

# HOW TO BE A MAN

## CHALLENGE

*LEARNING FROM THE REAL MEN OF THE BIBLE*

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FATHER / SON

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### INTRODUCTION

By downloading this document, you've taken the first step in an extremely important journey. There are few things more meaningful than a father and son growing together in their faith. This guide, an eight-week companion to the devotional books *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*, will help empower this growth. 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 deepening of your relationship with the Lord, and with each other.

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 commit to learning from the examples of the real men of the Bible, so much so that you would set aside time over the course of the next eight weeks to meet and discuss 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 short (25-30 minute) time of discussion and Bible study centered on what you have read the previous week in *How To Be A Man* and *How To Be A Man: Student Edition*. 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 the course of 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 Gospel-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 each other 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 to work through this guide together. 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 this time together 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 I: ABRAHAM

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

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## LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

This section will be similar in each session. The idea is to spend a few minutes each meeting reviewing with your son what the two of you have 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 thoughts with each other and engage in a dialogue around any questions that may arise.

Having said this, we've provided you with a set of questions to lead your son in a discussion. Ask him the questions, but make sure to answer them yourself, as well. Consider reading some or all of the following questions to help guide your discussion about what you're learning.

- **Look 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 some part of Abraham's life 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? 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 the following info:

- **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, look at the first three verses of the passage. Have a discussion by answering the following questions:

- **What stands out to you about these first three verses?**
- **God's description of Isaac is pretty important. 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 faith of Abraham. Read the following:

- **If we stop and put ourselves in Abraham's shoes, his response to God is pretty awesome. 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 was 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, look further down at verse 12. Answer the following questions:

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

# SESSION I: ABRAHAM

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- 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, don't miss that there is a truth that most of us either don't recognize or don't want to admit: the tough times God allows us to experience strengthen our faith. Read the following out loud:

- Our faith in God is tested when things get tough. It's 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 tough times is often built in the calm moments well before the storm hits. The question we have to ask ourselves as guys 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)

God desires for you and your son is for the two of you to both become men after God's own heart. This doesn't happen without doing what it takes to grow in faith and knowledge of God. *The Challenge* is about highlighting a practical, actionable thing you and your son can do to put what you've learned into action.

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### YOUR CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS THIS:

SET ASIDE TIME TO REALLY STOP AND LOOK AT YOUR FAITH.

TURN YOUR PHONE OR THE PLAY STATION OFF 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.

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# SESSION 2: JOSEPH

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

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## LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

This section is similar in each session. The idea is to spend a few minutes each meeting reviewing with your son what the two of you have 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 thoughts with each other and engage in a dialogue around any questions that may arise.

Having said this, we've provided you with a set of questions to lead your son in a discussion. Ask him the questions, but make sure to answer them yourself, as well. Consider reading some or all of the following questions to help guide your discussion about what you're learning.

- **Look back over the five days of devotions from the life of Joseph. Was there a specific part of Joseph's life that seemed to make an impact on you? What was it about this that jumped out at you?**
- **Share a sentence or two that you underlined. 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 the 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? 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. Consider the following info:

- **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.

Remember 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 called to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. This is where you pick up. Read or have a volunteer read Genesis 41:25-40. Then, lead students in a brief discussion. Answer the following questions:

- **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 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? What would you have felt like?**
- **We know from Scripture that God is in control over all things. There is no such thing as coincidence. Nothing happens without God's knowledge. What does this say about Joseph's imprisonment those "extra" two years?**
- **Have you ever felt like you were waiting on God to move during a tough situation? How did you process it?**

THEN, one of you read the following aloud:

- **Here's what we have to know about Joseph's time in prison: according to God's perfect plan, those two extra**

# SESSION 2: JOSEPH

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

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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 school or in our families, and we wonder why God isn't helping us out, 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. Answer the following questions:

- How would you describe the turn of events that saw Joseph given the role of second in command over Egypt?
- Why do you think Pharaoh liked Joseph so much? What do you think he saw in Joseph?
- The devotional in the book focused on being guys who grow in our wisdom and discernment. And yet, these can be things that are tough for us to grow into, especially for teenagers. 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, recall that Joseph is an incredible picture of God's faithfulness and the mysterious nature of His ways. Only God could orchestrate such a story! Read the following aloud:

- 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 of God 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)

God desires for you and your son is for the two of you to both become men after God's own heart. This doesn't happen without doing what it takes to grow in faith and knowledge of God. *The Challenge* is about highlighting a practical, actionable thing you and your son can do to put what you've learned into action.

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### 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.

HOLD ONE ANOTHER YOU ACCOUNTABLE BY ASKING EACH OTHER IN THE COMING WEEKS IF YOU ARE STICKING TO YOUR PLAN.

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# SESSION 3: JOSHUA

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

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## LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

Spend a few minutes reviewing with your son what the two of you have learned in the previous week. Remember, this is 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 thoughts with each other and engage in a dialogue around any questions that may arise.

