

THE 7 VIRTUES OF • MANHOOD •

A BOY'S GUIDE TO GROWING UP

Discussion Guide for Leaders

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PAGES 2 - 4

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature,
and in favor with God and man.

LUKE 2:52

This is your opportunity to teach your student what it means to
grow in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and with man.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Here are questions to discuss with the boys in your group. It's not a checklist—feel free to focus on what will be most helpful for them and for you.

1. Who is a man you admire? What do you admire about him? How did he become this kind of man?
2. What are the three things this chapter says a man of God knows?
3. How would you answer the questions at the end of this chapter? (pg. 4)
 - a. Why were you created?
 - b. Where are you going?
 - c. How do you plan to live out your purpose on earth?
 - d. How can this book help you?

TAKING ACTION



It can be great to kick off something new with a fun activity, such as going out for ice cream, going on a bike ride, or starting a project together. Think about what you and the boy(s) going through this book enjoy, and use that as a fun activity to strengthen your relationship and build a foundation for the discussions ahead.

GETTING IN THE WORD

Have the boys open their Bibles and read **Luke 2:52**. Here are some questions to ask them:

- What are the ways this passage says Jesus increased or grew?
- How do you hope to grow in these areas?

CHAPTER 01

THE TRUE FRIEND

PAGES 5-15

STANDS BY AND STANDS UP

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

JOHN 15:12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Here are questions to discuss with the boys in your group. It's not a checklist—feel free to focus on what will be most helpful for them and for you.

1. What did you think about the story of Frodo and his friends? How did David and Jonathan stick with each other like Frodo and his friend? (pgs. 7-8)
2. Who are your closest friends? How did you become friends? (pg. 8)
3. Can you think of any times when your friends stuck with you through something hard? Or when you stuck with a friend? How did this make you feel? (pg. 8)
4. What are the three ways listed that we can stand by and stand up for our friends? (pgs. 10-11)
5. Who is our ultimate True Friend? How did he prove this to us? (pg. 15)
6. In your own words, how would you describe what it means to be a True Friend? (pg. 15)
7. How could you be a better True Friend? (pg. 13)

TAKING ACTION



True Friends help each other through tough times. Ask the boys to think of a friend who is going through a tough time.

- Brainstorm ways to be a good friend to someone in a hard situation—maybe writing an encouraging note, inviting them to hang out, or helping them study.
- Ask your boys to write down **who** they want to help, **how** they plan to help, and **when** they will help.

GETTING IN THE WORD

Have the boys open their Bibles and read **1 Cor. 13:4-7**. Here are some questions to ask them:

- What does a loving friendship look like?
- How can you practice being that kind of friend?

CHAPTER 02

THE HUMBLE HERO

PAGES 17-26

USES GIFTS FOR GOD'S GLORY

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Here are questions to discuss with the boys in your group. It's not a checklist—feel free to focus on what will be most helpful for them and for you.

1. What powers would you want to have if you were a superhero? (pg. 19)
2. What makes someone with powers a good guy (hero) or a bad guy (villain)? (pg. 19)
3. What do you think your talents are? (Encourage the boys to tell each other what they think each others' gifts are.) (pg. 20)
4. Where do your talents come from? (pg. 21)
5. Who are you using your talents for? Are you more like a hero or a villain? (pg. 21)
6. When was one time when you definitely did NOT live like a Humble Hero?
7. What does the end of the chapter call Jesus? How does Jesus live like a Humble Hero? (pg. 23)
8. How can I be a better example of a Humble Hero for you?

TAKING ACTION



Have the boys share who their favorite hero is.

- Ask them to describe what they love about this hero.
- Ask them how he/she uses their powers. For themselves or others?
- Have them make a plan for how they can start living more like their favorite hero.

