE SECTIONS THAT MAKE UP EACH WEEKLY SESSION:

- **Looking Back** - A short time of reflection where you look back and make note of any content that was particularly meaningful
- **Digging In** - A time of Bible study where you go deeper into one of the passages you read during the week
- **The Challenge** - A closing activity where you're challenged with a particular, practical way of living out a Christ-centered masculinity during the next week

ONE WORD BEFORE YOU GET STARTED . . .

The pace of our lives works against us being able to commit to anything for very long. Let us encourage you to fight for the next eight weeks. Commit to the men in your group that you will do your absolute best to keep up with the daily readings (This is one reason we only included five days per session. It allows you a day or two "grace" each week for those situations when life keeps you from being able to read your devotion for that day.) Do everything in your power to honor the weekly time you've set aside for your small group. It's much harder to commit to this than it is to see it as something you may or may not get to. But here's a good truth to internalize: most good things don't come without some sacrifice. Make your small group gathering a priority and do your best to honor it.

Having said all this, we'd be foolish not to acknowledge that things come up. Stuff happens. The worst thing you can do is to allow a few missed days or a missed weekly meeting to knock you out completely. If you stumble in your commitment, get back up, and try again. God will honor your efforts.

Now go to the next page to get started!

SESSION 1: ABRAHAM

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 4 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT ABRAHAM.

LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

This section will be similar in each session. The idea is to spend a few minutes each meeting reviewing what you've learned in the previous week. It's an unstructured time of review, growing out of your respective interactions with the content in the daily devotions. Your goal for this time is to share your reflections and engage in a dialogue around any questions or thoughts that may arise.

Having said this, we've provided you with a set of questions. If you need a little help getting started, consider reading some or all of the following questions to help guide your discussion about what you're learning.

- **Glance back over Abraham's life. Was there a specific day that seemed to make more of an impact on you than the other days? Why? What was it about that day that jumped out at you?**
- **Share a sentence or two that you underlined or otherwise noted. What is it about this sentence that stood out?**
- **Was there an aspect of Abraham's life that gave you pause or that you had questions about?**
- **If you could sum up who Abraham was in one word, what would it be?**
- **What questions do you have? Was there anything you didn't quite understand or maybe disagreed with?**
- **What did you encounter that was entirely new for you? Were there concepts that you hadn't run into before? How did this concept make you feel? What thoughts did it cause you to consider?**

Once you've had a chance to talk about the previous week of devotions, transition into your time of Bible study using the *Digging In* activity.

DIGGING IN (10-15 MINUTES)

For this week's *Digging In*, you're going to spend a few minutes doing a more in-depth Bible study on the passage from Day 4 of Abraham. This week, you'll be digging back into Genesis 22:1-14.

FIRST, grab a Bible or a Bible app and turn to Genesis. Anytime we read the Bible, it's important to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. Consider sharing the following info with your group:

- **Who Wrote It?** While there's no specific author named within the text, Moses is the accepted author for Genesis, with some editing and additions done after his death (such as the account of his death).
- **When Was It Written?** It's difficult to establish with any certainty a date for the completion of Genesis. Most of the material originated from Moses himself, and depending on the date of the Exodus (which is also not known for sure) that would make the date for the writing of Genesis sometime in the 1400s or the 1200s BC.
- **Why Was It Written?** Genesis details the earliest history of our world, including creation and Adam and Eve's fall. It also focuses on the emergence of Israel, not only as God's people, but as the group God would work through to bring redemption to the world.

NEXT, read Genesis 22:1-14. Once you've finished, direct the group's attention to the first three verses of the passage. Lead the group in a discussion using the following questions:

- **What stands out to you about these first three verses?**
- **God's description of Isaac is significant. What does this say about what God knew He was asking of Abraham?**
- **Describe Abraham's response to God in verse 3. Think of a couple of ways Abraham could have responded.**

At this point, make a point to highlight the incredible faith of Abraham. Consider saying something like this:

- **If we stop and put ourselves in Abraham's shoes, his response to God is pretty amazing. He didn't bat an eye when God asked him to do what is probably the most challenging thing anyone can be asked. The ONLY way Abraham could respond the way he did was because he knew God. He knew God to be faithful. He had confidence in who God was. His faith was impossibly strong, but it was placed in the only one who deserves such faith.**

THEN, have the group look further down at verse 12. Ask something like the following:

- **Describe God's response to Abraham.**

SESSION I: ABRAHAM

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 4 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT ABRAHAM.

- What did God learn about Abraham during this testing?
- Here's an interesting question: If God is all-knowing like the Bible teaches us that He is, He would have known that Abraham's faith was strong. In other words, the test wasn't just for God. It was for Abraham, too. What did Abraham learn about himself and his faith in this encounter?
- How do you think this encounter strengthened his faith?
- Have you had tough times in your life where you came out on the other side with a stronger faith? Would you care to share with the group?

FINALLY, help your group see that there is a truth that most of us either don't recognize or don't want to admit: the trials God allows us to experience strengthen our faith. Say something like:

- Our faith in God is tested in moments of trial. It is in those moments that we learn whether or not we truly believe God to be all we know Him to be. When life gets hard, people's faith in God often either crumbles or strengthens. The outcome is often based on how much time a person has spent with God before the tough time hits. The faith that will see us through life's great trials is often built in the calm moments well before the storm hits. The question we have to ask ourselves as men is what we are doing to put down the roots of deep faith, a faith that can withstand the storms that will inevitably hit us.

Allow for any more discussion around this concept. Then, transition into *The Challenge*.

THE CHALLENGE (5 MINUTES)

Part of being the man God made us to be is being a person who takes action. *The Challenge* is about highlighting one practical, actionable thing you can do to put what you've learned into action.

YOUR CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS THIS:

SET ASIDE TIME FOR AN HONEST EVALUATION OF YOUR FAITH. SCHEDULE IT ON YOUR CALENDAR IF YOU MUST.
CARVE OUT SPACE TO REFLECT ON THE STRENGTH OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

DO YOU HAVE A FAITH THAT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND ANY CHALLENGE GOD MAY ALLOW TO IMPACT YOU?

