

Toward Biblical Manhood:

A Father-Son Encounter





Toward Biblical Manhood *A Father/Son Encounter* Leader's Guide Explanation

TBMH groups are comprised of 3-4 middle-school or high school aged sons and their dads. Gatherings are led by the dads, taking turns. The goal is to disciple and mentor our sons toward Biblical Manhood at a developmentally appropriate level. We are providing you with a leaders' guide and suggestions for each of nine TBMH gatherings. You should plan for your TBMH group to meet over one school year. Dads may need to meet 2-3 additional times to plan the father-son gatherings and divide responsibilities.

Each guide will consist of the following elements:

Activity Suggestions

We will include one or two options that we think tie well to the topic. However, dads should feel free to be creative and choose activities that they AND their sons will enjoy together. Do not stress about choosing something that PERFECTLY illustrates the lesson. It's more important that everyone looks forward to these gatherings as a fun time with friends.

Biblical Foundation and Principles

Fathers should be familiar with the Biblical basis for what they are teaching their sons. We will provide the dads with a summary of the key concepts as a result of this time together as well as their scriptural basis. This will include reminders for the dads of what we learned in Biblical Manhood and suggestions of how those lessons will apply to and resonate with teen-aged boys.

One dad will take responsibility for introducing the topic and guiding the discussion, but all should be familiar with the principles and able to explain how they have applied them in their own lives.

Heads-up! If the dads talk too much the sons may feel they are being lectured to and will shut down. Therefore, keep your "teaching" time to TEN MINUTES MAXIMUM.

Discussion Questions

While it's important to communicate God's perspective on the topic at hand, let's be sure this is an interactive time and that our sons are free to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences. Asking good questions and listening to the answers is the key to guiding a conversation without dominating it. We will give you a framework of several questions to pose that will draw everyone into the discussion. The facilitator needs to be sure the sons are doing AT LEAST half of the talking.

Wrap Up At the end of each gathering...

- Remind everyone what the main point was.
- Review the memory assignment for the year: 1 Corinthians 13:11
- Be sure everyone knows the date, time, and location of your next gathering.
- Remind everyone of any assignments that you have given.
- Pray.



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Session #1

Kickoff Gathering

Activity Suggestion:

Attend a Round Rock Express Baseball game together. Meet for dinner first to get acquainted and explain what “Toward Biblical Manhood” will be like...

- 9 Monthly meetings
- Fathers imparting values and skills of Biblical Manhood to their sons
- Deepening friendships between the two generations
- FUN!

Biblical Foundation: Manhood According to the Bible

In Biblical Manhood we discover that God has a specific role and purpose for men in creation and in society.

- Becoming a man entails intentional choices to move past our childish ways. 1 Corinthians 13:11
- Fathers play a key role in the training and development of their sons into men of God. Proverbs 4:1, Ephesians 6:4

Principles:

Introduce the Definition of a Biblical Man as one who...

- Rejects Passivity
- Accepts Responsibility
- Leads Courageously
- Invests Eternally

Discussion Questions: (for dads and sons)

- What is something you enjoy doing?
- What is something you'd like to learn to do?
- What do you hope will result from these gatherings?

Assign Scripture memory: 1 Corinthians 13:11 (We will work on this all year.)

Remind the Group of your next gathering: When/where/what...

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Session #2

A Biblical Man Identifies with Christ

Activity Suggestion: Game—"Who Am I?"

- ⇒ Put a peel-and-stick label with the name of a famous person on each player's back. These should be names of people who will be easily recognized by all group members.
- ⇒ Players ask yes/no questions of the others to figure out who they are and move their labels to the front of their shirts when they figure out who they are. Then they continue answering questions for the others.
- Debrief:
 - What kinds of things told you "who you were"? (*Age, appearance, accomplishments...*)
 - Are these things important for deciding who we are in real life, too?
 - We had to depend on each other to help us discover our identity. How does what other people say about you impact what you think about yourself?

Biblical Foundation: Identifying with Christ has several meanings in this context:

- Accepting Christ as Savior: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:8-9
- Imitating Christ's example: Galatians 2:20
- Finding significance in living out what Christ designed us for: Ephesians 2:10

Principles:

- We'll discuss imitating Christ and living out what he designed us for more in coming months. This month pay special attention to the foundation of a relationship with God through Christ. Don't assume that *anyone* has accepted Jesus' gift of salvation; find out.

