



men
AT GRACE

SONS AND DAUGHTERS

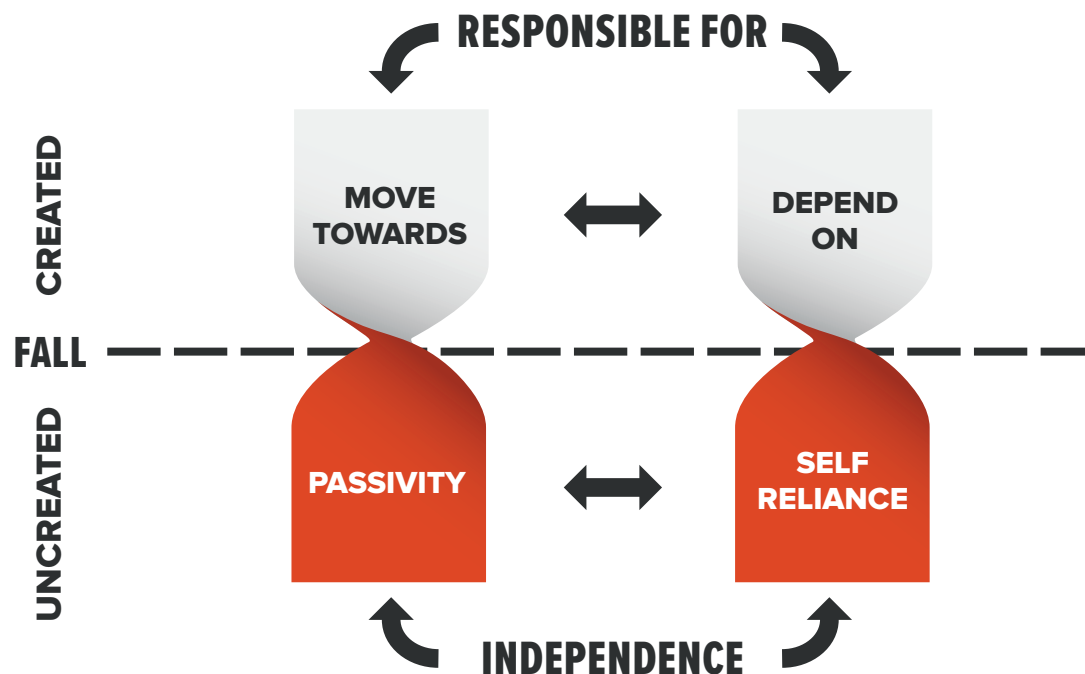
facilitator **GUIDE**

2nd EDITION

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Our goal is to equip men to be responsible for the people and situations that God brings into their lives:



CREATED

As men, we were created and have a Creator. We have a God-given calling to be **Responsible For** others. This means we **Move Towards** the people and situations God places in our lives and **Depend On** God our Creator. This was God's perfect plan before the fall.

UNCREATED

After the fall, we no longer live as created beings. We do not position ourselves under our Maker but, instead, want to be like God. We live as though we are **Independent**, uncreated beings. This leads to **Passivity** and **Self-Reliance** in our lives, a complete perversion of the good thing God created.

SESSION ONE

PREPARATION

In order to create the most effective collaborative environment for your first session, review the following checklist:

- ☐ Have you secured a location for your sessions?
- ☐ Have you created a registration for people so they can sign up to attend the sessions?
- ☐ Have you shared the registration link and invited people to attend?
- ☐ Have you secured at least six to ten people for your sessions?
- ☐ Have you ordered a leader guide for your study?
- ☐ Have you ordered participant workbooks for your study?
- ☐ Have you sent an email reminder to all registrants seven days before your first session?
- ☐ Have you reviewed sessions one through four, and are you prepared to lead your first session?
- ☐ Have you shared the content and asked your group to review before session one?

What icebreaker will you use for your first session? Write it out.

What could be several questions your group could discuss during your first session? Write it out.

What “call to action” will you introduce to your group members at the end of session one and ask them to complete before the start of session two? Write it out.

SESSION 1

Godly Manhood

We want to have influence with our sons and daughters.
The majority of our relationship with our children happens when they are adults.

JESUS' SUMMARY OF GODLINESS

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

³⁷ Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Idea: All of God’s commands flow out of our relationship with him. Do we love him supremely and absolutely? And then, do we love those around us?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE FOR A MAN TO LOVE GOD AND LOVE HIS NEIGHBOR?

A negative example:

Genesis 2-3

- Embraces passivity
 - » Adam is present, but he is passive. He’s there, but he’s irrelevant.
 - » Passivity is a failure to love God and our neighbor.
 - Rejects responsibility
 - Hides in fear
 - Expects condemnation
-

A positive example:

Genesis 3:15

“He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Romans 5:6-8

⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

- Rejects passivity
- Accepts responsibility
 - » We are responsible for our own spiritual growth.
 - » A godly man absorbs into himself the suffering of other people.
- Leads courageously
- Expects God’s reward
 - » Motivation: God is going to make it right.

