

RISE ^{OF} THE SERVANT KINGS

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS
ABOUT BEING A MAN

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Rise of the Servant Kings is the “how-to-get-it-right” book for today’s Christian man—in marriage, family, work, friendships, with God in all of life. Read the book and get together with other men to discuss how to apply its biblical truths.

Chapter 1: Servant Kings

God wants us to be His servant kings. What does that mean?

God seeks men of faith and action—but not as a result of relying on ourselves. The extent of our influence depends on the extent of our surrender to God: *the more self, the less God; the less self, the more God.*

1.1: What motivated you to read *Rise of the Servant Kings*?

1.2: What are the major life goals you are pursuing or want to pursue?

1.3: Describe your struggles or advances in surrendering yourself to God.

Chapter 2: The Fall

One reason it's hard to be a servant king is because we were born with a sin nature. As humans, we deeply want to do good, but we do evil instead.

Jesus died to free us from this state. As we learn to turn from our inclination to sin, the Holy Spirit begins to have greater influence in us.

2.1: How have your own sinful tendencies stood in the way of your becoming the godly man you want to be?

2.2: Describe some progress you've made in overcoming sin. What helped?

2.3: How has putting sinful practices behind you freed you up to serve God more effectively?

Chapter 3: The Liar

Another reason why it's hard to be a servant king is because we have an enemy, Satan, who whispers lies to us. He pushes our flesh in its natural direction, toward hatred of one another, nature, ourselves, and God.

The good news is that believers who are walking in obedience to God's Word are empowered by Christ to resist the lies and embrace the truth.

3.1: Who is Satan and what is his game?

3.2: What is an example of a lie that “the father of lies” has told you—and you believed it? What impact did this have on your life?

3.3: Describe a time when you recognized a temptation Satan had laid before you for what it was—and you avoided it.

Chapter 4: The Rock

The first step toward becoming servant kings is letting go of confidence in ourselves to accomplish God's plans on our own. For many of us, this means being completely broken.

Thankfully, as we die to self and to our "rights," we see the power of the Holy Spirit revealed in our lives.

4.1: Have you ever tried to do something for God in your own strength and according to your own agenda—and then seen it blow up in your face? Tell the story.

4.2: A preacher said, "If we are truly converted, we shall not only be turned and converted from sinful self, but we shall be converted from righteous self." How can our "righteous self" get in the way of trusting in God?

4.3: What steps do you still need to take in yielding to God and not relying on yourself to accomplish good works?

Chapter 5: The Voice

Our Father is always speaking words of guidance, encouragement, and correction to us. But His soft, sweet voice is often drowned out by competing noises from our own sinful impulses, the temptations of Satan, and the cares of the world.

To hear God speak, we need to repent from our sin, live in the present, and walk away from our habit of listening to lying voices.

5.1: What evil or worldly voices do you pay too much attention to? What makes you susceptible to these voices?

5.2: What helps you tune out false and distracting messages so that you can concentrate on what God is saying to you?

5.3: If a friend told you that he had a big decision ahead of him and didn't know what to do, what advice would you give him about seeking the Lord's will?

Chapter 6: Hurt

Sadly, some professed Christians are *legalists*, judgmentally pointing out other people's failures in rule keeping (even if the rules aren't biblical). Others go too far in the opposite direction and are *antinomians*, teaching that believers should ignore some of the Bible's moral teachings. Both of these extremes are types of false teaching.

The Jesus of the Bible offers grace to the repentant and at the same time helps us to be faithful to God's commands.

6.1: Have you ever been a part of a church or ministry that either overplayed sin or underplayed it? If so, describe the experience. What effect did it have on you?

6.2: How do you struggle with a temptation to discriminate against a certain kind of people?

6.3: What can you do to avoid false teaching and get to know God better as He really is and obey Him?

Chapter 7: Holiness

A servant king is holy.

Just as God is altogether pure, so He expects His servant kings to be pure and holy as well. And to become holy, we need to practice self-control, putting our sin to death and becoming obedient to God. Then our relationship with Jesus Christ will surface as our overwhelming desire.

7.1: In what areas do you see yourself as having good self-control? In what other areas do you struggle to control yourself?

7.2: How does the Holy Spirit help us in our pursuit of holiness?

Chapter 8: Humility

A servant king is humble.

Humility is the primary characteristic of a person who is in love with Jesus Christ. It is the ability to see things as God sees them, that is, as they really are. The better we get to know our Savior, the clearer we see our own depravity—*and* how God wants to exalt us by grace.

8.1: Describe your struggles with pride.

8.2: How has your view of yourself changed as a result of following Christ?

Chapter 9: Courage

A servant king is brave.

Courage is one quality of a servant king that flows from his humility. Courage isn't a lack of fear. It's being terrified and obeying God anyway. It flows out of concern for others without regard to the risk to oneself.