GETTING IN THE WORD

Have the boys open their Bibles and read the story of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17. Here are some questions to ask them:

- Why do you think God chose to use David and his stones to defeat Goliath?
 - **Answer:** God wanted to show that He can use anyone. The focus in this passage is less on David's faith, and more in who David had his faith in.
- How did David live like a true Humble Hero?
- How can you start living like this?

CHAPTER 03

THE SERVANT LEADER
PAGES 27-35

TAKES INITIATIVE FOR OTHERS

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Here are questions to discuss with the boys in your group. It's not a checklist—feel free to focus on what will be most helpful for them and for you.

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “leader”? Do you have to be in charge to be a leader? (pg. 29)
2. Who are some of the best leaders you know? What makes them great leaders?
3. How does Jesus define leadership?
4. What are the three things this chapter says a Servant Leader does? How does the good Samaritan do all three? (pgs. 30-31)
5. How did Jesus serve us? (pg. 33)
6. How does Jesus help us become Servant Leaders? (pg. 33)
7. How can I serve you and our family / class / small group better?

TAKING ACTION



With your boy(s), interview a leader in your community about what it means to be a Servant Leader.

- Invite the boys' input in whom you interview—for example, it could be a pastor, a school principal, a local mayor, or a CEO.
- Help the boys plan a few questions in advance about how the leader thinks about and lives out servant leadership.

Help the boys make a plan of action for how they can take initiative to help:

- Those at home
- Those at school
- Those in their neighborhood or city

GETTING IN THE WORD

Have the boys open their Bibles and read **Philippians 2:3-8**. Here are some questions to ask them:

1. What Paul does call us to in verses 3-4?
2. Read verses 6-8. How did Jesus live out what Paul calls us to in verses 3-4?

CHAPTER 04

THE PACESETTER

PAGES 37-50

SETS THE EXAMPLE

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young,
but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct,
in love, in faith and in purity.

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Here are questions to discuss with the boys in your group. It's not a checklist—feel free to focus on what will be most helpful for them and for you.

1. How would you describe what a pacesetter does in a race? What does a pacesetter do in the race of life?
2. Who have been pacesetters in your life? What type of person should you start following? (pg. 41)
3. Who are you running the race of life alongside? Are they influencing you in good ways? (pg. 42)
4. What happened in the story when the pacesetter got tired and didn't tell anyone?
5. Are you the pacesetter for anyone? How can you be a pacesetter in school? Or at home?
6. What are the ways to be a good example listed near the end of the chapter? Which one do you need to work on the most? (pgs. 45-46)

TAKING ACTION



- Tell about someone who has been a Pacesetter for you, and help the boy(s) identify one person who is a Pacesetter for them (other than you). Write thank-you notes to your Pacesetters and mail or deliver them.
- One way boys can be Pacesetters is by standing up when they see someone being bullied. Ask the boy(s) how they feel when they see someone bullied. Brainstorm ways they can deal with a bully or a situation where someone you know is getting bullied. Then, ask the boy(s) to pick which response is the best—and why.

GETTING IN THE WORD

Have the boys open their Bibles and read **Hebrews 12:1-3**. Here are some questions to ask them:

1. How does this passage relate to running a race and being a Pacesetter?
2. Who does this passage direct us to look toward in the race?
3. What are the three things the chapter in 7 Virtues says these verses tell us to do?

CHAPTER 05

THE BOLD ADVENTURER

PAGES 51-62

GOES COURAGEOUSLY

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

JOSHUA 1:9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Here are questions to discuss with the boys in your group. It's not a checklist—feel free to focus on what will be most helpful for them and for you.

1. What is Nelson Mandela's definition of courage? (pg. 54)
2. Where did the boy in Luke 15 look for adventure? What are some examples of wrong places to seek adventure? (pgs. 53-54)
3. Who is an example of a Bold Adventurer that you know in your life? What about from the Bible?
4. What are some ways you waste time in your life? Are there things that keep you from the adventures God has for you? (pg. 53)
5. How did Jim Elliot live as a Bold Adventurer? (pgs. 55-56)
6. What are the ways to start living courageously listed near the end of the chapter? (pgs. 57-58)
7. How did Jesus live as a Bold Adventurer?

