Becoming a Godly Man

Scripture Sets on Godly Manhood: Son, Brother, Worker, Husband, Father, Elder

14 scripture sets, 120 passages • Shorthand: MAN0.1 – MAN13.8 • Companion: Becoming a Godly Man — Deep Dive

Set	Theme	Stage	Virtue it grows
MAN0	How a Man Grows	Foundation	Faith, hope, love, and the four hinges
MAN1	The Father Who Heals	Foundation	Faith and hope
MAN2	What Is a Godly Man?	Foundation	Courage
MAN3	Proverbs for Sons	Son	Wisdom
MAN4	The Secret Place	Alone	Self-control and faith
MAN5	Self-Control	Alone	Self-control
MAN6	The Godly Son	Son	Justice (honor)
MAN7	Friend and Brother	Brother	Love (brotherly affection)
MAN8	Worker and Coworker	Worker	Justice
MAN9	Pursuing Marriage	Boyfriend to Engaged	Self-control and wisdom
MAN10	The Godly Husband	Husband	Love
MAN11	The Godly Father	Father	Courage and love
MAN12	Fathering from Inside	Father	Justice and hope
MAN13	Spiritual Father and Elder	Elder	Wisdom and love

Start with MAN0. It shows the engine behind every other set: God's grace gives the promises, hope looks ahead to them, faith takes hold of them, virtue practices them, and love is where it all leads (2 Peter 1:3-7; Titus 2:11-14; Colossians 1:5; 1 Corinthians 13:13). The right-hand column shows which virtue each set grows.

After MAN0, the sets move in order, the way a man grows: first receiving a Father, then learning what a man is, then growing as a son, in the secret place, as a brother and a worker, toward marriage, as a husband and father, and finally as a spiritual father to others. Use them in order, or go straight to the set a man needs most. Each set has study helps in Level 2, with a practice to do **alone** and a practice to do **with others**. The companion deep dive gives the bigger picture, the training path, and tools for fathering from inside and for life after release.

MAN0 How a Godly Man Grows: From Grace to Love — *Foundation*

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN0.1	Everything We Need, by Knowing Him	2 Peter 1:3-11
MAN0.2	Grace Trains Us to Say No and to Live Godly Lives	Titus 2:11-14
MAN0.3	Hope Is Where Faith and Love Come From	Colossians 1:3-8, 21-23
MAN0.4	Faith, Hope, and God's Love Poured into Our Hearts	Romans 5:1-5
MAN0.5	Wisdom: Seeing Clearly and Choosing Well	Proverbs 2:1-11; James 3:13-18
MAN0.6	Justice: Give Everyone What You Owe, Above All Love	Micah 6:8; Romans 13:7-10
MAN0.7	Courage: Be Strong, and Do Everything with Love	Joshua 1:6-9; 1 Corinthians 16:13-14
MAN0.8	Self-Control: A City with Walls, a Life Led by the Spirit	Proverbs 25:28; Galatians 5:16-25
MAN0.9	The Greatest Is Love	1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Matthew 22:34-40

MAN1 The Father Wound and the Father Who Heals — *Foundation*

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN1.1	A Father to the Fatherless	Psalm 68:4-6; 27:10

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN1.2	Abba, Father: Adopted as Sons	Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:4-7
MAN1.3	The Father Runs to His Son	Luke 15:11-24
MAN1.4	Ishmael: God Hears the Boy Who Was Sent Away	Genesis 21:8-21
MAN1.5	Jephthah: Rejected by His Brothers, Called by God	Judges 11:1-11
MAN1.6	Joseph: Wounded by Family, Not Ruled by It	Genesis 50:15-21
MAN1.7	“This Is My Beloved Son”: Identity Before Performance	Matthew 3:13-17
MAN1.8	The Father from Whom Every Family Is Named	Ephesians 3:14-19; 1 John 3:1-3
MAN1.9	Breaking the Generational Pattern	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 14-20

