

ARE YOU WILLING TO TRUST GOD WITH EVERYTHING?



RISK

workbook **kenny luck**

God's man
series

GET STRONG

LifeWay | Men

RISK

ARE YOU WILLING TO TRUST GOD WITH EVERYTHING?



kenny luck

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About the Author

KENNY LUCK is the Men's Pastor at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, where over 7,000 men are connected in small groups. He is also the Founder and President of Every Man Ministries which helps churches worldwide develop and grow healthy men's communities.

He is an ECPA Platinum Award Winning Author, who has written and coauthored 20 books, including *RISK*, *DREAM*, *FIGHT*, *SOAR*, *Every Man*, *God's Man*, *Every Young Man*, *God's Man*, and the *Every Man Bible Studies* from the best-selling *Every Man Series*.

Kenny is a trusted expert on men's issues. In addition to logging over 2 million miles in the air to speak to audiences, he has made numerous radio and television appearances that include ABC Family, Christian Broadcasting Network, and over 100 other radio and television programs worldwide. He has been a featured contributor to *Sermon-central.com*, *Christianleader.com*, Rick Warren's *Ministry Toolbox*, *New Man*, *Men of Integrity*, *The Journal*, *Home Life*, *Walk Thru the Bible*, and *Young Believers Magazine*.

So what does he think about all his private and personal achievements?

"None of this matters if my wife and children don't respect me as a man, husband, and father. ... They are my first ministry, and respect by others is meaningless without theirs. My relationships with them are the acid test of my life and ministry. So many parts of me are still broken but God is healing me every day and I wake up every day in awe that His kingdom has come to me and comes through me. Every day I ask myself: "How did I get here?" When I speak I ask myself constantly, "What am I doing here?" or "How do I get to do what I do?" Absolutely none of it makes sense outside the grace of God because I should not be alive."

Kenny is a graduate of UCLA where he met his wife, Chrissy. They have three children, Cara, Ryan, and Jenna and live in Trabuco Canyon, California.

Praise for *Risk*

“I’ve always been an adrenaline junkie, so *Risk* instantly appealed to me. This book goes beyond the interesting and engaging descriptive stories to provide much needed prescriptive insight to enable men to live more boldly and powerfully. If you’re up for being challenged in significant ways, read this book.”

— Mark Sanborn, *president of Sanborn and Associates Inc. and author of The Fred Factor: How Passion in Your Work and Life Can Turn the Ordinary into the Extraordinary*

“Shocking are the Scripture’s stories of men that took risks! So are the modern-day accounts of men changing the world for God by taking risks. And then there’s you ... Are you risking it? This is a man’s book for men—men of God ready to rip into the ends of the age. Dive into *Risk*!”

— Dr. Wayne Cordeiro, *senior pastor of New Hope Christian Fellowship Oahu and author of Doing Church as a Team and Culture Shift*

“*Risk* is a book for men. It challenges us to faith, courage, and commitment. Kenny Luck tells the inspiring stories of men who risked everything to follow God. Don’t miss this exciting and riveting challenge. It will stir your soul to action.”

— Dr. Jerry Falwell, *Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia*

“I always want to know if the author of a book exemplifies what he has written. Kenny Luck certainly does! He has taken the risk to leave what seemed more comfortable and secure in order to follow God’s call in his life. *Risk* invites men everywhere to do the same. It is a book that is not afraid to confront the realities, to challenge the heart, and to celebrate the joy that are a part of the risk of faith.”

— Tom Holladay, *teaching pastor at Saddleback Church and author of Foundations: 11 Core Truths to Build Your Life On*

"Risk is a must-read for any man seeking significant change in his life. This book has great depth and momentum. Kenny Luck clearly communicates the message of what it means to completely sell out to God. Thank you Kenny. I pray that all men everywhere will take the risk and trust God for everything."

— Davey Buhl, director of men's ministry at Christ Church at Grove Farm

"Risk is my kind of book, and Kenny Luck is my kind of guy. Jesus lived risking everything, and this book inspires you and me to live like Jesus lived and to do what Jesus did. Warning: Risk is for the courageous, not cowards. Be bold! Buy Risk! Live it!"

— Walt Kallestad, author of *Entrepreneurial Faith; A Passionate Life; The Passionate Church; and Turn Your Church Inside Out*; and senior pastor of Community Church of Joy in Glendale, Arizona

"Kenny brings a fresh challenge to every Christian man by stepping up and accepting the risks of speaking out for God. As a pastor, I get the joy of seeing how this message lives out weekly through our men at Saddleback Church. It's not theory, but real! Kenny's passion and calling is making a difference!"