Discussion Questions: (for dads and sons)

- Who is your hero? (No Sunday School answers here.)
- Who do people you know want to imitate? What does it mean to "imitate Christ"?
- What makes people significant? Did those things make Jesus significant?
- Identifying with Christ starts with having a relationship with Him. Have one of the dads share the three circles gospel. (Google 3-Circles video.)
- Invite everyone—dads and sons—to share how they came to accept Jesus' way out of brokenness. (*Recognize that some may not have made that decision yet.*)

Review Scripture memory: 1 Corinthians 13:11 (We will work on this all year.)

Remind the Group of your next gathering: When/where/what...

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Session #3

A Biblical Man Prizes Wisdom

Activity Suggestion: Take a Hike!

- Plan a hike at a nearby local, city or state park. Provide trail maps for the hikers, with your destination marked. However, provide maps to a different park. For example, you might go to McKinney Falls, but give out trail maps for Pedernales Falls. (*State Park websites provide maps you can print.*) After a few minutes of confusion “discover” your mistake and give hikers the right maps and continue with the excursion.
- Debrief: How did you know something was wrong with the first maps you were given? What would have happened if those were the only maps we had, or if we had no maps...what would happen on our hike?

Biblical Foundation:

- Parents are to impart wisdom to their sons. Proverbs 1:8
- Wise living (godliness) takes practice and training. 1 Timothy 4:7-8
- Leaders and mentors can train us in godly life patterns. Philippians 3:17
- The Bible is the source of our wisdom. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Jesus is the embodiment of God’s wisdom. 1 Corinthians 1:30

Principles:

- Wisdom is more than knowing what’s true; it is the skill of applying God’s truth to your life. (*Like using a map to set your course.*)
- Wisdom and godliness do not come automatically with time. Discipline, practice and training are required.
- A biblical man diligently builds life patterns centered on the word of God that train him to imitate Christ and live wisely.
- A wise father teaches his son the life patterns of a Christ follower. A wise son listens to his father’s instruction.

Discussion Questions:

- What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?
- Where do you go for the truth? (John 17:17 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Why would someone know the truth and not act on it? Give an example.
- Who is the wisest person you know? How do you think they got that wisdom? Do they do anything you could imitate?

Review Scripture memory: 1 Corinthians 13:11

Remind the Group of your next gathering: When/where/what...

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Session #4

Definition of Biblical Manhood – Part 1 ***A Biblical Man Rejects Passivity and Accepts Responsibility***

Activity Suggestion:

- Community Service Project: include the sons in choosing and planning a project.

Biblical Foundation: Rejecting Passivity and Accepting Responsibility

In Biblical Manhood we contrasted the first Adam of Genesis, who represents our brokenness, with the Second Adam (Christ) who is the example of true masculinity God calls us to imitate.

- The First Adam was passive as he stood by and watched as Eve was deceived and yielded to temptation. (Gen. 3:1-6)
- The First Adam blamed Eve and even God for his own wrong choices. (Gen 3:12)
- The Second Adam (Christ) rejected passivity and took initiative to resist temptation for himself and to warn others of the dangers of sin. (Matt. 26:36-46)
- Second Adam (Christ) accepted responsibility for his mission and was obedient all the way to the cross. (Phil. 2:5-8)

Principles:

- A Biblical man does not standby and wait for others to step up when he has the ability to act.
- A Biblical man does not shift blame but owns up to his mistakes and his sin.
- A Biblical man shoulders his responsibilities, taking initiative to work hard & finish well.

Discussion Questions: (for dads and sons)

- What makes it hard to take initiative and responsibility?
- Where have you been passive at home, at school, at work, or in your relationships?
- What's a recent thing you blamed another person for?
- What are one or two steps you can take to reject passivity?
- What are some responsibilities you need to take on?

Review Scripture memory: 1 Corinthians 13:11

Remind the Group of your next gathering: When/where/what...