MAN2 What Is a Godly Man? — *Foundation*

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN2.1	Made to Work, Keep, and Lead	Genesis 2:7-25
MAN2.2	Where Adam Went Silent: Passivity	Genesis 3:1-19
MAN2.3	The Man God Could Not Find: Standing in the Gap	Ezekiel 22:23-30
MAN2.4	Be Strong and Courageous	Joshua 1:1-9
MAN2.5	David's Charge to Solomon: Be Strong, Be a Man	1 Kings 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 16:13-14
MAN2.6	Expecting the Greater Reward	Hebrews 11:24-27; 2 Timothy 4:6-8
MAN2.7	Jesus, the True Man: Servant and Tempted Like Us	Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 4:14-16
MAN2.8	Growing Up into Christ: Leaving Childish Ways	Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 13:11

MAN3 A Father's Instruction: Proverbs for Sons — *Son*

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN3.1	Listen, My Son: The Fear of the Lord	Proverbs 1:1-9
MAN3.2	When Sinners Entice You: Gangs and Easy Money	Proverbs 1:10-19
MAN3.3	Search for Wisdom Like Hidden Treasure	Proverbs 2:1-15
MAN3.4	Trust the Lord with All Your Heart	Proverbs 3:1-12
MAN3.5	Guard Your Heart; Watch Your Path	Proverbs 4:10-27
MAN3.6	Drink from Your Own Well: Sexual Wisdom	Proverbs 5:1-23
MAN3.7	The Ant, the Sluggard, and Seven Things God Hates	Proverbs 6:6-19
MAN3.8	The Young Man Who Lacked Sense	Proverbs 7:6-27
MAN3.9	Two Voices Calling: Wisdom and Folly	Proverbs 9:1-18

MAN4 The Man in the Secret Place — *Alone*

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN4.1	Your Father Who Sees in Secret	Matthew 6:1-18
MAN4.2	Jesus Withdrew to Pray	Mark 1:35; Luke 5:15-16; 6:12
MAN4.3	Daniel's Window: Prayer as a Habit	Daniel 6:1-11
MAN4.4	Rooted by Streams of Water: Delight in the Word	Psalm 1:1-3; 119:9-16
MAN4.5	Joseph Alone with Temptation	Genesis 39:6-12
MAN4.6	A Covenant with My Eyes	Job 31:1-12
MAN4.7	Train Like an Athlete	1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 1 Timothy 4:7-8
MAN4.8	Integrity Behind Closed Doors	Psalm 101:1-8
MAN4.9	Search Me, O God	Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

MAN5 Strength Under Control: Tongue, Temper, and Appetites — *Alone*

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN5.1	Better Than a Warrior	Proverbs 16:32; 25:28
MAN5.2	The Words of a Wise Man	Proverbs 10:19; 12:18; 15:1-4; 18:21
MAN5.3	A Mother's Advice to a King: Women, Wine, and the Voiceless	Proverbs 31:1-9
MAN5.4	Samson: Strength Without Self-Control	Judges 16:1-21
MAN5.5	Young Men, Live Wisely	Titus 2:6-8; Galatians 5:22-23
MAN5.6	Flee and Pursue	2 Timothy 2:20-26
MAN5.7	Money and the Man	1 Timothy 6:6-11

MAN6 The Godly Son — *Son*

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN6.1	Honor Your Father and Mother	Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1-3
MAN6.2	Jesus Was Obedient to His Parents	Luke 2:41-52
MAN6.3	Shem and Japheth Cover Their Father's Shame	Genesis 9:18-27
MAN6.4	David Protects His Parents While on the Run	1 Samuel 22:1-4
MAN6.5	Jesus Cares for His Mother from the Cross	John 19:25-27
MAN6.6	A Wise Son Brings Joy	Proverbs 10:1; 15:20; 23:22-25; 28:7
MAN6.7	Caring for Parents Pleases God	1 Timothy 5:4, 8; Mark 7:9-13
MAN6.8	The Older Brother: A Son Without the Father's Heart	Luke 15:25-32

MAN7 The Godly Friend and Brother — *Brother*

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN7.1	David and Jonathan: Covenant Friendship	1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:12-17, 41-42
MAN7.2	A Friend Who Sticks Closer Than a Brother	Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; 27:5-6, 9-10, 17
MAN7.3	Bad Company Corrupts	Proverbs 13:20; 22:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:33
MAN7.4	Two Are Better Than One	Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
MAN7.5	Jesus Calls Us Friends	John 15:12-17
MAN7.6	Carry Each Other's Burdens	Galatians 6:1-5
MAN7.7	Barnabas: The Brother Who Vouched	Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26
MAN7.8	Brothers Who Keep Each Other from Hardening	Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:23-25

