



# MEN OF CONVICTION

BIBLICAL MANHOOD  
DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



EmpoweredHomes

A close-up photograph of a large, rusted metal hook or shackle. The metal is heavily corroded, showing a mix of brown, orange, and yellow tones. The hook is positioned vertically, with its curved end at the top. The background is a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a wall or concrete.

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# ABOUT THE WRITERS



## OMAR GARCIA

Omar Garcia, the Missions Pastor at Kingsland, leads the people of Kingsland to serve in challenging locations around the globe. He has a heart for fathers and prodigal sons and enjoys meeting weekly with his Band of Fathers core group.

Omar and his wife Cheryl have 3 children and 3 beautiful granddaughters. They enjoy spending time at their off-grid cabin in the Big Bend region of Texas. He enjoys ultramarathon canoe racing, mountain biking, and outdoor adventures around the world. In January 2023, at the age of 66, he walked across the country of Bangladesh – a reminder that you are never too old to have an adventure.



## CESAR Y. PEREZ

Cesar Y. Perez is the pastor for International People Groups at Kingsland. He leads individuals and families to engage intentionally with the many nationalities present in our community. He is passionate about reaching out, equipping, and deploying leaders who make disciples from all nations. Cesar is committed to pouring into international leaders to live on mission.

Cesar and his wife, Gretha, have two children. They enjoy family time together, love traveling and the outdoors, and grilling a good asado (Argentine BBQ).



## BRAD FLURRY

Brad Flurry is the Executive Pastor of Ministry at Kingsland. He previously served as a Marine Officer, commanded at both the Platoon and Company levels, and participated in numerous combat deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. Brad is passionate about equipping parents to be the primary faith trainers in their home and about collaborating with other churches across the nation to develop strong ministry leaders.

Brad and his wife, Liz, have two sons. He and his boys enjoy hunting, fishing, college football, great BBQ, and family game nights.



## GIL HARRIS

Gil Harris is the owner of Katy Auto Care in Katy, Texas. He and his wife Traci are members of Kingsland where they have served in student and adult teaching roles. Gil also serves as the Men's Ministry Director at Kingsland. Having fought and won his own personal battle with alcohol addiction, he is able to meet men where they are and guide them toward finding their place and purpose in God's kingdom.

Gil loves the outdoors and adventure. In his words, "there is nothing more exciting than double lunging a white-tailed deer or hog from his bow blind in South Texas."



## BOBBY COOLEY

Bobby Cooley, the Discipleship Pastor at Kingsland, is passionate about empowering homes across the nation. He loves equipping men to live out the Gospel in their homes and community everyday. Each week you will find him meeting with men one on one and in a core group to help men live out of true fulfillment.

Bobby and his wife Jennifer have 3 children who love to have fun at all times. When we are not playing sports, we love fishing, hunting and being outdoors.

# THE NEED FOR MEN OF CONVICTION



In ancient times, most invasions were gruesome and heinous. Rulers operated out of desire to obliterate the people they conquered.

When the Babylonian Empire captured Jerusalem in 605 BC, they adopted a different strategy. Instead of vanquishing conquered nations, the Babylonians weakened defeated peoples by taking their men, removing their identities, isolating them, and taking away the one thing that could serve as a threat: convictions.

According to the book of Daniel, the tactic that the Babylonians used to culturally emasculate the men of Israel turned out to be the catalyst for those conquered men to stand firm.

The strategy of the Babylonians was to change the names and identities of their captives in order to assimilate them. However Daniel, along with Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (better known as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) were steadfast in their desire to please God rather than men. As a result, God used them to change the course of history.

**“Our families, churches,  
communities, and world need  
men who will stand firm on the  
objective truth of God’s Word”.**

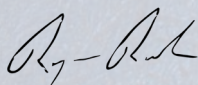
Men of God today face the same challenges the Israelite men faced in Babylon. The culture in which we live is subtly changing the definition of what it means to be a man. Men who are bold enough to stand firm on the objective truth of God’s Word are seen as stubborn, small-minded, and cruel.

We must not buy the lie that men who hold biblical convictions are a thing of the past. Our families, churches, communities, and world need men who will stand firm on the objective truth of God’s Word. Such men are needed now more than ever!

If you hold this book in your hand, there’s a strong possibility that you already have a desire to overcome the immense pressures of the times to conform, bow, and retreat. We must do the opposite — but must do so according to Daniel’s example.

The world pressures us to be angry, bitter, combative, or withdrawn. Daniel, however, approached the challenges he faced with wisdom, commitment, persistence — and firm biblical convictions. For that matter, Jesus did the same. Man of God, you can as well.

Blessings,



Ryan Rush, PhD | Senior Pastor

# THE POWER OF BIBLICAL CONVICTIONS

Early in my ministry, I led a weekly Bible study at a half-way house for boys. All of the residents in the home were there by court order because they had gotten into serious trouble with the law.

One week, I prepared a lesson about the importance of having biblical convictions. I started the lesson with what I thought was a simple question: What is a conviction? After a long and awkward silence, one boy replied, "That's what got me in this place!"

Although that is not the answer I was looking for, I did seize on the opportunity to say that living by convictions does have consequences. And then I proceeded to explain why by using the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego and their refusal to bow before Nebuchadnezzar's idol (Daniel 3). "Your convictions," I explained, "are in your knees."

Two years later in 1981, I sat in a movie theater to watch "Chariots of Fire" — the story of the 1924 Paris Olympics. Eric Liddell, a devout Scottish Christian, was favored to win the 100 meter race. However, because the race was on a Sunday, Liddell refused to run because of his deeply held conviction that the Lord's Day is a day of rest.

Liddell's decision to stand firm on his personal conviction about the Lord's Day invited much criticism from the Scottish people. Many called him a traitor. Liddell was then put into the 400 meter race later in the week, a race he was not expected to win. However, Liddell not only won the race, he also broke the world record for that race and was hailed as a hero as a result.



**“Your convictions,” I explained,  
“are in your knees.”**

The year after the Paris Olympics, Liddell acted on his conviction that all people deserve an opportunity to hear the gospel. So, he set sail for China to serve as a missionary.

In 1941 war broke out in China and in 1943 all foreigners in the country were imprisoned. Liddell was a light of encouragement to his fellow prisoners during those dark years of incarceration. In 1945, Liddell became ill and was admitted into the hospital where he later died of a brain tumor. He was 46 years old. Six months later, all of the prisoners were released.