— Doug Slaybaugh, president of Purpose Driven

"Risk challenges the heart of the many issues that men are dealing with today. Kenny has done a thorough job of meeting men where they are and giving us a game plan to be men of God. I highly recommend that all men read Risk and allow the encouragements to saturate their lives."

— Greg Surratt, senior pastor of Seacoast Church

Introduction

BEFORE WE BEGIN, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT FIND INTERESTING WHAT SOME OTHERS HAVE SAID ABOUT RISK AND RELATED SUBJECTS:

The greatest risk is the risk of riskless living. — Stephen Covey

Creativity requires the courage to let go of certainties. — Erich Fromm

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. Security does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than exposure. — Helen Keller

A rut is nothing but a grave—with both ends kicked out. — Vance Havner

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.
— Mark Twain

In skating over thin ice, our safety is in our speed. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

'Tis better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all.
— Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Restlessness and discontent are the first necessities of progress.
— Thomas A. Edison

Well, that's a hearty meal of food for thought!

It's obvious that the topic of risk stirs the mind and senses. Throughout history, people have longed to test the limits, to push the boundaries of personal courage, to face the unknown, to lock the door and leave the comfort zone, to leap and trust God for a safe landing.

The early church knew many big risk takers. You will recall "Barnabas and Paul—men who ... risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 15:25-26).

Then there was a fellow, not as well known, perhaps, named Epaphroditus. This is what the apostle Paul said about him: "Welcome him with Christian love and with great joy, and be sure to honor people like him. For he risked his life for the work of Christ" (Philippians 2:29-30, NLT).

I want to be known as a risk taker for God. The heartbeat quickens when we face our fears and take action for a great and noble cause. We were made for such a life, to follow in the footsteps of the supreme risk taker of all, the One who defines sacrifice and glorious guts—Jesus Christ.

Here's something He said about His own riskiness: "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks and lays down His [own] life for the sheep" (John 10:11, AMP).

Jesus once said to His first disciples, who had freaked out when He went walking on the water: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid" (Matthew 14:27).

That's how we will do this—become God's men ready to risk it all for the only cause that really matters.

Are you ready for some risk? Me too.

The Risk Experience

WELCOME TO AN EIGHT-WEEK JOURNEY INTO RISK! HERE'S HOW THE STUDY WORKS:

INTRODUCTION // Each session begins with a narrative overview of the weekly topic. You will want to read this to set the stage for your personal study and to establish context for your time with the group.

PERSONAL STUDY // If you want to grow in faith and find out what it means to risk your life for the cause of Christ, you will enjoy unpacking this challenging material and applying it to your own journey as God's man. Each session in this workbook contains four or five short personal study sections for you to read and journal about during the week leading up to your group meeting. You may choose to do one per day or settle in for a Saturday morning retreat. The pencil icons will guide you to study questions and remind you to journal in the side column. You'll notice that the last personal study section is always identified as Risk Management. Risk Management includes the key Scripture you'll want to memorize that week as well as space to both reflect upon and respond to the session's themes.

MAN TO MAN // This section is especially for you and an accountability partner. Taking part in this opportunity for accountability is probably the best way to benefit from this study. Each week, both you and your partner will do your personal study of the session material. Then you will get together to discuss the content and work as a team on some one-on-one questions and exercises. This accountability process is further explained on pages 12-13 as it is so important to your iron-sharpening-iron journey toward becoming a God's man.

GROUP STUDY // Men appreciate getting together to hear each other's opinions, share some laughs, study the Word, encourage one another, and pray. Each week, your small-group time will begin with a review to get everyone on the same page. Next, you'll watch a video message from Kenny Luck and interact with questions for group discussion. (Discussion will be best if everyone has completed the personal study.) You'll wrap each meeting up by going over ways to get ready for next week and praying together.

ADDITIONAL ENCOURAGEMENT

This book includes ample space for you to write your answers, comments, and questions. A Notes page follows the end of each session. This is where you can write any ideas, conclusions, challenges, and personal insights that you found meaningful that week.

No matter how you use this workbook, you will have abundant opportunities to go deeper in your faith and realize the rewards of becoming a risk taker for God. However, you will experience the maximum results if you participate in every element: personal study, man-to-man time, and group study.

This study is designed to cover an eight-week time frame. However, if it takes you longer to complete the study personally or as a small group, take all the time you need. It is not unusual for a group to spend two or three meetings completing one lesson. Always go for depth over distance.