MAN8 The Godly Worker and Coworker — *Worker*

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN8.1	Joseph: Faithful Everywhere, Even in Prison	Genesis 39:1-6, 19-23
MAN8.2	The Diligent and the Lazy	Proverbs 6:6-11; 10:4-5; 12:11, 24; 22:29
MAN8.3	Work as for the Lord	Colossians 3:22-25; Ephesians 6:5-9
MAN8.4	Stop Stealing: Work So You Can Give	Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
MAN8.5	Daniel: Excellent and Incorruptible	Daniel 6:1-5
MAN8.6	Honest Scales and Fair Pay	Proverbs 11:1; 16:8, 11; Leviticus 19:13; James 5:4
MAN8.7	Nehemiah: Leading a Crew Through Opposition	Nehemiah 4:6-23
MAN8.8	Paul the Tentmaker: Working with His Own Hands	Acts 18:1-4; 20:33-35
MAN8.9	Whatever Your Hand Finds to Do	Ecclesiastes 9:10; Genesis 2:15

MAN9 The Godly Boyfriend: Pursuing Marriage God's Way — *Boyfriend to Engaged*

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN9.1	It Is Not Good to Be Alone	Genesis 2:18-25
MAN9.2	Isaac and Rebekah: Seeking a Wife with Prayer	Genesis 24:1-4, 12-27, 61-67
MAN9.3	Boaz: A Man of Honor Who Protected a Woman	Ruth 2:1-16; 3:7-13
MAN9.4	Jacob Worked Seven Years for Rachel	Genesis 29:15-20
MAN9.5	Don't Awaken Love Before Its Time	Song of Songs 2:7; 8:4-7
MAN9.6	Control Your Own Body in Holiness and Honor	1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
MAN9.7	Treat Young Women as Sisters, in All Purity	1 Timothy 5:1-2
MAN9.8	What to Look For: A Woman Who Fears the Lord	Proverbs 31:10-31; 2 Corinthians 6:14
MAN9.9	Amnon: When “Love” Is Really Lust	2 Samuel 13:1-19

MAN10 The Godly Husband — *Husband*

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN10.1	Leave, Cleave, One Flesh	Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:3-9
MAN10.2	Love Her as Christ Loved the Church	Ephesians 5:21-33
MAN10.3	Understand and Honor Her	1 Peter 3:7; Colossians 3:19
MAN10.4	Rejoice in the Wife of Your Youth	Proverbs 5:15-21
MAN10.5	Faithful to Your Covenant: God Is Witness	Malachi 2:13-16
MAN10.6	Give Each Other What's Due	1 Corinthians 7:2-5
MAN10.7	Her Husband Praises Her	Proverbs 31:23, 28-31; 18:22
MAN10.8	Love Is Patient, Love Is Kind	1 Corinthians 13:4-7
MAN10.9	Praying Over Your Wife and Household	Genesis 25:19-21; Job 1:1-5

MAN11 The Godly Father — *Father*

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN11.1	Teach Them Diligently, Everywhere	Deuteronomy 6:4-9
MAN11.2	Don't Provoke Them; Bring Them Up in the Lord	Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21
MAN11.3	As a Father Has Compassion	Psalm 103:8-14
MAN11.4	Discipline Comes from Love	Hebrews 12:5-11; Proverbs 3:11-12
MAN11.5	Eli: The Father Who Didn't Restrain His Sons	1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22-25; 3:11-14
MAN11.6	David and Absalom: The Distant Father	2 Samuel 14:21-33; 18:31-33
MAN11.7	Passing On What You Learned	Proverbs 4:1-9; 22:6
MAN11.8	Like a Father: Encourage, Comfort, Urge	1 Thessalonians 2:7-12
MAN11.9	Good Gifts from a Good Father	Matthew 7:9-11
MAN11.10	Provide for Your Household	1 Timothy 5:8; 2 Corinthians 12:14