Having said this, we've provided you with a set of questions to lead your son in a discussion. Ask him the questions, but make sure to answer them yourself, as well. 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 most?**
- **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 into before? How did this 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 important to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. Consider the following info:

- **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, work through the questions below. Begin by summarizing the story of the Israelites up to this point. 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.**

Make sure you realize the momentous occasion of what was happening. This was the Israelites FINALLY entering into the

# SESSION 3: JOSHUA

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

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land God had promised generations before when He called Abraham to be the father of a great nation. This was that moment! Look back at Joshua 4:4–7. Answer the following questions:

- 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 others?
- How had the Israelites personally experienced God? How do you? How do you grow 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, remember 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. Read the following:

- 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 guys who are so close to God that we can’t help but see His work intersect with our lives.

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

## THE CHALLENGE (5 MINUTES)

God desires for you and your son is for the two of you to both become men after God’s own heart. This doesn’t happen without doing what it takes to grow in faith and knowledge of God. *The Challenge* is about highlighting a practical, actionable thing you and your son can do to put what you’ve learned into action.

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### 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 45 OF THE BOOK.

TAKE A MOMENT TO REVIEW THE QUESTIONS. THEN MAKE SURE YOU DID THIS, ESPECIALLY QUESTION 3.

IF NOT, TAKE A MOMENT TO COMPLETE THESE TASKS THIS WEEK.

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# SESSION 4: DAVID

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

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## LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

Spend a few minutes reviewing with your son what the two of you have learned in the previous week. Remember, this is 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 thoughts with each other and engage in a dialogue around any questions that may arise.

Having said this, we've provided you with a set of questions to lead your son in a discussion. Ask him the questions, but make sure to answer them yourself, as well. Consider reading some or all of the following questions to help guide your discussion about what you're learning.

- **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 important to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. Consider the following info:

- **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, 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 you are on the same page with what went on.

Remember 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, answer the following questions:

- **David asked for mercy from God. What was he counting on when he asked this?**
- **David knew God's character. How did he know it? How did he know that he could ask God for mercy and that there was a chance God would listen and forgive his sins?**
- **Verse 3 is an interesting statement. Describe how David must be feeling, or what he must be thinking here.**
- **Verse 4 offers a pretty HUGE statement. No matter who we wrong, ultimately all sin is a sin against who?**

# SESSION 4: DAVID

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

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When we truly get this, how does it make us feel?

- 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?

David understood at that moment how bad his sin was to God. 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 Read the following out loud:

- 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)

God desires for you and your son is for the two of you to both become men after God's own heart. This doesn't happen without doing what it takes to grow in faith and knowledge of God. *The Challenge* is about highlighting a practical, actionable thing you and your son can do to put what you've learned into action.

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### YOUR CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS THIS:

IS THERE A SPECIFIC SIN-HABIT IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU CAN'T SEEM TO BEAT? 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.

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# SESSION 5: ELIJAH

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

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## LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

Spend a few minutes reviewing with your son what the two of you have learned in the previous week. Remember, this is 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 thoughts with each other and engage in a dialogue around any questions that may arise.

Having said this, we've provided you with a set of questions to lead your son in a discussion. Ask him the questions, but make sure to answer them yourself, as well. Consider reading some or all of the following questions to help guide your discussion about what you're learning.

- **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 important to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. Consider the following info:

- **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.

Remember that this is the story of Elijah's showdown with the prophets of Baal. 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, answer the following questions:

- **First of all, this is a pretty big 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 you need to ask: "How are you guilty as a Christian guy of "limping between two different opinions"? In other words, what are the things in your life that come between your devotion to God?**
- **What was the people's response when Elijah confronted them with their divided affection? What are we to make of this?**

# SESSION 5: ELIJAH

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

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- The people were waiting to see who would win out, God or Baal. They had forgotten all that God had done for them and were looking to see if there may be a rival to God. Of course, we know that there is no rival for God. 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?

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. Read the following aloud:

- Recall, God's purpose in this confrontation was to punish those who were leading 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. He does this because He loves us and because He is the rightful object of all of our devotion.

FINALLY, answer the following questions:

- Focus your attention on verses 36-38. What is happening here?
- Look at 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 reading the following aloud:

- 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 actively 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 powerfully use us.

## THE CHALLENGE (5 MINUTES)

God desires for you and your son is for the two of you to both become men after God's own heart. This doesn't happen without doing what it takes to grow in faith and knowledge of God. *The Challenge* is about highlighting a practical, actionable thing you and your son can do to put what you've learned into action.

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### 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 SCHOOL OR WORK. MAYBE THIS IS CONFRONTING AN ONGOING PROBLEM WITH A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER. MAYBE THIS IS MAKING SOME SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN YOUR OWN LIFE. WHATEVER IT IS, TAKE ACTION THIS WEEK.

BE BOLD. MAKE A STAND.

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# SESSION 6: JOHN THE BAPTIST

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

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## LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

Spend a few minutes reviewing with your son what the two of you have learned in the previous week. Your goal for this time is to share your thoughts with each other and engage in a dialogue around any questions that may arise.

