

**KINGDOM
MEN
RISING
TONY EVANS**

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DR. TONY EVANS is one of the country's most respected leaders in evangelical circles. He is a pastor, best-selling author and frequent speaker at Bible conferences and seminars throughout the nation.

Dr. Evans has served as the senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship for over 40 years, witnessing its growth from ten people in 1976 to now over 10,000 congregants with over 100 ministries.

Dr. Evans also serves as president of The Urban Alternative, a national ministry that seeks to restore hope and transform lives through the proclamation and application of the Word of God. His daily radio broadcast, The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans, can be heard on over 1,400 radio outlets throughout the United States and in more than 130 countries.

Dr. Evans holds the honor of writing and publishing the first full-Bible commentary and study Bible by an African American. The study Bible and Commentary went on to sell more than 225,000 in the first year.

Dr. Evans is the former chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys and the Dallas Mavericks.

Through his local church and national ministry, Dr. Evans has set in motion a kingdom agenda philosophy of ministry that teaches God's comprehensive rule over every area of life as demonstrated through the individual, family, church and society.

Dr. Evans was married to Lois, his wife and ministry partner of over 50 years until Lois transitioned to glory in late 2019. They are the proud parents of four, grandparents of thirteen and great-grandparents of three.

ABOUT THE URBAN ALTERNATIVE

The Urban Alternative (TUA) is a Christian broadcast and teaching ministry founded more than thirty-five years ago by Dr. Tony Evans. TUA seeks to promote a kingdom agenda philosophy designed to enable people to live all of life underneath the comprehensive rule of God. This is accomplished through a variety of means, including media, resources, clergy ministries, and community-impact training.

**KINGDOM
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HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM THIS STUDY

This Bible-study book includes eight weeks of content for group and personal study.

GROUP SESSIONS

Regardless of what day of the week your group meets, each week of content begins with the group session. Each group session uses the following format to facilitate simple yet meaningful interaction among group members, with God’s Word, and with the teaching of Dr. Evans.

START. This page includes questions to get the conversation started and to introduce the video teaching.

WATCH. This page includes key points from Dr. Evans’s teaching so that participants can follow along as they watch the video.

MAN UP. This page includes questions and statements that guide the group to respond to Dr. Evans’s video teaching and to relevant Bible passages.

PERSONAL STUDY

Each week provides three days of Bible study and learning activities for individual engagement between group sessions: “Hit the Streets” and two Bible studies.

HIT THE STREETS. This section highlights practical steps for taking the week’s teaching and putting it into practice.

BIBLE STUDIES. These personal studies revisit stories, Scriptures, and themes Dr. Evans introduced in the videos so that men can understand and apply them on a personal level. Men should use the other days of the week to reflect on what God is teaching them and to practice putting the biblical principles into action.

D-GROUP GUIDES

In addition to the group sessions and personal studies, D-Group guides are provided in the back of this Bible study book. These guides correspond to the eight weeks of study and are designed to be used in a smaller group of three or four men for deeper discussion and accountability. Each week includes a guide for smaller-group discussion. Each guide provides helpful thoughts on the week’s content and suggests a few questions for discussion by and accountability among the group.

TIPS FOR LEADING A SMALL GROUP

Follow these guidelines to prepare for each group session.

PRAYERFULLY PREPARE

REVIEW. Review the weekly material and group questions ahead of time.

PRAY. Be intentional about praying for each person in the group.

Ask the Holy Spirit to work through you and the group discussion as you point to Jesus each week through God's Word.

MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS

Create a comfortable environment. If group members are uncomfortable, they'll be distracted and therefore not engaged in the group experience. Plan ahead by considering these details, include seating, temperature, lighting, food and drink, and general cleanliness. Do everything in your ability to help people focus on what's most important: connecting with God, with the Bible, and with one another.

ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION

A good small-group experience has the following characteristics.

EVERYONE IS INCLUDED. Your goal is to foster a community in which people are welcome just as they are but encouraged to grow spiritually. Always be aware of opportunities to include any people who visit the group and to invite new people to join your group.

EVERYONE PARTICIPATES. Encourage everyone to ask questions, share responses, or read aloud.

Tips for Leading a Small Group

NO ONE DOMINATES—NOT EVEN THE LEADER. Be sure that your time speaking as a leader takes up less than half of your time together as a group. Politely guide discussion if anyone dominates.

NOBODY IS RUSHED THROUGH QUESTIONS. Don't feel that a moment of silence is a bad thing. People often need time to think about their responses to questions they've just heard or to gain courage to share what God is stirring in their hearts.

INPUT IS AFFIRMED AND FOLLOWED UP. Make sure you point out something true or helpful in a response. Don't just move on. Build community with follow-up questions, asking how other people have experienced similar things or how a truth has shaped their understanding of God and the Scripture you're studying. People are less likely to speak up if they fear that you don't actually want to hear their answers or that you're looking for only a certain answer.

GOD AND HIS WORD ARE CENTRAL. Opinions and experiences can be helpful, but God has given us the truth. Trust God's Word to be the authority and God's Spirit to work in people's lives. You can't change anyone, but God can. Continually point people to the Word and to active steps of faith.

KEEP CONNECTING

Think of ways to connect with group members during the week. Participation during the group session is always improved when members spend time connecting with one another outside the group sessions. The more people are comfortable with and involved in one another's lives, the more they'll look forward to being together. When people move beyond being friendly to truly being friends who form a community, they come to each session eager to engage instead of merely attending.

Encourage group members with thoughts, commitments, or questions from the session by connecting through these communication channels:

Emails / Texts / Social Media

When possible, build deeper friendships by planning or spontaneously inviting group members to join you outside your regularly scheduled group time for activities like these:

Meals / Fun Activities
Projects around Your Home, Church, or Community

And if you belong to Christ, then
you are Abraham's descendants,
heirs according to promise.

GALATIANS 3:29



WEEK 1
**CHOSEN FOR
THE CHALLENGE**

Share your experience *#KingdomMenRising*

KINGDOM MEN RISING START

Welcome to group session 1 of *Kingdom Men Rising*.

When building a house, what is the purpose of a foundation?

You've probably never heard someone compliment the appearance of a foundation before. No one brags about the quality of a foundation. We don't stand around together dropping lines like, "You should see my foundation! It's the prettiest foundation you'll ever see."

Foundations aren't meant to be pretty or showy; they're meant to be foundational—sturdy, solid, stable, and strong. In fact, men only talk about foundations when a problem arises that needs to be looked at and addressed.

What happens when a building is constructed on top of a faulty foundation?

God crafted men with a foundation in mind. Your role here isn't to draw attention to yourself or be as showy as you can be. God has placed men in pivotal positions in order to provide the support, stability, and strength needed to build healthy communities and families.

As a kingdom man, God has given you a purpose to live out, a divine design to fulfill. This session speaks to your unique calling to provide the foundational framework upon which your influence can rest and rise.

Ask someone to pray before watching the video teaching.

Chosen for the Challenge

WATCH

Use this space to take notes during the video teaching.

Video sessions available at Lifeway.com/KingdomMenRising or with a subscription to SmallGroup.com

KINGDOM MEN RISING MAN UP

Use the following questions to discuss the video teaching.

Read Genesis 18:19 together.

For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.

Genesis 18:19

Name some of the things God promised to Abraham.

When God called Abraham, He told him that He had chosen him. He promised to make Abraham's name great and his descendants many. He chose to bless Abraham in order to bless others (Gen. 12:1-3). God unleashed all of His promises upon Abraham so that ultimately, we might be blessed through our relationship with one of Abraham's descendants.

Read Galatians 3:29 together:

And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:29

What did Paul mean when he wrote you were an heir of Abraham "according to promise"?

In what ways can Abraham's promises get passed down to you?

What responsibilities do we have because of the promises that have been given to us?

Every man is a draftee in the kingdom of God. Once we accept Jesus Christ, He lays claim to us, and that means we have a post to hold. You have a position to play on a bigger team. We've been given a blessing that God expects us to pass on to others. In other words, we're a part of a kingdom team. We've been called to take our stand with God, for God, from God, about God, in a world that needs to know God.

Why does following God compel us to take a stand for God?

Describe one way you have taken a stand for God recently. What did you learn from that experience? How others were impacted?

The blessing God gives us is meant to extend beyond us. One way to take a stand for God is to intentionally inject your life into the lives of other men. This is done through discipleship. When we disciple someone, we replicate the work of God in us to others who will then invest in others. Through discipleship God's creates a plethora of kingdom men with whom the world must contend.

What are some common hesitations men have when it comes to committing to disciple someone else or be disciplined by someone else?

How do we sometimes rationalize "growing alone" in order to side-step the important calling of participating in discipleship?

Can you share a personal example of the result of having been disciplined at some point in your life, or disciplining someone else? If you do not have a personal example, share a hope you would expect to see as a result of men disciplining other men.

PRAYER

Father, make us men who are intentional about standing up for You and fulfilling the role You have for us. Help us be men of our word who lives as a solid foundation of truth, wisdom and grace so that others around us can thrive. Open up opportunities for us to disciple other men, and to also be disciplined as we seek to grow in spiritual maturity. In Christ's name, amen.