Eric Liddell showed the world what it means to be a man of conviction. He did not bend to pressure to act contrary to his convictions for the sake of national honor or to settle for a more comfortable life. As a result God continues to honor Liddell’s legacy. He ran the race well.

The lessons in this guide are designed to encourage you to become a man of conviction, to base your convictions on the objective truth of God’s Word, and to courageously and compassionately live out your convictions in a world in the throes of chaos and confusion.

Standing Firm,



Omar C. Garcia | Missions Pastor  
omar@kingsland.org | GoBeyond.blog

# HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL MEN'S CORE GROUP

## WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Men must do life in community with other men. Many men get into trouble because they do life alone. Alone is dangerous. Men must build community with a trusted band of brothers – men with whom they can pray, who will come alongside in times of trouble, and who will help hold them accountable.

## THE CHALLENGE

Many men prefer to do life alone. Meeting with other men requires initiative and effort. While some churches occasionally address men's issues or have a men's gathering, it takes much more than that to lead men to embrace God's vision and design for biblical manhood. Encouraging men to become a part of a band of brothers who study, serve, and share adventures will result in building stronger men.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

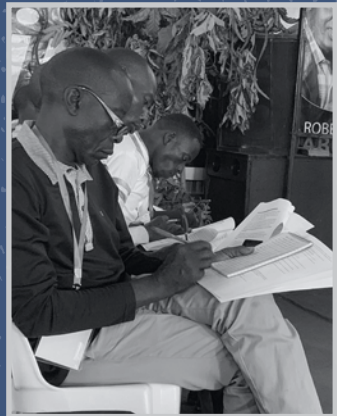
You will have an incredible core group of men if you follow these guidelines. However, the most important aspect of all is you – your willingness to be vulnerable and transparent. Each man must show and model these. A man must feel safe to share his heart. When he sees another man modeling honesty he will be encouraged to do the same.

# GUIDELINES FOR SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

Gil Harris | Men's Ministry Director

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- Lead your group through the lessons in this guide.
- Always start on time or no more than 5 minutes late
- Involve the members of your group in reading or asking the questions in each lesson.
- Ask men to respond to each question or to offer a comment.
- Each man must share using I, me, or my and not refer to what others are doing.
- Allow each man to speak for himself and do not address another man's issues.
- Be aware of the time and allow each man equal time to share.
- Do not allow any one man to dominate the conversation.
- Do not try to fix or counsel others in the group but instead offer encouragement.
- Always close your meetings with prayer.
- Spend time together after the meeting to foster deeper relationships.
- Make sure that each member of the group has one another's contact information.
- Plan a service initiative and adventure at least once or twice a year.
- Assure every man that what is shared in the group will be held in confidence.



# BECOMING MEN OF CONVICTION

## LESSON 1 | WHY HAVING CONVICTIONS MATTERS

*By Omar Garcia*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul expressed concern for the spiritual formation of believers. Maturing in Christ is essential to standing firm against the turbulent waves and destructive winds of worldviews contrary to the Scriptures [Ephesians 4:14]. Paul warned about the cunning (intentional fraud) and craftiness (trickery) of deceitful individuals who scheme and peddle error that leads people away from the objective truth of Scripture.

The best antidote to false doctrine is the sound doctrine contained in the Scriptures. Convictions rooted in Scripture serve as an anchor that keeps us from drifting and being destroyed on the sharp reefs of a culture that is hostile to God.

### THE CHALLENGE

Social media platforms amplify the voices of deceitful people who peddle error. Many of these voices will use the Scriptures but employ poor hermeneutical practices to do what the serpent did in the garden — to cast doubt on what God said. Those who uncritically accept false teachings are easily led astray.

Men of conviction must listen to the right voice. Jesus said, “My sheep listen to my voice...” (John 10:27). Those who have a personal relationship with Jesus should listen to His voice when He speaks through the Scripture. We must distinguish His voice over the cacophony of deceitful voices vying for our attention lest we be led astray.

## DISCUSSION

How does the enemy use social media to promote ideas and behaviors contrary to God's Word?

What lies have you seen propagated through social media platforms?

Why is it important to vet sources and ask hard questions?

How can you use your social media presence to push back against the darkness?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Father, help me to always remember that Satan is a liar and the father of lies and that there is no truth in him (John 8:44). Help me to anchor my beliefs in your Word and to become a man of conviction.

# BECOMING MEN OF CONVICTION

## LESSON 2 | THE BASIS OF CONVICTIONS

*By Omar Garcia*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Convictions are not developed in a vacuum but rather grow out of our worldview. Our worldview is the lens through which we see and interpret the world around us. A biblical worldview sees and interprets the world through the lens of Scripture. The truths of Scripture are objective and not subject to change. Our convictions must be grounded in the objective truth of God's Word.

Our culture sees and interprets the world differently — often accentuating the absence of God in its conclusions about life and how it should be lived. A cultural worldview generally reflects the current and subjective views of our society. These views are vulnerable to change based on shifting societal norms and pressures.

### THE CHALLENGE

Many people act on convictions that are based on subjective feelings, preferences, and prevailing trends. Anchoring convictions to consensus is foolish because consensus itself is at the mercy of cultural winds, much like a hot air balloon. Cultural convictions change with the times — and often at an alarming rate.

As Christ-followers, we must anchor our convictions into the solid rock of objective biblical truth. We should love the things that God loves and hate the things that God hates regardless of which way the cultural winds are blowing. As our creator, God knows what is best for us and also knows what can harm us. Our convictions should reflect our commitment to God's wisdom as revealed in the Scriptures.

## DISCUSSION

Why is spending time in the study of the Bible important in developing convictions?

In what ways does our culture influence us to think about issues in ways contrary to the teachings of Scripture?

How can having biblical convictions keep us anchored against prevailing and contrary cultural winds?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Father, please give me wisdom to speak the truth in love and the courage to live according to the objective truth of your Word in the midst of a culture that is hostile to your purposes.

# BECOMING MEN OF CONVICTION

## LESSON 3 | THE IMPERATIVE OF A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

*By Omar Garcia*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Developing a biblical worldview is essential to the formation of convictions that enable us to protect our hearts and homes. However, in order to develop a biblical worldview, we must spend time daily in God's Word. As we grow in our understanding of what is important to God we will then develop convictions that reflect that understanding.