GETTING CLEAR ON THE BOUNDARIES OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Cultivating Self-Awareness

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. I feel (equipped, lost, inadequate, encouraged) _____ in my journey to be a godly man.
Choose one descriptor or supply your own and explain why.
2. Describe an area of your life where you need help to grow towards expressing courageous leadership.
3. When you think about God's reward for you, what image comes to mind? Is it a powerful motivator for you?

SESSION TWO

PREPARATION

In order to create the most effective collaborative environment for your second session, review the following checklist:

What was the biggest insight you learned from session one?

- ☐ Have you sent an email reminder to all registrants three days before your second session?
- ☐ Have you reviewed session two content, and are you prepared to lead your second session?
- ☐ Have you completed the "call to action?"

Who are two to three individuals you could connect with this week (by phone or text) and encourage and/or ask them to help you lead/participate in your next session?

What icebreaker will you use for your second session?

What could be several questions your group could discuss during your second session?

What "call to action" will you introduce to your group members at the end of session two and ask them to complete before the start of session three?

SESSION TWO: GODLY PURSUITS

Spend 20 minutes (icebreaker/reviewing) and 40 minutes collaborating around the content. Remember to review your “call to action.” Reference **Facilitating Your Group** in the Men at Grace Leader Handbook if you need ideas.

As you facilitate discussion, write out any insights you discover.

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SESSION 2

Godly Pursuits

RECAP

- Rejects passivity
- Accepts responsibility
- Leads courageously
- Expects God's reward

Our life and motivation come from being born of the second Adam.

Practical Calling: Pursue, Protect, Provide

MARRIED

Pursue:

Protect:

Provide:

SINGLE

Pursue:

Protect:

Provide:

DAD

Pursue:

- We want to be men who engage and initiate with our children.
- Connecting falls on us. It is our responsibility.

Protect:

Provide:

- Character development: We have to put pressure on our children to perform in obscurity.
- The most important thing we can provide to a child is our presence.

CORRUPTION

Pursue:

Protect:

Provide:

SELF-AWARENESS

DAVID

1 Kings 1:5-6

⁵ About that time David's son Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, began boasting, "I will make myself king." So he provided himself with chariots and charioteers and recruited fifty men to run in front of him. ⁶ Now his father, King David, had never disciplined him at any time, even by asking, "Why are you doing that?" Adonijah had been born next after Absalom, and he was very handsome.

Develop Skills:

- Receive
- Self-Revealing ⇒ Humility
- Reorient

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Which of the three P's is a strength for you? Why?

2. Which one is a weakness? Why?

3. Is there anything that seems like an obvious next step for you?

4. Is there anything that is confusing for you about the three P's?

SESSION THREE

PREPARATION

In order to create the most effective collaborative environment for your third session, review the following checklist:

What was the biggest insight you learned from session two?

☐ Have you sent an email reminder to all registrants three days before your third session?

☐ Have you reviewed session three content, and are you prepared to lead your third session?

Who are two to three individuals you could connect with this week (by phone or text) and encourage and/or ask them to help you lead/participate in your next session?

What icebreaker will you use for your third session?

What could be several questions your group could discuss during your third session?

What “call to action” will you introduce to your group members at the end of session three and ask them to complete before the start of session four?

SESSION THREE: RAISING RESPONSIBLE SONS | YEARS 8-14

Spend 20 minutes (icebreaker/reviewing) and 40 minutes collaborating around the content. Remember to review your “call to action.” Reference **Facilitating Your Group** in the Men at Grace Leader Handbook if you need ideas.

As you facilitate discussion, write out any insights you discover.

Spend 20 minutes (icebreaker/reviewing) and 40 minutes collaborating around the content. Remember to review your “call to action.” Reference **Facilitating Your Group** in the Men at Grace Leader Handbook if you need ideas.

As you facilitate discussion, write out any insights you discover.

SESSION 3

Raising Responsible Sons | Years 8-14



A BRIEF WORD ABOUT GENDER AND PARENTING

- Be biblical
- Allow for individuality
- Be self-aware

A BRIEF WORD ABOUT AUTHORITY

- Relational:
- Positional: The goal is not mindless conformity, but faith in God regarding matters that I cannot yet understand.

AUTHORITY SUMMARIZED: DO THIS.

Grace Resources for Parenting Curriculum:

- Establishing Authority
- Developing Responsibility

CULTIVATING RESPONSIBILITY IN THE HEART OF A BOY

Why it's so important:

Being responsible is the core distinctive of what it means to be a man.

Goals for this season:

Responsibilities should come off of the parents.

Transition in your relationship with him from control to influence.

