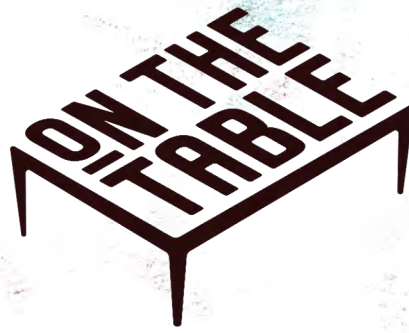


ON THE  
TABLE





## GUIDES TO GROUP DISCUSSIONS

What happened to masculinity? Should Christians go to therapy? Aren't all religions the same? Why does God care who I sleep with? How much should Christians love their country? God welcomes us with our questions and meets us with His grace and truth. Join us for our series, *On the Table*, as we unpack eight new pressing questions about the Christian faith.

---

### SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

Remember that you aren't in this alone! God will help you prepare and lead your group discussion. Make it your goal to keep in step with the Holy Spirit!

Pray and read the passage a few times on your own. Take a few minutes to identify what makes an impression on you and how the passage might impact your group.

Once you've taken some time to read the passage on your own, read through the entire Discussion Guide. Make sure you understand the Main Point. Identify which questions you want to use in your group time and rewrite them in your own words.

Once your group time is over, take a few minutes to evaluate the discussion. What went well? What could have been different? If you had a "bad night," DON'T GIVE UP! Everyone has tough nights. There were times when even the disciples didn't get what Jesus was talking about!

---

**FREE  
RESOURCES**

To equip you as a leader, we provide resources each series to help you and members of your group understand and respond to the biblical truths we're studying as a church. Don't forget about the Mariners Annual Read and the [Gospel Every Day podcast](#) discussing each devotional.

The CSB Study Bible is an excellent resource if you'd prefer a physical copy of the translation used by Mariners Church. It is available for purchase online and in the [bookstore](#) at Irvine.

All Scripture references in this guide are CSB unless otherwise noted.

**HOW TO USE THE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

---

**MAIN POINT**

Discussions often take on a life of their own, but they typically lack power when they lack focus. The Discussion Leader ought to use the Main Point to keep everyone on the same page. To do this, you might say something like, "That is very interesting and a good topic for another discussion, but today's study is about..." and ask a question that brings people back to the topic of discussion. There will be times when it makes sense to ignore the Main Point—for example, when someone in your group experiences a significant crisis. If you decide to move away from the lesson's Main Point, you want to do so on purpose and not by accident.

---

**RHYTHM REMINDERS**

A prompt will be provided when one of the 7 Rhythms of Rooted has a natural point of emphasis. We want to help everyone continue to grow holistically in their spiritual journeys. Obviously, some rhythms always exist, like prayer, but occasionally it will be helpful to draw fresh attention to or spend additional time in one of the rhythms.

---

**LEADER NOTES**

Where needed, each lesson may have several Leader Notes. This material will provide insight on how to steer the conversation and care for your people. Additionally, these notes will provide greater context to help you understand a difficult word, phrase, or verse.

---

**LEAN IN  
BREAK THE ICE**

These questions will help kick-start your discussion time. The main goal for this time is to get everyone talking and prepare them for the more focused conversation to follow.

---

**LOOK DOWN  
LOOK AT GOD'S  
WORD**

The goal for this section is to let the passage speak for itself and stand on its own. This isn't easy! During this time, you will read the passage out loud (twice) and answer questions focused on the details of the biblical text.

---

**LOOK OUT  
IDENTIFY THE  
RELEVANCE OF GOD'S  
WORD IN THE WORLD**

Jesus calls us to love others, just as He loved us. Based on your understanding of the text and how God is transforming your heart, how will you treat others? How will you apply this teaching to all of your relationships and to everyone you will see this week and beyond?

---

**LOOK IN  
APPLY GOD'S WORD**

Transformation comes from renewing your mind (Romans 12:2). The goal for this section is to look inward to allow God's Word to change you from the inside out. Use this time to discuss how your thoughts and feelings are affirmed and/or challenged.

Be sure to close your time together in prayer. You can take requests from the group, invite others to lead, and bring God the needs that stood out to you in your group time.

# WEEK 1: WHAT HAPPENED TO MASCULINITY?

## GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### PREPARE

Listen and subscribe to the Mariners Life Group Leader Podcast.

If you missed the weekend message or want to review specific points, you can always watch, listen, and find bulletin notes online at [marinerschurch.org/messages](http://marinerschurch.org/messages).

### MAIN POINT

There is a fight in our culture over masculinity. In one corner is the argument that men have been feminized, robbed of their identity, and the lack of “real men” is hurting our society. In the other corner is the argument that those celebrated as “real men” are toxic and damaging to others. In the middle of the argument men struggle with understanding what they should do and how they should live. What’s happened to masculinity and what does the Scripture encourage men to be? We will see that healthy masculinity, the masculinity that Jesus displays and commands, is never toxic and is always for the flourishing of others.

### LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

**What are some of the most common (and maybe even humorous) “manly” stereotypes you see thrown around pop culture, Christian culture, or otherwise? And do you think these stereotypes are accurate or inaccurate?**

### LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD’S WORD

Read 1 Kings 2:1-4

As the time approached for David to die, he ordered his son Solomon, 2 "As for me, I am going the way of all of the earth. Be strong and be a man, 3 and keep your obligation to the Lord your God to walk in his ways and to keep his statues, commands, ordinances, and decrees. This is written in the law of Moses, so that you will have success in everything you do and wherever you turn, 4 and so that the Lord will fulfill his promise that he made to me: 'If your sons take care to walk faithfully before me with all their heart and all their soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'

Read 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

13 Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. 14

Do everything in love.

**Re-read 1 Kings 2:1-3. What's the charge that David calls his son Solomon to and why do you think it was necessary?**

LOOK OUT  
IDENTIFY THE  
RELEVANCE IF GOD'S  
WORD IN THE WORLD

**Think back to our beginning question about masculine stereotypes. What does broader culture most often get wrong about men and masculinity today?**

**Oppositely, what are some cultural trends around men and masculinity that may be accurate and healthy, if you can think of any?**

LOOK IN  
APPLY GOD'S WORD  
TO YOUR LIFE

**What are some misunderstandings of masculinity we have, and how might those misunderstandings affect our everyday lives?**

**How can we encourage the men in our lives (friends, husbands, sons, etc.) in healthy ways that don't undermine their masculinity?**

**Read the passage again together imagining David sharing the same charge with you. What are you challenged by and where is God inviting you to follow Him in living out that challenge?**