

# MAN *on the* THRONE

## GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Thanks for downloading the *Man on the Throne* Group Study Guide! Though it is called a group study guide, I think it will be helpful for individual use as well. But as I talk about in the book a lot, having a group of men that you trust to go through this material with would be ideal!

For each chapter, you will find the key ideas of that chapter outlined, as well as key Scripture references that pertain to that chapter. The references in **bold** are the excerpts of the King Solomon story that the book follows. Before each session, I would advise reading these verses, either as a group or individually, especially the bolded ones. This will help you get into the right headspace, as well as possibly learn something from the material that is not highlighted in the book.

The key ideas may spark plenty of conversation on their own, but there are also some discussion questions to help move it along. Feel free to use these or come up with your own. These can also serve as useful, individual journaling questions.

This guide will also go along well with the “experiences” found at the end of most chapters. So, be sure to implement those into the group as well if you wish.

Thanks again for reading the book and grabbing this study guide! I pray that you find value in it, and that your family reaps the benefits of having a *Man on the Throne*!

- Jordan Burgen

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### Chapter 1 - Where to Begin?

#### **Key Scripture References**

Ephesians 5:31-32; Hosea 2:16

#### **Key Ideas**

- Marriage and fatherhood are about more than physically protecting and providing for your family. Spiritual leadership is of at least equal importance.
- Jesus perfectly models for us how to spiritually lead and love our families by how he leads and loves the Church. (Ephesians 5:32)
- Jesus knew his mission, dealt with obstacles to that mission, lived out of the blessings God had given Him, attended to the spiritual needs of Himself and those in His care, and did this all to glorify God.
- Marriage and fatherhood are not about us. It is about glorifying God in the way we lead the people God has entrusted to us.
- God has entrusted you with a “kingdom,” which is actually a small part of His Kingdom, just as He did Solomon. Your kingdom consists of or will consist of your wife and/or kids.

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What are you hoping for from this book? What are you excited about?
2. What first comes to mind for you when you think of the primary role of a husband and/or father?
3. What emotions does the idea of being the spiritual leader of your home bring up in you?
4. From the list of ways that Jesus led and loved the Church (pgs. 14-15), which ones stand out to you the most? Why?
5. Whether you are married or not, in what ways have you been wrongly viewing your role as the “head” of the home?

#### **Notes**

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### Chapter 2 - Mission & Calling

#### Key Scripture References

1 Kings 1:28-29; Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 20-25; John 17

#### Key Ideas

- Everyone has a mission/calling/purpose in life.
- If you choose to be a husband and father, you have an additional calling on your life: be the spiritual leader of your home. One does not blot the other one out.
- Just as God is the husband to Israel, and Jesus is the husband to the Church, we are to be the husband to our wives.
- Though there is much you can and should prepare for in marriage and fatherhood, some things can only be learned in the thick of it.

#### Discussion Questions

1. What did you come up with from completing the "Mission Worksheet" in the book (pg 29)?
2. How does it compare to the mission of being the spiritual leader of your home? Are you going to be able to fulfill both?
3. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 1 Kings 2:1-4. What parts of these instructions seem feasible? What parts seem near impossible?
4. Regarding your mission as the spiritual leader of your home, what are you now aware of that you weren't before?
5. Whether you are already married or not, do you feel qualified to live out this mission currently?
6. If not, what may need to change in your life to better prepare you to live this mission out? How can this group help or support you?

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### Chapter 3 - Purging Sin & Obstacles

#### **Key Scripture References**

**1 Kings 2:5-9, 13-46;** Genesis 3:8-9; Mark 7:6-8, 14-15

#### **Key Ideas**

- Sin will attack your kingdom mainly in three different ways: 1. Your own sinful behavior. 2. The false beliefs about yourself that drive you to sin. 3. Outright outside attacks.
- Identifying and then addressing the roots and wounds of why you are driven to sin is more important than merely modifying your sinful behavior.
- A critical element of being the spiritual leader of your home is being the spiritual protector of your home.
- Just as God called Adam out for both his and Eve's sin, you are ultimately responsible for the sin you allow to enter your kingdom.
- You must be present in the lives of the members of your family to know how and when to protect them, and then when the need arises, you have to have the courage to actually protect them.
- Pride, insecurity, uncontrolled anger, fear, passivity, and shame are extremely common ways that sin will find its way into your kingdom.
- Jesus was sinless, but that doesn't mean he never faced obstacles.
- Jesus combatted temptation with Scripture, protected His people from spiritual attacks, and surrounded Himself with a trusted group of men to support Him.