KEY STEPS IN THE PROCESS

1. Create a culture of responsibility.
 - Expectation for him: every environment he enters becomes better.
2. Give him specific responsibilities—equip him to succeed—and give him feedback on the quality of his work.
3. Allow others to suffer or be inconvenienced when he fails.
4. Give him a wise guide (you) and help connect him to other wise guides.
 - Connect him to other men through: work, service, and structured biblical community.
5. Give him a vocabulary before he needs it.
6. Let him suffer for his own foolishness (appropriate for his age).
7. Help him begin to discover what kinds of things he is gifted to do.
8. Lead his mom to accept some wider boundaries, especially around managing (keeping him from) failure.
 - He will not understand the bitterness of the future of an irresponsible man until he experiences the bitterness of the future of an irresponsible boy.
9. Protect him from the Immoral Woman until he is old enough to protect himself.
10. Read the signs and predict his future.
11. Banish shame from the equation.

SESSION FOUR

PREPARATION

In order to create the most effective collaborative environment for your fourth session, review the following checklist:

What was the biggest insight you learned from session three?

☐ Have you sent an email reminder to all registrants three days before your fourth session?

☐ Have you reviewed session three content, and are you prepared to lead your fourth session?

Who are two to three individuals you could connect with this week (by phone or text) and encourage and/or ask them to help you lead/participate in your next session?

What icebreaker will you use for your fourth session?

What could be several questions your group could discuss during your fourth session?

What is the “call to action” you will ask your group members to complete at the end of session four? Or how could you challenge them to get more involved in your church?

SESSION FOUR: RAISING RESPONSIBLE SONS | YEARS 15-19

Spend 20 minutes (icebreaker/reviewing) and 40 minutes collaborating around the content. Remember to review your “call to action.” Reference **Facilitating Your Group** in the Men at Grace Leader Handbook if you need ideas.

As you facilitate discussion, write out any insights you discover.

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SESSION 4

Raising Responsible Sons | Years 15-19



Psalm 127:4

Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands.

We are launching them into the world with great effect.

A TALE OF TWO TREES

Jeremiah 17:5-8

⁵ Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶ He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷ "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸ He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." (ESV)

In season and out of season, he is fruitful.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PARENTS WHO ARE OBSTACLES

They fear exposure.

You and your wife will be exposed.

They love the approval of men.

They are unreflective.

MOVING FROM CONTROL TO INFLUENCE

- Our job is to be influential people.
- Move from fear to faith.
- Influential people are people who have integrity.
- Grow with our kids through this stage.
- We've got to be willing to own our failures in the moment, and create a culture where they can own theirs.
- We have to prevail.
- The currency of relationships is respect.
- What he needs is a wise guide who has influence.

DIGGING DEEPER CHANNELS

Pursue:

- Relational work
- Learn how to love people

Protect:

- Taking the heat in a situation so others can live and work in the shade.

Provide:

- We're trying to raise sons who are successful enough at something they can:
 - » Provide for themselves entirely.
 - » Provide a return for those above them.
 - » Provide an abundance to those who are under them.
 - Get a job in this season.
 - » When they work, they develop a toughness to sustain them in failure.
 - If we create this kind of space for our sons, they will have success in the world.
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QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are my weaknesses as a man, and how are they limiting my ability to move my son towards this vision of manhood? What are the first steps for me?
2. Are you on a pathway toward influence in your son's life? Why or why not?
3. Is your wife on board with a healthy vision for masculinity? If not, where is she out of step? What do you need to do to help her partner with you and your son in this process?

SESSION FIVE

PREPARATION

In order to create the most effective collaborative environment for your fifth session, review the following checklist:

What was the biggest insight you learned from session four?

☐ Have you sent an email reminder to all registrants three days before your fifth session?

☐ Have you reviewed session five content, and are you prepared to lead your fifth session?

Who are two to three individuals you could connect with this week (by phone or text) and encourage and/or ask them to help you lead/participate in your next session?

What icebreaker will you use for your fifth session?

What could be several questions your group could discuss during your fifth session?

What is the “call to action” you will ask your group members to complete at the end of session five? Or how could you challenge them to get more involved in your church?

SESSION FIVE: RAISING STRONG DAUGHTERS | YEARS 8-14

Spend 20 minutes (icebreaker/reviewing) and 40 minutes collaborating around the content. Remember to review your “call to action.” Reference **Facilitating Your Group** in the Men at Grace Leader Handbook if you need ideas.

As you facilitate discussion, write out any insights you discover.

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SESSION 5

Raising Strong Daughters | Years 8-14



INTRO

CORE SINS

Man: Passivity

Woman: Autonomy

THE LIST

Identity

- Goal: She will get her identity from her family.
- If we want to help shape her identity, we need to pursue her all the time.

Affection

- Girls crave attention.

