

**FORMED LIKE CHRIST:
A Men's Journey Toward Christlike Character**

VISION STATEMENT: This Men's Bible study exists to shape us into men who look like Jesus...not just in belief, but in character, conduct, courage, and compassion. We will study how Jesus relates to people, especially in moments of failure, brokenness, and transformation, so that we may become men who reflect His heart in our homes, churches, and communities.

CORE PRINCIPLE: Discipleship is not behavior modification...it is character formation. We become like Jesus by observing Jesus.

➤ **SESSION 1 – “Sought and Seen”**

Christlike Trait: Initiating Grace

Theme: Jesus seeks before He corrects

PRIMARY PASSAGE (MALE) Zacchaeus – Luke 19:1–10

Observation

- **Jesus *initiates* the encounter**
- **Calls Zacchaeus by name**
- **Publicly associates with a despised man**
- **Transformation flows from acceptance, not shame**

Key Insight: Jesus does not wait for Zacchaeus to change before entering his life.

PARALLEL PASSAGE (FEMALE) Woman at the Well – John 4:1–42

Parallel Insights

- **Jesus initiates conversation**
- **Breaks racial, moral, and gender barriers**
- **Reveals truth progressively**
- **Leads her from shame to witness**

Shared Jesus Trait - Initiating Grace – Jesus goes where others won't and starts what others avoid.

Christlike men do not wait for people to be worthy of engagement. They initiate grace.

This challenges: Passive faith - Avoidance of uncomfortable people - Judgment masked as “discernment”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus *chose* Zacchaeus?
2. What risks did Jesus take socially and spiritually?
3. Where are you tempted to withhold grace until someone “changes”?
4. How does initiating grace redefine biblical masculinity?
5. Who is your Zacchaeus right now?

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FOR THE MONTH - Practice: Initiate an intentional conversation with someone you normally avoid, overlook, or silently judge.

Prayer: “Jesus, make me a man who initiates grace the way You do.”

➤ **SESSION 2 – “Restored, Then Recommissioned”**

Christlike Trait: Restorative Authority

Theme: Jesus restores before He recommissions

PRIMARY PASSAGE (MALE) Peter Restored – John 21:15–19

Observation

- Jesus seeks Peter after his greatest failure
- He recreates the environment of Peter’s denial (fire, morning, conversation)
- He asks heart-level questions, not performance questions
- He restores identity before assigning responsibility
- He turns shame into shepherding

Key Insight - Jesus does not pretend Peter didn’t fail - but He refuses to define him by his failure. Jesus heals Peter’s **heart** before He touches Peter’s **hands**.

PARALLEL PASSAGE (FEMALE) Woman Caught in Adultery – John 8:1–11

Parallel Insights

- Jesus steps into a public moment of humiliation
- He silences accusers before addressing behavior
- He removes condemnation before correcting conduct
- He protects her dignity before challenging her decisions

“Neither do I condemn thee...go, and sin no more.”

Shared Jesus Trait - Restorative Authority – Jesus uses power to rebuild, not to crush.

Christlike men use authority to restore, not to dominate.

This challenges: Shame-based leadership - Control disguised as “headship” - Anger used as spiritual discipline - Withholding grace as punishment

Biblical masculinity is not proven by how hard you confront - but by how well you restore.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus make Peter talk through what he did?
2. What is the difference between conviction and condemnation?
3. Where have you been operating from guilt instead of grace?
4. How do men misuse authority in families, churches, and relationships?
5. Who needs restoration from you—not reminders?

FOR THE MONTH - Practice: Have one redemptive conversation you’ve been avoiding—with the goal of healing, not winning.

Prayer: “Jesus, restore the broken places in me so I don’t bleed on others.”

➤ **SESSION 3 – “Seen Before Healed”**

Christlike Trait: Compassion That Stops

Theme: Jesus addresses identity, not just need

PRIMARY PASSAGE (MALE) Paralytic Lowered Through the Roof – Mark 2:1–12

Observation

- Jesus stops in a crowded room for one broken man
- He speaks forgiveness before movement
- He addresses identity before ability
- He exposes hidden spiritual paralysis
- He restores both soul and body

Key Insight - Jesus healed what could not be seen before fixing what could.