After healing a lame beggar at the temple gate (Acts 3:5), Peter and John were arrested and brought before the religious leaders to stand trial (Acts 4:1-7). Peter spoke so eloquently at the trial that the religious leaders "were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). Those who listen to us will know whether we have spent time with Jesus and have developed convictions grounded in His Word.

### THE CHALLENGE

In order to develop a biblical worldview we must spend time in the Scriptures. Sadly, we tend to spend more time interacting with social media feeds on our phones than we do in the study of the Scriptures. Addicting social media sources expose us to views that are either subtly or overtly hostile to God and His purposes.

Every man should take an honest inventory of what he does daily to develop greater intimacy with God. Jesus said that we should love the Lord our God with all of our heart, with all of our soul, and with all of our mind (Matthew 22:37). Loving God with all of our mind requires spending time in His Word and developing a discerning spirit that enables us to understand the times and what we ought to do.



## DISCUSSION

There are 168 hours in a week. How many hours a week do you spend in God's Word and how many hours do you spend on social media platforms?

Which of these sources has the greater influence on your mind?

Will people recognize you as having spent time with Jesus or having spent time on TikTok?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Father, I want to spend time in the intentional study of your Word and to embrace your heart for a world that needs You. Help me to develop strong convictions rooted in Your Word and then help me to have the courage to live out my convictions.

# BECOMING MEN OF CONVICTION

## LESSON 4 | CONVICTIONS IMPACT CHOICES

*By Omar Garcia*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

The most spiritual thing that we do on any given day is to make choices. Our choices will either lead us closer to God and all of the blessings that are found in Him or lead us away from God to a life of fear and shame and regret. Ultimately, our choices reveal our convictions.

We can make many decisions (based on our convictions) ahead of time so that when we find ourselves in the heat of a decision-making moment, we will already know what to do. For example, deciding ahead of time what we will do in regard to moral and ethical issues will help us to respond in a way that is consistent with our convictions when actually faced with making a particular choice.

### THE CHALLENGE

We must make choices that are aligned with our convictions regardless of pressure to do otherwise. And, the pressure to do otherwise has never been greater. The term “cancel culture” describes a social phenomenon born out of social media activism. Those who hold views or make choices that are contrary to the current cultural consensus run the risk of being cancelled.

Cancelling is the act of publicly rejecting and pursuing harm against a perceived transgressor — either a person or group that has expressed views that are offensive to the canceler. The canceler often displays public outrage, disgust, and anger in response to the transgression. These emotions lead the canceler to take some type

of socially visible and punitive actions. However, regardless of the threat of cancel culture, those who abide by biblical convictions have a higher obligation to God and must act consistently with their biblically rooted convictions.

## **DISCUSSION**

In what ways can the threat of cancel culture intimidate and keep people from acting on their convictions?

What message do we send to a fallen world when we acquiesce to cultural pressure?

How can standing firm in the face cultural pressure push back against the darkness?

## **NOTES:**

## **PRAYER**

Father, please give me the courage to always make choices that honor you regardless of pressure to do otherwise.

# BECOMING MEN OF CONVICTION

## LESSON 5 | STANDING FIRM ON BIBLICAL CONVICTIONS

*By Omar Garcia*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT


The Apostle Paul admonished the church at Philippi to live above reproach “in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation” (Philippians 2:15). He added that by doing so they would “appear as lights in the world.” The purpose of light is to dispel darkness thus enabling others to see what they otherwise would be unable to see.

We live in the midst of a culture that is in a state of chaos and confusion. Views and behaviors that are contrary to the teachings of Scripture and defy what once was regarded as common sense have seized the day. By standing firm on the objective truth of Scripture and speaking that truth in love, we can help stem the tide of stupidity (a lack of intelligence and the inability to think clearly) that threatens to pollute every stream of thought in our world today.

### THE CHALLENGE

The culture in which we live has become increasingly aggressive in promoting views and values that are not consistent with the wisdom of God as expressed in His Word. God’s Word, in fact, is either dismissed or misused by those who try to use Scripture to bolster their arguments. That’s why we must understand what we believe and why we believe it and then live according to that belief. Failure to do so sends a confusing message to an already confused world.

If we fail to appear as lights in the world, then many will fail to see Jesus and experience the difference He can make in their lives. We must stand firm on biblical convictions



and then trust God to illuminate the hearts and minds of those who look at our lives. Remember that Jesus didn't eat with sinners because He wanted to appear inclusive and tolerant. He ate with them to call them to a changed life.

## **DISCUSSION**

What concerns you most about current cultural views and their impact on your family?

What steps can you take to safeguard the hearts and minds of your children?

What, if anything, causes you to lose resolve in standing firm on biblical convictions?  
What steps can you take to change that?

## **NOTES:**

## **PRAYER**

Father, I want to appear as light in our dark world. Please help me to be both courageous and compassionate as I live out my convictions in the midst of a confused culture.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE ENGAGED

## LESSON 1 | WHY ENGAGEMENT MATTERS

*By Cesar Y. Perez*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

I learned to appreciate the gift of being present, especially under persecution. Outside pressure forced me to be in God's presence continuously and to be present for the battle my family and fellow believers faced every day in Communist Cuba. Being with God prepared my soul to be present for others when tragedy, crises, and emergencies showed up. His presence moved me from distraction to focus, it kept me involved and committed to God and others.

John 1:14 records that Jesus dwelt among us. His disciples observed His glory. It is interesting how John reflects on the reality that God dwells among His people personally, which gave Jesus' disciples the joy of experiencing His supreme goodness and glory. Being present among His people reveals that Jesus was interested in real-life, face-to-face, direct engagement with other people. Jesus modeled engagement by standing in the presence of others, by having community and radical intimacy with others.

### THE CHALLENGE

We acknowledge the role of men as the foundation of their respective families. In today's atmosphere of hyper-partisanship, it is time to act and move from complaints and outrage to engagement. Our mission is to commit to an intimate relationship with God so we can engage with our families, friends, and neighbors in meaningful ways. Are you ready? Are you willing?

In a culture that is crumbling, we engage with truth because it defines us as Christ's followers. Jesus is the truth. We are called to hold fast to the truth as it shapes our thinking and worldview and makes us effective as we speak the truth in love.