One last thing: Before you begin each session, commit your time to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind, guide your heart, and energize your spirit as you read each section and answer each question. Above all, adapt this study so that it truly works for you. This is your invitation to know God better, your opportunity to explore what a more passionate and risky devotion to God means.

Man to Man

SINCE I WANT YOU TO START NOW GETTING INVOLVED IN A HEALTHY ACCOUNTABILITY RELATIONSHIP WITH AT LEAST ONE OTHER MAN, HERE I WILL DESCRIBE THE ELEMENTS OF SUCH A RELATIONSHIP.

SPACE INVASION. What does aggressive accountability (what I describe as space invasion) look like? When I have been placed by God in community with another man for the purposes of spiritual growth and have his permission and willingness to be accountable, I need to emphasize the same things Paul did with every man: “We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me” (Colossians 1:28-29, NASB).

LET’S LOOK AT EACH OF THESE ELEMENTS IN ORDER:

PROCLAMATION. Space invasion is an outreach to another man. It is evangelistic in the sense that we are reaching out to another brother in Jesus’ name and for His sake, not our own. More simply, Christ is front and center in the accountability relationship. The filter through which advice is given, problems are resolved, and issues are settled is Jesus Christ. Above all, the relationship expresses a commitment to Him and His will. “Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17).

ADMONITION. Space invasion is filled with gentle and firm warnings against evil. Notice I didn’t say slow warnings. When there is a moral, sexual, relational, financial, or spiritual temptation, we come out strongly based on God’s Word. We don’t have to be loud; God’s Word will do the piercing and the cutting to the heart of a man. We are on patrol and watching the bushes for enemy movement from within and without. We do spiritual warfare together.

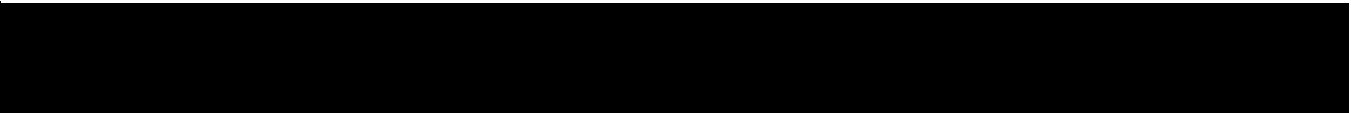
EDUCATION. Space invasion is all about learning spiritually from another man or “teaching every man in all wisdom.” Each person has his unique strengths and weaknesses, and we mutually offer and receive those in order to be stronger God’s men. Jesus stated very clearly that God’s man is to be about the business of “teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20) for as long as we have got a pulse. What we receive from God spiritually (insight, wisdom, spiritual gifts) we are to give away to other men.

PRESENTATION. Space invasion is all about pushing a man to live out his values. In a sense, Paul says that he puts his spiritual investments (other men) on display for people to see. He says that proclamation, admonition, and education are for a distinct purpose: “so that we may present every man.” The guys close to him are proudly displayed men of character. Each reflects the time, effort, and personal training he has invested. That’s why space invaders—godly guys who love the Lord and you so much that they just won’t pull punches—are so important. They’re the men who push hard on the issue of spiritual integrity and being undivided about what we say and what we do. When you’re a space invader, your men are walking billboards of your efforts. You will not let them fail on your watch if you can help it.

COMPLETION. Space invasion is about canvassing every domain of a man’s relationship with God and with people. The end game is full maturity—completeness in Christ. We want our accountability partner to be mature, lacking nothing in his moral, marital, spiritual, and family life. We seek the full development of God’s purposes by watching his connection to other men (fellowship). We ask about his time spent with Jesus through prayer, confession, and Scripture intake (discipleship). We discern his heart for and love for Jesus (worship). We encourage him to continue to develop and use his spiritual gifts to minister to other believers (service). We make sure he is seeking out opportunities to tell someone else what Christ has done in his life (evangelism).

Risk Taking





I think that every man, at heart, wants to be a risk taker. And as we will learn together through study of this workbook, the greatest risk opportunity of all is to be a sold-out follower of Jesus Christ.

Risk is in the DNA of every man, put there by God and for God. You may have misplaced it, neglected it, or misused it, but it is time to get it back. It is time to do something great for God with it right now.


Just how do we do that? How do we get from where we are in our walk with Christ to where we want to be? Let's find out together!