9.1: Describe a time when a tough situation either exposed some cowardice inside you or else revealed to you that you can summon up bravery when you need to.

9.2: What's the riskiest thing you've ever done to help someone else?

9.3: Is courage something a man can learn or develop in himself if it's lacking? If so, how would you go about it?

Chapter 10: Generosity

A servant king is generous.

Generosity, like courage, is a quality of a servant king that springs from humility. Generosity is giving every aspect of yourself back to God, to whom it belongs: your money, your prayers, your time, your effort, your reputation, your rights. Generosity requires humility because it says that we trust our heavenly Father to sustain us.

10.1: What is your reaction to the idea that generosity is a form of worship?

10.2: In what areas are you most generous? In what areas are you less generous, and why do you think that is?

10.3: How strong is your faith that God will provide for you and your family? Is this something you worry about?

Chapter 11: Masculinity

A servant king is a leader.

True masculinity is not being a macho man, but neither should men buy in to the modern idea that gender differences are illusory. Being a godly man means being proactive: when something needs to be done, he seeks to do it. A servant king protects and provides for others.

11.1: How have you been influenced by false ideas of masculinity within your family or community?

11.2: True masculinity is being *proactive*, being a *protector*, and being a *provider*. Of those three “p” areas, which are you weakest in, and why? Which are you strongest in, and why?

11.3: Since overbusyness is an enemy of being proactive, how could you free up time in your schedule to make yourself more available for helping out others?

11.4: If a man wanted to learn how to become a better leader, who or what might help him in that?

Chapter 12: Marriage

A married servant king is a leader to his wife.

A husband's role in a marriage is to lead his family and especially to seek the spiritual well-being of his wife. He is to desire his wife only, to make her feel secure in his love, and to build her up at every opportunity.

12.1: What does it mean for a wife to submit to her husband? What does it mean for a husband to lead his wife?

12.2: If you are married, in what ways do you want to become a better servant leader to your wife?

12.3: What works in overcoming a lust problem, so that a husband may desire his wife alone?

12.4: What kinds of words and actions help a wife to feel safe and cherished by her husband?

Chapter 13: The Fight

A servant king is a spiritual warrior.

We men need to guard our families against the many kinds of falsehood that are prevalent in today's world. This doesn't mean we fight against people. Rather, we fight against the evil forces that are inspiring people to speak and do wrong.

13.1: What are some of the most destructive false ideas about faith or morality circulating in our society?

13.2: How do you try to protect your family or others from falsehood?

13.3: If you were a drill sergeant at a boot camp for spiritual warriors, what basic skills would you teach your recruits?

Chapter 14: Prayer

A servant king is a prayer warrior.

We pray for others, pray for ourselves...and pray just because we want to be in the presence of our Father! In prayer, we learn to hear our Father speak too. The key to effective prayer is perseverance.

14.1: Describe your prayer life and what it means to you.

14.2: How could you make intercessory prayer (praying for the needs of others) a bigger or more effective part of your spiritual life?

14.3: If you had a friend who expressed that he was bored with praying or was weary of it, what would you say to him?

Chapter 15: Wait

A servant king waits on God.

We may not always understand why God isn't answering our prayer, but we can still trust in Him. If we're having trouble praying during the waiting, we need to increase our faith and not give up.

15.1: What prayer are you waiting for God to answer? How do you feel about the wait you're enduring?

15.2: How has waiting on God molded your character?

15.3: What things help you renew your faith to keep praying and trusting in God to answer?

Chapter 16: The Judge

A servant king recognizes that Jesus is the Judge who evaluates his behavior.

In light of this, a man should ask himself if he is lukewarm about the Lord. Because if we're going to have influence in this life and receive Christ's praise afterward, we must stay passionate for Him.

16.1: Take the temperature of your love for Christ. Is it cool? Lukewarm? Hot? If it's not hot, why is that?

16.2: What harm can be caused by having a merely lukewarm devotion to the Lord?

16.3: How can a man who is lukewarm get to a place of fiery passion for Christ?

Chapter 17: Let Us Be Kings

Our past failures mean nothing except for the opportunity to learn from them. Our past successes mean nothing except for the satisfaction of a job well done for our Father in heaven. Let's not dwell on the past but instead live in the present, as God does.

People need us right now. So whatever has happened before, let's get busy and do the work God has given us!

17.1: How have you seen God redeem your mistakes or help you pick yourself up after you've failed?

17.2: Right now, in this season of your life, how is God calling you to be a servant king for Him?

17.3: What are the most important steps you can—and you *will*—take to fulfill God's calling on your life?

17.4: As you continue to pursue servant kingship, how do you think your life might be different a month from now? A year from now? By the end of your life?

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Ken started his career as an LAPD street cop in the Watts/Compton area. He then spent nearly two decades in commercial real estate.

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