IF YOU CAN'T SAY "YES," YOU AND GOD HAVE WORK TO DO.

SESSION 2: JOSEPH

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 2 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT JOSEPH.

LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

This section will be similar in each session. The idea is to spend a few minutes each meeting reviewing what you've learned in the previous week. It's an unstructured time of review, growing out of your respective interactions with the content in the daily devotions. Your goal for this time is for your group to share their reflections, and engage in a dialogue around any questions or thoughts that may arise.

We've provided you with a set of questions to give you a little help getting started. Consider reading some or all of the following questions to help guide your discussion about what you're learning.

- **Glance back over the five days of devotions from the life of Joseph. Was there a specific aspect of Joseph's life that seemed to make an impact on you? What was it about this aspect that jumped out at you?**
- **Share a sentence or two that you underlined or otherwise noted. What is it about this sentence that got your attention?**
- **Was there a specific question that caused you to think, or that convicted you? Share it with your group.**
- **If you could sum up Joseph's life in one word, what would it be?**
- **What questions do you have? Was there anything you didn't quite understand or maybe disagreed with?**
- **What did you encounter that was entirely new for you? Were there concepts that you hadn't run into before? How did this concept make you feel? What thoughts did it cause you to consider?**

Once you've had a chance to talk about the previous week of devotions, transition into your time of Bible study using the *Digging In* activity.

DIGGING IN (10-15 MINUTES)

For this week's *Digging In*, you're going to spend a few minutes doing a more in-depth Bible study on the passage from Day 2 of Joseph. This week, you'll be digging back into Genesis 41:25-40.

FIRST, grab a Bible or a Bible app and turn to Genesis 41:25-40. Anytime we read the Bible, it's important to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. The context for this week's passage is the same as last week's. Remind the men in your group of the context for the Book of Genesis:

- **Who Wrote It?** While there's no specific author named within the text, Moses is the accepted author for Genesis, with some editing and additions done after his death (such as the account of his death).
- **When Was It Written?** It's difficult to establish with any certainty a date for the completion of Genesis. Most of the material originated from Moses himself, and depending on the date of the Exodus (which is also not known for sure) that would make the date for the writing of Genesis sometime in the 1400s or the 1200s BC.
- **Why Was It Written?** Genesis details the earliest history of our world, including creation and Adam and Eve's fall. It also focuses on the emergence of Israel, not only as God's people, but as the group God would work through to bring redemption to the world.

NEXT, remind the group that you're picking up Joseph's story after he'd been in prison for two years because Pharaoh's cupbearer had forgotten to tell Pharaoh about Joseph's innocence. Pharaoh had two dreams that no one could interpret for him. The cupbearer remembered that Joseph had once interpreted his dreams, and he guiltily informed Pharaoh that he had forgotten about Joseph. Joseph was summoned to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. This is where you pick up. Read or have a volunteer read Genesis 41:25-40. Then, lead your group in a brief discussion. Say something like:

- **This is the first feel-good moment in Joseph's story. He had been sold into slavery by his brothers and sentenced to prison for a sexual assault he didn't commit. Here we see Joseph finding incredible favor with Pharaoh. But before we jump into this, let's take a step back and look at verse 41:1. What does this verse say?**
- **Joseph was left in prison for two years after he interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's officials. What feelings do you think Joseph may have wrestled with during those two years?**
- **We know from Scripture that God is sovereign over all things. There is no such thing as coincidence. Nothing happens without God's knowledge. Knowing this, what must we make of Joseph's imprisonment?**
- **Have you ever experienced waiting on God to move during a tough situation? How did you process it?**

THEN, say something like:

SESSION 2: JOSEPH

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 2 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT JOSEPH.

- Here's what we have to know about Joseph's time in prison: according to God's perfect plan, those two extra years in prison were critical. We know God is perfectly good. He wouldn't have left Joseph in prison for no reason; that would be the opposite of good. We have to know that something about those two extra years in prison, years where Joseph was no doubt counting on being released, helped shape Joseph to be the man God needed him to be to complete the task God had in store for him. As we deal with tough times at work or in our home, and we wonder why God isn't giving us relief, we can look at Joseph and take heart: God is in control, God is good, and His timing is perfect.

NEXT, spend a few moments looking back at Genesis 41:25-40. Again, lead a brief discussion. Ask:

- How would you describe the turn of events that saw Joseph given the role of second in command over Egypt?
- What drew Pharaoh to Joseph?
- The devotional in the book focused on being men who seek to grow in our wisdom and discernment. And yet, these can be elusive qualities. How have you experienced growth in wisdom and discernment in your own life? What has worked?
- Looking at your life, what would you say have been obstacles to wisdom and discernment?

FINALLY, remind your group that Joseph is an incredible picture of God's faithfulness and the mysterious nature of His ways. Only God could orchestrate such a story! Say something like:

- Joseph's life is such a powerful reminder of God's divine interaction with us. God interceded in Joseph's life in so many different ways. God protected and sustained Joseph. God gave Joseph wisdom. And ultimately, God rewarded Joseph's faithfulness. There's so much here to learn and apply as we seek to be men who live out God's call to impact the world around us. Joseph relied so heavily on God. We should too.

Allow for any more discussion, then wrap up your group time by transitioning into *The Challenge*.

THE CHALLENGE (5 MINUTES)

Part of being the man God made us to be is being a person who takes action. *The Challenge* is about highlighting one practical, actionable thing you can do to put what you've learned into action.

YOUR CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS THIS:

WRITE OUT A PLAN TO GROW IN YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. AFTER ALL, WISDOM IS JUST KNOWLEDGE THAT IS APPLIED TO THE WORLD AROUND US. BEFORE WE CAN APPLY A KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, WE HAVE TO KNOW HIM.

