

Stepping Up - Week 1 - Discussion Questions

1. In what ways are men called to act courageously on behalf of God's honor today?
2. Who are some of the most courageous people you know? What do you admire most about their lives? What aspect of their lives do you most want to emulate?
3. What is the one area of your life where you most need to display courage? Why?
4. Are there any Scriptures that have strengthened your courage in the past? What are they and how did they serve you?
5. As you think over your life, do you find any uncourageous moments you wish you could do over? Consider sharing one with the group.

Stepping Up - Week 2 - Discussion Questions

1. What dangers and risks are facing boys in our time if there is an absence of strong, godly men in their lives?
2. What is so appealing about adolescence that draws many men back to it repeatedly?
3. What is true of boyhood that should no longer be true once you become a man?
4. What Scriptures do you use / can you use to take your desires and your thoughts in a direction that is both good and God-pleasing?
5. What changes have you made in your life that reflect 1 Corinthians 13:11, by your own choosing? What changes do you feel you should make?

Stepping Up - Week 3 - Discussion Questions

1. How do men traditionally define success? How do you define it? (Not how ought you define it...be real.)
2. Who were some key mentors in your life? Tell the group just a little about them and their impact on your life.
3. 1 Peter 5:8-9 says, "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world." In what ways ought we acknowledge the spiritual battle against men? How are we called to resist him?
4. Robert Lewis stated that a real man "rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously, and expects God's greater reward." Which of these areas do you believe most men struggle with? How about you personally?
5. What was one defining moment from your boyhood that you feel defined or marked you?

Stepping Up - Week 4 - Discussion Questions

1. Why do you believe that many men find it difficult to embrace their need for God in their daily lives?
2. If sin can no longer condemn us because of the blood of Christ, what CAN sin do in our lives? And how does that play out in your life?
3. We know that the gospel liberates us from the penalty of sin. How does it free us from the power of sin in our lives today? Share your thoughts and share the supporting Scriptures that you know.
4. What are some of the most important implications of our sin separating us from God?
5. Consider having a few men from the group share the story of their conversion. Go beyond the simple circumstances and share the truths and the Scriptures and the people that were pivotal.

Stepping Up - Week 5 - Discussion Questions

1. How do guys get tripped up in their efforts to stand firm?
2. In all honesty, how do anxiety and fear factor into how well or poorly you stand firm? Where do you go / what do you do to deal with your anxiety and fear?
3. Titus 2:7-8 says, "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us." How can men live this out in their daily lives? (Read v. 11 and see if it changes or enhances your answers.)
4. When considering the subject of stubbornness, how do you think those closest to you—immediate family, friends, and coworkers—would generally describe you?
5. Share at least one area in your life where God has been / is convicting you of your need to stand firm to a greater degree.

Stepping Up - Week 6 - Discussion Questions

1. In your opinion, why does there seem to be a lack of initiative among men today? How can the church / how can you help them grow in taking initiative?
2. What opportunities are regularly available for Christian men to step up and take initiative?
3. When a problem arises or a situation needs leadership, do you find yourself generally moving toward it to be a part of the solution, staying still to see how it turns out, or distancing yourself so as not to get messy? Does your answer change if the context is at home or at work?
4. What is one the area in your life where you must take greater initiative? What steps could you do to do so? What has been keeping you from those steps?
5. If you knew you would be speaking your last words to your loved ones in the next few days, what would you want them to know or hear you say? *(Your answer is a good indication of what you want your legacy to be. Is your life being lived in such a way that, if you never got a chance to say those things, that's how they'd remember you? If not, what changes could you make to be sure that is what happens.)*

Stepping Up - Week 7 - Discussion Questions

1. Describe the worst and the best bosses (teachers / coaches) you've ever had? At a core / principle level, what were some of the key differences?
2. If someone were to ask those around you (home/school/work) how you lead, what words do you believe they would use to describe your leadership?
3. John 15:13 says, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends." Share your thoughts / struggles in how you apply this in your home?
...in your workplace / school? What makes it so challenging?
4. In Ephesians 4:15, Paul exhorts us, "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ." What are some common misapplications of this verse in leadership and how are we to apply it properly?
5. Identify one area in your life where you feel you need to do a better job in leadership by learning to engage with wisdom and grace. Whom could you talk to that could help motivate and train you in this area?

Stepping Up - Week 8 - Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to have an 'upright heart' and why is it so crucial for a man who is in leadership to have one?
2. What opportunities and challenges do you see coming toward you / your family in the next few years? What steps are you taking to prepare for them?
3. Proverbs 16:9 says, "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps." How does one trust the sovereignty of God when plans go awry? (Feel free to share a personal story.)
4. In which areas do you believe God would have you consider growing as a provider? ...financially? ...spiritually? ...relationally?
5. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus commands us to, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." How ought this verse be an encouragement to us as we seek to plan and provide for those under our care?

Stepping Up - Week 9 - Discussion Questions

1. What things tend to compete with the priority of family in your life? Describe how they function for you.
2. Are there areas of your life where you have plenty of vision? What distinguishes those areas from those where vision is deficient or lacking?
3. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he who keeps the law." (NASB) What does this verse tell us about the importance of vision? What role does it imply God's Word should have in our vision?
4. Psalm 127:1-2 says, "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain." What does this verse reveal as our primary source of protection over our lives and our homes? What impact ought this have when we consider challenges in our lives and our homes?
5. Whether it is the home, school, or work, what typically stands in the way of your conceiving of a vision, communicating a vision, and executing a vision?

Stepping Up - Week 10 - Discussion Questions

1. What are some things that keep men from stepping up to become patriarchs? How might you encourage men to work against those obstacles?
2. What lasting difference do you hope your life will make? What changes to your currently way of living should occur to better facilitate that difference?
3. Philippians 2:3-4 says directly, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." How ought these commands instruct men as they seek to become patriarchs?
4. Take time for some to share where they've seen God at work in the other men around the table.
5. Share with the group one or two key differences that the Stepping Up course has made for you as you seek to grow in godliness as a man.