MAN12 Fathering from Inside and Making Things Right — *Father*

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN12.1	Turning Fathers' Hearts to Their Children	Malachi 4:5-6; Luke 1:13-17
MAN12.2	Paul: Fathering by Letter from Prison	2 Timothy 1:1-7; Philippians 2:19-22
MAN12.3	Joseph Reconciles with the Brothers Who Wronged Him	Genesis 45:1-15
MAN12.4	Zacchaeus Makes It Right	Luke 19:1-10
MAN12.5	Respect Everyone, Owe No One: The Mother of Your Children	Romans 12:17-18; 13:7-8; 1 Peter 2:17
MAN12.6	Onesimus: Going Back to Make Things Right	Philemon 8-21

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN12.7	God Restores the Years the Locusts Ate	Joel 2:25-27
MAN12.8	Speaking a Father's Blessing	Genesis 48:8-16; Numbers 6:24-26

MAN13 Spiritual Father, Mentor, and Elder — *Elder*

ID	Topic	Scripture Passage
MAN13.1	Moses and Joshua: Passing It On	Numbers 27:15-23; Deuteronomy 31:7-8
MAN13.2	Elijah and Elisha: A Double Portion	2 Kings 2:1-15
MAN13.3	Older Men and Younger Men	Titus 2:1-8
MAN13.4	Many Teachers, Few Fathers	1 Corinthians 4:14-17
MAN13.5	Faithful Men Who Will Teach Others	2 Timothy 2:1-7
MAN13.6	What an Elder Looks Like	1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9
MAN13.7	Shepherd the Flock Willingly	1 Peter 5:1-5
MAN13.8	Gray Hair: Still Bearing Fruit	Psalm 71:17-18; 92:12-15; Proverbs 16:31; 20:29

Level 2: Study Helps

Each session: **Look Back:** How are you? Did you do last week's practices? **Look Up:** Read the passage aloud, have someone retell it, and use the questions for that set. **Look Forward:** What will I obey? Who will I share this with? Pray for each other by name.

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MAN0 How a Godly Man Grows: From Grace to Love

> *"In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone."*
> **2 Peter 1:5-7 (NLT)**

What this set is about

This set shows the engine behind every other set. Peter says God's power has already given us everything we need for a godly life, by knowing Him, along with His great promises. Because of that, we make every effort to respond: we add to our faith, step by step, until it ends in love. Paul says God's grace itself trains us to turn from godless living and to live with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God while we wait for our hope. Faith and love grow out of hope (Colossians 1:5). The four "hinge" virtues Christians have taught for centuries, wisdom, justice, courage, and self-control, are all here in Scripture. They grow from faith, are fueled by hope, and aim at love.

Discover (use with any passage in this set)

1. What has God already given or promised in this passage?
2. What part does faith play? What part does my effort play?
3. Which hinge virtue shows up here, and how does it lead to love?
4. Which virtue do I most need God to grow in me right now?

Practice alone

Memorize the five-line chain below. Each week, pick one hinge virtue, memorize its verse, and practice it in one specific way.

Practice with others

Each week, tell your group which virtue you're working on and how it's going. Ask them where they see it growing in you, and where they don't.

The chain to memorize

> **Grace gives the promises.** *(2 Peter 1:3-4; Titus 2:11)*
> **Hope looks ahead to them.** *(Colossians 1:5; Titus 2:13)*
> **Faith takes hold of them.** *(2 Peter 1:5; Romans 5:1-2)*
> **Virtue practices them, with every effort.** *(2 Peter 1:5-7; Titus 2:12)*
> **Love is where it all leads.** *(1 Corinthians 13:13; 1 Timothy 1:5)*

The four hinge virtues, all aimed at love

Christians have called these the cardinal virtues, from the Latin *cardo*, a door hinge, because a whole life swings on them. Each one is a way love acts.

Hinge	In plain words	Key verses	How it serves love
Wisdom (prudence)	Seeing clearly and choosing well	Proverbs 2:1-11; James 3:17	Love that knows what is truly good for God and others (Philippians 1:9-10)
Justice	Giving God and every person what is due	Micah 6:8; Romans 13:7-8	Love that pays its debts and protects the weak (Romans 13:8-10)
Courage (fortitude)	Doing right when it costs, and enduring	Joshua 1:9; 1 Corinthians 16:13	Love that never gives up and endures through every circumstance (1 Corinthians 13:7)
Self-control (temperance)	Ruling appetites, temper, and tongue	Titus 2:12; Galatians 5:23	Love that says no to self so it can serve others (Galatians 5:13)

MAN1 The Father Wound and the Father Who Heals

> *"Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy."*
> **Psalm 68:5 (NLT)**

What this set is about

Many men never had a father who blessed, guided, or protected them. Some had fathers who hurt them. God steps into that gap personally. He calls Himself a Father to the fatherless, hears the cast-out boy, adopts us as sons, and speaks over us before we've done anything: "You are My beloved son." Ezekiel 18 says you are not doomed to repeat your father's sins. Godly manhood starts with receiving a Father.

