

LEADING A FAMILY



FAMILY

workbook **kenny luck**

Being God's
man series

GET HEALTHY

LifeWay | Men

FAMILY

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How to Use This Study Guide

Welcome to an eight-week journey into understanding your role and responsibility as the spiritual leader to your wife and children. Before you get started, here is some helpful information about the different elements you'll encounter within the study:

KEY VERSES AND GOALS FOR GROWTH // Review these items as you prepare for each group meeting. They reveal the focus of the study for the week, will be referenced in Kenny's video message, and will be used in the Connect with the Word personal study time.

INTRODUCTION // This is designed to introduce your study for the week. You will want to read this before your group meets so you'll better understand the topic and the context for your time together.

PERSONAL TIME: CONNECT WITH THE WORD // Complete the Connect with the Word section before each small-group meeting. Consider this section your personal Bible study for the week.

GROUP TIME: REVIEW // The first question in this section is designed to provide you with an opportunity to talk about what God has been revealing to you in your personal time with Him during the past week. The second question is an icebreaker to help you ease into the study topic.

GROUP TIME: VIDEO TEACHING // This listening guide gives you an opportunity to fill in the blanks on important points as you view the video message from Kenny.

GROUP TIME: VIDEO FEEDBACK // This section is designed to facilitate follow-up discussion regarding what you heard from the video message and how you were affected.

GROUP TIME: CONNECT WITH THE GROUP // This portion of your weekly meeting will give you an opportunity to connect with the other men in your group by discussing truths from the Scriptures and the topic for the week and encouraging one another.

WRAP // This section serves as a conclusion to the group time and summarizes key points from your group meeting each week.

More Than A Provider

Being a good husband and father is not easy. In fact, for many of us it is easier to build a career than it is to build solid relationships in the home. Some of us are all thumbs when it comes to our families. And when we look at the alarming statistics on marriage and family, we see too many men jumping ship, abandoning the challenge, and destroying relationships in the process.

Most men know intuitively that there is a better way to do family life, but they just can't seem to execute the personal change required to make it happen.

The reality is that a struggling family man doesn't need a new wife, new kids, new diversions, or more money to resolve his family issues. He needs a new heart. The heart is the engine that drives character and fuels our interactions in the family. When a man feeds his heart with God's Word and takes steps to order his life around God's purposes, the ones who benefit the most are those closest to him.

Our wives and children find it easier to connect with men they respect. And we gain that respect by becoming godly men who live out God's purposes in front of our families. This is the first step in changing the way things look and feel in the home.

The responsibility of leading a family can be overwhelming. So much is at stake. But God has committed Himself to being our partner as we seek to lead our families. Our part is to seek His direction for us in His Word, ask for His power to implement the changes we need to make, and take the steps He calls us to take.

Our goal in this study is to stimulate personal reflection and honest dialogue with God and with other men about these matters. As you work through each session, look in the mirror at your own life and ask yourself some hard questions. Whether you are doing this study individually or in a group, realize that complete honesty with yourself, with God, and with others will produce the greatest results.

Our prayer is that you will be moved to embrace God's plan for your family and that you will experience His blessings as you risk going deeper in your faith.

Own It

“Take Ownership of Your Spiritual Journey”



According to a Barna survey examining faith behavior and perspectives, mothers outpace fathers in terms of spiritual activity and commitment. When it comes to spiritual perspectives, a majority of mothers said they have been greatly transformed by their faith, while less than half of fathers had shared this experience. Also, three-quarters of moms said their faith is very important in their life, while this view was true among just two-thirds of fathers. Mothers were also more likely than fathers to be born again Christians, to say they are absolutely committed to Christianity, and to embrace a personal responsibility to share their faith in Jesus Christ with others.¹

What are we going to tell God when our days on earth are over and we stand face to face with the One who made us stewards of our families? One thing is sure, God's not going to buy the lame excuses we tell ourselves—especially when He's offered to help us in every way.