## **DISCUSSION**

What are some practical steps you can take to develop intimacy with Jesus?

How can you translate your personal closeness to God into actions?

How can you avoid today's distractions and engage others in a meaningful way?

## **NOTES:**

## **PRAYER**

Lord, help me enjoy your presence and turn my outrage into action as I draw closer to you. God, strengthen my heart to silence the noise around me so that I can focus on you and be present for others.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE ENGAGED

## LESSON 2 | THE DANGER OF INDIFFERENCE

*By Cesar Y. Perez*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Luke's gospel reveals a peculiar character in the drama of Jesus' arrest before the crucifixion (Luke 23: 6-12). Herod Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee at the time, had heard about Jesus' miracles and teachings, but he was indifferent to knowing Jesus as a person.

Herod was in Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. Pilate gave Herod the unexpected opportunity to meet Jesus face to face. However, Herod's response to the anticipated encounter was simply indifference. Herod was curious, but his curiosity led to indifference, to contempt, and to allying with his old enemy.

### THE CHALLENGE

Many men have a propensity and even a curiosity to hear about Jesus. Some are open to accompanying their wives and children to church on special occasions like Christmas or Easter. Others attend regularly but are emotionally disengaged, absent, and apathetic.

Many men often show little emotion or interest in developing a deeper relationship with Jesus and others, but there is hope. You can make a difference! God is inviting you to move from curiosity and indifference to engagement. You can seize the moment by investing your time in a deeper relationship with Christ. You can accomplish that by leading your family closer to the Lord, providing answers that spring out of your personal time with God, and modeling what being a follower of Jesus means.



## DISCUSSION

What steps can you take to engage with the Lord in a meaningful way?

Are you leading your family into a more intimate relationship with Jesus?

How can you tangibly model to your family/others a deeper walk with God?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Lord, lead me closer to you. Move me from curiosity and indifference to a deeper and growing relationship with you. And help me to lead my family to a growing connection with you as I do so.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE ENGAGED

## LESSON 3 | THE DANGER OF COWARDICE

*By Cesar Y. Perez*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Lacking courage is dangerous in present times.

Peter, the disciple, serves as a great example of how cowardice tints our integrity and erodes our character. He was one of the first disciples to follow Jesus. He was a leading voice among the other disciples. He looked solid in his convictions. Peter even rebuked Jesus when He predicted the crucifixion (Matthew 16:22).

Despite all apparent courage, Peter disowned Jesus (John 18:25-27). When Jesus openly and firmly confessed His identity, Peter denied even knowing Jesus with a self-condemning oath. Peter's cowardice led him to lament and grieve in the most crucial time. Fortunately, this disowning was not the end of Peter's story (Jn 21:15-19; Acts 4:13-22).

### THE CHALLENGE

We are daily exposed to TV shows, advertisements, social media, billboards, gossip, and pettiness, which intimidate us to not stand up for the truth. We are pressured by what others believe. Our present culture tries to impose its worldview on us, our families, and future generations.

What saddens me is watching gutless men responding with timidity while their families and children are bombarded with all the worldly lies. It all comes to a simple question: Are you giving up? Are you going to be silent? As men of God, our mission is to bring truth and life to our families, friends, and neighbors.

## DISCUSSION

How do you respond when others challenge your faith in Jesus?

How do you lead your family when other voices try to twist the truth?

How can you help others to stand up for the truth in a positive and productive way?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Lord, you have saved us for a time like this. Help me to be courageous when I feel tempted to compromise the truth. Lord, give me the strength to stand up for you, for life and for truth.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE ENGAGED

## LESSON 4 | THE DANGER OF LAZINESS

*By Cesar Y. Perez*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

While in Israel, I visited the Garden of Gethsemane. As I walked under the olive trees, I tried to imagine what it must have been like for the disciples on the night before the crucifixion (Luke 22:39-46|Mt 26:36-46). I thought about these men and how they could not keep their eyes open as Jesus prayed. Luke informs us that they were exhausted from their grief.

Jesus' arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection remind us of the spiritual battle behind those events. Sadly, the disciples failed to stand by Jesus during His trials. They could not fully comprehend the significance of the events unfolding before their eyes.

### THE CHALLENGE

Men are continuously confronted with the reality that we may be prioritizing busyness, sports, money, entertainment, and success instead of preparing our hearts and minds for the battle we are already in. Sometimes, our Christian living becomes a cheap version of the secular world. Sadly, we tolerate, accept, and embrace a lazy version of Christianity.

God discourages our indolence and inclination to spiritual apathy and inaction. Likewise, He urges us to be diligent in our fight by staying alert, praying, and obeying His commands as we engage in the battle. Inactivity is not an option.

## DISCUSSION

How are you fighting your daily battles?

What keeps you from staying alert in prayer?

What could you do to avoid laziness in your spiritual life?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Lord, forgive me when I substitute obedience and dependence with busyness and success. Please empower me with your Holy Spirit and through prayer as I fight my daily battles.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE ENGAGED

## LESSON 5 | THE DANGER OF ABSENCE

*By Cesar Y. Perez*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Two disciples traveled from Jerusalem to Emmaus on Easter Sunday [Lk 24:13-35]. They had heard the women's and Peter's reports about Jesus' resurrection. These disciples were arguing about what had occurred that day.

They thought Jesus was simply one of the prophets of long ago. They were disappointed that Jesus did not fulfill their expectations of political deliverance from the hands of the Romans. They were so self-absorbed that they did not recognize Jesus was walking with them. They missed that the climax of God's story was taking place right before their eyes.

### THE CHALLENGE

While visiting South Asia, I had the opportunity to experience firsthand what it means to live in an environment completely hostile to the Gospel. The persecuted community of believers taught me that the most significant events are those that reveal God's powerful and amazing saving stories.

As a disciple, confusion and disappointment make me ignore how God is powerfully working all around me. However, the Lord always opens my eyes so I can see how He has been writing His glorious story when I did not expect or comprehend it.

All these interactions with my persecuted brothers and sisters made me remember that times may be difficult and dangerous, but I must not retreat or give up. I am invited to stay engaged with God. He has not finished His story with me and my family yet.

## DISCUSSION

Share about a time in which you felt confused and disappointed?

What has been your response to those moments?

How has God worked in those difficult circumstances?