PARALLEL PASSAGE (FEMALE) Woman with the Issue of Blood – Mark 5:25–34

Parallel Insights

- She touches Jesus secretly
- Jesus stops publicly
- He refuses to let her remain invisible
- He calls her “Daughter” before calling her healed
- He restores her to community, not just comfort

Shared Jesus Trait - Compassion That Stops – Jesus interrupts momentum to acknowledge pain.

Christlike men don’t rush past wounded people. They stop. They see. They feel. They stay.

This challenges: Emotional avoidance - Fix-it masculinity - Hustle spirituality - Ministry without mercy

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus stop everything for these two people?
2. What does it reveal that Jesus forgave before healing?
3. Where are you functional but still paralyzed?
4. How often do you overlook pain because you’re “busy”?
5. Who needs your attention more than your advice?

FOR THE MONTH - Practice: Spend intentional time with someone who cannot benefit you.

Prayer: “Jesus, slow me down enough to feel what You feel.”

➤ **SESSION 4 – “From Chains to Calling”**

Christlike Trait: Delivering Power

Theme: Jesus restores men and women to community and dignity

PRIMARY PASSAGE (MALE) Gerasene Demoniac – Mark 5:1–20

Observation

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- Jesus crosses dangerous territory for one man
- He confronts spiritual bondage directly
- He restores sanity, dignity, and identity
- He positions the delivered man as a witness
- He sends him back into community, not isolation

Key Insight - Jesus does not just remove chains - He restores purpose.

PARALLEL PASSAGE (FEMALE) Bent-Over Woman – Luke 13:10–17

Parallel Insights

- Jesus notices what others normalize
- He calls her forward publicly
- He touches her before correcting theology
- He restores her posture and her praise
- He names her “daughter of Abraham”

Shared Jesus Trait - Delivering Power – Jesus restores people to dignity, worship, and community.

Christlike men confront bondage, not just behavior.

This challenges: Hidden addictions - Normalized dysfunction - Silent strongholds - Generational cycles

Freedom is not private - it is public restoration.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus travel so far for one broken man?
2. What chains do men disguise as personality?
3. How does deliverance restore masculinity?
4. What community are you avoiding that God is calling you back to?
5. Where has Jesus freed you that you haven't testified?

FOR THE MONTH - Practice: Identify one area of bondage and seek prayer/accountability.

Prayer: “Jesus, I don't just want relief—I want freedom.”

➤ **SESSION 5 – “When Love Tells the Truth”**

Christlike Trait: Loving Truth

Theme: Love that confronts misplaced priorities

PRIMARY PASSAGE (MALE) Rich Young Ruler – Mark 10:17–22

Observation

- Jesus listens to his spiritual résumé
- Jesus loves him before challenging him
- Jesus exposes his real god
- Jesus allows him to walk away
- Jesus refuses to negotiate truth

Key Insight: Jesus loved him too much to lie to him.

PARALLEL PASSAGE (FEMALE) Martha & Mary – Luke 10:38–42

Parallel Insights

- Jesus affirms Martha's service
- Jesus exposes her misplaced priority
- Jesus protects Mary's posture
- Jesus calls Martha from productivity to presence

Shared Jesus Trait - Loving Truth – Jesus confronts what competes with God.

Christlike men allow Jesus to confront what they protect.

This challenges: Success worship - Image addiction - Hustle identity - Spiritual busyness

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does Scripture say Jesus loved him—and still confronted him?
2. What possessions quietly possess men?
3. How do men confuse responsibility with devotion?
4. What would Jesus ask you to release?
5. Are you rich toward God or just successful among people?

FOR THE MONTH - Practice: Fast from one thing that competes with your devotion.

Prayer: “Jesus, I don't want anything that costs me You.”

➤ **SESSION 6 – “Faith That Moves Heaven”**

Christlike Trait: Faith That Amazes

Theme: Humility and trust move the heart of Jesus

PRIMARY PASSAGE (MALE) Roman Centurion – Matthew 8:5–13

Observation

- Jesus honors humility
- Jesus marvels at faith
- Jesus heals from a distance
- Jesus redefines kingdom belonging
- Jesus affirms authority under submission

Key Insight: The centurion understood authority because he lived under it.

