

And if you belong to Christ, then
you are Abraham's descendants,
heirs according to promise.

GALATIANS 3:29

WEEK 1
**CHOSEN FOR
THE CHALLENGE**

KINGDOM MEN RISING

START

Welcome to group session 1 of *Kingdom Men Rising*.

When building a house, what is the purpose of a foundation?

You've probably never heard someone compliment the appearance of a foundation before. No one brags about the quality of a foundation. We don't stand around together dropping lines like, "You should see my foundation! It's the prettiest foundation you'll ever see."

Foundations aren't meant to be pretty or showy; they're meant to be foundational—sturdy, solid, stable, and strong. In fact, men only talk about foundations when a problem arises that needs to be looked at and addressed.

What happens when a building is constructed on top of a faulty foundation?

God crafted men with a foundation in mind. Your role here isn't to draw attention to yourself or be as showy as you can be. God has placed men in pivotal positions in order to provide the support, stability, and strength needed to build healthy communities and families.

As a kingdom man, God has given you a purpose to live out, a divine design to fulfill. This session speaks to your unique calling to provide the foundational framework upon which your influence can rest and rise.

Ask someone to pray before watching the video teaching.

Chosen for the Challenge

WATCH

Use this space to take notes during the video teaching.

KINGDOM MEN RISING MAN UP

Use the following questions to discuss the video teaching.

Read Genesis 18:19 together.

For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.

Genesis 18:19

Name some of the things God promised to Abraham.

When God called Abraham, He told him that He had chosen him. He promised to make Abraham's name great and his descendants many. He chose to bless Abraham in order to bless others (Gen. 12:1-3). God unleashed all of His promises upon Abraham so that ultimately, we might be blessed through our relationship with one of Abraham's descendants.

Read Galatians 3:29 together:

And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:29

What did Paul mean when he wrote you were an heir of Abraham "according to promise"?

In what ways can Abraham's promises get passed down to you?

What responsibilities do we have because of the promises that have been given to us?

Every man is a draftee in the kingdom of God. Once we accept Jesus Christ, He lays claim to us, and that means we have a post to hold. You have a position to play on a bigger team. We've been given a blessing that God expects us to pass on to others. In other words, we're a part of a kingdom team. We've been called to take our stand with God, for God, from God, about God, in a world that needs to know God.

Chosen for the Challenge

Why does following God compel us to take a stand for God?

Describe one way you have taken a stand for God recently. What did you learn from that experience? How others were impacted?

The blessing God gives us is meant to extend beyond us. One way to take a stand for God is to intentionally inject your life into the lives of other men. This is done through discipleship. When we disciple someone, we replicate the work of God in us to others who will then invest in others. Through discipleship God's creates a plethora of kingdom men with whom the world must contend.

What are some common hesitations men have when it comes to committing to disciple someone else or be disciplined by someone else?

How do we sometimes rationalize "growing alone" in order to side-step the important calling of participating in discipleship?

Can you share a personal example of the result of having been disciplined at some point in your life, or disciplining someone else? If you do not have a personal example, share a hope you would expect to see as a result of men disciplining other men.

PRAYER

Father, make us men who are intentional about standing up for You and fulfilling the role You have for us. Help us be men of our word who lives as a solid foundation of truth, wisdom and grace so that others around us can thrive. Open up opportunities for us to disciple other men, and to also be disciplined as we seek to grow in spiritual maturity. In Christ's name, amen.

HIT THE STREETS

KINGDOM MEN RISING

GOD'S MEET UP

Three times a year, God called the men of Israel to gather together and meet with Him through yearly festivals. Participating in the worship of God would define their identity and give them instructions for how to follow Him.

Three times a year all your males are to appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel. For I will drive out nations before you and enlarge your borders, and no man shall covet your land when you go up three times a year to appear before the LORD your God.

Exodus 34:23-24

God let the men know when they came before Him that if they were to follow His rules and come under His authority, then He would bless them, their families, and their nation. Specifically, God made three promises to protect them as the committed themselves to seeking the Lord. Let's take a deeper look at each of these three promises, and end each section with a couple of reflection questions for you to examine internally.

