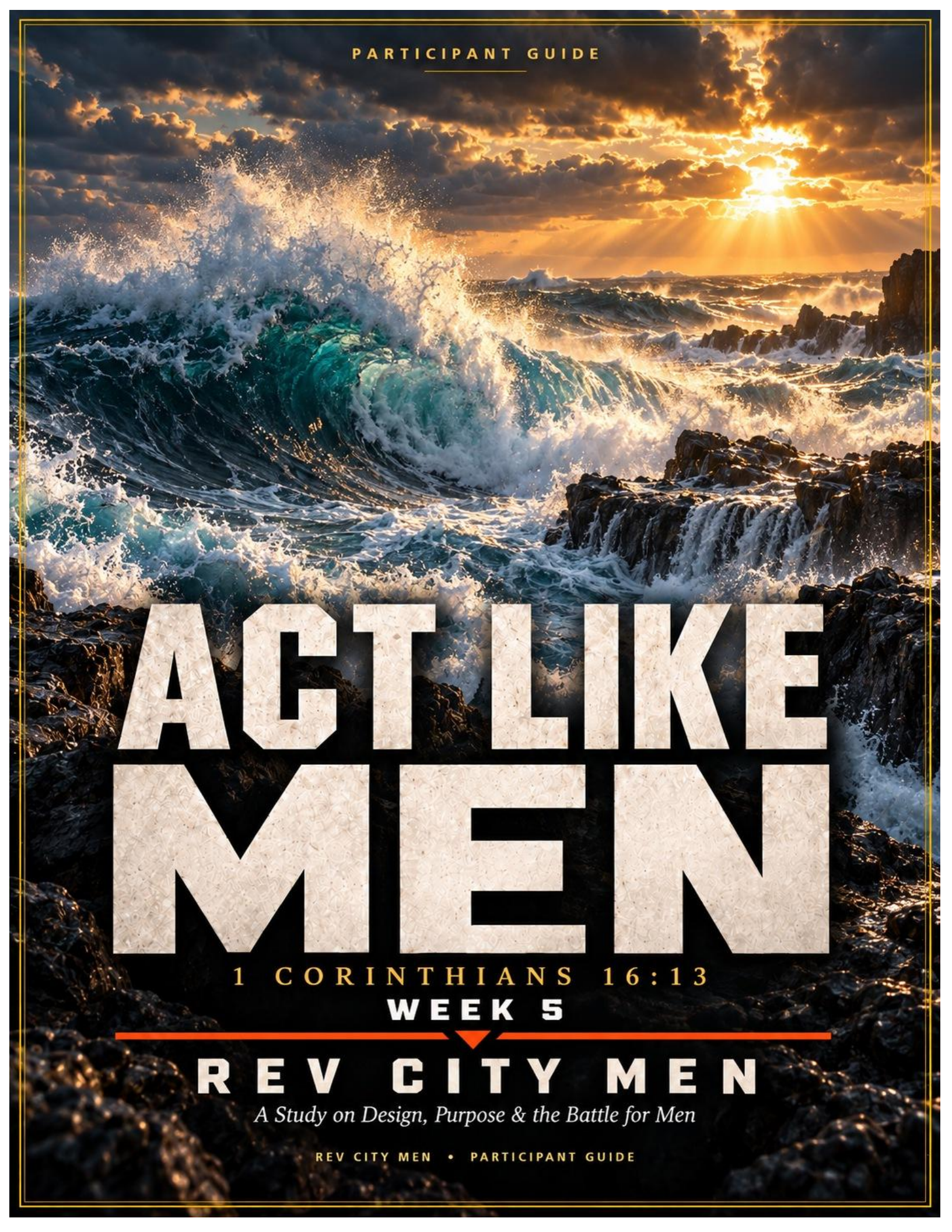




PARTICIPANT GUIDE

ACT LIKE MEN

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

WEEK 5

REV CITY MEN

A Study on Design, Purpose & the Battle for Men

REV CITY MEN • PARTICIPANT GUIDE

What is Love?

Rev City Men • Participant Guide

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Nothing Without Love

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:2

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:3

If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

If the Bible says we have nothing without love, we better understand what love is according to God.

MY NOTES

DISCUSSION

1. Can we actually do religious-looking things without actually operating in God's love? If so, how? And what is the solution?

What is Love?

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4–7

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

MY NOTES

DISCUSSION

1. Why is it important to have and know God's definition of love?
2. Why is embracing the world's many definitions of love a dangerous proposition?

Love is Patient and Kind

If patience is the passive reaction of love in tough circumstances with tough people, kindness is the active action towards those people.

In the Greek, the word we translate patience is associated with taking a punch.

MY NOTES

DISCUSSION

1. What do you think about patience being love's passive reaction in hard times, and kindness being love's active action towards people in hard times?