What are practical ways in which you can stay engaged while God is working?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Lord, lead me through my confusion and disappointments. Let your Holy Spirit reveal your glorious work amid all this chaos. Please keep me engaged in courageous obedience along the journey.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE COURAGEOUS

## LESSON 1 | WHY COURAGE MATTERS

*By Brad Flurry*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Three thousand years ago, a massive man named Goliath stepped out of the Philistine ranks to defy and taunt the army of Israel and their God. For forty days, he belittled and humiliated the Israelite warriors, heaping shame on them since none dared to accept his fight-to-the-death, winner-takes-all challenge. Every morning when he stepped forward, the men of God shrank back.

The story soon changed when a teenage shepherd boy named David showed up in the camp with some food for his soldier big brothers. The young man heard Goliath pour out his scorn on the Israelites and their God. David was outraged and confused about why no man had the courage to face the evil in front of them. So he took his shepherd's sling, grabbed a few stones, and faced the giant. With courage in his heart and accuracy in his aim, David defeated Goliath and honored the Lord (1 Samuel 17).

### THE CHALLENGE

Years later, David, now king of Israel, gave his son Solomon this advice, "Be strong and courageous, and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished." (1 Chronicles 28:20)



Throughout Scripture God's men are called to be courageous. Unlike the Israelite army in David's time, we must not back down or hide from the threats in our life. Although we won't face a physical giant on a battlefield, We must stand up with courage and endurance in the face of a real enemy.

## DISCUSSION

What giants are you facing and how can you demonstrate courage in the face of these giants?

How can men of God develop a courageous spirit that relies on the Lord and not a false sense of self-protection?

Just as David inspired his son Solomon to be strong and courageous, how can you inspire those in your family to do the same?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Father, help me to be strong and courageous. Give me the strength to be the man you have called me to be. Through your power and might, I will face the giants in my life with courage and conviction.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE COURAGEOUS

## LESSON 2 | STANDING FIRM IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION

*By Brad Flurry*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Daniel is one of the most courageous men in Scripture. As a young man he was captured and taken to a foreign land, yet he remained faithful to God. Despite pressure around him to conform to Babylonian culture, Daniel stood courageously in face of opposition. In fact, doing so caused him to face great danger.

The Bible details the circumstances that led to Daniel being thrown into the lion's den (Daniel 6). The major theme to remember is not that Daniel survived the horrific ordeal, but instead the courage he displayed. He was an uncompromising man who did not back down in the face of opposition and who trusted God to protect him. Because of Daniel's courage, God demonstrated His glory through Daniel, making His name known among the people of Babylon.

### THE CHALLENGE

Throughout Daniel's challenges, he demonstrated the importance of prayer. Daniel had a habit of praying daily: "Even after Daniel heard that this law had been signed, he continued his custom of going home to kneel in prayer and give thanks to his God in the upper chamber three times a day, with the windows open toward Jerusalem (Daniel 6:11)."

Believers are equipped by Christ to overcome the opposition we face in this world (1 John 5:4-5). That means we don't need to yield to the mounting pressure to conform to the world's skewed values, sinful social norms, and ever-shifting morality. We don't need to acquiesce to a world determined to sideline the church and silence the proclamation of the gospel. As men of conviction, we are called to be brave in the face of challenges, be confident in our purposes, and commit ourselves to prayer — just like Daniel.

## DISCUSSION

In what areas of my life do I face the greatest opposition? What does this opposition look like?

When faced with opposition, what are my first actions? Do I act impulsively, do I pray and seek guidance, do I look for a way out?

Daniel had friends that walked with him in the face of opposition. Do I share my struggles with others? Likewise, do I help shoulder the burdens of others in my life?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Father, I know that I will face trials and opposition. I look to you for the courage and conviction to face my trials like Daniel. Please help me to develop a heart for prayer like Daniel.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE COURAGEOUS

## LESSON 3 | LIVING A GODLY LIFE IN THE FACE OF EVIL

*By Brad Flurry*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Leading a godly life in today's world is difficult. The world is full of diversions and temptations that can easily lead us astray from the path of righteousness. However, it is important that we strive to live a life that is pleasing to God and serves as a light to others.

To live a godly life means living a life that reflects the nature and character of God. Although no one can live a perfect life, the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts and helps us glorify God in our lives. Billy Graham said, "Make it your goal to become more like Christ by refusing to let sin have its way, and pursuing instead that which is pure and good in the sight of God."

### THE CHALLENGE

2 Peter 1:3-9 provides practical ways for men to live godly lives. Spiritual disciplines such as studying God's Word, prayer, gathering with other believers, service, and giving are fruits of a godly life. Our aim is not perfection. Our aim is a deeper relationship with our Savior.

In a world where we are tempted in every way to take the path of least resistance, we must instead choose to walk with God. In a blog post that Pastor Omar wrote

about walking humbly with God, he stated that to live a godly life means we must pay attention and keep our eyes “on God as we journey with Him.”

Omar continued, “To walk humbly with God means to live according to His Word rather than our own. It means paying attention to His will rather than following our own desires and to turn our eyes to Him as a child looking to a parent for guidance and correction. It is the kind of walk that makes it possible for us to do justice and to love kindness.” Make it your goal to walk with God.

## DISCUSSION

Living a Godly life requires “spiritual disciple.” How would you describe your spiritual discipline?

How do you model, cultivate, and encourage your family to live in a way that pleases God?

What is the biggest obstacle to your walking humbly with God?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Father, give me the strength and wisdom to live a life that honors you. Forgive me when I fall short and remind me of your loving kindness and grace. Please draw me close to you daily.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE COURAGEOUS

## LESSON 4 | SPEAKING TRUTH IN THE FACE OF LIES

*By Brad Flurry*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

“What is the cost of lies? It is not that we’ll mistake them for the truth. The real danger is that if we hear enough lies, then we no longer recognize the truth at all.”

These were the opening words from the HBO miniseries “Chernobyl” – a horrifying look at the nuclear fallout from the 1986 disaster in Ukraine. The media was complicit in spinning substance into convenient lies in order to cover up unpopular truth.

This statement perfectly describes the world we live in. Satan, the father of lies (John 8:44), uses his tricks and lies to spin his web of deception on every front. No matter how small, insignificant, and even convenient these falsehoods may seem, the result is always the same – destruction. We must ask God for the discernment to see through these lies and speak truth in moments of confusion and chaos.