1 DRIVE OUT NATIONS BEFORE YOU

The promise to drive out nations before them was a promise of security. Enemy nations could only mean one thing: instability. While following God and seeking Him does not mean that our lives will always be easy, they will be secure in His grasp.

In what ways have you witnessed God bring stability and calm to your life as you follow Him?

Does stability from God mean that things around you are all stable too, or is it possible to be stable in an unstable circumstance? Explain why you answered as you did.

Chosen for the Challenge

2 ENLARGE YOUR BORDERS

You have probably heard the term "enlarge your borders" in the familiar prayer of Jabez as well (1 Chron. 4:10). This is where a man named Jabez asked God to increase his influence. When God promises to enlarge a man's borders, He is referring to that space in which you carry influence and impact. This could be talking about your business, relationships, civic roles, or ministry.

Why might God extend the influence of those who are faithful to Him?

How could you spread God's goodness and rule in the places where God has given you impact?

3 ALLOW NO MAN TO COVET YOUR LAND

Sometimes it may not bother us if someone covets what we have. That's why so many of us post pictures of what we have and how we look on social media. A little bit of coveting, or admiration, can feel welcome to our flesh. In these verses God was making a promise that when these men left their homes to attend festivals no one would take what belonged to them. For you it means that you can trust God with all that He has entrusted to you.

Describe a time when you lost something you worked hard to achieve or acquire, and how that loss impacted your view of life.

Why is it important to rest in the truth of God's sovereign protection with regard to what He has given you? What is a consequence for those who do not rest in God's protection?

BIBLE STUDY 1

JUMP, OR BE JUMPED

When you purchase a game of checkers, you'll notice that on the top of each piece is the insignia of a crown. That is because each checker was created to become a king.

A checker is crowned because it has successfully made it to the other side of the board. After that point it will have the right and authority to maneuver and function at a much higher level than it could prior to being crowned. However, the reality is most individual checkers will not successfully make it to the other end of the board to be crowned, because the opposition will jump them and knock them out of the game. Whether a checker achieves its created goal of being crowned as a king is fully determined by the moves made by the hand controlling it.

When God created men, He created them with a crown because each man was made to rule under the authority of God. However, ever since the first man, Adam, Satan has sought to "jump" men to keep them from fulfilling their kingdom purposes. He goes to great lengths to keep us from functioning in alignment with God so that our families, churches, communities, and nation experience the consequences and confusion of men living independently of God. In the game of life, when it comes to spiritual warfare, you need to go on the offense. You will either need to jump, or you will be jumped by Satan's attacks.

Read 1 Peter 5:8-9 and Ephesians 4:26-27 and answer the following questions.

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be angry, and yet to not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.

Ephesians 4:26-27

What are some ways we can resist Satan's attempt to "jump" us?

Why do you think God allows Satan to prowl like a roaring lion, seeking men to devour?

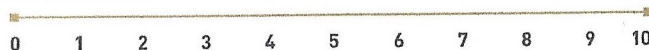
Describe in your own words what it means to live with a "sober spirit" and always "on the alert" for Satan's schemes.

Satan is free to roam, within reason. God has Satan on a leash. Yet God will often allow Satan to tempt us as men, or wage warfare against us because it is in these times of testing that our true character is either formed or revealed.

The strength we need to successfully do battle with the devil is supplied by God (Eph. 6:10-11). That may seem obvious. But, judging from the way we treat this truth, it bears repeating.

Many of us tend to swing toward one of two extremes when it comes to the devil. Some men overestimate him. They become fearful and timid, lest Satan leap upon them. Others underestimate the devil. Yes, Satan is a defeated foe. But even though he is nothing more than a condemned death row inmate awaiting execution, it's not wise to sleep in his cell.

