

Believe Become Be

Becoming the Man God Believes You Can Be

Men's Small Group Questions

Suggestions to maximize your men's small group study:

We have offered you ten questions per chapter.

You can use them all, or any that you want, in any order.

If you are the group facilitator, take a few minutes to choose the questions in advance that best fit your group.

Feel free to customize these or create your own questions, according to the needs of your group.

If your discussion is going strong and you run out of time, just pick back up where you left off the next session.

There doesn't have to be a time limit on how long you take to go through the book and this study. The only goal is life transformation—whatever it takes.

Part One:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man of Purity

Chapter One

New Mind, New Motive, New Mission

1. Why is full surrender to Christ so crucial in our relationship with Him? Share any testimonies you have.
2. In our culture, why do we often think we have arrived when we merely understand a concept? Why would Jesus focus on application as arrival?
3. Read and talk out James 1:22-25 and the importance of experience in becoming what you believe.
4. Discuss the connection between commitment and experience as a Christ follower.
5. Talk about the concept of Jesus wanting more than just *attendance*, but wanting us to have an *experience* with Him.
6. What are some practical ways you can transition your faith from tell-and-go to show-and-tell?
7. Considering we are able to read about the disciples from their first days with Jesus to when they established the church in Acts, how does it help us as men to look at their journey of applying faith to life—belief to being?
8. Read and discuss Hebrews 11:32-40. How can this inspire and motivate us?
9. Read and discuss John 15:5.
10. Why is an understanding of grace just as important as works, having a clear understanding of God's grace and our obedience?

**Part One:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man of Purity**

**Chapter Two
Grace, Not Grief
Conviction, Not Condemnation**

1. Talk about the difference between grace and grief, and then conviction and condemnation.
2. Discuss the fictional story of the man who heard Jesus teach. Why do you suppose His teaching on adultery would have been such a paradigm shift?
3. Talk about why Jesus would teach that the sin of adultery happens in the mind, whether the physical act occurs or not.
4. Why do you think the enemy works so hard to lead us into sin in our sexual lives as early as possible and as often as possible?
5. Why is victory in our actions often the final step of freedom from sin? Why are our thoughts so important in the process?
6. Discuss the concept today that purity has more of a connotation of impurity. Why is that?
7. Why do you think so many single guys think marriage will be the answer to bring an end to lust issues? Why does that rarely work?
8. Discuss these statements from page 32: “True purity is the absence of the motive or the thought that would motivate the wrong action. And this is the ultimate goal for us in every aspect of our lives, not just sexually. Remove the motive, which then kills the thought, which then prevents the action.”
9. How will it help you to talk openly and honestly about your desires, attitudes, and thoughts, and not just about your actions?
10. In your group, how can you move from focusing so much on not doing the don'ts to focus more on doing the do's. Talk through a strategy for helping each other move from impurity to purity. Be specific.

**Part One:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man of Purity**

Chapter Three

Treat the Source, Not the Symptoms

1. Why is it so important that we understand the introduction of a thought to our minds is *not* the sin, but rather the entertainment of and walking into the issue is the actual sin?
2. Why is confession to another person such a difficult thing to do?
3. Discuss the “why behind the what” concept introduced on page 37.
4. Why does just stopping the actions not necessarily change the heart?
5. Why do you think so many guys that follow Christ beat themselves up over sin and struggle to forgive themselves?
6. How can you gracefully deal with the struggle of shame and guilt inside your group in how you handle confession and accountability with one another?
7. Talk through the bullet point statements about Jesus on page 40.
8. Discuss your own view of God’s grace in your life, specifically dealing with your level of acceptance and understanding. How does your view need to change or balance biblically?
9. Discuss Romans 8:5-6.
10. In your group, how can you take your confessions into the process of restoration to actually change your minds and then, over time, your behavior.