The old cliché, “You can't give away what you don't have,” is especially true when it comes to spiritual leadership in the family. So the first step to being God's man in the family is simple: We must personally own our spiritual lives. And this week we'll talk about what that really means.

goals for growth

☐ Take responsibility for my own spiritual growth

☐ Commit to pursuing God's purposes for my life

☐ Live out my faith daily in front of my family

1. From “The Spirituality of Moms Outpaces that of Dads,” 7 May 2007, Barna Research Group Online, www.barna.org, Ventura, CA 93003.

KEY VERSES

¹⁰ *The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.*

¹¹ *But you, man of God, run from these things, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.*

¹² *Fight the good fight for the faith; take hold of eternal life that you were called to and have made a good confession about in the presence of many witnesses.*

¹³ *In the presence of God, who gives life to all, and of Christ Jesus, who gave a good confession before Pontius Pilate, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the command without fault or failure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ God will bring this about in His own time. He is*

the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords,

¹⁶ *the only One who has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light; no one has seen or can see Him, to Him be honor and eternal might.*

Amen. (1 Timothy 6:10-16)

[illegible]

CONNECT WITH THE WORD

THIS SECTION IS DESIGNED TO BE A PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY EXPERIENCE FOR YOU TO COMPLETE BEFORE YOUR SMALL-GROUP SESSION EACH WEEK. COME TO YOUR GROUP MEETING PREPARED TO SHARE YOUR RESPONSES AND PERSONAL APPLICATIONS. YOU MAY WANT TO MARK OR HIGHLIGHT ANY QUESTIONS THAT WERE PARTICULARLY MEANINGFUL TO YOU. BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR STUDY, READ THE SCRIPTURES ON PAGE 8.

1. What caused certain men to wander from the truth (v. 10)?
2. What contrast did Paul make between these men and Timothy, the “man of God”?
3. Why might Paul have asked Timothy to look back to the time he first committed his life to Christ?

4. What impact do you think this reflection had on Timothy's spiritual growth?

5. What do we learn from Jesus' example about taking ownership of our faith in God (vv. 13-14)? (See also John 18:33-37.) What did taking this stance involve for Jesus?

6. In what ways do you think Jesus' example helped Timothy sustain his motivation to be God's man rather than settling for a lesser commitment?

7. Does the promise of one day seeing Jesus Christ face to face (v. 14) increase your motivation to be God's man? Explain.

REVIEW

What are your expectations of this study?

What about learning to be the spiritual leader in your family most appeals to you? What difference do you hope it will make in your relationships in your family?

VIDEO TEACHING



BELOW YOU WILL FIND A LISTENING GUIDE THAT GIVES YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW IMPORTANT POINTS AS YOU VIEW THE MESSAGE FROM KENNY. WE'LL UNPACK THIS INFORMATION TOGETHER AFTER THE VIDEO.

Watch Video Session 1: "Own It" (12:16).

Why is owning a personal spiritual life such a big deal?

1. Your spiritual life _____ or _____ every relationship you have in the family.
2. Your spiritual life impacts your _____ in the home.
3. Your spiritual life impacts your ability to settle _____ within your family.

A strong spiritual life gives men the one key ingredient needed to make relationships healthy — _____.

IF YOU MISSED THIS WEEK'S VIDEO VISIT
[LIFEWAY.COM/LEADINGAFAMILY](https://www.lifeway.com/leadingafamily) TO GET CAUGHT UP.

VIDEO FEEDBACK



Kenny gives three reasons our personal spiritual life is important. Up to this point, how would you say your spiritual life has impacted your family relationships—positively or negatively?

When conflict arises in your family relationships, how would you say your spiritual life influences your actions and reactions? Explain.

CONNECT WITH THE GROUP

I (Kenny) remember sitting in a Dallas hotel room, staring at a picture of my little daughter, Cara, and thinking about the journal I was trying to keep for her because I was traveling so much. It was 9:00 p.m. and I was still in my business suit. I had been traveling Monday through Friday for the past five months. Deep down I knew that all my traveling was hurting my relationship with my wife and daughter. And it hurt me to miss so many precious moments with them. On the other hand, I was now solidly on the inside of the senior management team—something for which I had worked very hard. Nonetheless, after gazing down at my empty journal, I knew what I had to do.