Discover (use with any passage in this set)

1. What does this passage show about how God fathers?
2. What did this man lack from his earthly father or family? How did God meet him?
3. What did my father give me, and what didn't he give me?
4. What would change if I believed God calls me His beloved son today?

Practice alone

Write a letter to God about your father: what you received, what you missed, what hurt. Then read Romans 8:15-16 out loud and call God "Father."

Practice with others

Share your father story with one trusted brother. Pray for each other as sons of the Father.

MAN2 What Is a Godly Man?

> *"Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything with love."*
> **1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NLT)**

What this set is about

God made the man to work and keep the garden (Genesis 2:15), to love and protect, and to lead by serving. The first man's failure was silence: he stood by while the serpent spoke (Genesis 3:6). Real manhood is not toughness or control. It is courage and strength used in love, modeled perfectly in Jesus, who served, suffered, and resisted temptation. Paul's whole picture fits in one verse: be watchful, stand firm, be courageous, be strong, do everything in love.

Discover (use with any passage in this set)

1. What does this passage show a man is made for, or fails at?
2. Where do I see passivity (staying silent, checking out, blaming) in this story? Where do I see courage?

3. How does Jesus show what a real man is?
4. Where am I being passive right now where God is calling me to step up?

Practice alone

List the areas where you've been passive: your faith, your family, your choices. Pick one and ask God for courage to act this week.

Practice with others

Tell your group one way you'll “stand in the gap” this week, and ask them to check on you.

MAN3 A Father's Instruction: Proverbs for Sons

> *“My child, listen when your father corrects you. Don’t neglect your mother’s instruction. What you learn from them will crown you with grace and be a chain of honor around your neck.”*
> **Proverbs 1:8-9 (NLT)**

What this set is about

Proverbs 1–9 is a father sitting down with his son, again and again saying, “My son, listen” (the NLT says “my child”; the Hebrew says “my son”). For men who never had that conversation, this is God giving it to them. The father warns about crews that promise easy money and end in blood (1:10-19), about sexual traps, about laziness, and he calls his son to wisdom, which starts with the fear of the Lord.

Discover (use with any passage in this set)

1. What is the father warning his son about? What is he urging him toward?
2. Where have I seen this warning play out in real life, maybe in my own?
3. What would my life look like if I had listened to this at 15?
4. What is one piece of this wisdom I need to obey now?

Practice alone

Read one chapter of Proverbs a day: the chapter that matches the date. In 31 days you'll finish the book. Write down one verse each day to obey.

Practice with others

Ask an older believer to read Proverbs 1–9 with you, one chapter a week, and to speak to you like a father.

MAN4 The Man in the Secret Place

> *“But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private.” Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.*
> **Matthew 6:6 (NLT, then paraphrase)**

What this set is about

Who a man is in secret is who he really is. Jesus, Daniel, and David built strength alone with God before they ever led anyone. Joseph faced temptation alone, with no one watching, and ran. David vowed to walk with integrity inside his own house. The secret place is where godly men are made: prayer, the Word, purity, discipline, and honest self-examination.

Discover (use with any passage in this set)

1. What does this man do when no one is watching?
2. How did his private life shape his public life?
3. What happens in my life when no one is watching?

4. What one secret-place habit could I start this week?

Practice alone

Build a daily secret-place rhythm: S.W.A.P. each morning (Surrender, Wait in prayer, Avoid even a hint of sin, follow the Prompting), Bible reading, and the evening “Search Me” prayer.

Practice with others

Tell a brother your rhythm and ask him to ask you about it once a week.