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Session #5

Definition of Biblical Manhood – Part 2
A Biblical Man Leads Courageously and Invests Eternally

Activity Suggestion: Movie night

- The Passion of the Christ or Free Burma Rangers
- What motivated the courage you saw in the movie you watched?
- Why does someone's courage make you want to follow him?

Biblical Foundation: Leads Courageously and Invests Eternally

In Biblical Manhood we contrasted the first Adam of Genesis, who represents our brokenness, with the Second Adam (Christ) who is the example of true masculinity God calls us to imitate.

- The First Adam abandoned his leadership and followed his wife. (Gen. 3:6)
- The First Adam satisfied short term desires rather than pursue God's ways. (Gen 3:12)
- The Second Adam (Christ) took the lead to bring us to God. He led sacrificially, with humility, and his followers became leaders as well. (Matthew 4:19, Acts 4:13)
- The Second Adam (Christ) looked past his own suffering, and willingly sacrificed himself for our eternal good. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Principles:

- A Biblical man is so confident that God's way is right that he will take that path before others do.
- A Biblical man follows Christ in such a way that others follow him.
- A Biblical man does not protect himself at the expense of others but sacrifices himself for their good.
- A Biblical man does not settle for temporary gratification and comfort but aims instead for eternal satisfaction and joy.

Discussion Questions: (for dads and sons)

- How is the courage we're discussing different from "extreme sports" courage?
- Describe someone you know that is courageous.
- Do you think relationships promote or interfere with true courage?
- What kind of eternal reward would motivate courageous leadership?

Review Scripture memory: 1 Corinthians 13:11

Remind the Group of your next gathering: When/where/what...

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Session #6

A Biblical Man is Passionate for Purity

Activity Suggestion: Passport2Purity Weekend

- Use the “Passport2Purity” material by Dennis and Barbara Rainey as the basis for a weekend getaway for your sons. (HCBC Men’s ministry has a kit to check out)
- Dads might choose to get away with just their own child for this, or perhaps cover it as a group.
- Dads will need to become familiar with the material beforehand and work together on your agenda. We won’t muddy the water by trying to add to the Rainey’s work.
- Consult the Suggested Activities list at the end of this guide for ideas on fun things to do on your getaway.

Biblical Foundation:

In Biblical Manhood we learned:

- Sex is a good gift from God given to bond a husband and wife together as one flesh. God is pro-sex. (*Mark 10:7-8, 1 Corinthians 7:3-5, Proverbs 5:15-19*)
- Sex outside the bond of marriage between one man and one woman is outside of God’s will. (*Hebrews 13:4*)
- Willfully entertaining lust is sin just as adultery is. (*Job 31:1, Matthew 5:27-29*)

Principles:

- A biblical man honors God by living according to God’s plan and what is best in the area of sexuality and intimacy.
- A biblical man honors others by maintaining self-control of his emotions and desires.
- A biblical man sets aside immediate satisfaction for long-term rewards, especially in the area of sexual activity.

Questions:

- What are some things you hear from friends and fellow students about sex?
- Why do you think this area might be so difficult for young men?
- What are some ways you might set yourself up for success in maintaining purity in your life?

Review Scripture memory: 1 Corinthians 13:11

Remind the Group of your next gathering: When/where/what...



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Session #7

A Biblical Man Builds Purposeful Relationships

Activity Suggestion: Go Fishing or Hunting or Shooting

...or any activity that allows plenty of side-by-side time for men to talk

Biblical Foundation:

- God is relational and he created us in His image, relational. (*Genesis 1:26-27*)
- God-honoring, purposeful relationships...
 - Protect us from danger and moral pitfalls (*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*)
 - Grow us spiritually (*Ephesians 4:15-16*)
 - Are the context for investing our lives for eternity (*1 Thessalonians 2:7-12*)
 - Perpetuate godly families (*Ephesians 5:22-6:4*)
 - Can be stronger than family ties (*Proverbs 18:24*)

Principles:

- Men can be drawn to two ungodly ways of relating to people:
 - Using people for our own purposes (self-promotion or sexual gratification)
 - Isolating from people to self-protect (avoiding intimacy or vulnerability)
- Relationships that honor God are marked by:
 - Humility
 - Commitment to the good of the other
 - Cooperation to follow Christ
 - BLESSing people far from God (Begin to pray, Listen with care, Eat together, Serve them, Share your story & God's story)

Discussion Questions:

- Who is your best friend? Why?
- Do your friends bring out the best in you or the worst? What do you bring out in them?
- What is one thing you could do to build godly friendships?
- Do you have a mentor who teaches you how to follow Christ?
- How could you become that kind of friend to someone else?