PARALLEL PASSAGE (FEMALE) - Canaanite Woman – Matthew 15:21–28

Parallel Insights

- She refuses silence
- She worships through rejection
- She humbles herself without retreating
- She persists without entitlement
- She moves Jesus' ministry boundary

Shared Jesus Trait - Faith That Amazes – Jesus responds to humility-driven trust.

Christlike men operate from surrendered faith, not spiritual ego.

This challenges: Entitlement theology - Control Christianity - Performance faith -Image-based spirituality

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus marvel at their faith?
2. How is humility connected to power?
3. Where do men struggle to trust instead of control?
4. What prayer have you stopped praying?
5. What would “great faith” look like in your life right now?

FOR THE MONTH - Practice: Commit to praying boldly and persistently about one impossible area.

Prayer: “Jesus, teach me to trust You beyond my understanding.”

➤ ***SESSION 7 – “From Fear to Fire”***

Christlike Trait: Courageous Obedience

Theme: Jesus empowers fearful men to become faithful witnesses

PRIMARY PASSAGE (MALE) Peter After Pentecost – Acts 2:14–41

Observation

- The same Peter who denied Jesus now declares Him
- The Holy Spirit transforms fear into boldness
- Peter preaches Christ-centered truth without apology
- The crowd is convicted, not entertained
- Obedience replaces self-preservation

Key Insight: Jesus doesn’t remove danger-He removes fear.

PARALLEL PASSAGE (FEMALE) Mary Magdalene – John 20:11–18

Parallel Insights

- She stays when others leave
- Jesus calls her by name
- He entrusts her with resurrection news
- Her grief becomes testimony
- She becomes the first witness of the risen Christ

Shared Jesus Trait - Courageous Obedience – Jesus empowers ordinary people to speak eternal truth.

Christlike men obey God even when it costs comfort, image, and safety.

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This challenges: Silent Christianity - Fear-based masculinity - Approval addiction - Secret discipleship

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What changed in Peter?
2. Why is courage central to biblical manhood?
3. Where has fear muted your witness?
4. What truth are you avoiding speaking?
5. What would obedience cost you right now?

FOR THE MONTH - Practice: Share your faith story with one person intentionally.

Prayer: “Jesus, replace my fear with holy boldness.”

➤ SESSION 8 – “When Strength Submits”

Christlike Trait: Dependent Prayer

Theme: Jesus teaches men to draw strength from communion, not control

PRIMARY PASSAGE (MALE) Jesus in Gethsemane – Matthew 26:36–46

Observation

- Jesus brings His struggle to the Father
- He admits sorrow and distress
- He surrenders His will
- He models watchful prayer
- He chooses obedience through intimacy

Key Insight: Prayer was not just preparation for the cross. Prayer was how Jesus carried the cross.

PARALLEL PASSAGE (FEMALE) Anna the Prophetess – Luke 2:36–38

Parallel Insights

- She lived in worship
- She fasted and prayed continually
- She recognized Jesus when others missed Him
- She spoke redemption publicly

Shared Jesus Trait - Dependent Prayer – Jesus demonstrates power that flows from surrender.

Christlike men don't pray as a last resort - they live there.

This challenges: Self-reliance - Emotional suppression - Crisis-only prayer - Spiritual independence

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus pray if He was the Son of God?
2. What does Gethsemane teach men about vulnerability?

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3. How do men avoid prayer?
4. Where do you need surrender, not strategy?
5. What would consistent prayer change?

FOR THE MONTH - Practice: Commit to a daily prayer time and fasting one day a week.

Prayer: “Jesus, teach me to depend before I decide.”

➤ **SESSION 9 – “Guarded Hearts, Godly Lives”**

Christlike Trait: Inner Integrity

Theme: Jesus forms men from the inside out

PRIMARY PASSAGE (MALE) Jesus and the Pharisees – Matthew 23:25–28

Observation

- Jesus exposes performative righteousness
- He confronts hidden corruption
- He prioritizes heart over habit
- He warns against image-based faith

Key Insight: Jesus is not impressed by what men show-He addresses what men hide.