Princesses vs. Tomboys

- What we want to communicate: the world does not come to you on your terms.

Responsibility

- Responsibility will humble them and build their confidence.

Authority

- Part of our job as dads is to teach our young women how to put themselves under authority.

Dating Doctrine

- Develop a doctrine of dating in your home that you and your wife come to a mutual agreement on.

Sex/Purity

- As fathers, we can be prophetic and cast vision for our daughters.

Modesty

- We are in charge of the modesty in our home.

Technology

- We have a larger responsibility to our daughters than just giving them what they want (like freedom and privacy).

Emotion

- Force time when you discuss and work through things.
- They need to feel heard and affirmed.

Parenting as a Team

- We're not going to agree on everything; but we should enforce it all together.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is your greatest concern about raising your daughter(s)? What excites you the most?
2. What kind of discussions are you and your wife having about your daughters? What topics need to be discussed?
3. Of all the topics discussed today, what are the top two that you either have not given much thought to or now know you need to work on?
4. If you were to have one significant conversation with your daughter this week, what would it be about?

SESSION SIX

PREPARATION

In order to create the most effective collaborative environment for your sixth session, review the following checklist:

What was the biggest insight you learned from session five?

☐ Have you sent an email reminder to all registrants three days before your sixth session?

☐ Have you reviewed session six content, and are you prepared to lead your sixth session?

Who are two to three individuals you could connect with this week (by phone or text) and encourage and/or ask them to help you lead/participate in your next session?

What icebreaker will you use for your sixth session?

What could be several questions your group could discuss during your sixth session?

What is the “call to action” you will ask your group members to complete at the end of session six? Or how could you challenge them to get more involved in your church?

SESSION SIX: RAISING STRONG DAUGHTERS | YEARS 15-19

Spend 20 minutes (icebreaker/reviewing) and 40 minutes collaborating around the content. Remember to review your “call to action.” Reference **Facilitating Your Group** in the Men at Grace Leader Handbook if you need ideas.

As you facilitate discussion, write out any insights you discover.

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SESSION 6

Raising Strong Daughters | Years 15-19



Reference the Proverbs 31 worksheet at the end of this study.

THE BIG PICTURE

Season of:

- Reaping what's been sowed.
- Withdrawing from the account of identity and training.
- Influencing. Scales are starting to move from authority to influence.

Create a culture in private with your wife where you two give each other careful feedback.

THE LIST

Pursuit

- Be in pursuit all the time. Most pursuit is unrewarding.
- Learn from and listen to her. (Know about her friends).

Affection

- Figure out how she connects. (Five love languages are helpful).
- Tell her all the time, "I love you and I'm proud of you."

Dating

- Think about purposeful and intentional dating.

Sexuality

- Make decisions about modesty before the moment.
- Do not teach that sex is bad.

Autonomy

- There are subtle ways in which we need to challenge autonomy.

Predators

- Most young women are not prepared for how intense male energy can be.

Technology

- Most of the technology for young women is about affirmation.

Friends

- Prepare her for the fact that most of these friendships won't last.

Self-Awareness

- She needs to know who she is by the time she leaves.
 - » She needs to know her strengths and weaknesses at this time.
- Teach her that she is not always right.

GOSPEL VS. REGRET

- The gospel frees us to keep moving!
- We are a picture of what Jesus is doing in this world by the way we live with our children—by the way we lead our sons and daughters.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How do you and your wife complement each other in parenting? How have you leveraged that?

2. What have you found to be the most difficult issues for you and your wife to come to agreement on?

3. How have you changed in how you relate to your daughter(s) as they have gotten older?

4. What is something that was discussed in the teaching today that you have done well?

5. What are two areas discussed today that you need work on?

A WIFE OF NOBLE CHARACTER

Proverbs 31

¹⁰Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies.

¹¹Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. ¹²She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

Vision

¹³She finds wool and flax and busily spins it. ¹⁴She is like a merchant's ship, bringing her food from afar. ¹⁵She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plan the day's work for her servant girls. ¹⁶She goes to inspect a field and buys it; with her earnings she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷She is energetic and strong, a hard worker. ¹⁸She makes sure her dealings are profitable; her lamp burns late into the night. ¹⁹Her hands are busy spinning thread, her fingers twisting fiber.

Productive

²⁰She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy.

Compassionate

²¹She has no fear of winter for her household, for everyone has warm clothes.

²²She makes her own bedspreads. She dresses in fine linen and purple gowns.

Responsible

²³Her husband is well known at the city gates, where he sits with the other civic leaders.

Her husband has a good reputation

²⁴She makes belted linen garments and sashes to sell to the merchants.

Productive

²⁵She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future.

²⁶When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness. ²⁷She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness.

Composed and Wise

²⁸Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her: ²⁹"There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!" ³⁰Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised. ³¹Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.

Fears God



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