HIT THE STREETS

GOD'S MEET UP

Three times a year, God called the men of Israel to gather together and meet with Him through yearly festivals. Participating in the worship of God would define their identity and give them instructions for how to follow Him.

Three times a year all your males are to appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel. For I will drive out nations before you and enlarge your borders, and no man shall covet your land when you go up three times a year to appear before the LORD your God.

Exodus 34:23-24

God let the men know when they came before Him that if they were to follow His rules and come under His authority, then He would bless them, their families, and their nation. Specifically, God made three promises to protect them as they committed themselves to seeking the Lord. Let's take a deeper look at each of these three promises, and end each section with a couple of reflection questions for you to examine internally.

1 DRIVE OUT NATIONS BEFORE YOU

The promise to drive out nations before them was a promise of security. Enemy nations could only mean one thing: instability. While following God and seeking Him does not mean that our lives will always be easy, they will be secure in His grasp.

In what ways have you witnessed God bring stability and calm to your life as you follow Him?

Does stability from God mean that things around you are all stable too, or is it possible to be stable in an unstable circumstance? Explain why you answered as you did.

ENLARGE YOUR BORDERS

You have probably heard the term “enlarge your borders” in the familiar prayer of Jabez as well (1 Chron. 4:10). This is where a man named Jabez asked God to increase his influence. When God promises to enlarge a man’s borders, He is referring to that space in which you carry influence and impact. This could be talking about your business, relationships, civic roles, or ministry.

Why might God extend the influence of those who are faithful to Him?

How could you spread God’s goodness and rule in the places where God has given you impact?

ALLOW NO MAN TO COVET YOUR LAND

Sometimes it may not bother us if someone covets what we have. That’s why so many of us post pictures of what we have and how we look on social media. A little bit of coveting, or admiration, can feel welcome to our flesh. In these verses God was making a promise that when these men left their homes to attend festivals no one would take what belonged to them. For you it means that you can trust God with all that He has entrusted to you.

Describe a time when you lost something you worked hard to achieve or acquire, and how that loss impacted your view of life.

Why is it important to rest in the truth of God’s sovereign protection with regard to what He has given you? What is a consequence for those who do not rest in God’s protection?

BIBLE STUDY 1

JUMP, OR BE JUMPED

When you purchase a game of checkers, you'll notice that on the top of each piece is the insignia of a crown. That is because each checker was created to become a king.

A checker is crowned because it has successfully made it to the other side of the board. After that point it will have the right and authority to maneuver and function at a much higher level than it could prior to being crowned. However, the reality is most individual checkers will not successfully make it to the other end of the board to be crowned, because the opposition will jump them and knock them out of the game. Whether a checker achieves its created goal of being crowned as a king is fully determined by the moves made by the hand controlling it.

When God created men, He created them with a crown because each man was made to rule under the authority of God. However, ever since the first man, Adam, Satan has sought to "jump" men to keep them from fulfilling their kingdom purposes. He goes to great lengths to keep us from functioning in alignment with God so that our families, churches, communities, and nation experience the consequences and confusion of men living independently of God. In the game of life, when it comes to spiritual warfare, you need to go on the offense. You will either need to jump, or you will be jumped by Satan's attacks.

Read 1 Peter 5:8-9 and Ephesians 4:26-27 and answer the following questions.

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.

Ephesians 4:26-27

What are some ways we can resist Satan's attempt to "jump" us?

Why do you think God allows Satan to prowl like a roaring lion, seeking men to devour?

Describe in your own words what it means to live with a “sober spirit” and always “on the alert” for Satan’s schemes.

Satan is free to roam, within reason. God has Satan on a leash. Yet God will often allow Satan to tempt us as men, or wage warfare against us because it is in these times of testing that our true character is either formed or revealed.

The strength we need to successfully do battle with the devil is supplied by God (Eph. 6:10-11). That may seem obvious. But, judging from the way we treat this truth, it bears repeating.

Many of us tend to swing toward one of two extremes when it comes to the devil. Some men overestimate him. They become fearful and timid, lest Satan leap upon them. Others underestimate the devil. Yes, Satan is a defeated foe. But even though he is nothing more than a condemned death row inmate awaiting execution, it’s not wise to sleep in his cell.

Mark your own perspective of Satan on the chart where 1 means you overestimate him and 10 means you underestimate him:



Why is it critical to have a healthy understanding of Satan’s strategies and strengths in order to defeat him?

How should your understanding of Satan and his goals affect your decisions?

