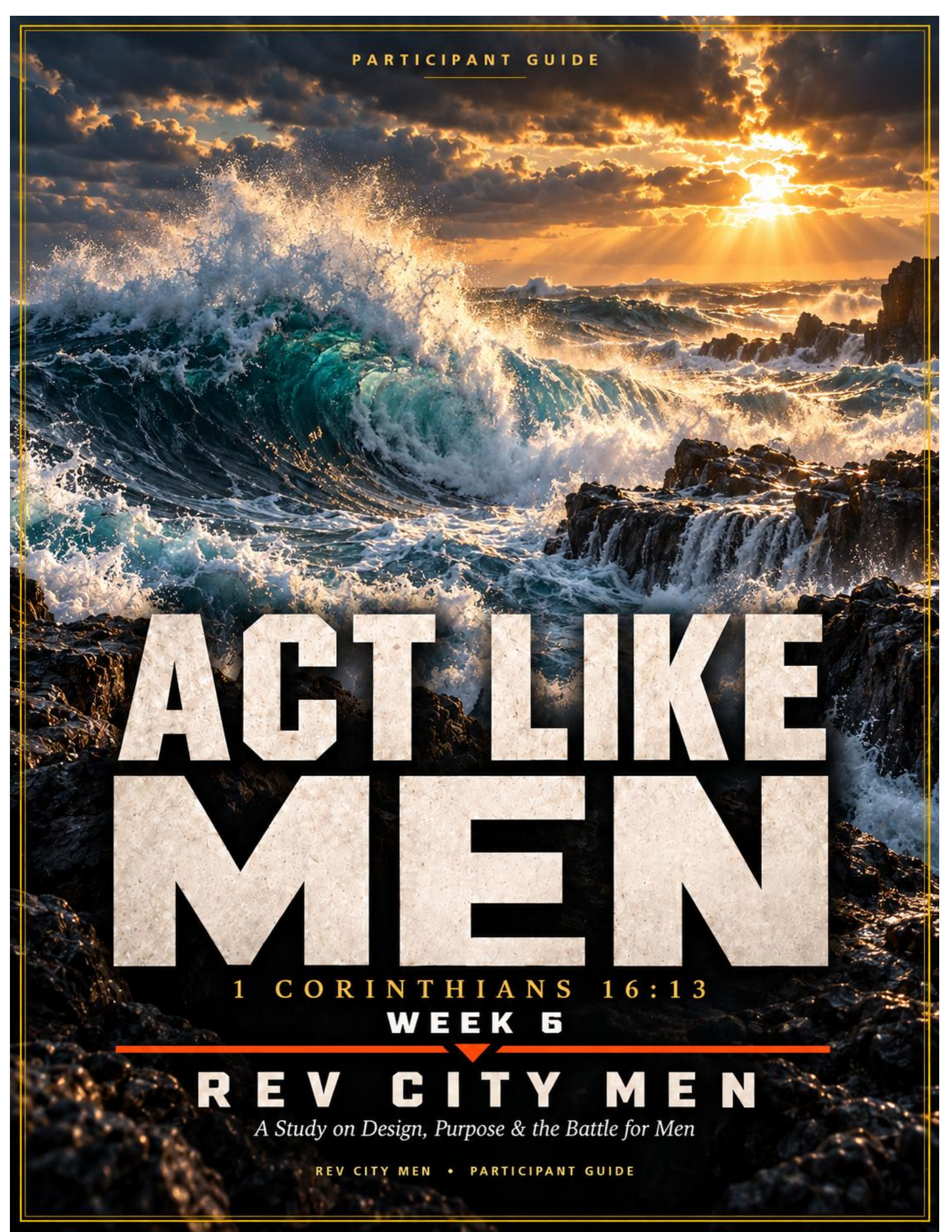




PARTICIPANT GUIDE

ACT LIKE MEN

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

WEEK 6

REV CITY MEN

A Study on Design, Purpose & the Battle for Men

REV CITY MEN • PARTICIPANT GUIDE

WEAPONS OF WAR

Ephesians 6:17 • The Sword of the Spirit & Prayer

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT — THE WORD OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:17

Put on the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God

- 1 Identify the Lie**
- 2 Find What God's Word Has to Say**
- 3 Replace the Lie With the Truth of God's Word**

MY NOTES

PRAYER — SEE IT AS A WEAPON

Is prayer a last resort or first response for you?

