

BiG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

6.20/21.09 // MAN UP

BiG IDEA: God is calling men to be spiritually strong and courageous for the cause of Christ.

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: If you're a man, have you ever had someone "pull your man card?" If you're a woman, have you felt like pulling someone's man card? What were the circumstances?

Option 2: Are you more of an outdoors person, or an indoors person? Why?

// Questions for Discussion _____

1 Many churches experience a gender gap, with an imbalance of women outnumbering men. Why do you think this is? Do you think most churches have more of a "woman's feel" to it in terms of style and decorations? How?

2 The Bible, and Jesus specifically, elevated the importance and role of women. Both men and women followed Jesus, but why do you think Jesus chose to call specifically 12 men to be his disciples and apostles?

3 Where do we get our images and ideals of manhood today? How do these images and ideals match up with, and differ from, God's ideal? How have popular images of masculinity been distorted by sin? God became a man—how do you think most people picture Jesus: in masculine or feminine ways? Explain.

4 Using the backdrop analogy of Esau selling his birthright to his brother for a bowl of stew, what are some ways that people can sell and despise their "birthright" (their God-given responsibilities and blessings)? How do we "sell out" our commitment to Christ instead of being "sold-out" to Christ?

Genesis:25-34

³² "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?"

³³ But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

Matthew 16:26-27

²⁶What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

5 David's "Mighty Men" fearlessly demonstrated their loyalty and love for their leader at great personal risk and cost. What are some ways that we can boldly demonstrate our love and loyalty for our King—Jesus? Consider that we are in a spiritual battle...

2 Samuel 23:14-17

¹⁴ At that time David was in the stronghold, and the Philistine garrison was at Bethlehem. ¹⁵ David longed for water and said, "Oh, that someone would get me a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!" ¹⁶ So the three mighty men broke through the Philistine lines, drew water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem and carried it back to David. But he refused to drink it; instead, he poured it out before the LORD. ¹⁷ "Far be it from me, O LORD, to do this!" he said. "Is it not the blood of men who went at the risk of their lives?" And David would not drink it.

6 A man can be a “strong” man in the world, but a “wimp” in the Kingdom of God. Can you cite any example of a time you’ve been afraid or ashamed to stand up for God? What did you learn from the experience?

2 Timothy 1:7

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

7 Shadrach, Meshach and Abegnego were commanded to bow down to a golden image in Babylon. They refused. Peter and John were commanded not to preach about Jesus. They continued to preach anyway. Can you cite any examples of times you’ve stood up for your faith, even if it was risky or would cost you something?

Acts 4:13-20

¹³When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁸Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. ²⁰For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

8 Jesus called his first disciples to be his followers. But following did not just mean trailing along and learning from him—it included a mission. What was that mission? Why does he put it in that particular metaphor? What metaphors might he use today, or more specifically, to you?

Matthew 4

¹⁸As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²²and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

9 Every Christian is called to pursue the same mission as Jesus. But not in the same way. God uniquely “shapes” each person for their life mission. Do you know the elements of your S.H.A.P.E.? If so, what are they? If not, how can you discover what they are? How do you intend to use these for the cause of Christ?

My Spiritual Gift(s) are:

Romans 12:6-8 lists just some...

⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

My Heart is (my passions, burden, holy discontent):

My Abilities include (natural talents, acquired skills):

My Personality is (what “type” of person am I?):

My Experiences include (i.e. learning, work, suffering experiences):

// Application_____

Commit to memory 1 Corinthians 16:13

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.

Every man of God needs Commitment to Christ; to be Connected to Community; and to be Contributing to a Cause worth living and dying for! Do you have that? Which one needs more of your attention?

// Prayer_____

**Pray that we obey no matter what and are unstoppable in what God has called us to.
Pray that God prepares us for the Southpoint Allen Park campus. Get us ready, help us to
reproduce and raise up a new generation of those who will make it happen!**