



## Father's Day Weekend

### Opening Prayer

God, thank you for giving us this space and time together. Help us to connect with you, each other, and ourselves in meaningful ways. Amen.

### Talk It Over

This week's talk focused on moving from boyhood to manhood. Moreover, while the talk was targeted to men, know this discussion guide is intended for anyone.

- What are some of the cultural messages surrounding manhood? In other words, in your opinion, how does culture define manhood?
- In what ways do you agree or disagree with the messages we are being sold by culture regarding manhood?
- Growing up, for better or worse, what were the most predominate messages you heard and saw about manhood?

This week's big idea was that maturity is a path and a process. We cannot live assuming maturity will come simply because we get older, have children, become successful, or so forth. Maturity is about choosing the path and embracing the process of maturity.

- Have you ever seen a man embrace the path and process of becoming more mature? Tell us what you observed and noted.

### Read 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (TLB)

A defining mark of a man is kindness and love.

- This week manhood was defined as someone who builds himself, others, and culture up. Does this description of healthy manhood work for you? Why or why not?
- Tell us about a man you loved and respected as a child. What was it about him that won you over?
- Share about a man you know and respect now who carries himself with kindness and love.

Since maturity is a path and process, it's important we are on the right path and saying 'yes' to the right process because our path and process will determine our destination. Below are three markers we looked at this week to seek on our path from boyhood to manhood or from immaturity to maturity.

### 1. A man lives by purpose, but a boy lives moment to moment.

#### Read Phillipians 3:15-20 (Msg)

Whereas a man can say 'no' to distractions and make wise choices when it comes to choosing between purpose and pleasure, a boy takes the easy road. Delaying gratification is often harder for a boy than it is a man.

- This season how you are you choosing purpose over pleasure? Give us one example.
- Tell us about a time you chose pleasure over purpose and found yourself facing real consequences.

## **2. A man is a team player, but a boy plays for MVP.**

### **Read Luke 22:24-26 (NLT)**

Men know how to play well with others and work as a team. Winning with Jesus involves caring about others.

- This week we looked at two questions under this point: One, are you coachable? Two, can you listen to others even when you think you know? Consider your life this season and the various relationships and places you spend your time.
  - In what ways are you coachable and good at listening?
  - In what ways do you struggle?

We all have to come to a place of knowing “I am not enough”. A place where you admit you don’t have everything together. Let’s revisit this week’s quote by Father Richard Rohr:

“...on every continent, culture after culture, it was never assumed that the young male naturally grew up. He had to be taught. Basically, here was the assumption that cultures came to — that unless the male was led on journeys of powerlessness, he would always abuse power — unless he’s somehow touched upon vulnerability, powerlessness. And it’s no surprise that’s the first step of the 12-step program.”

- What does this quote mean to you in your own words?
- What does this quote stir up in you? What does it make you think of or feel?

### **Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NIV)**

While the messages of our culture often tell us we can do life alone, the Bible teaches us that we all need a community. Whether you are a man or woman, the Bible warns us to not give in to the temptation that says we can do it alone.

- In what ways have you seen groups, accountability, community, friendship, mentorship or the like impact the life of a man?

## **3. A man repents, but a boy makes excuses.**

### **James 5:16 (NLT) and 1 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV)**

When a man sees the ways in which he has fallen short, failed, made a mistake, made a bad choice — intentionally or unintentionally — he owns his issues and his brokenness. Moreso, he looks to make things right. At EastLake Church, we define maturity as becoming a quicker repenter than we used to be.

- When is it hardest for you to see or own your mistake? What makes it so hard to own the shortcoming?
- Have you ever been in a relationship with someone who chose not to repent or own their mistake? Without going into detail, how did the person not owning their failure impact you?
- What are the messages and lessons of freedom we can teach ourselves and extend to others regarding coming to a place of owning our mistakes? In other words, how can we make it easier for ourselves and others to repent and not make excuses?
- Take two minutes to silently consider if there is anything in your own life you need to own, say sorry for, make right, or confess. If something comes up that you want to share, feel free to. If no one wants to talk after these two minutes, that is okay.

## **Read 2 Samuel 12:13 (NLT)**

We all need a Nathan in our life. Someone who will act as a loving, honest mirror and someone who will help us find the freedom and grace of owning our failure.

- Who serves as a Nathan in your life? How did that relationship come to be?
- If you don't have a Nathan like relationship, what is a step you can take towards finding and fostering a Nathan like relationship in your life?

## **Closing Prayer**

God, you know everything about us and love us. You desire to lead us towards maturity through a process. Help us to say 'yes' to your spirit and to embrace the path of growth for our own sake and the sake of others. Help us to become more free, more loving, more kind, more mature versions of who we are. Amen.

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## **How To Use this Discussion Guide**

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith in your specific group.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead.