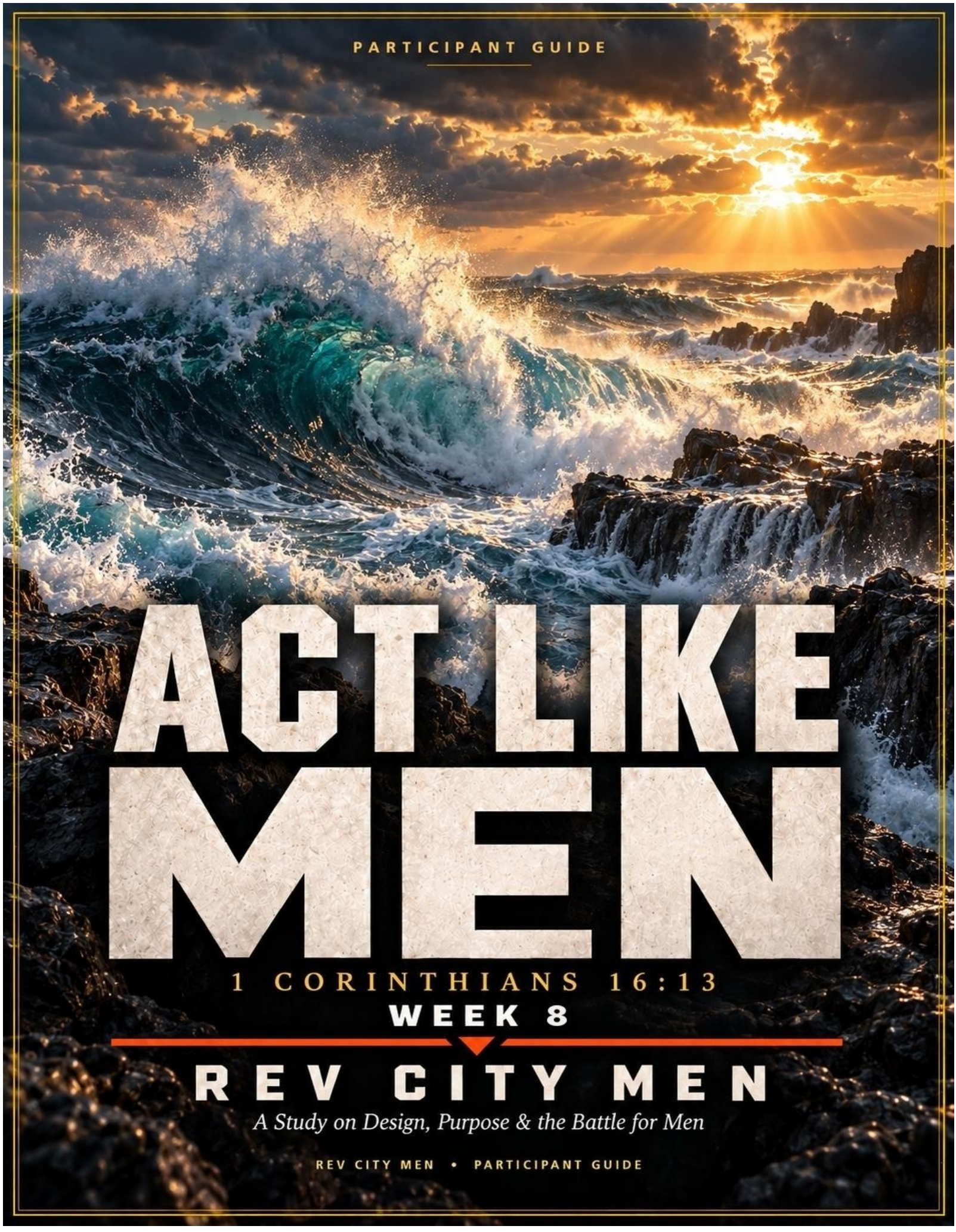

PARTICIPANT GUIDE
ACT LIKE MEN
1 CORINTHIANS 16:13
WEEK 8
REV CITY MEN
A Study on Design, Purpose & the Battle for Men
REV CITY MEN • PARTICIPANT GUIDE

DO YOU GET THE GOSPEL?

Romans 1:16–17 • The Power of the Gospel to Save

PHILIPPIANS 3:3B–4

We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!

PHILIPPIANS 3:8–9

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

ROMANS 1:16–17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

It is a terrible thing to be powerless — especially something that is intended to have power.

When we make the gospel about our performance, we defang the power of the gospel to save.

MY NOTES

THE REVELATION THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

There is a righteousness in God that doesn’t depend on my performance, but on the work of Jesus.

A moralistic Christianity that emphasizes what we do over what Christ did defangs the power of what Christ did for us.

We are told over and over and over the good we must do if we want to be accepted by the Father.

The indicative precedes the imperative, and the order can never be reversed.

The Bible is filled with imperatives — behaviors we should pursue, behaviors we should avoid. But these things should flow out of a revelation of who we are in Christ.

MY NOTES

3 THINGS THAT REVEAL WE MAY NOT FULLY "GET THE GOSPEL"

We Believe We Have Merit

Leaning on our own merit leads to our self-dependency, pride, self-righteousness, inability to see our own sin, our coldness toward God, our anxiety and inability to love.

If we realize we have no merit, how do we find ourselves constantly criticizing or judging others?

Grace is unmerited favor, so we have to decide, do we have any merit we bring to salvation?

ISAIAH 64:6

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.

MATTHEW 19:24

Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

To enter the kingdom of God the only thing we need and the only thing we can bring to the equation is "need."

MY NOTES

1. **Have you ever tried to bring something to the equation of your salvation?**

2. **Is it encouraging to realize that grace is completely "unmerited favor"?**

MATTHEW 21:31–32

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

We Do Not Believe in the Imputation of Christ's Righteousness to Us

We don't believe that God is satisfied with us, so we try to validate our salvation with our performance.

We base the assurance of our salvation on our sanctification — if we are good, we are acceptable.

We understand Christ as our sin bearer, but not as our righteousness producer.

MY NOTES

We are saved by works — just not ours! We are saved only by the work of Jesus!

Most Christians rightfully understand that Jesus took our sins, but we have a deficiency of revelation about the righteousness that He gave us.

When we stand before God, the righteousness that Jesus imputed to us causes God to look at us and show us the very same favor and same affection He gives His only Son!

MY NOTES

1. Are you as familiar with and aware of the imputed righteousness of Christ as you are of His bearing of your sins?

2. Why is this important to also understand and meditate on?

3. Do you agree that most of the church at large dwells more on what was removed than what was added to us by Christ?

4. How would a greater revelation about your righteousness in Christ affect your marriage or other important relationships?

We Don’t Experience the Affection of the Father

If you could picture the face of the Father towards you, what would His expression be?

LUKE 15:20

“So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

Some of us know God as a Judge who banged the gavel and forgave our sins, but fewer of us know Him as an affectionate Father.

The unspoken contract in many marriages or relationships: “Your job is to adore me; to validate me.”

When we don’t know God as a loving, affectionate Father, we look to other people to fill that void and to validate us.

MY NOTES

LUKE 15:28–29

“The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him, but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends.

It is a powerful thing to say I don’t just believe in grace, but I have tasted and experienced it for myself.

God is not fifty steps ahead of us leading us from a distance. He is walking with us; embracing us; kissing us.

1. Does it challenge or stretch you to think that God not only loves you, but likes you, even in your imperfections?

2. Can any of the dads relate to how much we love supporting and doting on our kids even when they are not the best or the brightest? How does this speak to the confidence we can have that God is pleased with us through Christ?

Recap: 3 Things That Reveal We May Not Fully Get the Gospel

1. We Believe We Have Merit
2. We Do Not Believe in the Imputation of Christ's Righteousness to Us
3. We Don't Experience the Affection of the Father

MY NOTES