Mark your own perspective of Satan on the chart where 1 means you overestimate him and 10 means you underestimate him:



Why is it critical to have a healthy understanding of Satan's strategies and strengths in order to defeat him?

How should your understanding of Satan and his goals affect your decisions?

The inability to wage ongoing spiritual warfare over the enemy has kept too many men in a cycle of defeat, discouragement, confusion, rebellion, and addiction, to name a few.

As a result, we face the spiritual, social, racial, and political chaos we are experiencing today. Too many men have become either neutered and domesticated or abusive and irresponsible, creating a society that is torn, tattered, and in utter dysfunction.

Yet, despite all we see around us, there remains hope. If God can get His men to rise up as the kingdom men He has created us to be—men who pursue an intimate relationship with Him while simultaneously representing Him in all we do—He will reverse the downward spiral of the culture. God is waiting on His kingdom men to rise to the challenge we were chosen for and accept the responsibility of reversing the decay and disunity that engulf us.

Just as the first Adam brought defeat to the human race, the last Adam, Jesus Christ, came to bring victory (1 Cor. 15:22). It's time for God's men, under the lordship of Jesus Christ, to change the trajectory of our culture as we submit ourselves to Him and His kingdom agenda.

God's Kingdom Agenda is "the visible manifestation of the comprehensive rule of God over every area of life." Rephrase this in your own words.

Give an example of submitting yourself to Christ and His kingdom agenda.

How might your submission enable you to defeat the enemy's plans in your life?

If, and when, God's kingdom men decide to rise up to fulfill our calling, we will see God heal our hearts, families, churches, and land. We will see victory over Satan and his strategies. This study is a clarion call to those men who long to see what God will do with the awakening of His own disciples who will then lead their families and infiltrate the culture as kingdom citizens. Once we learn how to wage our own battles in order to wear our own crowns, we can then be used by God to crown the next generation with kingdom values as well. We were chosen for this challenge by God.

Why is it important for a society to have a shared set of values and standards passed down from one generation to another?

Read Judges 17:6 and answer the following questions.

In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.

Judges 17:6

What happens to a culture when values are left up to everyone's interpretation?

How have you seen this happen in today's contemporary culture?

How has this kind of individualism damaged the spread of God's kingdom?

List one practical thing you can do this week in your sphere of influence in order to guide others toward God's set standards. (Be creative, this could mean in your family, at work, at church, on social media or also in your prayer time).

Pray about one area in your life where you need to step up your game against Satan's schemes. Look for what the Bible calls "opportunities," or open doors that Satan is using to break into your life. Ask God how you can close these doors to the enemy. Also spend some time in prayer asking for God's wisdom regarding His standard for society, families, and individual lives. Ask Him to reveal where your standards are not up to par with His own, so that you can adjust and be in alignment with God's will.

BIBLE STUDY 2

CALLED TO BE A KINGDOM MAN

A kingdom man may be defined as:

A man who visibly and consistently submits to the comprehensive relationship and rule of God, underneath the lordship of Jesus Christ, in every area of life.

You can sum it up in one short statement: A kingdom man accepts his responsibilities under God and faithfully carries them out. When he is faithful, God moves even pagan powers and other forces on earth to support him in doing his kingdom business. When he is unfaithful, Satan steals the show. God has called every Christian man to be a kingdom man.

Dr. Evans uses the word "consistently" in the definition of a kingdom man, rather than "perfectly." What does it look like to "consistently" live out a life of submission under God, especially in those times when you do fail or fall short?

Why is it spiritually dangerous to make excuses for your failures rather than accept responsibility for where you may have dropped the ball?

Consider a football team. When one player makes a mistake, it is common for that player to pat himself on his chest as a way of indicating that he knows it was his fault. It's a nonverbal way of saying, "Sorry guys, let's try again. That one was on me." The other players will nod or pat him on his shoulder and encourage him to do better next time. This type of honest awareness and self-evaluation allows teams to stay connected as a team while pursuing a shared goal. Our goal is consistency, not perfection.

How does personal ownership of failure or mishaps impact others?