Love Does Not Envy or Boast

Are you jealous of the very people you say that you love?

Envy is an affront against God. It accuses God of not doing it or getting it right.

When someone is telling their story, do you listen to understand or do you listen to respond?

Arrogance is believing we are better than others; rudeness is treating them that way.

MY NOTES

DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever caught yourself listening to someone more to respond than to hear and understand?

Love Does Not Insist on Its Own Way

What rewards you in one area of life can kill you in another area of life.

MY NOTES

DISCUSSION

1. What is the root issue when we insist on our own way?

Love is Not Irritable or Resentful

Love is not easily angered.

Unforgiveness ferments into resentment, and when something ferments, it stinks and you can get drunk on it.

Many of us don't deal with things so we can maintain our excuse for our bad behavior.

When we fight for ourselves instead of laying our lives down for those we love, most times we are fighting for our own ego.

MY NOTES

CHALLENGE

Ask people in your life this question: "What is it like to be on the other side of me?"

DISCUSSION

1. Has anyone ever avoided dealing with an issue to avoid having to take responsibility or make changes?

Love Does Not Rejoice at Wrongdoing

Love “keeps no record of wrong.”

In a fight with a loved one, some people get hysterical, and some get historical.

MY NOTES

DISCUSSION

1. What does it look like to keep no record of wrongs? How do we live this out?

Love Rejoices in the Truth

Most people live up to the promises spoken over them or down to the curses spoken over them.

Love Never Quits

1 CORINTHIANS 13:7

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

There is a distinct difference between a kid whose dad never quit fighting for their heart, and the one whose dad eventually tapped out of the fight.

The divorce rate amongst couples that pray together and attend church regularly together is much lower than those that don't.

STUDY

The group that had the lowest divorce rate and highest satisfaction were those who determined to always choose to believe the best and not assume the worst.

It is more normal to lead with suspicion, but love doesn't allow this.

MY NOTES

DISCUSSION

1. Do you agree that our flesh tends to lead with suspicion?

Love Never Ends

1 CORINTHIANS 13:8-10

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

There will be no need for prophecy or preaching in heaven.

MY NOTES

From Child to Man

1 CORINTHIANS 13:11

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

Being a man is not beating our chest, being rude, cocky, loud, demanding our way, always having the last word, always having to be right.

JAMES 4:1–3

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

If you want to stand up and act like a man, put the childish, selfish ways behind you.

MY NOTES

DISCUSSION

1. Does age have anything to do with childish ways in the context of this scripture? Can you be a grown man and still act like a child? How?

The Greatest of These is Love

1 CORINTHIANS 13:12–13

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

In heaven, there will be no need for faith because faith will have become sight.

There is no need for hope in heaven because we will be living in the reality of all that has been hoped for.

Love is the only one that will remain.

Love is your joy in the Lord expressed towards others at great expense to yourself.

Passivity	Holding back your strength and manhood for self-preservation.
Aggression	Expressing strength and manhood for self-gratification.
Love	Leveraging your strength for others through self-sacrifice.

MY NOTES

DISCUSSION

1. What do you think of Pastor Joby's definition of love? (Love is your joy in the Lord expressed towards others at great expense to yourself.)

The Love of a Father

The words of a father are the heaviest words in life.

If one of the primary pictures our kids will have of their heavenly Father is their earthly father, what kind of picture are you painting?

MY NOTES

God IS Love

The world gets it backwards and says “love is God.”

God is jealous, not of you, but FOR you.

If God IS love, then God is all of those traits about love towards you.

Many of us grew up with: God is good, you're bad, try harder, see you next Sunday.

The trying harder method always fails. What we need is not “try harder”—it is “more Jesus.”

We are called to be a conduit of His love, not a cul-de-sac.

MY NOTES

1 JOHN 4:7–8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 JOHN 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

We do not have the capacity to love like God calls us to without a relationship with Him.

MY NOTES

JOHN 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

ROMANS 5:8

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 JOHN 4:10

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Propitiation (*noun*): a payment that satisfies

We are not mistakers that need to do better; we are sinners in need of a Savior.

JOHN 15:4

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

MY NOTES

The key is not try harder; it is getting closer to Jesus.

You can't give something you ain't got. Bad grammar but great theology.

God is the originator of real love. He didn't just think a thing or feel a thing. He DID a thing and came to die on that Cross.

Final Charge

Be Watchful	Stay on your post.
Stand Firm	Fight for those you love and are called to provide for and protect.
Act Like Men	Put childish ways behind us.
Be Strong	Not for our own benefit but for others.
Let All That We Do Be Done in Love	It begins by receiving the love of Christ.

DISCUSSION

1. Do you agree that the “try harder” method tends to fail?
2. What does it look like, in practical terms, to abide in Christ?