IDENTIFY THREE TO FIVE WAYS YOU CAN BEGIN TO GROW CLOSER TO GOD. WRITE THEM DOWN IN A LIST, AND COMMIT TO FOLLOWING THROUGH.

INFORM OTHERS OF YOUR PLAN AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO HOLD YOU ACCOUNTABLE.

SESSION 3: JOSHUA

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 4 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT JOSHUA

LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

This section will be similar in each session. The idea is to spend a few minutes each meeting reviewing what you've learned in the previous week. It's an unstructured time of review, growing out of your group members' respective interactions with the content in the daily devotions. Your goal for this time is for group members to share reflections, and engage in a dialogue around any questions or thoughts that may arise.

We've provided you with a set of questions in case you need a little help getting started. Consider reading some or all of the following questions to help guide your discussion about what you're learning.

- **What were your overall impressions of Joshua? Describe him as if you were describing him to someone who had never read his story.**
- **Share a sentence or two that you underlined or otherwise noted. What is it about this sentence that stood out to you?**
- **Was there a specific question that caused you to think, or that convicted you? Share it with your group.**
- **What aspect of Joshua's character can you relate to?**
- **What questions do you have? Was there anything you didn't quite understand or maybe disagreed with?**
- **Did you learn anything about Joshua that was entirely new for you? Were there concepts that you hadn't run-in to before? How did this concept make you feel? What thoughts did it cause you to consider?**

Once you've had a chance to talk about the previous week of devotions, transition into your time of Bible study using the *Digging In* activity.

DIGGING IN (10-15 MINUTES)

For this week's *Digging In*, you're going to spend a few minutes doing a more in-depth Bible study on the passage from Day 4 of Joshua. This week, you'll be digging back into Joshua 4:4-7.

FIRST, grab a Bible or a Bible app and turn to Joshua 4:4-7. Anytime we read the Bible, it's essential to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. Here's what that looks like for this passage:

- **Who Wrote It?** Joshua does not state the author, but Joshua has long been accepted as the book's author.
- **When Was It Written?** Joshua was likely written in the late second millennium BC.
- **Why Was It Written?** The Book of Joshua is named for the main character. This book tells the story of God's faithfulness to His people as they enter into the Promised Land. Under Joshua's leadership, the people experience the blessings that God had promised His people for generations.

NEXT, read Joshua 4:4-7. When you've finished, lead your group in a brief discussion. Begin by asking the group to help summarize the story of the Israelites up to this point. How in-depth you'll go will depend on the makeup of your group. Consider using the following bullet points to help fill in any gaps.

- **The Israelites were enslaved by the Egyptians for over 400 years.**
- **God raised up Moses to be the leader who would confront Pharaoh and secure the Israelites freedom.**
- **Through a series of plagues, culminating with the death of every firstborn child and livestock in Egypt, God forced Pharaoh to let the people go. (Remember, the firstborn of the Israelites were spared because each Jewish family sacrificed a lamb to God and smeared its blood on the doorposts; the angel of death passed over their doors, sparing the Israelites and ushering in the celebration of the Passover feast.)**
- **The Israelites were led by God through the desert wilderness toward the Promised Land. Along the way God did miraculous things such as parting the Red Sea, feeding them with manna and quails, giving them the 10 Commandments and the Law, providing water for them from a rock, and so on.**
- **When the people arrived at the Promised Land, they sent 12 spies into scout the land out. All but Joshua and Caleb said that God was incapable of delivering the land He promised. As punishment for their lack of faith, God condemned a generation of Israelites, including Moses, to die in the wilderness instead of entering the Promised Land.**
- **The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years before Joshua led them to finally possess the Promised Land.**

SESSION 3: JOSHUA

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 4 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT JOSHUA

Make sure your group realizes the momentous occasion of what was happening. This was the Israelites FINALLY entering into the land God had promised generations before when He called Abraham to be the father of a great nation. This was that moment! Direct your group's attention back to Joshua 4:4-7. Ask something like:

- Joshua "appoints" the 12 representatives to walk to the middle of the swollen Jordan, which God had parted similarly to the Red Sea, and to pick a large stone. The Hebrew word for "appointed" comes from the same root word that is translated as "firm" or "firmly." Why do you think it was important for the men from the 12 tribes of Israel to take a "firm" stance of faith as they entered the land? (Consider the recent history of Israel and what caused them to be condemned to wander for 40 years.)
- Look at verse 6. What was the specific point of these stones?
- Joshua said that one day, children would ask "What do these stones mean to you?" This is a very personal question; not "what do these stones mean," but "what do these stones mean to you." What is so important about being able to pass along a personal understanding of God to the next generation?
- How had the Israelites personally experienced God? How do we? How do we as men foster a personal, intimate knowledge of God based on experiences with Him?
- Here's a truth: We will often see evidence of God's powerful, maybe even miraculous, work in our lives. But this isn't the way He always chooses to work. Sometimes He allows us to search for evidence of His interaction. Sometimes we don't even realize He has intervened. In light of this, why is it essential for us to recognize the moments when we experience His powerful intervention in our lives?

FINALLY, make a point to remind men that the main reason for the stones was remembrance. That was the focus of the devotion: remembering what God has done in our lives. But before we can remember, we have to take note. Say something like:

- To remember something, we have to first experience it. When our faith is firm, when we are steadfast in our commitment to God, we are more aware of His presence in our lives. We are in a better position to SEE the work He does on our behalf. And once we see it, once we experience it, it is easier to remember because there is an attachment there. That should be our goal: to be men who are so close to God that we can't help but see His work intersect our lives.

Allow for any final discussion before transitioning into *The Challenge*.

THE CHALLENGE (5 MINUTES)

Part of being the man God made us to be is being a person who takes action. *The Challenge* is about highlighting one practical, actionable thing you can do to put what you've learned into action.

YOUR CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS THIS:

- THE CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT. THE CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT YOU FOLLOWED THROUGH WITH QUESTIONS 1-3 ON PAGE 51 OF THE BOOK.