Part One:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man of Purity

Chapter Four
The Lure of Lust

1. Talk about Dawson's definition of lust—"caring more for a woman's body than her soul." How would that mindset change your view of *all* females?
2. Why do so many men tend to believe that lust is a problem that cannot be overcome, even with Jesus's help?
3. Why do so many men tend to rationalize or justify whatever level they may be in sexual temptation or sin, like the thoughts on page 44?
4. Talk about the assumption presented on page 45 that Jesus was never around any attractive women. Why would we tend to or even want to think that?
5. How can you help each other learn to care for *all* women's souls?
6. How can Jesus's example in being one hundred percent man inspire and motivate us in our interactions with women?
7. Do you think there are any women in your life that you have made feel uncomfortable with how you speak, how you act, or what you do around them? Share.
8. Are there principles and ethics you have in place in your life to protect yourself morally and make the women around you feel respected? Share.
9. How does David's prayer in response to his sin and God's response of forgiveness, grace, and favor encourage us to keep things right with Him in our purity?
10. Discuss specific ways you can pray for one another in the area of personal purity. Then pray those prayers.

**Part One:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man of Purity**

**Chapter Five
Fireplace & Wildfires**

1. Discuss the fireplace analogy for sex. How does this connect with you in understanding God's plan for sex and marriage?
2. Discuss the wildfire analogy for sex. How have you experienced this dynamic burn people?
3. Why would Satan want to see every person misuse and abuse sex?
4. How do you think Satan's plan makes sex one of our toughest areas to obey God?
5. Discuss the concept of marital sex for Christians being worship. Why is this truth difficult for people to accept? How does it make sense for Christ followers?
6. Talk about the triangle concept on page 60.
7. Based on the biblical truth of Ephesians 5, why do you suppose our culture has lost respect and honor for marriage and sex in God's plan?
8. Discuss how porn fuels the wildfires of sex.
9. What are some practical ways your group can be accountable to one another in these areas of purity?
10. What are some specific ways your group can help each other maximize the fireplace in your marriages (or future marriage)?

**Part One:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man of Purity**

**Chapter Six
Vanquishing the Vicious Cycle**

1. Read and discuss Romans 7:23-25 from page 67 (or in your own Bible version).
2. Why do you think shame and guilt are so pervasive for porn and masturbation?
3. Talk about the enemy's two thrills from pages 68 and 69.
4. How can constantly keeping us on the defense with sexual temptation also keep us from making a real difference for Christ in our circles of influence?
5. Discuss the 1 Corinthians 6 passage in connection to the topic of masturbation. Take a close look at the phrases such as "spiritual mystery" and "physical fact". "Avoid commitment." "Avoid intimacy." "More lonely than ever." "The kind of sex that can never become one."
6. Connect and discuss the 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 passage. Why might Paul have said "use every part of your body to give glory to God?"
7. How can these passages help you grow in victory and defeat the enemy?
8. Discuss the six bullet point statements on pages 72 and 73.
9. If anyone in your group is a parent, discuss how you can talk about these topics with your kids and present biblical truth to them.
10. Close by talking about the idea of trading time involved in porn with reading God's Word and how this could defeat temptation and sin.

**Part One:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man of Purity**

Chapter Seven

Seven Steps Toward Purity

1. Why is it often so tough to own up to and admit our sin? What causes us to ignore or deny it?
2. Discuss 1 John 1:9 and God's promises in this verse.
3. Even though God has made confessing sin simple, what are some ways we make it difficult or complicated?
4. Why do you think men in this culture today tend to be isolated?
5. Why do you think accountability tends to be so effective in helping us stop bad behaviors?
6. What are some practical ways your group can regularly help one another develop principles as you deal with personal sin?
7. Is there one thing from the list on page 85 that you know you need to take a break from?
8. Talk about how you can work the principle of replacement into your group as you help one another move toward spiritual growth and health?
9. Discuss the "second look" concept and how you can practically avoid it.
10. What are some ways you have already helped each other move out of isolation into accountability in your group? What are some ways you need go deeper still, or begin, if you haven't yet?

