

J. Josh Smith

THE TITUS TEN

FOUNDATIONS *for* GODLY MANHOOD



DISCUSSION GUIDE



THE TITUS TEN Discussion Guide

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The Titus Ten does not contain everything a man needs to know. *The Titus Ten* contains ten foundations upon which a man must build a godly life. We not only need these foundations in our own life; we need these foundations as we seek to raise up a new generation of godly men.

First, you need to read this book in the context of relationships. I want to plead with you not to read it alone. This book came to life in the context of a series of early morning men's Bible studies. The foundational truths from Titus radically change men most in the context of multi-generational groups, sharing the Word, sharing their stories, and sharing their hearts. Ideally, you would gather men for ten weeks to walk through *The Titus Ten* together. Ask a few men to walk through this book with you.

Second, read this book with a commitment to action. Every chapter is written not just to inform, but to activate. The goal of this book is to raise up a generation of godly men in the church. Men of action. Men of depth. Men of courage. Take the time at the end of each chapter to discuss with others the ways in which you can practically apply these things every week.

Finally, read this book with your eyes on Jesus. It is critical to remember that our pursuit of becoming a man is really a pursuit of a Man—the man Jesus Christ. We must discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness (1 Tim. 4:7–8). We must apply great effort to the cultivation of godly character and virtues (2 Pet. 1:5). We must be committed to continual and strenuous effort toward the calling God has placed on our life as a man and a Christian (Phil. 2:12–13). Becoming a godly man takes time, thought, attention, effort, and action.

INTRODUCTION

1. How have you seen the men of the church impact the church, both negatively and positively?
2. In what ways do you see the need for strong faithful men in the church? What kind of men are lacking? What kind are needed?
3. What do you see as the primary challenges in our culture that are keeping men from being the kind of men the church needs? In other words, what in our culture is working against us as men?
4. This week, think about what Bible character you identify with or want to be like. And no, you cannot say "Jesus." If you already know who it is, share it at the table. If not, come back next week ready to share it.

CHAPTER 1: DOMINION

1. How does the idea of dominion resonate with you? Do you sense that God has created you to work and keep?
2. What are the negative effects of men not taking dominion in our day? How are people suffering by the lack of godly dominion? Think about it in all four primary areas: flesh, church, family, and work.
3. Personally, in which of the four areas do you find it most difficult to walk in dominion? Why?
4. In what area do you feel like you need to be walking in more dominion right now? Be specific.

CHAPTER 2: GOSPEL

1. How have you personally seen the rippling effects of sin?
2. In what ways do you most see the brokenness of manhood in your own life?
3. In what areas do you feel most deficient as a man and how can the Gospel lead you out of that? Be specific.
4. Are you confident that you are a disciple, not just a member of the crowd?

CHAPTER 3: IDENTITY

1. What part of this chapter stirred your heart the most? Yes, be specific.
2. Have you ever experienced the curse of words? How has that affected you? Specifics!
3. How do you most often view God: Master, Father, Friend, or Lover? Which one is most difficult for you? Why?
4. How far have you moved in your relationship with Jesus? Meaning, have you only experienced Him as a master or have you experienced Him as a friend?

CHAPTER 4: ASSIGNMENTS

1. In your current season of life, what are some of your most important God-given assignments?
2. Which of those assignments are the most challenging for you? Why?
3. Honestly, where does church rank in the order of your priorities? How could you make it a greater priority?
4. Which of your assignments make you feel the most overwhelmed or inadequate? Why?

CHAPTER 5: AUTHORITY

1. Initial thoughts . . . What resonates with you about this chapter? Is this idea new to you?
2. Can you think of any specific ways in which you have seen the negative effects of passivity from men?
3. In what areas do you tend to be the most passive? Why? What keeps you from leading the way you should?
4. Walking in authority means standing, leading, and protecting. In what specific areas do you need to walk in more authority?

CHAPTER 6: CHARACTER

1. What men in your life have demonstrated manly character? What have you learned from them?
2. As you look at the character qualities of a man in Titus 1, in which areas do you feel most deficient? Did the Lord convict you of anything specific?
3. In what specific ways can you cultivate those areas of character in which you need to grow?
4. Are there any sins, habits, or character deficiencies that you are tolerating instead of working to overcome?

CHAPTER 7: DOCTRINE

1. Why is doctrine essential to your calling as a man? Be specific. How does the lack of doctrine effect you?
2. Are you spending regular time seeking to know God and His word better? Honestly. Why or why not?
3. What are your hindrances to growth in doctrine?
4. What specific steps will you take to begin to grow in doctrine?

CHAPTER 8: MISSION

1. Even though men were created for a mission, why is it so challenging for men to engage in the mission of God?
2. What is the biggest thing that keeps you personally from engaging in God's mission on a regular basis?
3. How can you specifically make the mission of God more of a priority in your life?
4. What practical steps can you take right now to engage in the mission of God?

CHAPTER 9: ZEAL

1. The word zeal can be misunderstood. Just to be clear, state the three parts of zeal given in this chapter.
2. Why does it matter so much that you be a person of godly zeal? Why do we need zealous men? What would be the result if we had them or did not have them?
3. Would your life be more characterized by lukewarm religion or white-hot passion?
4. What practical specific steps can you take to cultivate zeal? What needs to be added or removed in order to do this?
5. How can you better set the temperature in your home, workplace, or other relationships?

CHAPTER 10: INVESTMENTS

1. Have you ever had someone like a "Barnabas" in your life? How did that person invest in your life and what affect did that have on you?
2. Do you currently have anyone investing in you in a formal or nonformal way? Can you think of a specific person you would like to learn from or spend some time with? How could you initiate that?
3. Thinking about 2 Timothy 2:2, what personal experiences, knowledge, or skills do you believe God has entrusted to you that could be entrusted to others?
4. Is there anyone in your life who you feel you should invest in? What steps do you need to take to do that?
5. In what specific ways can you take what has been invested in you from *The Titus Ten* and invest it in someone else?