Having said this, we've provided you with a set of questions to lead your son in a discussion. Ask him the questions, but make sure to answer them yourself, as well. 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 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 important to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. Consider the following info:

- **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.

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, answer the following questions:

- **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 sports, at work, in a relationship, or anything else - when you ever wondered if what you were doing was worth it?**
- **If you'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 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?**

Moments or even seasons of questioning and doubt are regular aspects of a strong faith. If you 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.

# SESSION 6: JOHN THE BAPTIST

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

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Jesus' response to John is powerful. Take a moment and focus on verses 4-6. Answer the following questions:

- **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?**

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. Read the following aloud:

- **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.

Then transition to *The Challenge* portion of your session.

## THE CHALLENGE (5 MINUTES)

God desires for you and your son is for the two of you to both become men after God's own heart. This doesn't happen without doing what it takes to grow in faith and knowledge of God. *The Challenge* is about highlighting a practical, actionable thing you and your son can do to put what you've learned into action.

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### YOUR CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS THIS:

YOUR CHALLENGE THIS WEEK IS TO SPEND SOME TIME THINKING ABOUT YOUR FAITH. SOUND ABSTRACT? NOT AT ALL. YOU SEE, MANY GUYS DON'T TAKE THEIR FAITH IN GOD SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO EVEN HAVE DOUBTS OR QUESTIONS.

THIS WEEK, ASK YOURSELF: DO I WANT TO KNOW GOD WITH SO MUCH OF MY MIND, BODY, AND SOUL THAT I ASK THE TOUGH QUESTIONS 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.

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# SESSION 7: PETER

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

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## LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

Spend a few minutes reviewing with your son what the two of you have learned in the previous week. Your goal for this time is to share your thoughts with each other and engage in a dialogue around any questions that may arise.

Having said this, we've provided you with a set of questions to lead your son in a discussion. Ask him the questions, but make sure to answer them yourself, as well. Consider reading some or all of the following questions to help guide your discussion about what you're learning.

- **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?**

## 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 important to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. Consider the following info:

- **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.

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 answer the following questions:

- **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 understand 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?**

This is the most important question we as men can answer. "Who is Jesus to me"? If we don't get the answer to that question right, nothing else in our lives will line up correctly. Answer the following questions:

- **How does correctly answering the question, "Who is Jesus to me?" impact how you see:**
  - **Your time at school or work?**



# SESSION 7: PETER

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

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- o Your relationship with your friends?
- o How you interact with family?
- o How you think about your current or future career?
- What are some examples of what it looks like for guys to live their lives having incorrectly answered who Jesus is?

FINALLY, be challenged by Jesus' response to Peter in vs. 17 to see it as an assurance that we're not alone in our attempts to prioritize our lives around a true confession of Jesus' identity. Read the following:

- **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 Christian guys. 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)

God desires for you and your son is for the two of you to both become men after God's own heart. This doesn't happen without doing what it takes to grow in faith and knowledge of God. *The Challenge* is about highlighting a practical, actionable thing you and your son can do to put what you've learned into action.

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### YOUR CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS THIS:

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE TAKES THE FOCUS OFF YOU FOR A CHANGE. HERE'S A QUESTION: 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.

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# SESSION 8: PAUL

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

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## LOOKING BACK (10 MINUTES)

Spend a few minutes reviewing with your son what the two of you have learned in the previous week. Your goal for this time is to share your thoughts with each other and engage in a dialogue around any questions that may arise.

Having said this, we've provided you with a set of questions to lead your son in a discussion. Ask him the questions, but make sure to answer them yourself, as well. Consider reading some or all of the following questions to help guide your discussion about what you're learning.

- **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 important to place the passages in the context of the big picture story of the Bible. Consider the following info:

- **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, answer the following questions:

- **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 profound. 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 reevaluating 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?**

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 anguish he must have been going through as he slowly real-

# SESSION 8: PAUL

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

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ized how extremely off he was when it came to serving God.

THEN, focus on verses 19-22. Answer the following questions:

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

FINALLY, close your time of study by reading the following aloud:

- 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 of learning and reflection, 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 Himself. 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)

God desires for you and your son is for the two of you to both become men after God's own heart. This doesn't happen without doing what it takes to grow in faith and knowledge of God. *The Challenge* is about highlighting a practical, actionable thing you and your son can do to put what you've learned into action.

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### YOUR CHALLENGE FOR THIS WEEK IS THIS:

SHARE YOUR STORY. FIND A WAY THIS WEEK TO TELL SOMEONE 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.

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# CLOSING

## CONGRATULATIONS!

You did it. You completed the challenge. Our prayer is that by doing so, father and son grew closer together and closer to God. And hopefully, each of you is further along the path to becoming the men God has called you to be.

The world needs you. Our culture desperately needs men and young men alike 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 [customercare@ym360.com](mailto:customercare@ym360.com) or give us a call at 1-888-969-6360. It's our pleasure to serve you.**