PARALLEL PASSAGE (FEMALE) Ananias and Sapphira – Acts 5:1–11

Parallel Insights

- They protected reputation
- They deceived spiritually
- They feared people more than God
- Hidden sin corrupted public faith

Shared Jesus Trait - Inner Integrity – Jesus forms truth in the hidden places.

Christlike men pursue holiness before platform.

This challenges: Secret sin - Image Christianity - Compartmentalized faith - Private compromise

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is inner life more important than outer life?
2. What dangers come with hidden compromise?
3. Where are men most vulnerable spiritually?
4. What are you managing instead of surrendering?
5. Who truly knows your spiritual condition?

FOR THE MONTH - Practice: Begin accountability with one trusted brother.

Prayer: “Jesus, cleanse what I’ve been covering.”

➤ **SESSION 10 – “Built for Brotherhood”**

Christlike Trait: Relational Responsibility

Theme: Jesus builds men into community, not isolation

PRIMARY PASSAGE (MALE) Jesus Restores Peter Publicly – John 21:1–17

Observation

- Jesus restores Peter in community
- He commissions him relationally
- He assigns him people, not position
- He anchors leadership in love

Key Insight: Jesus measures leadership by love, not control.

PARALLEL PASSAGE (FEMALE) Lydia – Acts 16:13–15

Parallel Insights

- She opens her heart
- She opens her home
- She strengthens the church
- She models spiritual hospitality

Shared Jesus Trait - Relational Responsibility – Jesus forms spiritual brotherhood and family.

Christlike men don't live alone spiritually.

This challenges: Lone-wolf masculinity - Emotional isolation - Untouchable leadership - Brotherhood avoidance

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does Jesus always restore in relationship?
2. How does isolation weaken men?
3. Where are you disconnected?
4. What brotherhood is God calling you into?
5. Who are you responsible for spiritually?

FOR THE MONTH - Practice: Intentionally build one spiritual brotherhood connection.

Prayer: “Jesus, knit my heart to godly men.”

➤ **SESSION 11 – “From the Pews to the World”**

Christlike Trait: Missional Living

Theme: Jesus sends formed men to serve a broken world

PRIMARY PASSAGE (MALE) The Great Commission – Matthew 28:18–20

Observation

- Jesus claims authority

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- Jesus commands movement
- Jesus promises presence
- Jesus defines lifelong discipleship

Key Insight: Jesus never called men to sit - He sent them.

PARALLEL PASSAGE (FEMALE) The Samaritan Woman Revisited – John 4:28–30

Parallel Insights

- She leaves her waterpot
- She goes back to her city
- She tells her story
- She brings others to Jesus

Shared Jesus Trait - Missional Living – Jesus forms men to transform environments.

Christlike men live sent, not settled.

This challenges: Church-only Christianity - Comfort faith - Passive discipleship - Event-based ministry

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus connect authority to mission?
2. What is your mission field?
3. Where are you living settled instead of sent?
4. How does your life point to Christ?
5. Who is God assigning to your witness?

FOR THE MONTH - Practice: Serve intentionally outside the church.

Prayer: “Jesus, send me where You can use me.”

➤ **SESSION 12 – “Leaving a Godly Legacy”**

Christlike Trait - Spiritual Multiplication

Theme: Jesus builds men who build men

PRIMARY PASSAGE (MALE) Paul to Timothy – 2 Timothy 2:1–2

Observation

- Paul invests relationally
- Paul emphasizes endurance
- Paul commands multiplication
- Paul links strength to discipleship

Key Insight: God’s design for men is not addition-but multiplication.

PARALLEL PASSAGE (FEMALE) Lois and Eunice – 2 Timothy 1:5

Parallel Insights

- Faith was modeled

- Faith was transferred
- Faith was generational
- Faith shaped leadership

Shared Jesus Trait - Spiritual Multiplication – Jesus builds men who reproduce Christ in others.

Christlike men measure success by who they are raising, not what they are building.

This challenges: Legacy neglect - Self-centered success - Ministry consumerism - Generational silence

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who invested in you spiritually?
2. Who are you investing in?
3. What legacy are you building?
4. What spiritual DNA are you passing on?
5. Who should be stronger because of you?

FOR THE MONTH - Practice: Begin discipling or mentoring one younger man.

Prayer: “Jesus, make my life a seed.”