MAN5 Strength Under Control: Tongue, Temper, and Appetites

> *“In the same way, encourage the young men to live wisely.”*
> **Titus 2:6 (NLT)**

What this set is about

Paul's one instruction for young men is to be self-controlled, to live wisely. A man who can't control his tongue, temper, lust, or money is like a city with broken walls. Samson had more strength than any man and less self-control. King Lemuel's mother warned her son that women and wine would steal the strength he needed to defend the poor. This set connects to the Strength Under Control (anger), Dangerous Desires, and Words of the Mouth sets for deeper work.

Discover (use with any passage in this set)

1. What is out of control in this passage, and what does it cost?
2. What does a self-controlled man look like here?
3. Which is hardest for me to control: tongue, temper, sexual desire, or money?
4. What would self-control in that area look like this week?

Practice alone

Pick your hardest area. Write one rule for yourself this week (“I won't answer when I'm angry,” “I'll turn off that channel”) and keep it.

Practice with others

Ask a brother to hold you to that one rule for the week.

MAN6 The Godly Son

> *“Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise.*
> **Ephesians 6:2 (NLT)**

What this set is about

Honoring parents is the first commandment with a promise. Honor doesn't require pretending a parent was good, or staying in danger. Shem and Japheth covered their father's shame instead of exposing it. Jesus, dying on the cross, made sure His mother was cared for. A godly son speaks respectfully, forgives, and cares for his parents as he is able, even when they failed him.

Discover (use with any passage in this set)

1. How does this son honor (or dishonor) his parent?
2. What does honor look like when a parent has failed?
3. How can I honor my mother and father from where I am right now?
4. What would it take for me to bring my parents joy instead of grief?

Practice alone

Pray for each of your parents by name. Write down one thing you can honestly thank each one for.

Practice with others

Write a letter of honor to a parent (or a parent figure), and read it to your group before you send it. If a parent is unsafe, honor them in prayer instead.

MAN7 The Godly Friend and Brother

> *"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."*
> **Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)**

What this set is about

Godly men need godly brothers. Jonathan risked his future for David. Proverbs says a real friend tells you the truth even when it hurts, and that the company you keep shapes who you become. Barnabas stood up for a man everyone feared. Jesus calls us friends and tells us to love each other the way He loved us. Inside, "friends" can be crews, cliques, or a way to survive. God offers something better: brotherhood that sharpens.

Discover (use with any passage in this set)

1. What made this friendship godly (or ungodly)?
2. What did it cost one friend to be loyal to the other?
3. Who are the people shaping me right now? Are they making me sharper or duller?
4. Who needs me to be a Jonathan or a Barnabas?

Practice alone

Make two lists: people who sharpen you and people who pull you down. Ask God what to do about each list.

Practice with others

Form a group of two or three brothers who meet weekly to read Scripture, confess, and pray. Commit to being honest with each other.

MAN8 The Godly Worker and Coworker

> *"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people."*
> **Colossians 3:23 (NLT)**

What this set is about

God gave Adam work before sin entered the world. Work is part of how men reflect God, not a curse. Joseph worked so faithfully, even as a slave and a prisoner, that he was put in charge wherever he went. Paul made tents so he wouldn't be a burden. Ephesians 4:28 shows the turnaround: the man who used to steal now works hard so he can give to others. The job you have inside, however small, is training for the work God has for you outside.

Discover (use with any passage in this set)

1. How did this man work, and what difference did God make in his work?
2. What does Proverbs say separates the diligent from the lazy?
3. How do I treat my work assignment, my supervisor, and my coworkers?
4. What skill or habit do I need to build now for work on the outside?

Practice alone

Do your current job as if Jesus were your supervisor this week. Pick one skill to start learning (reading, a trade, a GED subject).

Practice with others

Ask a working believer (on the inside or a mentor outside) how he handles a hard boss, money, and integrity at work.

MAN9 The Godly Boyfriend: Pursuing Marriage God's Way

> *"God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor."*
> **1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 (NLT)**

What this set is about

A godly man pursues a woman the way Boaz pursued Ruth: with honor, protection, patience, and purity, and with marriage as the goal. Boaz protected Ruth's reputation and did things the right way, in public. Amnon said he loved Tamar and then destroyed her. The difference was self-control and selflessness. A godly boyfriend treats a woman as a sister in Christ, prays, works, waits, and builds a life he can offer her.

Discover (use with any passage in this set)

1. How does this man treat the woman in the story? What does that reveal about him?
2. What is the difference between love and lust here?
3. What patterns from my past relationships do I need to repent of?
4. What kind of man do I need to become before I'm ready to be someone's husband?