IT DOESN'T WORK
TO LEAP A TWENTY-
FOOT CHASM IN TWO
TEN-FOOT JUMPS.
—AMERICAN PROVERB

ON THE NEXT FEW PAGES, YOU'LL FIND SEVERAL PERSONAL STUDY SECTIONS TO READ AND THINK ABOUT BEFORE YOUR GROUP MEETING. YOU ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND JOURNAL IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.

Risky Commitment

What do you think playing it safe means in the context of a man's life?

Predictability. Control. Safety. Comfort. I hate to say it, but I think too many Christian men are missing out on the only adventure that really counts in life—walking with God and carrying out His plans for the advancement of His cause here on the earth. We are supposed to be like Jesus, right? Would you describe Him as a guy who played it safe? 

Why do you think so many Christian men seem to play it safe in their relationship with God?

Like all God's men, the first disciples had their own "Oh, wow" moments with Christ. Each was on a journey to fulfill God's purposes for his life. Aware of this, Jesus knew He had to address the whole issue of risky commitment if the disciples were to succeed in their mission after He'd conquered the cross. He was direct and uncomfortably honest.

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. Matthew 11:12


If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Matthew 16:24


If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:26

Boys Will be Boys

Nobody had to teach me how to take risks when I was a boy. I just naturally seemed eager to push the edge as I played.

I particularly found my big, goose-bump thrills while jumping. Tension. Unpredictability. Letting go. Adrenaline. Oh yeah, baby. Jumping off of things is in our DNA. It took me about two seconds to come up with my short list of things I loved jumping off: the roof into a cold pool; trampolines; the swings; a pogo stick to Billy Joel music, 857 times in my parents' garage; over Calabasas Creek with my yellow Schwinn; into mischief for the simple thrill of it.

Our fathers (or mothers) looked at us and said, "What were you thinking?" We said, "I don't know." And that was the truth: there was no explanation! We were boys. We were stretching the limits of our courage, testing the limits of our abilities, risking injury for the rush of what was on the other side of the experience. We lived for that freedom and risked life and limb naturally. 

It's not just general risk-taking that seems to diminish as a boy grows and becomes a man. There can be a decline in jumping spiritually, too. After starting strong with Christ, too many men lose their spiritual passion and often get distracted by other loyalties and priorities. 

As I work with men all over the world, they tell me about their battles to break through the inner spiritual barrier of total loyalty to Jesus Christ. Whether it's soldiers e-mailing me from war or guys in my own congregation, they all lament disloyalty to their King and are frustrated by their lapses in spiritual

What are some things you remember doing as a boy that were a little risky?

Was there a point in your growing up when you started taking fewer risks? Why do you think that happened?

Why do you think God set such high standards for His children, for example, asking us to “be holy in all [we] do”?

loyalty. It eats at them that they cannot seem to break through and enter that new realm of spiritual life and loyalty that noble men of God possess in abundance.

Are there areas in your life where you struggle to stay loyal to the standards Christ has set? If so, list them. Remember, this is your workbook and this is not a test. Be honest with yourself.

The gaps in their lives lead many men to make the fatal mistake of lowering the bar of God’s Word so as not to be on the hook for strong passages like, “Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do” (1 Peter 1:15). In our shame, we desensitize our spirits to His voice, become critical of others who are succeeding, and, in the process, sink to new spiritual lows. 📌

All God’s men are called to break through the spiritual loyalty barrier and move from a fragile and fickle heart commitment to a fierce loyalty to Christ.

Spiritual Turbulence

At this point in your life, what would you say are your top five priorities for yourself?

I believe that our loyalties drive our priorities, and those priorities drive our choices. And those choices determine how committed we become in our relationships with God and others. 📌

Look at the list you just made. Consider how each of these priorities enhance or detract from your loyalty to Jesus Christ.

Chuck Yeager was the famous test pilot who was the first man to crack the sound barrier by achieving supersonic speed. As his plane increased its air speed to a subsonic level just before the breaking of the sound barrier, the aircraft experienced significant turbulence. Likewise, I believe something similar happens to us spiritually as we increase our loyalty to Christ and take more aggressive action on His behalf.

In our quest to experience the power and freedom that total loyalty to Jesus provides God’s men, we are bound to encounter

problems, obstacles, challenges, and doubts about ever being free of our sinful and dark desires. Chuck Yeager's physical journey is a lot like our own spiritual one, peppered with passion for God mixed with doubts about ourselves, turbulent spiritual forces, and unforeseen obstacles. 📌

Can you recall any times when you felt challenges or opposition as you sought to increase your level of loyalty to Jesus? List several examples.

