

INTRO // THE NINE ATTRIBUTES



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

- Introduce yourself and get to know each other.
- How does the world define manhood?
- How is manhood different from womanhood?
- How is manhood different from childhood?
- In your opinion, what would be a short list of defining attributes of manhood?

NOTES:



THE ATTRIBUTES OF A MAN

Rank how well you currently live each one of these out in your life:

YOUR NAME: _____

1 – SUBMITS TO AUTHORITY

A man can submit to authority. He is especially willing to bow before God as the ultimate judge of what is moral and true. He understands that he is not Lord of his life. He can also submit to others in a line of authority over him with the understanding that he can influence others sometimes through a submissive role. This attribute requires self-denial and humility.



2 – WILLING TO SACRIFICE

A man is willing to make hard sacrifices. He is willing to do whatever it takes, and his sacrifices will never reduce his morality, but will rather elevate it. He will leave anything and everything behind for something more honoring and noble.



3 – RADICAL OBEDIENCE

A man welcomes obedience to a higher moral code. He opposes disobedience and battle sin. He can obey even when it is very costly to do so and in moments he does not comprehend the full picture. His obedience is a living act of increasing faith. Great men have gone before us that demonstrated a level of deep obedience and from them their character was revealed.



4 – STRATEGIZES DISCIPLINE

A man plans discipline into his life. For him discipline serves the purpose to train his body to the ways of the Spirit. In private he exhibits this through prayer and the reading of God's Word as the chief disciplines.



5 – RECEPTIVE TO TRUTH

A man understands truth is not found within himself, or culture, but only from and in God. Our world is corrupt and broken and desperate for truth and this man believes that God possesses it. God's Word, found in the Bible, is our truest guide and the one resource we should be reaching for in every struggle, challenge, trial, and temptation. A man loves truth before his own opinion and is willing to admit when he is wrong when confronted by truth. We do this through the renewal of the spirit of the mind which is way we become receptive.



6 – LIVES PURPOSEFULLY

A man has a purposeful disposition. He lives out his calling and design with an inclination toward leveraging his mission. He understands that every moment of every day has purpose, and therefore he trusts God sovereignty in all situations. He rarely complains or become frustrated since he knows that God has purpose for all situations in his life and therefore welcomes uncertainty as a challenge to finding purpose in Christ.



7 – DELIBERATELY PRODUCES

A man intentionally multiplies production. He never devours and consumes resources, but replicates and multiplies them through his impact in and through others. He has a keen line of sight for the limits of his life, knowing his greatest legacy would be reproduction of true riches in others. A man with this attribute invests purposely to produce eternally. And thus, others witness evidence of increasing fruit and growth. He grafts his life into higher purpose so he can sustain production.



8 – INTEGRITY OF MOTIVE

A man understands and directs his desire and motivation toward godly desires. This is not an easy because a man's heart is wild, and motivated by many worldly vices. Sometimes a man will hide his true desires and motivation. He will pretend and appear as if he has it all together, while on the inside his heart is in shambles. This is where this man will dig down deep and integrate his motive with pure motives. This alignment brings change to his thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors and manifests integrity in the things he says and does.



9 – DEVOTED TO BROTHERHOOD

A man is devoted to brotherhood because he understands that supernatural things happen in community. While we want to live autonomous lives, a man understand that iron sharpens iron. This is the grinding and daily task of putting ourselves in touch with other men to avoid catastrophes in our life that will unravel our manhood. He understands that manhood is not a cowboy quest of self-reliance; it is one that fights self-reliance with the realization that we don't always know what is best for ourselves. We cannot go life alone as a man, but rather need men with whom we can be transparency and thus become authentic.



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

- What are your **concerns** on your "before" rankings?
- What are the **causes** of your "before" rankings?
- Are there any major learnings from these **concerns** and **causes**?
- What should be your action plan for addressing these **concerns** and **causes**?
- What would be your **preferred description** "after" the 9 weeks?