TAKING ACTION



Pick an unfamiliar destination that you can get to without a car and challenge your boy(s) to navigate their way to it without using a GPS or phone.

- For example, you might drive to a state park and ask the boy(s) to navigate your way to a spot of the park map by foot, bike, or canoe.
- Or if you live in a big city, you could pick a park or landmark and ask the boy(s) to navigate your way to it on public transit or by foot.
- Talk about what it takes to pick a goal and reach it without getting distracted or lost.

GETTING IN THE WORD

Have the boys open their Bibles and read **Deuteronomy 31:6**. Here are some questions to ask them:

- What does God give as the reason why the Israelites should not be afraid?
- How does the sure presence of God give us courage to live as Bold Adventurers?

CHAPTER 06

THE NOBLE KNIGHT
PAGES 63-74

LIVES HONORABLY

But the noble make noble plans, and by noble deeds they stand.

ISAIAH 32:8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Here are questions to discuss with the boys in your group. It's not a checklist—feel free to focus on what will be most helpful for them and for you.

1. What kind of code were knights asked to follow? (pg. 65)
2. What tough times did Theodore Roosevelt go through? (pg. 66)
3. What obstacles are in your way to living an honorable life? Who can you ask for help to overcome these obstacles? (pg. 67)
4. What is integrity? What does it look like to live with integrity? (pg. 68)
5. How can you show respect and honor to your friends? Parents? People that are different from you? (pg. 69)
6. What are ways that you have learned to seek purity? (pg. 70)
7. What does it mean to be determined? (pg. 70)
8. What are challenges or difficult situations you might face this year? What does it look like for you to deal with them as a Noble Knight?
9. What does this chapter suggest you should do if you have lived dishonorably?
10. How was Jesus a Noble Knight? (pgs. 71-72)

TAKING ACTION



Look for an opportunity for you and your boy(s) to serve someone in your community who is vulnerable or in need.

- As you work together to plan your service project, talk through what it means to serve others in ways that really help—taking initiative, listening to their needs, helping to build long-term solutions, etc.

GETTING IN THE WORD

Have the boys open their Bibles and read **1 Peter 3:18**. Here are some questions to ask them:

- How would you explain what this verse means?
- How does this verse apply to living dishonorably?

CHAPTER 07

THE FAITHFUL FOLLOWER
PAGES 75-84

IS LOVED BY GOD

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

JOHN 10:27

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Here are questions to discuss with the boys in your group. It's not a checklist—feel free to focus on what will be most helpful for them and for you.

1. How would you summarize the book of Jonah? What did God do for Jonah later in the book? (pg. 77)
2. How do the verses in Ephesians 2 make us out to be like Jonah? (pg. 78)
3. How does John 10 describe Jesus? How does Jesus come after us like God came after Jonah? (pg. 79)
4. How does this chapter say we are to respond to what Jesus has done on the cross? (pg. 79)
5. How does this chapter summarize what it means to be Jesus' followers? (pg. 80)
6. How is Jesus connected to each of the 7 Virtues at the end of this chapter? (pgs. 80-81)
7. Have you made the decision to be a Faithful Follower? When did you do that and what was it like for you?
8. Do you have a plan of everyday habits that allow you to hear God's voice so you can follow him?

TAKING ACTION



Share your story of faith. When did you realize you needed God's forgiveness and trust in him? How did that feel? If it happened over time, how did you or your understanding of God grow over that time?

GETTING IN THE WORD

Have the boys open their Bibles and read **each of the verses listed for each of the 7 Virtues at the end of this chapter**. Here are some questions to ask them:

- How does Jesus show us how to live out these virtues? How does he empower us to live them out?
- Which virtue do you need to pray that God would help you live out more?