“I can’t do this anymore,” I said into the phone. My boss listened and, after some reflection, said the company could accommodate my desire to be closer to home.

1. In your opinion, did I do the right thing? Why or why not?

2. When have you faced a similar situation? What did you do? What role did your faith play as events unfolded?

After my conversation with the vice president, what should have felt like a huge burden lifted from my shoulders felt like a huge demotion. *Hit the showers, Luck. You’re through with this company.* But deep down I knew that God was asking me to put my marriage and family first. I had to believe that.²

3. In what ways is the pursuit of wealth or a preoccupation with your job presenting a challenge to your spiritual growth these days?

4. In what ways do the challenges listed in 1 Timothy 6:10 negatively impact your ability to be the spiritual leader in your family?

5. In verses 13 and 14, Paul charged Timothy to keep Christ at the center of his life. Who is charging you to do the same?

Barna's research shows that mothers are more religiously active. In a typical week, mothers are more likely than fathers to attend church, pray, read the Bible, participate in a small group, attend Sunday school, and volunteer time to help a non-profit organization.³

6. At your funeral, how would you like your wife and children to remember you? Write down a few statements.

7. What can you do today to increase the likelihood that you'll be remembered this way?

There are many frustrated wives who have had to step up to fill the spiritual gap in their families. How badly do you desire to take charge of your spiritual journey? Take time to talk to God about that this week.

2. Stephen Arterburn and Kenny Luck, *Every Man, God's Man* (Colorado Springs: WaterBrook Press, 2003), 116-7.

3. From "The Spirituality of Moms Outpaces that of Dads," 7 May 2007, Barna Research Group Online, www.barna.org, Ventura, CA 93003.

WRAP

The more leadership women assume in spiritual matters in the home, the more spiritually isolated men become.

We men have been spiritually emasculated and have given over our mantle of leadership to our wives. We have so distanced ourselves from the center of spiritual life in our families that most men are surprised to learn that their wives actually *do* long for them to step up and lead.

Remember these key thoughts from this week's study:

- Mothers outpace fathers in terms of spiritual activity and commitment.
- We must personally own our spiritual lives.
- Our spiritual lives strengthen or weaken every relationship we have in the family.
- Women long for their husbands to step up and lead their families.

PRAY TOGETHER

God's men live out God's purposes ...

IN FRONT OF THEIR FAMILIES

More than ever, families are desperate for spiritual leadership. And that starts with the husband and father. This study will help men accept their calling to their families through discussion of topics such as taking ownership of their own spiritual journey, modeling a relationship with God, and fostering spiritual connections in the home. *Family: Leading a Family* could revolutionize not only the lives of men in your church, but also the lives of their wives and children—and impact generations to come.

The responsibility of leading a family can be overwhelming. There is much at stake. Maybe you never learned what it means to be the spiritual leader in your family. Or maybe it's just time for a recommitment to that calling. Wherever you fall on the continuum, *Family: Leading a Family* is the perfect place to dig in. Eight sessions include: Own It, Show It, Lead Her, Serve Her, Love Them, Have Fun, Work It Out, and Pour It On.

Being God's
man series

GET HEALTHY

A **GET HEALTHY** resource from
the **GET IN. GET HEALTHY.
GET STRONG. GET GOING.**
LifeWay Men Strategy.

Visit LifeWay.com/Men for more information.



Kenny Luck is president and founder of Every Man Ministries and co-author of the bestselling *Every Man, God's Man*. Kenny is also the men's pastor at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA. Learn more about Kenny and the ministry at everymanministries.com.

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Bible study

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encourage men to grow
healthy together

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relationship with a woman

ENCOURAGES men
to victory through
accountability

GETS MEN HEALTHY
as they follow a
spiritual pathway to
Christlikeness

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