



Week 2: Faith, Strength, Courage & Love

MEETING PREP CHECKLIST:

1. Listen daily to the audio guides.
2. Check in daily on your discussion group.
3. Watch the [Week 2 Leader Video](#) (4 min).
4. Review this Leader Guide & prep the challenge.
5. Preview the [Week 2 Group Video](#) (13 min).

Week 2 Goals

1. Establish four pillars of godly manhood: faith, strength, courage & love.
2. Begin to redefine each of those according to God's terms.

BRING TO THE MEETING:

1. Bible, journal, pen, & this guide.
2. Video display with Week 2 Group Video cued up.
3. Snack.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK: Pizza. Men bond over food. Feed them!

Ingredients: Crust, sauce, cheese, toppings. **Prep:** Order pizza. Open box. Serve hot.

Leader Tip of the Week:

What *not* to do for great discussions!

- **Do not... talk too much.** As you talk, aim for 30% you, 70% them.
- **Do not... teach too much.** They heard teaching all week. This is time to process.
- **Do not... answer too much.** Easy answers are easily forgotten. Let them search and they will remember what they worked for.
- **Do not... handle hard issues alone.** Talking about identity can bring up complex issues, so find good resources and call for backup.

DISCUSSION PREP: Men bond over words. Guide them!

This week's audio guides walked through the creation story in Genesis 2 to find four key gifts of God to mankind and with those the foundations of our four pillars of godly manhood.

Faith: Mankind was made **in God's image** (Gen 1:27). Faith is crucial because by it we see the image we were made in.

Strength: God set Adam in the garden to **work** (Gen 2:15). Work requires strength in many forms (skill, power, wisdom, etc.).

Courage: The Lord gave Adam **free will**, with the freedom to eat any fruit in the garden but a restriction against one (Gen 2:16). Courage is the key to choosing right and resisting wrong.

Love: God's greatest gift to Adam was also the solution to his aloneness: the gift of **others** (Gen 2:22). Love is both the key to relationships and the primary reflection of God's image in us.

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the **faith**; be **courageous**; be **strong**. Do everything in **love**."

- 1 Corinthians 16:13-14



Week 2 Group Meeting! Step-by-step guide to a great small group.

Group Challenge

Circles of Difficulty! [Click for directions.](#)

Modify to your group. (Optional. 10 mins)

ICE BREAKER (8 mins): What's the *toughest* thing you had to do because you're the man? Do you see themes in the answers (courage, responsibility, etc.)?

GROUP VIDEO (13): [Faith/Strength/Courage/Love](#)

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (30 mins). Start with prayer & the Rules of Engagement: *Speak with Grace, Listen with Humility, & No Shaming.* Ask your guys what they thought of TeDese's story and how they relate to it. (See link to TeDese's full interview below). Then open your journals to discuss these:

Re-Definition #1: Faith. Share your definitions of the word faith. (See journal for Day 2).

- **Read:** Hebrews 11:1 for God's definition of faith. How do your answers compare?
- **Think:** We are all made in God's image. How does faith help us reconnect with that?

Re-Definition #2: Strength. Share your definitions of the word strength. (See journal for Day 3).

- **Read:** Proverbs 16:32. How does that verse change the way we view strength and power?
- **Think:** Work is a gift from God. What different forms of strength do you need for work?

Re-Definition #3: Courage. Share your definitions of the word courage. (See journal for Day 4).

- **Read:** Joshua 1:9. How does "the Lord your God will be with you" affect your courage?
- **Think:** God gave mankind free will. How does courage help us live out that will?

Re-Definition #4: Love. Share your definitions of true love. (See journal for Day 5).

- **Read:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. How do your definitions compare with the list here?
- **Think:** How does loving others relate to being made in God's image. (Hint: 1st John 4:8).

WRAP-UP: Review the take-home truth. Remind everyone to listen daily to the *Manhood Talks* plan and share answers to the daily discussion.

Share this link to [watch TeDese's full story later.](#)

Next week: bring Bible, pen, & journal. Anyone who doesn't have a journal yet... *man up!*

Take Home Truth

We are all made in God's image.

By faith we see God and reflect His nature more clearly.

As we grow in faith, we redefine strength, courage & love by His nature.

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the **faith**; be **courageous**; be **strong**. Do everything in **love**."

- 1 Corinthians 16:13-14