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Of the four stories of the men Solomon had to deal with, which one do you relate to the most?
2. What sin-fueling wounds do you have that will need to be addressed in order for you to be the man your family needs?
3. What fears do you have about stepping into the position of being the spiritual leader of your home?
4. Discuss some different strategies for staying present and engaged in the lives of the people in your family.
5. In what ways can you use the group you are currently in to support you in being the spiritual leader of your home?
6. What is your main takeaway from learning about how Jesus combatted the various forms of sin that attacked His kingdom?

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### Chapter 4 - Blessing

#### **Key Scripture References**

**1 Kings 3:1-15**; Matthew 7:7-11; 1 Peter 5:5-7; 2 Corinthians 2:9-10; John 5:19-20, 30

#### **Key Ideas**

- Some things in life are impossible to do successfully on your own. Spiritually leading your family is one of those things.
- It is essential to be aware of your shortcomings. It is also necessary to ask God to supplement those shortcomings.
- God wants to help us, and He wants to help us more than we could ever imagine.
- God wants to help us accomplish things we couldn't accomplish on our own so that He will get the glory.
- Not even Jesus, who was God in the flesh, assumed He could go it alone. He asked God for help.

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What insecurities do you have around being a spiritual leader?
2. Does this insecurity show up elsewhere in your life?
3. Where in your life do you find it hard to admit you need help?
4. Have you ever had a time in your life where you know you wouldn't have made it through without God's blessing? What did that look like?
5. What blessing do you need to ask for from God in order to successfully be the spiritual leader of your home?

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### Chapter 5 - Living Out of Blessing

#### Key Scripture References

1 Kings 3:16-4:34; Matthew 19:13-15

#### Key Ideas

- It is important to use the blessings that God gives us to bless others.
- The more you press into a particular blessing, the stronger and more prominent it will become in your life.
- God's blessings will do two things: bring Him glory and fulfill the work that He wants to be done.
- Oftentimes, our biggest blessings and the best parts of ourselves come out of the darkest times in our lives. It's God's way of resurrecting the dead parts of our lives and redeeming the terrible things that have happened to us. He uses them to bring life and blessings to others.
- Jesus blessed others by praying for them, spending time with them, giving them good gifts, and serving them.

#### Discussion Questions

1. What is something you are uniquely equipped to care about and/or do something about because of a particular dark time in your life?
2. What are some ways you can bless the people in your family based on your answer to question 1?
3. Think of someone in your life who is really good at blessing you or others. What attributes do you see in them that you would like to emulate?
4. In addition to the examples in the chapter, what are some practical ways in which you can bless the people in your family as Jesus did for His followers?
5. Who else in your life can you begin to bless using what you learned from this chapter?

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### Chapter 6 - Spiritual Disciplines

#### **Key Scripture References**

**1 Kings 6, 8, 9:25; Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Matthew 28:18-20**

#### **Key Ideas**

- The point of spiritual disciplines is to get to know God better so that He can reveal Himself and His grace to us.
- When spiritual disciplines become something that we have to do, or we become legalistic about them, they actually begin to take us further from God. At that point, it would be better not to do them at all.
- The best way to succeed in a spiritual discipline plan is to make your plan possible and not overwhelming.
- As the spiritual leader of your home, it is your responsibility to implement spiritual disciplines into your family's lives.

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What experiences, positive or negative, have you had with spiritual disciplines in the past?
2. What are some spiritual disciplines, if any, that you have gotten a lot of value from?
3. Which spiritual disciplines seem intimidating or impossible to you? Why?
4. Which ideas or examples in the book helped you see spiritual disciplines from a different perspective?
5. Which spiritual disciplines are you most excited about implementing in your own life or your family's life? How can this group help or support you?

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### Chapter 7 - Fallout of Failure (& Conclusion)

#### Key Scripture References

1 Kings 9:6-9, 11

#### Key Ideas

- Our choices, good or bad, do not just solely impact us.
- No one escapes childhood without scars. In other words, not everything will go perfectly.
- Failure to lead your family at all, or so poorly that you end up leading them in the wrong direction, will maximize your family's wounds and scars.
- If we lead our families well, the benefits will affect generations.
- You are not enough on your own, but with God and the help of other strong men, you have what it takes to be the successful spiritual leader of your home.

#### Discussion Questions

1. How would you grade your father's spiritual leadership in your home? (A+ = He was great. F = He was completely absent.)
2. How did his spiritual leadership (or lack thereof) affect your life? Your mom's life? Your siblings' lives?
3. Knowing how his leadership affected you and your family (for good or bad), does this motivate you to be a successful spiritual leader of your home?
4. Thinking back through the whole book, what is the one big thing (or things) you learned that you will take with you as you start or continue your journey in the spiritual leadership of your home?
5. How can this group help or support you as you go forward?

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