**Part Two:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man of Truth**

**Chapter Eight
Truth Seeker, Lie Detector**

1. Talk about the bullet points on pages 95 and 96 and which ones you struggle with the most.
2. Why would James warn us so strongly in chapter 3:5-8 about the dangers of the tongue?
3. What is it about sudden surprise or painful events that bring out our real and unfiltered speech?
4. Talk about Jesus's quote in Luke 6:45: "Whatever is in the heart overflows into speech" (TLB). What are some ways you see this play out in your own life?
5. What areas in your life do you usually do well in your communication?
6. What areas in your life do you tend to struggle in your communication?
7. Is there any place in your life where you use your personality as an excuse for your communication—or lack of communication?
8. How could allowing Christ to take over and be Lord over your personality, as well as be the gatekeeper of your mouth, change your life? Affect those around you? How can you take steps toward that today?
9. Talk about Jesus being your only Source of Truth and the Destroyer of the enemy's lies in your life.
10. What are some practical ways you can help one another take in God's truth and get the lies out of your life?

**Part Two:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man of Truth**

Chapter Nine

Habits, Half-Truths, and Hostages

1. Share one lie you believe about yourself that you know God wants to help you exchange with His truth. How did you come to believe this about yourself?
2. Discuss Revelation 12:10. How do the enemy's accusations play into our personal lies?
3. How can you incorporate the "Old Lie, New Truth, and Personalization" exercise into your group meetings?
4. How can you together apply the "Three R's" from page 110 in your meetings?
5. Which of the four types of lies do you struggle with most? Share.
6. Share one relationship or circumstance in which you struggle with unforgiveness. Explain.
7. Why do you think we often work so hard to avoid confronting the truth in our lives?
8. Talk about the hostage concept from pages 112 and 113. Have you seen this play out in your own life? Explain.
9. Why do you think pride and ego are such major aspects of unforgiveness?
10. Matthew 6:14-15 sounds harsh. Why would God say this to us? What does this say about how important forgiveness is to Him?

**Part Two:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man of Truth**

**Chapter Ten
Getting Angry God's Way**

1. Read and discuss Ephesians 4:26-27, specifically the difference between anger as an emotion and a sin.
2. Why do you think so many men struggle with anger, especially having a bad temper?
3. Talk about the connection between anger, bitterness, and rage.
4. Share a circumstance where you feel you had righteous anger.
5. Talk through the self-centered progression of anger.
6. Where is your greatest area of struggle? Grudge? Bitterness? Hatred?
7. Talk through the God-centered progression of anger.
8. Discuss the connection of anger to compassion, rage to kindness, and bitterness to forgiveness from pages 123 and 124.
9. How can you implement authentic biblical resolve into your group as you each confess and deal with life circumstances?
10. Share any current situation where you need to move from self-centered anger to God's way.

**Part Two:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man of Truth**

Chapter Eleven

Ten Steps to Truth

1. Talk about your list of people to both forgive and ask forgiveness. Where do you need help and encouragement? Accountability? Specific prayer?
2. Discuss the statement from pages 130 and 131: “You can measure your maturity level as a Christian by the length of time between an offense and your attempt to resolve?”
3. How can you work to keep your list short by sharing in your group?
4. Talk about the personal example on page 131 and 132. Have you had anything like this happen to you before? How did it end?
5. How would adopting Principle 4 as a personal rule for yourself change some situations in your life—your “yes is yes” and “no is no”?
6. Do you struggle with attitude and tone in your speech? Share.
7. Is there any circumstance in your life where you are creating a distraction from Christ for someone? An attraction to Christ for someone?
8. Are you being silent somewhere where you need to speak? Share.
9. Where do you need to be a better encourager? Share.
10. Where do you need to be a more proactive listener? Share.

A good practice for your group would be to periodically walk through the questions on page 139.

**Part Three:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man of Righteousness
(Righting Wrongs)**

**Chapter Twelve
Called to the Dance**

1. Read Genesis 2:18, 22-23 and share your thoughts about God's intentions for Adam and Eve and then marriage in general.
2. Discuss Adam's choice to not intervene with Satan, to not help his bride, and how that lack of action set the foundation for our passivity.
3. Talk about the dynamic of women leading a marriage and a family when the man is lazy and the issues that creates.
4. Discuss why leading our wives can be challenging and, at times, really difficult.
5. Why do you think so many men are afraid of their wives?
6. Talk about why most guys either adopt a lazy approach or a my-way-or-the-highway approach in their marriages?
7. Talk about the statement on page 150—"A woman wants her man to make her feel loved and safe." What are some ways your wife shows that need—positive or negative—verbal or non-verbal?
8. Discuss Ephesians 5 and the ballroom dancing analogy for marriage.
9. What are some ways that God uses your marriage to help you die to yourself to live for Him and put your bride first?
10. What are some ways you need to step up in your leadership with your wife?