TAKE A MOMENT TO REVIEW THE QUESTIONS. THEN ASK THE MEN IN THE GROUP IF THEY DID THIS, ESPECIALLY QUESTION 3. IF NOT, TAKE A MOMENT TO CHALLENGE THEM TO COMPLETE THESE TASKS THIS WEEK.

EXPLAIN THAT YOU'RE GOING TO ASK EACH MEMBER OF THE GROUP NEXT WEEK IF THEY FOLLOWED THROUGH WITH THESE TASKS.

SESSION 4: DAVID

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 4 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT DAVID.

LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

This section is similar in each session. The goal for this time is to spend a few minutes each meeting reviewing what the members of your group have learned in the previous week and to engage in a dialogue around any questions or thoughts that may arise.

If you need a little help getting started, consider reading some or all of the following questions to help jump-start the discussion.

- Glance back over the five moments from David's life you looked at this week. Was there a specific moment that seemed to make more of an impact on you? Why? What was it about that aspect of his life that jumped out at you?
- How did your perspective of David change after spending five days focusing on his life?
- Share a sentence or two that you underlined or otherwise noted. What is it about this sentence that stood out to you?
- Was there a specific question that caused you to think, or that convicted you? Share it with your group.
- In what ways did you see yourself in David?
- Is there an aspect of David's life that you find yourself drawn to imitate?
- What questions do you have? Was there anything you didn't quite understand or maybe disagreed with?

Once you've had a chance to talk about the previous week of devotions, transition into your time of Bible study using the *Digging In* activity.

DIGGING IN (10-15 MINUTES)

For this week's *Digging In*, you're going to spend a few minutes doing a more in-depth Bible study on the passage from Day 4 of David. This week, you'll be digging into Psalm 51:1-4.

FIRST, grab a Bible or a Bible app and turn to Psalm 51. Anytime we read the Bible, it's essential to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. Here's what that looks like for this passage:

- **Who Wrote It?** God inspired various authors to write a majority of Psalms, including seventy-three by David (including Psalm 51), twelve by Asaph, eleven by the Korahites, and two by Solomon. Heman, Ethan, and Moses each wrote one, while the authorship of fifty other Psalms remains unknown.
- **When Was It Written?** While we don't have an exact date for the writing of Psalm 51, the psalms were written during different eras of Israel's history, spanning from 1100 BC (i.e., Psalm 29, 68) to 400 BC (i.e., Psalm 119). This psalm probably would have been written sometime around 990-980 BC.
- **Why Was It Written?** The psalms are inspired by God to poetically reflect humanity's journey with Him. Each psalm serves a different purpose, such as a personal or communal lament, hymn, song, reflection, or declaration. Psalm 51 was written as a psalm of confession and repentance for sins David committed surrounding his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba.

NEXT, before you read Psalm 51:1-4, have someone summarize the events surrounding David's sin with Bathsheba. Make sure to mention the fact that not only did David use his absolute power as king to essentially force Bathsheba into having sex with him, he also arranged for the murder of her husband in battle, costing not only her husband's life but ending the lives of other soldiers as well. It's easy for us to gloss over the truly sinister nature of what David did. Make sure that everyone in your group is on the same page with what went on.

THEN, remind your group that Psalm 51 is David's reaction after he was confronted by the prophet Nathan and realized the depth of his sin. With this as the backdrop, read Psalm 51:14. Then, ask something like:

- David asked for mercy from God. What was his basis for asking for mercy?
- David knew God's character. How did he know it? How did he know that he could ask for mercy from God and that there was a chance God would forgive his sins?
- Verse 3 is an interesting statement. Describe David's spiritual and emotional state here.
- Verse 4 offers a pretty profound theological statement. No matter who we wrong, ultimately all sin is a sin against who? When we truly internalize this, how does it make us feel?

SESSION 4: DAVID

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 4 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT DAVID.

- When we are confronted by our sin, and we see it in light of who God is, the blinders come off. This is conviction. Can you think of a time in your life where God convicted you of a sin that led to repentance and a greater understanding of who God is?

Explain that David understood at that moment how egregious his sin was to God. Explain that it was even more meaningful that God forgave him. In the Old Testament, God had ordained that animal sacrifice was necessary for forgiveness. And yet what we see is God immediately forgiving David upon his confession. This is remarkable. Say something like:

- Now, if you know the whole story, God punished David. God predicted that there would always be strife and death in David's family because of David's sin. But God did not take away His promise that there would always be a ruler of Israel from David's line (which was ultimately a promise fulfilled in Christ). David had consequences, but David also experienced God's grace. The beautiful thing about our relationship with God is that, in Christ, we can be assured of grace. We don't have to wonder whether or not God will extend it to us. If we have come to saving faith in Christ, our righteousness was purchased by Christ on the cross. We are forgiven not because of anything we have done, but because of what Jesus did on our behalf. But far from this being a justification for sinning more, it should be the motivation for sinning less.

FINALLY, ask if there are any more comments or questions. If not, transition into *The Challenge*.

THE CHALLENGE (5 MINUTES)

Part of being the man God made us to be is being a person who takes action. *The Challenge* is about highlighting one practical, actionable thing you can do to put what you've learned into action.

YOUR CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS THIS:

IS THERE UNREPENTANT SIN IN YOUR LIFE? DO YOU HAVE A SIN-HABIT THAT YOU'VE ALLOWED TO CAPTURE YOU?
WHAT IS KEEPING YOU FROM DOING THE WORK NECESSARY TO RID YOUR LIFE OF THIS HABIT?

THE BIBLE TELLS US IN CHRIST WE ARE NO LONGER SLAVES TO SIN, BUT SLAVES TO RIGHTEOUSNESS. ISN'T IT TIME
YOU ALLOWED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH TO KILL THIS PARTICULAR SIN IN YOUR LIFE?

IF YOU HAVE A SIN-HABIT THAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO BREAK, BE A MAN OF ACTION AND COMMIT TO TAKING
THE INITIAL STEPS OF DEALING WITH THIS HABIT TODAY.