### THE CHALLENGE

One of Satan’s lies is that compromise is less costly than obedience. The world encourages us to stand for what we believe but never speak out against that which is wrong. When faced with lies, the world prefers that we refer to them as opinions, preferences, or ideas.

We, however, must not compromise. We must adopt an attitude that speaks truth in the face of all falsehoods, including those which are manufactured and propagated around us.

No one can walk through life without sometimes getting caught in the enemy's web. But the Word of God is a sword that cuts through these lies. Jesus said, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).

## **DISCUSSION**

Which of Satan's many lies do you find it easy to believe?

How do you protect your family members from the lies constantly assaulting them?

Who inspires you to speak truth in the face of lies?

## **NOTES:**

## **PRAYER**

Father, give me eyes to see the truth, ears to hear the truth, a heart to believe the truth, and the courage to stand up for the truth.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE COURAGEOUS

## LESSON 5 | EXPRESSING LOVE IN THE FACE OF HATE

*By Brad Flurry*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

An older mentor of mine recently said that he could not remember a time in his life when so many people were so angry so much of the time. He is right. From threats of terrorism, to anger and violence over race issues, to a growing loss of civility and manners in public life, we are witnessing a growing spirit of meanness and hate that often makes life unmanageable in the classroom, in the workplace, and all too often in the home.

All around us, we see a deep divide over issues of life and death, marriage, gender, and sexuality. Having lost the sense of living under the authority of God, our culture increasingly feels the liberty to take the great issues of life into our own hands and to do with them as we please. The result is often anger and hatred toward those who disagree.

### THE CHALLENGE

So how are we to respond to the hate we face. To be clear, we are not called to rage against our fellow man. We are to love the captive soul and to rage against the captor — who is Satan, our enemy. We must fight the right enemy. That is our call to war, and it's important that we understand it.



In Romans 12, our instructions are clear, “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.” (Rom. 12:9-10). When God lays out the steps that lead to overcoming evil with good, the first thing He says is, “Let love be genuine.” If you want to overcome evil with good, this is where we must begin!

## DISCUSSION

What is my typical response to anger and hatred? Do I respond in kind? Do I hide out of fear? Do I pray? Do I try and demonstrate genuine love?

What does genuine love look like in a response to anger and hate?

How can we “abhor what is evil and hold fast to what is good”?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Father, thank you for your Word that encourages us to love with a genuine heart. I ask that in the face of hatred and anger, you would give me the courage to love like you have loved me. May I always look to you for the strength to overcome evil with good.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE LEADERS

## LESSON 1 | WHY LEADERSHIP MATTERS

*By Gil Harris*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Our homes need biblical leadership. God has specifically called men to fulfill the leadership role in the home. Communities and churches also benefit from the leadership of godly men. This is not to say that women cannot be leaders in their homes, churches, and communities. God has, however, called and will hold men accountable for their leadership in their homes and churches (1 Cor. 11:1-3). Biblical leaders lead by example, with humility, and with love.

### THE CHALLENGE

Too many men have abdicated their role as a leader and have instead become managers, good followers, or passive. While biblical leadership may at times require managing and following, it must always provide vision, direction, and inspiration. Our culture pressures men to be passive. A passive man is one who has given up, given in, and allowed the culture to lead and guide his home and family — generally in ways contrary to the teachings of Scripture.

In order for a man to become a biblical leader he must have convictions. Without biblical convictions, priorities, and values he lacks direction and is incapable of effectively leading his family. A man's leadership must be grounded in and guided by the objective truth of God's Word.

## DISCUSSION

As a husband, how are leading your wife?

In what ways do you inspire her to want to have a closer relationship with Christ?

As a father, how would your children say you are leading and inspiring them to have a relationship with Jesus?

In what ways have you given up and fallen into passivity?

What are some things that need to change in your life to make you a biblical leader?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Dear God, please put a hunger and desire in my heart to be the leader that you created me to be. Forgive me for the ways in which I have fallen short as a leader in my home, church, and community. I want for you to count on me to be the man you called me to be.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE LEADERS

## LESSON 2 | LEADERS HAVE CONVICTIONS ABOUT FAITH

*By Gil Harris*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

A key responsibility for men to fulfill as leaders is sharing with others how they can enter into a right relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Acts 16:22-34 records the occasion in which Paul led his jailer to salvation. The jailer asked Paul a very simple question, "What must I do to be saved?"

The answer to this question is of eternal importance. Some will reply that in order to get to Heaven one must be a good person, go to church, give, and be baptized. These are good answers but not the right answers. A biblical leader must have a solid conviction about his faith — understanding that the only one way to be reconciled to God is through faith alone in Christ alone. "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ," Paul told his jailer, "and you will be saved, along with everyone in your house."

### THE CHALLENGE

The world, our culture, and religions want us to believe that there are many ways to God or many ways to get to heaven. Many sincere, religious, and well-meaning people hold this view. However, this is not a biblical view. The Bible teaches that there is only one way. Jesus Himself claimed to be the way, the truth, and the life and declared that no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). A man who holds biblical convictions about faith stands firm on the truth of what Jesus said about how to enter into a right relationship with God.

# DISCUSSION

When did you put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation?

Why is this so important to know?

How would you talk with another man to get him to think about eternal life?

Who is someone you need to have this conversation with and when will you have this conversation?

## NOTES:

### PRAYER

Dear God, help me to be concerned about the eternal welfare of my family and those you send my way. Help me to recognize opportunities to share my faith with others. Help me to speak often about Jesus and how wonderful He is and how He can transform lives. Help me to be ready to answer those who ask me about the hope that is in me (1 Peter 3:15).

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE LEADERS

## LESSON 3 | LEADERS HAVE CONVICTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

*By Gil Harris*

### **WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT**

We are responsible for the spiritual well-being of our family. Our wife and children reflect the quality of our leadership. Too often, men live a double standard. They present themselves as faithful followers of Christ outside the home but not always in their home. As a result, a man's family often see a different man than the public sees. This disparity creates frustration for his family, thus making it difficult for them to respect and follow his leadership.

### **THE CHALLENGE**

God has placed us as leaders in the home to reflect His image. Our children learn how to relate to their Heavenly Father according to the way they relate to their earthly father. If as fathers we are strict disciplinarians, demanding, and performance driven, then our children will grow up believing that their heavenly father is also strict, demanding, and performance driven.