Be sure to regularly pray for your marriages in your meetings.

**Part Three:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man of Righteousness
(Righting Wrongs)**

**Chapter Thirteen
The Buck Stops Here**

1. Discuss these concepts: “Rules without Relationship equals Rebellion,” “Relationship with no Rules equals Running (all over you)”, and the biblical balance of “Relationship with the Right Rules equals Righteousness.”
2. Talk through the father-children discussion outlined on pages 159-161 and how you could do this with your own kids (for parents of older children/teens)?
3. Discuss the concept of parents not allowing for the reality that their son is now an adult. Talk about the babying/bullying points.
4. How different do you/did you parent from your own parents and why?
5. Why can it be so difficult to sit down and talk as an adult with your parents on issues that have never been addressed before but everyone knows exists?
6. How did you feel about the affirmation on page 164 that God believes in you as a husband and father? If you truly believed and acted on that, what would change?
7. On the chameleon concept, how much do you struggle with that balance? Where are the areas of your life where you are tempted to role-play?
8. Consider the places and circumstances where you are completely comfortable with who you are and those where you are not at all. What are the differences in those environments?
9. What are some steps you need to take to be the same man in every room like Jesus?
10. What are some areas you believe God may want to use you in your family, extended family, and circles of influence?

**Part Three:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man of Righteousness
(Righting Wrongs)**

**Chapter Fourteen
Batman & the Me Monster**

1. Who is your favorite superhero and why?
2. Why do you think we can be so good at solving problems at our jobs and other situations, but fail in our own hearts?
3. Talk about David's situation—from Goliath to Bathsheba. What can we learn from his life?
4. Has there been a situation where you got really angry with someone over an issue only to realize you have done the very same thing yourself? Share.
5. Discuss Psalm 51:1-4, 12-15.
6. Have you ever had a "David situation" where God brought you to your knees over your own sin? Share.
7. Talk about this phrase: "God has to work on us, then in us, before He can work through us." How does the "on us" connect to the "through us"?
8. Discuss the Romans 12:1-2 "living sacrifice" principle. Why is dying to self so important to successfully living the Christian life?
9. Talk through the difference in the disciples dropping their nets to follow Jesus and the three men in Luke 9 who gave cultural excuses. How do you see this same circumstance play out among men today with their faith?
10. Why is there no room in the Kingdom of God for a "Me Monster"? How does the truth of Revelation 5 tie to that concept?

Part Four:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man After God's Heart

Chapter Fifteen

Pagans into Priests, Prodigals into Princes

1. Why would God call His followers “priests” after Christ’s resurrection and ascension? What does that say about what God desires from us following salvation?
2. Discuss the statement: “What we do for a paycheck—whether clerk, corporate, construction, or clergy—does not matter, because the purpose of our lives is no longer for ourselves, but to serve Him and bring His will onto the earth. What we do for a living should just finance our ministry.”
3. How can you move your life closer to that ministry dynamic? How can you start to view yourself as a priest with a ministry, no matter what your job?
4. Considering this idea of “pagans to priests”, how does our behavior—our actions—connect to how people view us as Christ-followers?
5. Share a brief version of your testimony—how you came to know Christ—if you have never done so in your group.
6. Why do you think so many people who come to Christ as children fall away for a time or maybe for the rest of their lives, especially in the teen and young adult years?
7. What does Jesus’s story of the prodigal son say to you about the love of your heavenly Father?
8. If God’s love is like this father, why do you think we beat ourselves up and wallow in guilt when we sin? Even to the point that some people won’t come back home because of shame?
9. What are some ways that Satan lies to us about our true identity in Christ?
10. Discuss these statements from the book: “[God] offers each of us as men, every moment of every day, the opportunity to no longer be prodigals in search of significance and satisfaction, but to be princes—sons of the King—acting under His authority, residing in His kingdom. We become His sons who choose to only serve the Father.”