What do you consider your toughest obstacles to passionately pursuing God?

Taking Risks for God

There are four principles that I think any man who wants to follow God with all his heart needs to embrace. So that each principle is easy to remember, each begins with a letter from the word RISK.

Right view of God

Identity settled

Sacrificial mentality

Kingdom advance


Let's briefly review each principle, then we'll unpack the meaning so that you can make sure each of these principles is alive and well in your life.

Right View of God

Our down-in-our-gut view of God determines so much of what we think, how we act, and who we really are. Is God sovereign or not? Does God know everything or not? Is He present everywhere at all times or not? Is it possible to have a personal relationship with God or not? Is God good and kind or not? Our answers to these questions are important. A. W. Tozer wrote: "Were we to extract from any man a complete answer to the question, 'What comes into your mind when you think about God?' we might predict with certainty the spiritual future of that man."

Jesus knew God and knew precisely what He thought of God.
That’s why it says in the New Testament:

They came to him and said, “Teacher, we know you are a man of integrity. You aren’t swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.” Mark 12:14

Here’s a great exercise to define your personal viewpoint: In 100 words or less, write out your personal statement of who God is: 

What parts of your personal definition of God could use elaboration or more study?

Identity Settled

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 1 Timothy 6:11-12

Paul knew that the quickest and most effective way to pull greatness out of his pupil Timothy was to remind him of who he really was. He might be tempted to pretend to be someone else, but Timothy was God's man—that was his identity. His mentor knew that his identity shaped his loyalty and that loyalty is what drives our choices. In Timothy's life it meant fleeing inconsistent identities, fighting hard for what he believed, and being loyal to his calling as God's man. 📝

Sacrificial Mentality

If we walk obediently with Christ, inevitably we will find ourselves sacrificing and suffering for His way of living and His cause. This is a good thing, though, not some hardship that should cause us to grit our teeth and whine, "Why me?" Check out this passage of Scripture:

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. Hebrews 2:10-11

Most men, when they meet a man they don't know, will not wait too long to ask, "What do you do?" Why do you think men are so interested in knowing what someone else does?

How much of your impression of your identity, value, and importance is based on your job or career?

In what areas (personal, family, career, social, church) of your life do you feel you are firmly established or identified as God's man?


In what areas do you need to become better identified as God's man?

In our culture today, why does the idea of self-sacrifice seem like such a difficult—even negative—experience?

Since God lives in you and calls you a son, He will make you perfect, too, by calling you to self-sacrifice. Really—what a great honor! A benefit of this is that sacrifice for Christ is what unites us most deeply with Christ. That's why the apostle Paul wrote, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings" (Philippians 3:10).


Recall a time or two when you were very aware that you were making a sacrifice for Jesus. What were these experiences like? How did you feel about your relationship with Christ during these times?

Few of us will be called to give our lives. But millions of us will be called to sacrifice our wills for His will, material wealth for spiritual wealth, earthly recognition for heavenly recognition, carnal appetites for godly appetites, career dreams for God's dream, corporate ladders for family health, and convenient compromise for spiritual integrity. Sacrifice and loss for the sake of our faith is what connects the God-Man and God's man.


Risking for God is synonymous with sacrificing for God, and it is not a burden; it is a privilege as God's man. It is a special bond we share with Christ and part of our worship. We lay our lives on the altar so He can use us mightily for His work. 

Kingdom Advance

How would you answer the question, What is the kingdom of God?

Our final RISK principle puts it all together as we work to advance the kingdom of God. It's time to invest in something you can't take with you but something you can send ahead to eternity. It's time to get busy building the kingdom of God right where you live, in your local church, and in your world. It's time to start thinking outside the box and dreaming—dreaming big, God-sized dreams. 

The kingdom doesn't need more religious guys. It requires more big, hairy, audacious dreamers.

The kingdom mentality is not for the spiritually timid; it is for the man of war. And it is about winning—souls, communities, people in desperation, countries in darkness, and all the particular battles of your world. It's about winning men you know to join forces and affect the course of history. 

I cannot think of any rush or high more exhilarating, demanding, and ultimately fulfilling than laying it all on the line for Jesus! Won't you join me in living a life of risk?

Why do you think a kingdom mentality is not for the spiritually timid?

How do you believe God has called you to take risks in being a kingdom builder?