SESSION 5: ELIJAH

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 2 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT ELIJAH.

LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

This section is similar in each session. The goal for this time is to spend a few minutes each meeting reviewing what the members of your group have learned in the previous week and to engage in a dialogue around any questions or thoughts that may arise.

If you need a little help getting started, consider reading some or all of the following questions to help jump-start the discussion.

- **Think about what you know of Elijah's life. Was there a specific day that seemed to make more of an impact on you than the other days? Why? What was it about that day that jumped out at you?**
- **Share a sentence or two that you underlined or otherwise noted. What is it about this sentence that stood out?**
- **Was there an aspect of Elijah's life that gave you pause or that you had questions about?**
- **If you could sum up who Elijah was in one word, what would it be?**
- **What questions do you have? Was there anything you didn't quite understand or maybe disagreed with?**
- **What did you encounter that was entirely new for you? Were there concepts that you hadn't run into before? How did this concept make you feel? What thoughts did it cause you to consider?**

Once you've had a chance to talk about the previous week of devotions, transition into your time of Bible study using the *Digging In* activity.

DIGGING IN (10-15 MINUTES)

For this week's *Digging In*, you're going to spend a few minutes doing a more in-depth Bible study on the passage from Day 2 of Elijah. This week, you'll be digging back into 1 Kings 18:20-40.

FIRST, grab a Bible or a Bible app and turn to 1 Kings 18:20-40. Anytime we read the Bible, it's essential to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. Here's what that looks like for this passage:

- **Who Wrote It?** Ancient Jewish history has Jeremiah as the author of 1 Kings and 2 Kings. However, this view has never been widely supported by scholars. It's best to view the books as a collection of writings with no known author.
- **When Was It Written?** 1 Kings and 2 Kings are extremely difficult to date because it's a collection of writings that could have been written and edited in stages.
- **Why Was It Written?** 1 Kings and 2 Kings tell the stories of the kings of Israel. These books speak of the faithfulness or unfaithfulness of kings and the impact that a godly leader can have on God's people.

NEXT, remind your group members that this is the story of Elijah's showdown with the prophets of Baal. Remind your group that King Hezekiah, ruler of the southern kingdom of Judah, had led God's people to stray from worship of Him, in part because he had allowed his wife, Jezebel, to spread the worship of the false god Baal. The prophets of Baal had flourished, and Baal worship was more common than worship of God. Through Elijah, God punished His people with a devastating drought that lasted three years. This showdown was God finally bringing this confrontation to a head.

Then, read 1 Kings 18:20-40. Once you've read the passage, lead your group in a discussion. Ask something like:

- **First of all, this is a pretty major moment in the Old Testament narrative. Elijah was arguably Israel's most famous prophet, and this is him at the height of his prominence. What is your response after reading this story? What stands out to you?**
- **Elijah sums up the people's problem in vs. 21: "And Elijah came near to all the people and said, 'How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.' And the people did not answer him a word." Here's a question we could all ask ourselves: "How are we guilty as Christian men of "limping between two different opinions"? In other words, what are the things in our lives that come between our devotion to God?**
- **What was the people's response when Elijah confronted them with their divided affection? What are we to make of this?**
- **The people were waiting to see who would win, God or Baal. They had forgotten all God had done for them**

SESSION 5: ELIJAH

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 2 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT ELIJAH.

and were looking to see if there may be a rival to God. Of course, we know that God has no rival. And yet, we can be just like the people; when confronted with our divided affections, we can be silent. What do we risk by serving God with a divided heart?

Reinforce the concept that God will not share His glory with anyone or anything. God is not OK with being second, or lower, on our list of priorities. By nature of who God is, He demands the full affection of our heart. Say something like:

- Recall that God's purpose in this confrontation was to punish those who had led His people astray, but to also restore His people's devotion for Him. God will do the same work in our lives if we don't make Him the primary aim of our lives. He will pare away the distractions, and it is often not pretty. But He does this because He loves us and because He is the rightful object of all of our devotion.

FINALLY, ask if anyone has any response to the discussion you've just had. Then, make a final point to your group. Say something like:

- Focus your attention on verses 36-38. What is happening here?
- Look at verse vs. 38. Elijah is in front of what is likely thousands of people. He has just called on God to do something miraculous. He is confronting the king and queen and their chosen god. In this moment, can Elijah be 100% sure that God is going to come through?
- Elijah had no way of knowing what God would do. But he was acting on faith and, it's safe to assume, being led by the Holy Spirit. Can you imagine what Elijah was feeling in the pause before the fire fell from heaven? Can you imagine what he felt like at the moment right after the altar was consumed? How did Elijah's knowledge of God change the moment when the fire fell?

Close your time of Bible study by saying something like:

- Elijah experienced God in a way that most people never will. But we can know a little bit about what this feels like. When we allow God to lead us and use us, when He comes through, we know Him more powerfully. We experience a fuller faith when we are a part of God's plan at work in the world. We do this by following God with an undivided heart, listening for the leading of the Spirit, and fearlessly obeying God's direction. When we do this, we allow God to use us in powerful ways.

THE CHALLENGE (5 MINUTES)

Part of being the man God made us to be is being a person who takes action. The Challenge is about highlighting one practical, actionable thing you can do to put what you've learned into action.

YOUR CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS THIS:

YOUR CHALLENGE THIS WEEK IS TO TAKE ACTION, TO LOOK AROUND YOU FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE A STAND FOR GOD, AND TO FOLLOW THROUGH BY BOLDLY BRINGING GLORY TO GOD.

MAYBE THIS IS A CONVERSATION AT WORK. MAYBE THIS IS CONFRONTING AN ONGOING PROBLEM IN YOUR HOME. MAYBE THIS IS MAKING SOME SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN YOUR OWN LIFE. WHATEVER IT IS, TAKE ACTION THIS WEEK. BE BOLD. MAKE A STAND.

SESSION 6: JOHN THE BAPTIST

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 5 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT JOHN THE BAPTIST.

LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

This section is similar in each session. The goal for this time is to spend a few minutes each meeting reviewing what the members of your group have learned in the previous week and to engage in a dialogue around any questions or thoughts that may arise.

If you need a little help getting started, consider reading some or all of the following questions to help jump-start the discussion.

- Glance back over the five days of devotions from the life of John the Baptist. Was there a specific aspect of John's life that seemed to make an impact on you? What was it about this aspect that jumped out at you?
- Share a sentence or two that you underlined or otherwise noted. What is it about this sentence that got your attention?
- Was there a specific question that caused you to think, or that convicted you? Share it with your group.
- If you could sum up John's life in one word, what would it be?
- What questions do you have? Was there anything you didn't quite understand or maybe disagreed with?
- What did you encounter that was entirely new for you? Were there concepts that you hadn't run into before? How did this concept make you feel? What thoughts did it cause you to consider?

Once you've had a chance to talk about the previous week of devotions, transition into your time of Bible study using the *Digging In* activity.

DIGGING IN (10-15 MINUTES)

For this week's *Digging In*, you're going to spend a few minutes doing a more in-depth Bible study on the passage from Day 5 of John the Baptist. This week, you'll be digging back into Matthew 11:1-11.

FIRST, grab a Bible or a Bible app and turn to Matthew 11. Anytime we read the Bible, it's essential to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. Here's what that looks like for this passage:

- **Who Wrote It?** Matthew, a former tax collector, was a disciple of Jesus and a firsthand witness to the stories he relates in his Gospel.
- **When Was It Written?** Most people hold to Matthew's Gospel being written in the late A.D. 50s or 60s, though some think it was written after the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70.
- **Why Was It Written?** Matthew was writing to a primarily Jewish audience to convince them that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah. But he was probably aware of a Gentile audience, as his Gospel makes the case that the saving truth of Christ is for all nations.

NEXT, set the stage for the passage you're about to read. Explain that John is in prison for confronting the immoral practices of Herod Antipas, the Roman leader in charge of Galilee and Perea (often called "King Herod," even though technically he was a "tetrarch" and not a king). John will eventually be executed by Herod. But before this happens, John is doing what most of us would do if we were in his shoes: he is questioning the life he has lived. More specifically, he is wondering if his efforts to make much of Jesus were well-placed.

Read Matthew 11:1-11. When you have done so, lead the group in a discussion. Ask:

- What is going on here with John? If we could sum it up in one word, what might we say?
- There's no way around it: John is doubting. Likely sensing that this imprisonment wasn't going to end well for him, John was wondering if it all was worth it. Was Jesus the one? Did he devote his life to steering people to the right place? Can you relate to John? Can you describe a time in your life - whether it was in your career, or in a relationship, or anything else - when you ever wondered if what you were doing was worth it?
- If we're honest, have there been times in your life when you shared John's line of questioning? Have you ever wondered if your faith in and service to Christ has been worth it? It's OK to admit it. Many Christ-followers struggle with questioning and doubt. Do you recall the specific circumstances surrounding your time of doubt?

Explain to the group that moments or even seasons of questioning and doubt are regular aspects of a strong faith. If you

SESSION 6: JOHN THE BAPTIST

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 5 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT JOHN THE BAPTIST.

recall your reading from Elijah, you'll remember that after his victory against the prophets of Baal, he had a significant crisis of faith. We are flawed people with a sin nature. Doubt is something many Christ-followers deal with.

Explain to your group that Jesus' response to John is powerful. Take a moment and focus on verses 4-6. Ask:

- **Describe Jesus' response here. What did Jesus do?**
- **The first part of Jesus' response was what we might call a mild rebuke. He didn't condemn John. He didn't zap him with a lightning bolt. But Jesus didn't let John entirely off the hook, either. Jesus reminded John of what Scripture said about Himself, things John knew to be true about God and about his mission to make much of Jesus. How does this provide a blueprint for us in how we deal with doubt?**
- **Jesus didn't just rebuke John and then call it a day. Look at verses 7-11. He made some pretty profound statements about John. If God viewed our doubt and questioning as a sin, or as something terrible, would Jesus have turned right around and made the statements he made about John? Of course not. Jesus helps us see here that God is not offended, or harmed, or scared off by our sincere questioning. Do you think there is a wrong way to approach God with our doubts? What do you think is the right manner, or attitude in which to bring our doubts to God?**

Remind your group that God never runs away from sincere questioning. God knows better than we do that our sinful state as humans creates a barrier to our full understanding of Him and His ways. Say something like:

- **Scripture itself is the most compelling evidence that God WANTS us to know Him. God always meets us in our doubt. God has shown in Scripture time and time again that He honors sincere questioning and the pursuit to know Him more authentically. When we doubt God, we must bring our doubts to Him and allow Him to show us that He alone is worthy of all of our trust. And we must trust Him in those moments to do so.**

FINALLY, before closing, it's important to make the point that doubt or questioning isn't something to go looking for. Some Christians go through life with a vibrant faith, having never experienced a season of doubt. This doesn't make them any better or worse than anyone else. If you've never experienced doubt, it doesn't make your faith any less real. The point of this discussion is that the opposite is true, as well: Honest doubt doesn't make you any less of a Christ-follower.

Allow anyone who wants to make any final statements about anything you've discussed. Then transition to The Challenge portion of your session.

THE CHALLENGE (5 MINUTES)

Part of being the man God made us to be is being a person who takes action. The Challenge is about highlighting one practical, actionable thing you can do to put what you've learned into action.

YOUR CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS THIS:

YOUR CHALLENGE THIS WEEK IS TO SPEND SOME TIME IN REFLECTION, EXPLORING YOUR FAITH. SOUND ABSTRACT?
NOT AT ALL.