A prayerless life is like a dead cell phone, and prayer is the cord that connects us to the power source.

EPHESIANS 6:10–17

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

EPHESIANS 6:18

praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints

If Jesus needed to pray and if the disciples needed to pray, how much more do we need to be men who pray?

A GRAVE CONCERN: That what was fundamental for the early church has become supplemental to the modern church.

MY NOTES

Some of us treat prayer like the national anthem — a formality before the real event. In reality, prayer is a life-line for people fighting for their life and standing against the powers of hell trying to kill, steal, and destroy.

Prayer was essential to Jesus and essential to the early church. Is it essential to you?

1. Have you ever fell into the trap of treating prayer like the formality before the real event?

PSALM 42:1

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.

A chill deer is not panting. A chased deer, fighting for his life is the deer that is panting. How do you pray when the devil is trying to kill you?

MY NOTES

TEACH US TO PRAY

LUKE 11:1

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

They didn’t ask for leadership lessons or how to preach; they realized the number one thing they needed to know was how to pray.

We not talking about something to make you feel cozy in your devotional time, we are talking about a spiritual weapon to wield when the demons of hell come to kill, steal and destroy.

MY NOTES

1. If you could ask Jesus to teach you anything, would prayer naturally be at the top of your list?

A MODEL AND A PATTERN

The Lord’s prayer is not a prayer just to be memorized and regurgitated, it is a model and a pattern.

Our Father

LUKE 11:2

And he said to them, “When you pray, say: “Our Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.

A.W. Tozer: The most important thing about you is what you think about when you think about God.

If we see God any other way than as a good Father, we are not seeing him for who he truly is.

Hallowed Be Your Name

Worship is more than singing songs, it is how you win the war with Lucifer.

MY NOTES

1. What do you think about the quote Ps Joby referenced? A.W. Tozer: The most important thing about you is what you think about when you think about God.

2. What are some ways we can see God that prevent us from relating properly to Him?

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

LUKE 11:3

Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.”

God is a good Dad and God answers all prayers — sometimes yes, sometimes no, sometimes not now.

A good dad doesn't give his kid a 30/30, he gives them a BB gun.

If you think your prayer need isn't big enough to bring to God, you don't realize how big of a deal you are to him as his child.

3. Have you ever felt like your problem or need wasn't big enough to bother God with?

Forgive Us Our Sins

LUKE 11:4

and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.”

The enemy has no retaliation for forgiveness.

Forgiveness is not always associated with feelings.

If he can convince you that forgiveness on a horizontal level doesn't work he will convince you that surely vertical forgiveness couldn't work.

MY NOTES

4. Why is it important to realize that forgiveness will not always be associated with feelings or emotions changing?

LUKE 11:5-8

And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs.

LUKE 11:9

And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

LUKE 11:11-13

What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

Life is war. That's not all it is, but it is always that.

Prayer is primarily a war-time walkie talkie for the mission of the church as it advances against the powers of darkness and unbelief. It is not surprising that prayer malfunctions when we try make it a domestic intercom for more comforts in the den.

If the Lord answered every prayer you prayed for the last week, how would the world around you actually be different?

If our prayers aren't intimidating to us, it's possible they might be insulting to Almighty God.

MY NOTES

1. What did you think of the following statement: If our prayers aren't intimidating to us, it's possible they might be insulting to Almighty God.

ACTS 4:17-20

But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to

listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”

ACTS 4:23

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.

How many of us plan first and then ask God to bless our plan?

Is prayer for you a first response or last resort?

ACTS 4:24–25

And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

PSALM 138:2

I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

ACTS 4:25–28

“Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’—for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

If God was actually in control when Jesus hung on that Cross, surely He is in control in your painful circumstance.

MY NOTES

ACTS 4:29–30

And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

They don't even pray for their circumstances to change, they pray for the circumstances to change them and those around them.

ACTS 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

If your prayers are not intimidating to you, they may be offensive or insulting to Almighty God.

PRAYER IS WARFARE

When we pray, we go to war in the enemy in heavenly places, and we invite God into our battles.

Pray like your life depends on it, because it does.

1. As men, is it helpful to see prayer more as warfare than some religious duty? If so, why?