Review Scripture memory: 1 Corinthians 13:11

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Session #8

A Biblical Man Has Integrity

Activity Suggestion: Go Camping (1 Timothy 4:12)

While sitting around the campfire, discuss the things you've learned about being a man over this past 8 months. Have each of the sons make a list of things children do. Discuss making a conscious break with their childhood and have them burn their lists in the campfire.

Biblical Foundation:

Integrity refers to complete alignment (or integration) between a man's beliefs and his behavior. A man of integrity can be depended upon by those around him because:

- He tells the truth (*Proverbs 10:9*)
- He is honest and trust-worthy (*Luke 16:10*)
- He keeps his word (*James 5:12, Proverbs 11:3*)
- He pays his debts (*Romans 13:8*)
- He owns up to his mistakes and sin (*Luke 15:11-32*)
- He "walks his talk" (*Matthew 21:28-31*)

Principles:

- A biblical man does what is right, even when no one is watching.
- A biblical man does what he say he will do.
- A biblical man is taken at his word every time.

Discussion Questions:

- Describe a time you got caught in a lie. What did you learn?
- Why do people tell lies? Are these reasons childish or mature?
- Beyond "telling the truth" what does it mean to have integrity?
- What habits can you adopt that will build integrity into your character?

Review Scripture memory: 1 Corinthians 13:11

Remind the Group of your next gathering: When/where/what...



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Session #9: Wrap up

Biblical Manhood Rite of Passage

This gathering will be created by the dads in each group and personalized for their sons. It should start with a review of what you all learned in your 9 months together. We suggest you read [Raising a Modern Day Knight](#) by Robert Lewis. He wraps up his book with a long section on Ceremonies for launching your son into manhood which will be very helpful to you.

Your ceremony may be a formal event, with everyone in suit and tie. Or, it may be a gritty, outdoors challenge; conducting your ceremony at the summit of a mountain you have just climbed together. Regardless, this will be a time of dignity and weight, where you *give your sons **your blessing and a charge to go forth and live as real men in service to their King, Jesus.***

Some elements you'll want to include are:

- Your blessing and charge (each father to his own son) written ahead of time, read to the son in front of the others, and presented to him to keep.
- A token which symbolizes for him what you have tried to impart to him over the year. For example:
 - A compass
 - A hunting or pocketknife
 - A piece of jewelry
 - Dog tags

You can get items like these engraved and personalized with your son's name, the date, a scripture verse, or a logo you have chosen to represent your Encounter with Biblical Manhood.

Whatever you do, please capture the event and share your pictures with us so we can all celebrate together. God bless you as you invest in future generations through your sons!



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Possible Activities

- Shooting skeet
- Going to a gun range
- Going to the state capitol
- Going hunting
- Going fishing (teach them how to filet a fish)
- Going camping (have them set up and breakdown the site)
- Watching the series "Band of Brothers"
- Watching "Braveheart"
- Watching the movie "The Prodigal"
- Watching "Chariots of Fire"
- Doing a ropes course
- Visiting a war memorial (Admiral Nimitz museum)
- Renting wave-runners
- Playing paint ball
- Air soft wars
- Playing basketball, football, or another game
- Canoe trip
- Memorizing Scripture together
- Going to RR Express Game
- Going to Texas Stars hockey game
- Going to a Texas Rangers or Astros game
- Going to a Longhorns game (baseball, football, basketball, etc.)
- Weekend at Camp Buckner
- Climbing Enchanted Rock (or some other kind of hiking trip)
- Foxfire Lodge Cabins in the Hill Country
- Visiting a nursing home
- Teaching them how to change the oil in the car
- Teaching them how to change a tire
- Serving in a soup kitchen
- Helping the homeless
- Helping them mow the yard of a needy person or shut-in
- Instructing them on taking mom on a surprise date (teach him ahead of time what to do)