The inability to wage ongoing spiritual warfare over the enemy has kept too many men in a cycle of defeat, discouragement, confusion, rebellion, and addiction, to name a few.

KINGDOM MEN RISING

As a result, we face the spiritual, social, racial, and political chaos we are experiencing today. Too many men have become either neutered and domesticated or abusive and irresponsible, creating a society that is torn, tattered, and in utter dysfunction.

Yet, despite all we see around us, there remains hope. If God can get His men to rise up as the kingdom men He has created us to be—men who pursue an intimate relationship with Him while simultaneously representing Him in all we do—He will reverse the downward spiral of the culture. God is waiting on His kingdom men to rise to the challenge we were chosen for and accept the responsibility of reversing the decay and disunity that engulf us.

Just as the first Adam brought defeat to the human race, the last Adam, Jesus Christ, came to bring victory (1 Cor. 15:22). It's time for God's men, under the lordship of Jesus Christ, to change the trajectory of our culture as we submit ourselves to Him and His kingdom agenda.

God's Kingdom Agenda is "the visible manifestation of the comprehensive rule of God over every area of life." Rephrase this in your own words.

Give an example of submitting yourself to Christ and His kingdom agenda.

How might your submission enable you to defeat the enemy's plans in your life?

If, and when, God's kingdom men decide to rise up to fulfill our calling, we will see God heal our hearts, families, churches, and land. We will see victory over Satan and his strategies. This study is a clarion call to those men who long to see what God will do with the awakening of His own disciples who will then lead their families and infiltrate the culture as kingdom citizens. Once we learn how to wage our own battles in order to wear our own crowns, we can then be used by God to crown the next generation with kingdom values as well. We were chosen for this challenge by God.

Why is it important for a society to have a shared set of values and standards passed down from one generation to another?

Chosen for the Challenge

Read Judges 17:6 and answer the following questions.

In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.

Judges 17:6

What happens to a culture when values are left up to everyone's interpretation?

How have you seen this happen in today's contemporary culture?

How has this kind of individualism damaged the spread of God's kingdom?

List one practical thing you can do this week in your sphere of influence in order to guide others toward God's set standards. (Be creative, this could mean in your family, at work, at church, on social media or also in your prayer time).

Pray about one area in your life where you need to step up your game against Satan's schemes. Look for what the Bible calls "opportunities," or open doors that Satan is using to break into your life. Ask God how you can close these doors to the enemy. Also spend some time in prayer asking for God's wisdom regarding His standard for society, families, and individual lives. Ask Him to reveal where your standards are not up to par with His own, so that you can adjust and be in alignment with God's will.

BIBLE STUDY 2

CALLED TO BE A KINGDOM MAN

A kingdom man may be defined as:

A man who visibly and consistently submits to the comprehensive relationship and rule of God, underneath the lordship of Jesus Christ, in every area of life.

You can sum it up in one short statement: A kingdom man accepts his responsibilities under God and faithfully carries them out. When he is faithful, God moves even pagan powers and other forces on earth to support him in doing his kingdom business. When he is unfaithful, Satan steals the show. God has called every Christian man to be a kingdom man.

Dr. Evans uses the word “consistently” in the definition of a kingdom man, rather than “perfectly.” What does it look like to “consistently” live out a life of submission under God, especially in those times when you do fail or fall short?

Why is it spiritually dangerous to make excuses for your failures rather than accept responsibility for where you may have dropped the ball?

Consider a football team. When one player makes a mistake, it is common for that player to pat himself on his chest as a way of indicating that he knows it was his fault. It's a nonverbal way of saying, “Sorry guys, let's try again. That one was on me.” The other players will nod or pat him on his shoulder and encourage him to do better next time. This type of honest awareness and self-evaluation allows teams to stay connected as a team while pursuing a shared goal. Our goal is consistency, not perfection.

How does personal ownership of failure or mishaps impact others?

In what ways can you take greater personal responsibility for mistakes or issues in your own family? In your friendships?

Have you ever worked with someone, or had a relationship with someone, who consistently blamed someone else for his or her own dropped balls? What did this pattern do to the relationships around them?

God calls each of us to own our failures and be authentic about our mistakes. Living as kingdom men requires submission which is consistency coupled with humility. This type of spirit creates an atmosphere of mutual respect, transparency, and grace where great things can be accomplished for God, individually and collectively.

Every man has been created by God with a specific post to fulfill and a purpose to live out. He has scouted, pursued, and drafted for His kingdom team. Our culture wants to give men a whole slew of other reasons for being a man, but God created men for greatness in His kingdom.

Read Genesis 18:17-19a and Galatians 3:16,29, then answer the following questions.

