

THE MAN TALK



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Guide for Group Study

We recommend that you watch *The Man Talk* as part of a group, and then, as a group, to use this guide as an aid to reflection, discussion, and application. Remember, this is meant to be a guide. Be flexible and make it work for your group—not the other way around. Begin your study group with a prayer for the fruitfulness of the experience and discussion. Close the study with prayer and with a chance for each man to offer his prayer intentions aloud.

SESSION 1

Discussion questions prior to viewing *The Man Talk*

1. What type of man do you desire to be?
2. Name several men that you respect, whether real or fictional, dead or alive.
3. In order to answer the question “How do I wish to be remembered”, take ten to twenty minutes and have each member of the group write out on a piece of paper their own eulogy, which is a speech or writing in remembrance of a deceased person. Once every member has had a chance to complete his eulogy, take the time to have each man read it aloud to the group and explain why he desires to be remembered in that way.

SESSION 2

Discussion questions after viewing the first half of *The Man Talk*

1. In what way do you see God’s commandments as being conducive to human freedom and flourishing?
2. Discuss your thoughts about the following quote:

“Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”
—C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

3. How do you think a man can become like St. Maximilian Kolbe, who paid the ultimate price of his life to save that of another?
4. If you were Matt, what would you think about the man who tried to take advantage of his now-wife, Cameron, and what you would think about Charlie who protected her?
5. Take some time in silence to have each member of the group write down on a piece of paper the lies he has believed about God, himself, masculinity, and femininity. Due to the sensitivity of this exercise, the men should be made aware that they need not share what they write down and that this need only be between them and God. Those who wish to share can if they choose to.

SESSION THREE

Discussion questions after viewing the second half of *The Man Talk*

Never Get Into a Fight!

1. What are some practical ways we as men can begin to defend the dignity of women?
2. When it comes to our Christian faith, why is it important to know what we believe and why we believe it?

Never Think About Sex!

3. Why is it important to think about sex?
4. How does the culture often misunderstand and misrepresent the Catholic Church's teachings on human sexuality?

Play It Safe!

5. Why do many people feel threatened by zeal for Jesus and his Church but have no problem being fanatical about sports?
6. Would you be willing to risk your reputation and relationships to follow Christ? Why/Why not? Have you experienced a time in your life where you have lost relationships or your reputation due to your commitment to Jesus?

Never Give Into Peer Pressure!

7. Why is it important to surround ourselves with friends who encourage us in virtue?
8. Name two male friends in your life who you believe care for you enough to speak truth to you even if it hurts?
9. Pray about the people in your life whom God may desire you to reach out to. How will you go about doing this?

Never Ask Directions!

10. Why do you think men generally do not like asking directions?
11. What is some good advice that you have received from another man?
12. In what way does God guide his people by Sacred Scripture and the Church?
13. Discuss your thoughts about the following quote?

“We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father’s love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son.”—Bl. John Paul II, Homily at World Youth Day 2002.

14. What part of this talk helped you the most? Why?
15. After finishing this study, what areas of your life do you need to work on in order to become the man you desire to be and the man God commands that you be? How will you work on those areas?