Part Four:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man After God's Heart

Chapter Sixteen

**Lepers into Leaders,
Traitors into Translators,
Fugitives into Friends**

1. How do you see a sort of modern-day leprosy in guys today, meaning the isolation, loneliness, and separation from people, sometimes even from their own families? What dynamics exist in our culture that creates this response in men?
2. In the Luke 5 passage, why do you think just one of the men returned to thank Jesus? And why do you think Jesus would ask that man about the other nine?
3. Have you ever witnessed an isolated, lonely, maybe even shunned man come to Christ and change? Share.
4. Why do you think we can feel so strongly about traitors, even more so than someone who is an out-and-out bad guy?
5. Why would God trust His gospel message to be shared by the very people who have, can, and will betray Him?
6. Talk about how you have seen God use you as His translator to someone by using your life and witness to share the Gospel.
7. With so many people not coming to Christ because of seeing Christians' hypocrisy and bad behavior, how does that factor into this concept of God turning traitors into translators in our culture?
8. Why do you think Adam and Eve's first response was to run after they had disobeyed God? How is that same running and hiding still played out in our lives?
9. Read John 15:15 and talk about why Jesus would want to call us His friends, the most intimate term we have for a close relationship outside of marriage.
10. Share which of the five focuses from the last two chapters you most relate to: Pagans into Priests, Prodigals into Princes, Lepers into Leaders, Traitors into Translators, or Fugitives into Friends, and why.

**Part Four:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man After God's Heart**

**Chapter Seventeen
Brothers in the Battle I**

1. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 and 12. Discuss how this truth applies to your life and your group.
2. Discuss how you can keep your group on track by sticking to the sword-offense-spiritual growth and shield-defense-moral protection themes. How can this help? What are ways you can agree to stay focused on these?
3. Discuss the goldfish principle and how you have seen this affect your own life.
4. Are there any relationships in your life right now that are negatively affecting you? Share.
5. Talk about the concept of listening to God and resting in His presence, along with sharing your needs with Him in prayer.
6. How can your group positively impact your prayer life together as well as individually?
7. Why do you think the Bible is becoming less and less of a focus today in the church as well as in our culture?
8. Discuss the “gift card-personal check” analogy to approaching Scripture.
9. Have you ever been in a circumstance where a Scripture popped into your mind and you saw the Psalm 1 principle at work in your own life? Share.
10. How can prioritizing prayer and Bible reading create investments into your life, marriage, parenting, and career?

Part Four:
Believing, Becoming, Being a Man After God's Heart

Chapter Eighteen
Brothers in the Battle II

1. Discuss the synergy principle. What are some ways this dynamic has already occurred in your group and then how can you maximize this concept?
2. Talk about the Ecclesiastes 4 passage and how both offense and defense are reflected in the phrases.
3. Discuss the difference between disclosure and accountability. How can you move deeper toward accountability in your group?
4. Talk through a plan for eliminating the secrets from your life in your group.
5. Discuss the concept of how implementing principles can help you make a decision once and then just stick to it, abide by it.
6. Talk about a plan for developing offensive principles in your group. What are some offensive principles you have already put into place?
7. Talk about a plan for developing defensive principles in your group. What are some defensive principles you have already put into place?
8. Discuss the “being Jesus” worldview on page 224. How can this outlook help you in all your relationships?
9. Which of these six areas—environment, prayer, Scripture, accountability, principles, and relationships—do you tend to be the most successful? Which one is your biggest struggle? Why?
10. How might the mindset of accepting that we are in a spiritual battle help you to commit more to Christ and grow as His disciples?

Believe, Become, Be

Wrap-Up Session

1. Considering the entire book and your sessions together, what was one major truth you discovered and applied to your life?
2. Share a breakthrough or victory you had as a result of the book study.
3. Share a struggle that this book study helped you bring to light and then talk about how your group can help you stay on track.

Thank you so much, gentlemen, for going through *Believe Become Be: Becoming the Man God Believes You Can Be*, the book and the study.

Remember—we are not monks in a mission, but men on a mission!

Your heavenly Father knows you well and wants to
help you become all He believes you can be!

Now, go get 'em!