We must embrace the conviction that we reflect the image of God. We must be men who lead by example, who lead with compassion, and who lead with grace. Our children must see more than our heart for biblical standards. They must also see our heart of forgiveness and restoration.

## DISCUSSION

How have you at times expected more from your family than yourself?

Share about a time you have been wrong about a situation and had to ask your wife for forgiveness.

Share about a time when you were wrong in your parenting and had to ask your children to forgive you.

What are some things in your life that need to change in order for you to become a better leader at home.

What day this week will you bring your family together and pray for them?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Dear God, I ask for your wisdom to help me lead my family well by example. Please help me to become the husband and father that my wife and children will want to follow. Forgive me for those times when I should have led better but failed. Help me to reflect your image in my home.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE LEADERS

## LESSON 4 | LEADERS HAVE CONVICTIONS ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

*By Gil Harris*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Men of conviction are leaders — in their homes, churches, and in the advancement of God's kingdom. We must develop a desire and passion to see God's kingdom grow among men. Jesus spent time teaching, preaching, and healing the sick. However, Jesus spent most of His time investing in the lives of His disciples. He enjoyed doing life with the men who would advance the kingdom of God in the world after His departure. He knew it was important that they listen to His words, feel His heart, and see His passion for people from all walks of life.

### THE CHALLENGE

Leaders who advance the kingdom of God follow this example of Jesus. They invest in the lives of other men, do life together with other men, and spend time with other men on a regular basis. Practically, this is done through a weekly core group, a scheduled mentoring time, and consistently connecting with other men for fellowship and encouragement.

It is important for men to do life with other men. Meeting regularly is a key way to stay engaged with men who will hold you accountable. A small group should provide opportunities for shared study, shared service, and shared adventure. Meeting with other men will build and strengthen friendships and provide a source of support and encouragement. When men do life together, the work of the kingdom is strengthened and advanced.



## DISCUSSION

Are you meeting on a regular basis with other men? If not, why not?

How has consistently meeting with other men strengthened your commitment to the kingdom of God?

How have you shared this experience with other men?

Talk about a shared adventure that God used to encourage you.

Talk about a shared service initiative that you participated in and that God used to bless others.

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Dear God, I want to make a meaningful impact on the advancement of your kingdom. Please give me opportunities to mentor younger men and learn from older men. Please help me to do life in community with other men who seek after you.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE LEADERS

## LESSON 5 | LEADERS HAVE CONVICTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

*By Gil Harris*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Men of conviction are passionate about leading other men into spiritual maturity. Spiritual growth and formation does not happen by accident but rather by intention. Spiritual maturity happens when we are committed to various spiritual disciplines. We must become men who are growing in their faith and authentically living out that faith. This will happen only when we continue with the non-negotiable of spending time with God in prayer, meditation, and in the study of His word.

### THE CHALLENGE

In order to mature spiritually we must do the basics well. That includes spending time with God daily in prayer and in His Word. Use a daily devotional guide to read through the Scriptures daily. Look for meaningful ways to connect with God.

Speaking personally, I read through the Bible every year. I look forward to my time alone with God every morning and use this time to read, pray, and journal. Journaling is important to me. I enjoy answering two questions every morning and record the answers in my journal. First, how is my heart today? Second, what am I hearing God say to me personally? My time with God helps me to grow in Christ and to gain God's wisdom and insight into how I can please and serve Him daily.

## DISCUSSION

How committed are you to your spiritual formation?

What are some spiritual disciplines that you are committed to practicing daily?

How can you be more committed to your spiritual growth and maturity?

Do you have a time set aside every day to spend with God?

What is one thing the Holy Spirit is leading you to do to become a man of maturity?

## NOTES:

### PRAYER

Dear God, please help me as I seek to mature in Christ. Reveal to me the things that hinder my spiritual growth and how to overcome those obstacles. Thank you for your commitment to help me grow in Christ. Thank you for your determination to complete the good work that you started in me when I gave my heart to Jesus (Philippians 1:6).

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE FIGHTERS

## LESSON 1 | WHY THE BATTLE MATTERS

*By Bobby Cooley*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

If you fail to stand on your convictions when battles come, then you will fall quickly. Dwight Eisenhower said, "No battle was ever won according to plan, but no battle was ever won without one." If we fail to understand that we are in a battle then we will not be prepared to fight an enemy that is intent on destroying us.

The Apostle Paul wrote: "For although we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments and every proud thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). God has given us the weapons with which to fight.

### THE CHALLENGE

Our enemy is like a roaring lion searching for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8). He's not looking to cuddle with you but instead wants to destroy you (John 10:10). That's why we must be vigilant, stand firm in our faith, and not be swayed by deceptive and evil influences.

Understanding the spiritual battle enhances a man's ability to discern between truth and error. This discernment helps us navigate a world filled with conflicting ideologies and belief systems. The challenge of the battle shouldn't scare us. Instead, understanding the spiritual battle should foster a deeper connection with God. Men

can grow in their prayer life, seek guidance from Scripture, and develop a closer relationship with their Creator.

## DISCUSSION

What does the term “spiritual battle” mean to you personally? How does it influence your daily life as a Christian?

How can we be mindful of the spiritual battle without becoming excessively focused on the negative aspects of life? How do we strike a balance between acknowledging challenges and embracing the joy of our faith?

How can we support and encourage one another as we navigate the spiritual battle together?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Lord, help me to understand the enemy's schemes, to stand firm on the truth of your Word, to fight with your weapons, and to courageously engage in the battle.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE FIGHTERS

## LESSON 2 | ENGAGING THE ENEMY

*By Bobby Cooley*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

If we fail to acknowledge that we are in a spiritual battle, then we are prone to attacks from our enemy. Once we see the battle in front of us, then we can begin engaging our enemy. God has given us weapons with which to fight (Luke 10:19). In the powerful name of Jesus, we can fight against his attacks. We leverage prayer, God's Word, and the wise counsel of godly men. We should never engage the enemy alone because alone is dangerous. And, as Paul cautioned, we must not be ignorant of the enemy's schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11).

### THE CHALLENGE

Jesus said that Satan "is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44). He wants you to believe lies about God, others, and yourself. Satan wants you to believe that God isn't who He says, that other people will let you down and harm you, and that you are not good enough. We must take these thoughts captive (2 Corinthians 10:3-5) lest they cause major damage to our hearts.