YOU SEE, MANY MEN DON'T TAKE THEIR FAITH IN GOD SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO EVEN HAVE DOUBTS OR QUESTIONS.
THIS WEEK,

ASK YOURSELF: DO I PURSUE GOD WITH ENOUGH OF MY MIND, BODY, AND SOUL THAT I AM ENGAGED ENOUGH TO QUESTION ASPECTS OF HIS CHARACTER AND PLAN? AGAIN, DON'T GO LOOKING FOR DOUBT. BUT DON'T LET YOUR LACK OF QUESTIONING COME FROM A PLACE OF APATHY, BUT FROM A PLACE OF CONFIDENT ASSURANCE INSTEAD.

SESSION 7: PETER

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 1 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT PETER.

LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

This section is similar in each session. The goal for this time is to spend a few minutes each meeting reviewing what the members of your group have learned in the previous week and to engage in a dialogue around any questions or thoughts that may arise.

If you need a little help getting started, consider reading some or all of the following questions to help jump-start the discussion.

- Glance back over the five moments from Peter's life that you looked at this week. Was there a specific moment that seemed to make more of an impact on you? Why? What was it about that aspect of his life that jumped out at you?
- How did your perspective of Peter change after spending five days focusing on his life?
- Share a sentence or two that you underlined or otherwise noted. What is it about this sentence that stood out to you?
- Was there a specific question that caused you to think, or that convicted you? Share it with your group.
- In what ways did you see yourself in Peter?
- Is there an aspect of Peter's life that you find yourself drawn to imitate?
- What questions do you have? Was there anything you didn't quite understand or maybe disagreed with?

Once you've had a chance to talk about the previous week of devotions, transition into your time of Bible study using the *Digging In* activity.

DIGGING IN (10-15 MINUTES)

For this week's *Digging In*, you're going to spend a few minutes doing a more in-depth Bible study on the passage from Day 1 of Peter. This week, you'll be digging back into Matthew 16:13-20.

FIRST, grab a Bible or a Bible app and turn to Matthew 16. Anytime we read the Bible, it's essential to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. Here's what that looks like for this passage:

- **Who Wrote It?** Matthew, a former tax collector, was a disciple of Jesus and a firsthand witness to the stories he relates in his Gospel.
- **When Was It Written?** Most people hold to Matthew's Gospel being written in the late A.D. 50s or 60s, though some think it was written after the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70.
- **Why Was It Written?** Matthew was writing to a primarily Jewish audience to convince them that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah. But he was probably aware of a Gentile audience, as his Gospel makes the case that the saving truth of Christ is for all nations.

NEXT, explain that where you pick up the story, Jesus had essentially taken the disciples on a road trip. They had traveled north of Galilee to Caesarea Philippi on what would have been about a one or two day walk. While there, Jesus asks His disciples who people were saying He was. This question about His identity set the backdrop for one of the more critical interactions Jesus had with His disciples in general and Peter in specific.

Read Matthew 16:13-20 and lead your group in a short discussion. Ask something like:

- Pay attention to verses 13-14. Why would people who were interacting with Jesus have thought He was one of these men? What does it say about these people's ability to hear and perceive Jesus' message that they thought He was anyone other than who He said He was?
- In verse 15, Jesus asks the disciples who they think He is. We don't know what they were thinking because only Peter responded. Maybe they felt put on the spot. Peter boldly answers. Look at verses 16-17. What is Peter saying when he declared Jesus to be "the Christ, the Son of the living God"?
- Peter acknowledged Jesus' identity as the long-awaited Messiah, and he acknowledged Jesus' divinity. Have you ever thought of how you might respond if Jesus asked you the same question? What would you say? Who do you say Jesus is?

Remind your group that this is the most important question we as men can answer. "Who is Jesus to me"? If we don't get

SESSION 7: PETER

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 1 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT PETER.

the answer to that question right, nothing else in our lives will line up correctly. Lead your group in a short discussion. Ask:

- How does correctly answering the question, “Who is Jesus to me?” impact how you see:
 - Your career?
 - Your relationship with your wife?
 - How you parent your children?
 - How you use the gifts you’ve been given?
- What are some examples of what it looks like for men to live their lives having incorrectly answered who Jesus is?

FINALLY, allow this discussion to continue as long as it has steam. Before wrapping up, challenge men to see in Jesus’ response to Peter in vs. 17 an assurance that we’re not alone in our attempts to prioritize our lives around a true confession of Jesus’ identity. Say something like:

- Just as God guided Peter’s response, the Holy Spirit guides us. We don’t ever have to think we are alone or without help in doing the hard work of ordering our lives around Jesus and His call on us as men. The Spirit guides us and helps us follow through. We’re not alone. We don’t have to work to change under our own power. God is with us, helping us draw closer to Him.

If there are no more thoughts or questions, transition to *The Challenge*.

THE CHALLENGE (5 MINUTES)

Part of being the man God made us to be is being a person who takes action. The Challenge is about highlighting one practical, actionable thing you can do to put what you’ve learned into action.

YOUR CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS THIS:

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE TAKES THE FOCUS OFF YOU FOR A CHANGE. HERE’S A QUESTION FOR YOU: WHO DO YOU KNOW IN YOUR LIFE THAT HAS YET TO CONFESS FAITH IN CHRIST? WHO IS THE CLOSEST PERSON TO YOU THAT HASN’T CORRECTLY ANSWERED JESUS’ QUESTION, “WHO DO YOU SAY I AM”?

PICTURE THIS PERSON. WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TODAY TO HELP THEM DRAW CLOSER TO CORRECTLY ANSWERING THAT QUESTION? WHAT IS KEEPING YOU FROM DOING IT?

BE A MAN. BE BOLD. AND TAKE ACTION. TODAY IS THE DAY TO DO SOMETHING TO BRING THIS PERSON CLOSER TO CHRIST, TRUSTING THE LORD TO WORK IN THEIR LIVES.

SESSION 8: PAUL

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 2 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT PAUL.

LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

This section is similar in each session. The goal for this time is to spend a few minutes each meeting reviewing what students have learned in the previous week and to engage in a dialogue around any questions or thoughts that may arise.

If you need a little help getting started, consider reading some or all of the following questions to help jump-start the discussion.

