

Act Like A Man

Small Group Guide

Based on 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

What's one thing you learned about being a man (or what it means to be a man) from your father or a father figure?

Key Scripture

"Be watchful. Stand firm in the faith. Act like men. Be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." - 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Sermon Summary

This message challenges men to step up to God's calling by being watchful, standing firm in their faith, and doing everything in love. It addresses three key "don'ts" - don't act like a woman, don't be the weaker vessel, and don't act like a boy - while emphasizing that biblical masculinity is diverse and includes leading with strength and love.

Discussion Questions

Understanding Biblical Masculinity

1. **Diverse Masculinity:** The sermon mentioned Jacob and Esau as examples of different types of men who both served God. How does this challenge common stereotypes about what a "real man" should be like?
2. **Leadership vs. Following:** What does it mean practically for men to lead their families rather than follow? What are some areas where men might be tempted to take a passive role?
3. **The Weaker Vessel:** How do we understand 1 Peter 3:7 in today's culture? What does it mean to honor women as the weaker vessel without being condescending or arrogant?

The Three Don'ts

1. **Don't Act Like a Woman:** How can men lead their families spiritually without waiting for their wives to initiate? What specific actions can men take this week?
2. **Don't Act Like a Boy:** What are some ways men might still be acting like boys rather than men? How can we identify areas where we need to mature?
3. **Momma's Boys:** For those with sons, how do we balance protecting them while also releasing them to become men? For those who are sons, how do we honor our mothers while establishing healthy independence?

The Three Action Steps

1. **Be Watchful:** What does it mean to be "on the wall" for your family? What are some practical ways to stay alert to what's happening in your home?
2. **Stand Firm:** Share about a time when standing firm on a conviction was difficult. What helped you maintain your position? What are non-negotiable convictions in your life?
3. **Do Everything in Love:** How does doing things in love change difficult conversations? Can you share an example of when someone approached you in love versus when they didn't?

Key Takeaways

- **Men are called to lead, not follow** - Spiritual leadership starts at home
- **Biblical masculinity is diverse** - God uses different types of men
- **Stand firm on convictions** - Let your yes be yes and your no be no
- **Love without stopping** - Even when it's hard, even when people are in sin
- **Be watchful and alert** - Pay attention to your family's spiritual, emotional, and physical needs
- **Put away childish things** - Maturity means taking responsibility

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one area to focus on this week:

For Men:

- Lead your family in prayer at least once this week
- Have a spiritual conversation with your children about their faith
- Make a decision about church attendance that doesn't require asking if you're going
- Identify one area where you've been passive and take leadership
- Apologize to someone you didn't approach in love

For Women (Supporting the Men):

- Encourage the men in your life who are trying to lead well
- Pray specifically for your husband, father, or son to grow in godly masculinity
- Have a conversation about how you can support his spiritual leadership

For Everyone:

- Practice doing one difficult thing in love this week
- Stand firm on a conviction when it would be easier to compromise
- Be watchful - pay attention to what's happening around you spiritually

Reflection Questions for Personal Time

1. In what area of my life am I being passive when I should be leading?
2. What convictions do I need to stand firmer on?
3. Am I doing everything in love, especially the hard things?
4. What childish things do I still need to put away?
5. How can I be more watchful over my family's spiritual health?

Prayer Points

- Pray for men to rise up as spiritual leaders in their homes
- Pray for fathers to pass down a heritage of faith to their children
- Pray for wisdom in standing firm on convictions while doing everything in love
- Pray for those who didn't have godly father figures, that God would provide mentors
- Pray for the next generation of men being raised in this church

Next Steps

Accountability Partner: Pair up with another man in the group to check in on your progress with this week's challenge.

Scripture Memory: Memorize 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 together as a group.

Recommended Reading: Consider reading a book on biblical manhood together as a group.

Closing Prayer

Father, we thank You for calling men to be leaders, protectors, and lovers of their families. Help us to be watchful, to stand firm in our faith, and to do everything in love. Give us the courage to act like men in a world that often tells us to be passive. Raise up a generation of godly men who will lead their families well. In Jesus' name, Amen.