We must fight the enemy's lies with God's truth. We must replace the lies about God with the truth about who God is today, tomorrow, and forever. We must replace the lies about others with what we know to be true about them. We must replace the lies about ourselves with the truth about who God says we are. Allow the light of God's truth to expose the enemy's lies.

## DISCUSSION

What are some examples of Satan's attacks or temptations that you've personally experienced or witnessed in the lives of others?

Prayer is a powerful tool in resisting Satan's attacks. Share a personal experience or testimony of overcoming through prayer.

How can community and fellowship with other believers serve as a support system when facing Satan's attacks?

What are some practical steps you can take to fortify yourself spiritually and stand firm against Satan's schemes?

## NOTES:

### PRAYER

Lord, help me hear your truth. Help me engage the enemy with power and authority. Help me to discern the lies about you, others and myself. Help me to speak boldly against these lies and to draw closer to you every day.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE FIGHTERS

## LESSON 3 | UNDERSTANDING THE COST

*By Bobby Cooley*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

The Apostle Paul said, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens [Ephesians 6:12]." A battle rages on in the spiritual realm — a battle not fought with conventional weapons, but instead with faith, prayer, and the power of God.

As men of conviction, we are called to fight against the forces of darkness. Yet, many times, we may find ourselves complacent, hesitant, or even unaware of the spiritual battles. We become passive. The cost of not fighting is a life marked by vulnerability, brokenness, and spiritual captivity. Avoiding the battle will impact our families, our churches, and our communities.

### THE CHALLENGE

We must not ignore or walk away from the battle against the forces of darkness. Satan seeks to divide and conquer, and when we fail to resist his tactics, our relationships will suffer. When we do not actively fight against Satan's attacks, we will miss out on the divine opportunities God has prepared for us. This is part of the cost of not fighting.

We must not be passive spectators but rather active participants in the battle. Through prayer, reading God's Word, and relying on the Holy Spirit, we can navigate life with strength, wisdom, and discernment. When we engage in the battle, we experience the fullness of God's love, joy, and peace, and we become a powerful force for His kingdom.



## DISCUSSION

What are some of the warning signs that may indicate someone is neglecting their spiritual battle and not actively resisting Satan's influence?

How does our culture and society contribute to the temptation of neglecting the spiritual battle and ignoring the reality of evil?

Share specific practices or disciplines that you find helpful in maintaining a proactive and vigilant stance against Satan's influence.

## NOTES:

### PRAYER

Lord, help me to understand the cost of both engaging in and avoiding the battle. I do not want to sit on the sidelines but fight in your strength, not mine.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE FIGHTERS

## LESSON 4 | OVERCOMING FEARS

*By Bobby Cooley*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Fear is one of the enemy's most potent weapons because fear can paralyze us and keep us from living in the fullness of God's purpose. We are not called to be slaves to fear. Instead, we are called to be conquerors, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to overcome our fears, and engage in victorious warfare.

Fear debilitates in various ways — fear of failure, fear of the unknown, fear of rejection, or fear of inadequacy. The enemy uses fear to distract us. However, in the words of the Apostle Paul, "... God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment (2 Timothy 1:7)." We must choose each day if we want to live out of fear or out of His power.

### THE CHALLENGE

The Holy Spirit empowers us to overcome our fears. The enemy uses fear to distract us from God's calling and to keep us from stepping into the fullness of our identity in Christ. In Christ, we have been given a spirit of power. This power enables us to face any challenge with courage and confidence, knowing that we are more than conquerors through Christ.

As we immerse ourselves in God's love, our fears diminish. In the midst of battle, our minds can become arenas for doubt and confusion. However, the Holy Spirit grants us a sound mind — a mind that is grounded in the truth of God's Word, discerning between

lies and reality. Fear is a reality of life that every man faces. Confronting our fears is an opportunity to seek Jesus first, to lead our families by example, and to show the world our convictions. We must not let fear cripple us but see fear as an opportunity to show how big our God is.

## DISCUSSION

What are some fears men may encounter but seldom talk about?

How can we distinguish between legitimate concerns that call for caution and unhealthy fears that hinder our spiritual progress?

What role does community and fellowship with other men play in helping us overcome fears?

## NOTES:

### PRAYER

Lord, reveal my fears. Show me what holds me back from living and walking in freedom. Please help me to see fears as opportunities to draw closer to you and to bring others with me.

# MEN OF CONVICTION ARE FIGHTERS

## LESSON 5 | WINNING THE VICTORY

*By Bobby Cooley*

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

My father died when I was 17 years old. After he died, I told myself that the rest of my life was now up to me and that no one was going to help me. In my stubbornness, I needlessly suffered and struggled alone.

Are you scared to ask for help? We must never do life alone nor bear every burden alone. We need one another, especially when we face challenges and trials in life. The Bible declares that we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37) and that through Christ we can overcome all obstacles and emerge triumphant. God uses others to help us on our journey and in our battles.

The greatest victory in human history was won at the cross of Calvary. Jesus conquered sin and death, offering us eternal life through His sacrifice. Through faith in Him, we share in His victory over sin. We must fight knowing that Jesus is with us and will never forsakes us (Heb. 13:5).

### THE CHALLENGE

Are you living as a victor or a victim? To win the victory, we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2). He is the model of victorious living and the source of our strength. Each day, we can experience victories through our obedience to and reliance on God's strength.

When our biblically based convictions drive our lifestyle, we live with integrity and authenticity. In Christ, we are victors — men who have the power to face any battle and confront any enemy. We must walk closely with Jesus who gives us the victory. Men of conviction are men of victory.

## DISCUSSION

How does God's presence in your life help you to live victoriously?

In times of adversity or spiritual warfare, how can you maintain a perspective of victory and hold onto hope in Christ?

What does it mean to be "more than conquerors" through Christ (Romans 8:37)? How does this truth impact your approach to life's challenges?

## NOTES:

## PRAYER

Lord, thank you for victory and for fighting alongside me in every battle I face. Because of the cross, I am not a victim. Thank you for the victory through the blood of Jesus.

**"WHO IS THE MAN WHO  
FEARS THE LORD?  
HE WILL INSTRUCT  
HIM IN THE WAY  
HE SHOULD CHOOSE."**

**PSALM 25:12**



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