- Glance back over the five moments from Paul's life that you looked at this week. Was there a specific moment that seemed to make more of an impact on you? Why? What was it about that aspect of his life that jumped out at you?
- How did your perspective of Paul change after spending five days focusing on his life?
- Share a sentence or two that you underlined or otherwise noted. What is it about this sentence that stood out to you?
- Was there a specific question that caused you to think, or that convicted you? Share it with your group.
- In what ways did you see yourself in Paul?
- Is there an aspect of Paul's life that you find yourself drawn to imitate?
- What questions do you have? Was there anything you didn't quite understand or maybe disagreed with?

Once you've had a chance to talk about the previous week of devotions, transition into your time of Bible study using the *Digging In* activity.

DIGGING IN (10-15 MINUTES)

For this week's *Digging In*, you're going to spend a few minutes doing a more in-depth Bible study on the passage from Day 2 of Paul. This week, you'll be digging back into Acts 9:1-22.

FIRST, grab a Bible or a Bible app and turn to Acts 9:1-22. Anytime we read the Bible, it's essential to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. Here's what that looks like for this passage:

- **Who Wrote It?** Acts has long been held to be a letter from Luke, a Gentile physician, to a man named Theophilus, possibly a benefactor of some sort.
- **When Was It Written?** There is some debate over when Acts was written. The suggested dates are between 70 AD and 80 AD.
- **Why Was It Written?** The Book of Acts is a second letter to Theophilus that tells the story of the early Church following Jesus' resurrection. The book begins with Jesus' ascension and His command of His followers to proclaim the Gospel in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. The rest of the book traces this journey as the early church leaders proclaim the Gospel and plant churches.

NEXT, read the story of Paul's conversion account in Acts 9:1-22. When you have finished, lead your group in a discussion. Ask:

- In stories like this one that is so familiar to us, why is it easy for us to miss the impact they can and should have on us?
- What is your favorite part of this story, and why?
- Verse 9 is pretty awesome. Paul was blind for three days. He ate nothing. He drank nothing. Can you imagine what must have been going through his head? He had three days to rethink everything he had been doing and how he had been choosing to serve God. He was coming face-to-face with the reality that everything he had done was wrong, even though he had believed with all his heart it was right. Have you ever had a moment where you were faced with re-thinking who you are and how you had been living your life? What kind of impact did that have on you?
- Have you ever had a situation where you thought you were following God as you should only to discover that you were misguided? How does that impact your faith?

Remind your group that it's easy for us to look at Paul before his encounter with Jesus and focus on how God can redeem anyone from their past. And that's a true statement. But we don't often focus on what Paul must have experienced at this moment. It's almost impossible for us to imagine what kind of mental and spiritual chaos he must have been going through

SESSION 8: PAUL

THIS SESSION WILL FOCUS ON DAY 2 OF THE WEEK-LONG LOOK AT PAUL.

as he slowly realized how extremely off he was when it came to serving God.

THEN, transition into another brief discussion, this time focusing on verses 19-22. Ask something like:

- **Describe Paul's response to his conversion.**
- **What does his response have to teach you as 21st Century guys? What can you learn from how deeply his encounter with Christ impacted his life?**

FINALLY, close your time of study by saying something like the following:

- **One of the powerful things Paul teaches us is that when God calls us, our response is to move. We know from later on in chapter 9 that Paul would eventually go back to his hometown of Tarsus for a time where he would powerfully sort out his new faith in light of what he knew to be true about the Scriptures and God. Paul would become arguably the most powerful messenger of the Gospel (outside of Christ Himself) this world has ever seen. But in verses 19-22, we see a guy who wasn't waiting for all the right answers. He had a story to tell, and he was telling it. There's a lot we can learn from Paul's reaction to his encounter with Christ.**

If there are no more questions or comments, transition to *The Challenge*.

THE CHALLENGE (5 MINUTES)

Part of being the man God made us to be is being a person who takes action. *The Challenge* is about highlighting one practical, actionable thing you can do to put what you've learned into action.

YOUR CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS THIS:

SHARE YOUR STORY. TELL SOMEONE THIS WEEK ABOUT THE STORY OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

THERE ARE PEOPLE ALL AROUND YOU EVERY DAY WHO MAY HAVE HEARD ABOUT GOD BUT DON'T KNOW THAT JESUS CAME SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULLEST. MAKE IT A POINT ONE DAY THIS WEEK TO TELL SOMEONE ABOUT HOW JESUS HAS CHANGED YOUR LIFE.

DON'T MAKE EXCUSES. DON'T SHY AWAY. DO IT. AND TRUST GOD TO USE YOUR STORY AS HE SEES FIT.

CLOSING

CONGRATULATIONS!

You did it. You completed the challenge. Our prayer is that by doing so, you drew closer to the other men in your group and closer to God. And hopefully, you are further along the path to becoming the men God has called you to be.

The world needs you. Our culture desperately needs men who live like Jesus. So don't let up. Continue to grow in your discipleship, always seeking to embrace a manliness that is informed and empowered by Christ Himself.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andy Blanks is the Publisher and Co-Founder of YM360 and Iron Hill Preess, and along with Bryan Gill, co-wrote *How To Be A Man: Learning from the Real Men of the Bible* and *How To Be A Man: Learning from the Real Men of the Bible (Student Edition)*. A former Marine, Andy has spent the last 16 years working in youth ministry, mostly in the field of publishing. During that time, Andy has led the development of some of the most popular Bible study curriculum and discipleship resources in the country. He has authored numerous books, Bible studies, and articles, and regularly speaks at events and conferences, both for adults and teenagers. But Andy's passion is communicating the transforming truth of the God's Word, which he does in his local church on a weekly basis.

Andy and his wife, Brendt, were married in 2000. They have four children, three girls and one boy.

If we can ever do anything for you, please don't hesitate to contact us. Email us at hello@ironhillpress.com or give us a call at 1-888-969-6360. It's our pleasure to serve you.