Practice alone

Write a purity commitment: what you will and won't do in a relationship, and why. Pray for your future wife (or your wife) by name or as yet unknown.

Practice with others

Ask a married believer to tell you what he wishes he'd known before marriage, and to hold you to your commitment.

MAN10 The Godly Husband

> *"For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her."*
> **Ephesians 5:25 (NLT)**

What this set is about

The husband's model is Jesus, who gave up His life for His bride. Headship in Scripture is not control. It is sacrificial, servant leadership: loving, protecting, providing, praying, understanding, and honoring. Peter warns that a husband who doesn't honor his wife will find his prayers hindered. God Himself is witness to the covenant of marriage and calls husbands to faithfulness.

Discover (use with any passage in this set)

1. What does this passage ask of a husband? What does it promise?
2. How does Jesus' love for the church show me how to love a wife?
3. Where have I loved like a taker instead of a giver?
4. If married, what is one way to love my wife sacrificially this week, even from inside?

Practice alone

Read Ephesians 5:25-33 and write down every action word for husbands. Ask God which one He wants to grow in you first.

Practice with others

If married, write your wife a letter that praises her specifically and asks how you can pray for her. If single, discuss with your group what sacrificial love looks like in daily life.

MAN11 The Godly Father

> *"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them." Instead, bring them up with the Lord's correction and teaching.*
> **Ephesians 6:4 (NLT, then paraphrase)**

What this set is about

A godly father teaches his children about God in everyday life, disciplines with love and not anger, shows compassion, provides, and stays engaged. Eli failed by being passive with his sons. David failed by keeping his son at a distance for years. Our heavenly Father shows the way: compassion, good gifts, and correction that comes from love. Paul describes his care for new believers as a father who encourages, comforts, and urges his children to live for God.

Discover (use with any passage in this set)

1. What does this father do well or poorly?
2. What did my children (or will my children) need most from me?
3. Where do I see Eli's passivity or David's distance in my own fathering?
4. What is one step I can take toward my children this week?

Practice alone

Write down each of your children's names, ages, and one thing you know they love. Pray a blessing over each one by name daily.

Practice with others

Share with your group one way you've failed as a father and one step you're taking. Let them pray for you and your children.

MAN12 Fathering from Inside and Making Things Right

> *"His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children," and the hearts of children to their fathers.*
> **Malachi 4:6 (NLT, then paraphrase)**

What this set is about

Paul fathered spiritual sons by letter from a prison cell, and his letters still shape the world. A man inside can still turn his heart toward his children: writing, calling, blessing, apologizing, and planning. He can also make things right with the mother of his children by honoring her, owning his part, and supporting her as he's able, whatever the relationship is now. God promises to restore what the locusts have eaten.

Discover (use with any passage in this set)

1. What does this passage show about repairing broken relationships?
2. Who in my family have I wronged? What would making it right look like?
3. How can I show respect and support to the mother of my children right now?
4. What blessing do my children need to hear from me?

Practice alone

Write a blessing for each child, using Numbers 6:24-26 as a model, and add one specific thing you see in them that God made good.

Practice with others

Read your letters or blessings to a trusted brother before you send them. Ask him to check that they are humble, honest, and kind.

MAN13 Spiritual Father, Mentor, and Elder

> *"You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others."*
> **2 Timothy 2:2 (NLT)**

What this set is about

The goal of godly manhood is not just to become a good man but to become a father to others: a man who passes on what he has received. Moses raised up Joshua, Elijah raised up Elisha, Paul raised up Timothy. Paul said believers have many teachers but few fathers. An elder is not a title for the talented. He is a proven man of character whose home, self-control, and faith are worth imitating. Every man inside can begin as a spiritual father to someone younger in the faith.

Discover (use with any passage in this set)

1. How did this older man invest in a younger one?
2. What qualities make someone worth imitating?
3. Who invested in me? Who am I investing in?
4. Which elder qualities am I growing in, and which are missing?

Practice alone

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and rate yourself honestly on each quality. Ask God to grow the weakest one.

Practice with others

Ask God to show you one younger man to invest in. Meet with him weekly to read Scripture, pray, and pass on what you've learned (see the mentoring guide in the deep dive).