In what ways can you take greater personal responsibility for mistakes or issues in your own family? In your friendships?

Have you ever worked with someone, or had a relationship with someone, who consistently blamed someone else for his or her own dropped balls? What did this pattern do to the relationships around them?

God calls each of us to own our failures and be authentic about our mistakes. Living as kingdom men requires submission which is consistency coupled with humility. This type of spirit creates an atmosphere of mutual respect, transparency, and grace where great things can be accomplished for God, individually and collectively.

Every man has been created by God with a specific post to fulfill and a purpose to live out. He has scouted, pursued, and drafted for His kingdom team. Our culture wants to give men a whole slew of other reasons for being a man, but God created men for greatness in His kingdom.

Read Genesis 18:17-19a and Galatians 3:16,29, then answer the following questions.

The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him ..."

Genesis 18:17-19a

Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.

Galatians 3:16

And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:29

Describe how it makes you feel to know that you are truly an heir according to the promises given to Abraham.

How have you seen God bless others through you?

How would you like to see God bless others through you in the future?

Abraham's promise is ours through Jesus Christ. It's yours. Own it. Abraham's faith led to the blessing of untold millions for thousands of years after his death. Like Abraham, you are meant to pass your blessing onto others. To embrace God's promise naturally includes influencing all those around you. When you think of Tom Brady or Peyton Manning, you don't just think of somebody who played football. You think of someone who influenced the entire game of football, and their team. Why? Because they left their mark. Their mere presence elevated the players around them, and as a result, all were able to achieve more individually and collectively than many thought they ever would. We are to do the same.

Describe someone you know who "influences" and "elevates" the lives of others simply by who he is and what he does.

How can you position yourself to be used by God more so in "elevating" the lives of those within your sphere of influence to a greater degree?

I realize that many of you who have decided to participate in this Bible study may be at a place where you have made mistakes, you live with regret, or you have simply failed to maximize the gifts and skills God has given you. It could be that life hasn't been fair. You may want to embrace God's calling on your life, but you just don't know how you could possibly get there with all that is missing or messed up in your life.

If that's you, I want to remind you that success from God's perspective has more to do with heart than skill, just as success in football has more to do with effort than talent. Those who put in the work rise to the top. Those who arrive early and stay late create the historic stories with their games. Those who don't allow personal disadvantages to play out as disadvantages are the ones we later refer to as legends.

Tom Brady didn't get drafted until the sixth round but he went on to win, ironically enough, six Super Bowl championships (at the time of this writing.) Brady didn't allow what people thought of him—by choosing him lower on the rung—determine the effort he puts in the game. This principle ought to ring true for kingdom men too. It is your willingness to show up in life day in and day out, be present in relationships, put forth the effort on the job, commit, give, apply diligence, study the Word, invest in others, and the like that will shape your own legacy of distinction. God loves to use those who want to be used by Him. He consistently blesses those who consistently pursue Him.

Show up. Be present. Stay consistent.

If you do those three things, you will leave a legacy of excellence. After all, legacy is the culmination of a million middle moments done well. It's not about that Hail Mary or kickoff return for a touchdown. It's the small things—the consistent conversations and wise choices that add up over time. That's what creates the heritage you leave behind.

Dr. Evans describes legacy as "the culmination of a million middle moments done well." What practical steps can you take this week to focus more on the "middle moments" of life and investing in those around you?

Men, each of you are called to a life of greatness and purpose in God's kingdom. But greatness is created day in and day out when you show up and invest in the lives of others. It also requires that you be diligent in keeping your own spiritual muscles strong by seeking God above all else and embracing the calling and promises in His Word.

Pray for the discipline you need to live consistently as a kingdom man. Ask God to provide the structure in your life that will enable you to focus more fully on Him and His call for you. If you are in need of encouragement, take a moment to look around you and consider the impact you have had on others, for good and God's kingdom. If you are unable to recognize anything, ask the Spirit to reveal it to you. Then, build on that success every moment of every day moving forward.