The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him ..."

Genesis 18:17-19a

Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.

Galatians 3:16

And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

Galatians 3:29

Describe how it makes you feel to know that you are truly an heir according to the promises given to Abraham.

KINGDOM MEN RISING

How have you seen God bless others through you?

How would you like to see God bless others through you in the future?

Abraham's promise is ours through Jesus Christ. It's yours. Own it. Abraham's faith led to the blessing of untold millions for thousands of years after his death. Like Abraham, you are meant to pass your blessing onto others. To embrace God's promise naturally includes influencing all those around you. When you think of Tom Brady or Peyton Manning, you don't just think of somebody who played football. You think of someone who influenced the entire game of football, and their team. Why? Because they left their mark. Their mere presence elevated the players around them, and as a result, all were able to achieve more individually and collectively than many thought they ever would. We are to do the same.

Describe someone you know who "influences" and "elevates" the lives of others simply by who he is and what he does.

How can you position yourself to be used by God more so in "elevating" the lives of those within your sphere of influence to a greater degree?

I realize that many of you who have decided to participate in this Bible study may be at a place where you have made mistakes, you live with regret, or you have simply failed to maximize the gifts and skills God has given you. It could be that life hasn't been fair. You may want to embrace God's calling on your life, but you just don't know how you could possibly get there with all that is missing or messed up in your life.

If that's you, I want to remind you that success from God's perspective has more to do with heart than skill, just as success in football has more to do with effort than talent. Those who put in the work rise to the top. Those who arrive early and stay late create the historic stories with their games. Those who don't allow personal disadvantages to play out as disadvantages are the ones we later refer to as legends.

Chosen for the Challenge

Tom Brady didn't get drafted until the sixth round but he went on to win, ironically enough, six Super Bowl championships (at the time of this writing.) Brady didn't allow what people thought of him—by choosing him lower on the rung—determine the effort he puts in the game. This principle ought to ring true for kingdom men too. It is your willingness to show up in life day in and day out, be present in relationships, put forth the effort on the job, commit, give, apply diligence, study the Word, invest in others, and the like that will shape your own legacy of distinction. God loves to use those who want to be used by Him. He consistently blesses those who consistently pursue Him.

Show up. Be present. Stay consistent.

If you do those three things, you will leave a legacy of excellence. After all, legacy is the culmination of a million middle moments done well. It's not about that Hail Mary or kickoff return for a touchdown. It's the small things—the consistent conversations and wise choices that add up over time. That's what creates the heritage you leave behind.

Dr. Evans describes legacy as “the culmination of a million middle moments done well.” What practical steps can you take this week to focus more on the “middle moments” of life and investing in those around you?

Men, each of you are called to a life of greatness and purpose in God's kingdom. But greatness is created day in and day out when you show up and invest in the lives of others. It also requires that you be diligent in keeping your own spiritual muscles strong by seeking God above all else and embracing the calling and promises in His Word.

Pray for the discipline you need to live consistently as a kingdom man. Ask God to provide the structure in your life that will enable you to focus more fully on Him and His call for you. If you are in need of encouragement, take a moment to look around you and consider the impact you have had on others, for good and God's kingdom. If you are unable to recognize anything, ask the Spirit to reveal it to you. Then, build on that success every moment of every day moving forward.

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry. He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, You know.”

EZEKIEL 37:1-3



Become the man that Jesus is calling you to be.

Through an examination of landmark texts from the Bible and historical biblical figures, this Bible study will exhort you to exercise the God-given place in the home, community, and culture you were created for.



Kingdom Men Rising offers a Bible study experience that will give you a Kingdom understanding, vision, and perspective in crucial areas such as identity and responsibilities. Along the way, Dr. Evans shares practical steps on how to become a man who leads his world well.

This *Bible Study Book* provides biblical content, learning activities, group experiences for eight sessions, and additional study material for smaller discipleship groups.

- See manhood from God's perspective.
- Understand great men of the Bible and imitate their faith.
- Develop a biblical understanding of masculinity.
- Find practical encouragement for becoming a godly man.
- Gain a healthy understanding of God-honoring sexuality.
- Overcome addiction and other emotional setbacks.
- Become an active influence for the Lord in your home.
- Leverage your Kingdom authority to point others to biblical manhood.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

KINGDOM MEN RISING LEADER KIT

Includes resources for leading an eight-session group study: one *Bible Study Book*, one DVD with teaching videos from Tony Evans, and a code for access to digital video downloads.

DIGITAL CONTENT

An *eBook* and video teaching sessions are available at lifeway.com/kingdommenrising