

next step

manhood

We live in a world where the roles of men have become so blurred that it's hard to understand exactly what it is that men of God are supposed to look like. Work-a-holic dads and divorce have made the problem worse. In our culture, the idea of a biblical man is foreign to us. We do not see them. We would have a hard time even recognizing one. Even when we see athletes or celebrities acknowledge God, we question whether or not they're genuine or whether it's for the right reasons. It also doesn't help that the same people who often speak about God, walk in total worldliness and sin. It makes it very confusing.

Look up Scripture ::

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:15-17; 3:1-13; 3:17-19

Discuss ::

- What are some **responsibilities** given to man in Genesis 1:26-30; 2:15-17?
- Examine the story of the fall of mankind in Genesis 3:1-13. What is the attitude, leadership, character of Adam as a man? Where does he **fail**?
- Have you ever had an occasion where you knew what the right thing to do was, but failed to do so? Where you knew you were supposed to step up and **lead** and act like a Christian man in some moment but you stayed **passive** instead? What was it? What did you do instead?
- Who does Adam **blame** for his sin in Genesis 3:12? Have you ever tried to **blame** something you had done on someone else and not accept **responsibility**? What was it?
- Have you ever tried to cultivate **godliness** in your life (quiet times, living right, quitting sin, leading the other men in your school) and had it produce thorns and thistles and found it much harder than you thought? What was it? What did you do in response? Did you quit? Did you persevere?

Look up

Scripture :: Acts

5:17-32; 40-42

Discuss ::

- Given the possibility of **compromise** (v: 28) in the face of difficult opposition and **suffering** (v: 40)... what is the reaction of the Apostles?
- Have you ever been faced with the option to **compromise** your belief in Christ in the face of opposition or trial? Ask your leaders if they have had a situation in college to **compromise** in the face of opposition and trial.
- Have you ever been faced with the option to adjust your behavior so that it would be less "religious" or "Christian" so that people wouldn't think weird of you? When was it? Choose the now (this life) over the greater reward (everlasting life in Christ)?
- Have you ever been persecuted for your faith? How did you react? Have your leaders? How did they react?

Look up Scripture ::

1 Samuel 17 (*I know most of you "know" this story, but read it with a fresh take*)

Discuss ::

- What is the attitude of Goliath in the passage? Where does he put his **confidence** and **strength**?
 - What is the attitude of Saul and the Israelites? Where do they put their **confidence** and **strength**?
- What is the attitude of David in regards to Goliath?

Where does David get his confidence and strength in the passage? (Don't just write, "from God". Actually think about it, what do we see David doing in the passage that indicates his trust in God?)

What is the motivation for David's bravery?

Have you ever been faced with a situation that you knew seemed impossible to the world, but you knew God would come through? Ask your leaders a situation if they have a situation in college like this.

As men, we are told to be strong. We are told to be brave. We love movies that depict great warriors who conquer with ease. We often forget that strength in anything but God is not strength at all and will fail. It even seems

"weak" at times to pray and meekly submit to God. But this is the true source of our power (1 Corinthians 1:22-24) Where do you find yourself putting your confidence and strength most of the time? (Parents? Teachers? Coaches? Yourself?)

Look up

Scripture :: 2

Timothy 2:1-7

Discuss ::

- Reading this passage, would you expect the job of making disciples to be easy or difficult?
- What is the spiritual **legacy** that you are leaving at your high school? What will people remember you by? Have you left a **legacy** of **disciples**?
- Ask your leaders what they think their spiritual **legacy** was in college? How did they go about making disciples? What do you want your spiritual **legacy** to be in college? When people look back on you in four years, what do you want them to remember you by?
- According to the three examples and the four commands (1. "Be strong", 2. "Entrust", 3. "Suffer hardship", 4. "Consider") what will it look like to accomplish this spiritual **legacy** in college?

Discuss ::

Reject passivity Expect the greater reward, God's reward (eternity) Accept Responsibility
Lead courageously. Ask your leaders to share a positive and negative example from their life of each of these exhortations to be **REAL**.

Strategy for the Day of Battle :: (*and remember, we are in a spiritual battle every day*)

1. **Know your identity:** (Galatians 4:6-7) you are a child of God, adopted by Christ for his Kingdom. You must shed the extra weight of all the lies Satan throws your way (you can't do it, you are too much of a sinner, you have failed, nobody will listen to you, you're a loser, you've made too many mistakes in the past, it's not worth it)
2. **Know your weaponry:** (Ephesians 6:10-18) the Word, prayer, the Holy Spirit has already won the battle
3. **Remember past victories and rest in the future ones:** (1 Samuel 17:34-36) the greatest victory was the day Christ called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light. If you can't remember that moment or season God delivered you, pray about it. If you can't remember seeing God's victory in your life, pray about it.
4. **Practice fierce dependency:** (John 15:1-17) on Christ and on other men (like an army unit)
5. **Stay in the fight:** (2 Timothy 4:6-8) as a man, you are designed for battle. You are in the fight every single day. You are battling for your purity, your future marriage, your future children, the Kingdom of God, the sanctity and purity of the women around you, the name of Jesus against the world, Satan, and your own flesh. Approach every day as a battle.
6. **Pour courage into other men:** (1 Samuel 23:15-17) Jonathan poured into David, who pours it into his men. Who have you poured your life into?