Risk Management

In this section, I want you to spend a few minutes summarizing what we have covered. An important part of living a sold-out life for Christ is to grasp the meaning of the Word of God and capitalize on its power—just like Jesus did throughout His life on earth. I urge you to memorize the key verse each week, which will always be highlighted under the Remember heading.

Remember

[Jesus] called his disciples and the crowds to come over and listen. "If any of you wants to be my follower," he told them, "you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me. If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will find true life."

Mark 8:34-35, NLT

Reflect

In this session's Remember Scripture, Jesus says that if we want to follow Him, we need to do three things. They are:

_____ your selfish ambition
_____ your cross
_____ Jesus

Rate yourself in each of these three areas on a 1 to 10 scale: 1 meaning, "I'm failing horribly" to 10 meaning, "I'm world class at this."

_____ putting aside selfish ambition
_____ shouldering your cross
_____ following Jesus

How might you improve your rating on each of Jesus' requirements for being His disciple?

Respond

In the next week, find one thing to do for someone else that will cause you to sacrifice something and advance the kingdom of God. Write here what you plan to do and how you will do it.

Becoming a fully effective God's man requires you to have an honest, strong accountability relationship with at least one godly man. In each session I will list several questions for you to ask each other—ideally at a time when you get together each week to find out how life is going, to feast on the Word, and to pray.

Take turns asking each other these questions:



How do you see yourself—are you a person who takes a lot of risks, or are you more cautious? Why do you think that is?



In what part of your Christian life do you think you should take more risks?



Share personal needs and requests, and pray for each other.

REVIEW

Welcome to our group time for Risk Taking! Hopefully you are looking forward to sharing life with other men and growing deeper in your walk with Christ. Here are a few questions to help us prepare for the study:

When you hear the term “God’s man” what definition or description comes to mind?

What are your personal goals for this study? What do you hope to learn about yourself or God and His kingdom?

If possible, describe a friendship you have had that resulted in both people being made stronger. What were some of the characteristics of the relationship?

VIDEO TEACHING



In this video teaching session, Kenny talks about taking risks. Listen carefully as he reminds us of the importance of stepping out boldly in our pursuit of God. We'll unpack this together after the video.

Watch video Session 1: "Risk Taking" (25:00)

- The risk you take for God will never outperform your _____ of God.
- With an _____ comes responsibility.
- My risks for God are _____ when my identity is firmly rooted in God.
- We are never more like Christ than when we are risking our _____ in Christ.

IF YOU MISSED THIS WEEK'S VIDEO
VISIT [LIFEWAY.COM/RISK](https://www.lifeway.com/risk)
TO CATCH UP.

VIDEO FEEDBACK



Review your notes from the video teaching and answer the following questions together.

1. Kenny described a time when his daughter dared to take a risk. **Can you remember helping someone likewise challenge themselves or face a daunting task? Describe this time and what God may have shown you through the experience.**
2. Kenny said, "Your identity in God helps you take risks for God." **Why do you think identity and risk are inexorably linked?**
3. Acts 1:8 says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses." **How does Kenny use this verse to describe the relationship between what God does in a man and what He does through him?**

SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Here are four actions that involve high risk: skydiving, whitewater kayaking, rock climbing, deep-sea diving. Which of these makes your stomach the most weak? Why?
2. Do you agree that “risk is in the DNA of every man”? Explain.
3. Why do you think Jesus selected “selfish ambition” as the first issue that His followers needed to address?
4. What thoughts would’ve run through the mind of a first-century man who heard Jesus say that any follower of His had to “shoulder [his] cross” (Mark 8:34)? (Clue: Check out the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*.)
5. Share examples of how a modern God’s man might figuratively lose his life.
6. What do you think Jesus meant by the term “true life”?
7. Describe a time when you felt most alive. How might this experience motivate you to share Christ with other men?

WRAP

Here’s what needs to happen before the next small-group meeting:

- Complete your personal study of session 2.
- Meet with your accountability partner.
- Accomplish the Risk task under Respond in the Risk Management section on page 39.
- Record any of your observations as you journal.

PRAY TOGETHER.

[illegible]

ARE YOU WILLING TO TRUST GOD WITH EVERYTHING?

PREDICTABILITY. CONTROL. SAFETY. COMFORT. JESUS CHALLENGES GOD'S MAN TO THROW THEM OUT THE WINDOW. WHY? BECAUSE ELIMINATING RISK FROM LIFE ACTUALLY CRIPPLES SPIRITUAL PROGRESS.

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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.

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ENCOURAGES accountability to establish a pattern for spiritual victory

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