

10-SESSION BIBLE STUDY FOR TEEN GUYS

J. Josh Smith

# THE TITUS TEN

Bible Study  
for **TEEN  
GUYS**

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR GODLY MANHOOD



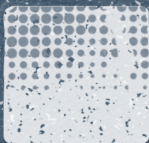


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# About the Author



**J. JOSH SMITH** is the pastor of Prince Avenue Baptist Church in Athens, Georgia. He is the author of *Preaching for a Verdict* and *The Titus Ten* and co-author of *Exalting Jesus in Psalms 1–50* in the Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary series. He and his wife, Andrea, have four daughters and one son.



# How to Use This Book

This Bible study for individuals and small groups provides a framework to study what it takes for young men to grow into godly manhood. Over the course of ten weeks, we will explore ten foundations of biblical manhood and provide simple, practical guidance for students to carry with them. Through this study, we will see the kind of men God is growing our students to be.

## GROUP TIME

Each session of content begins with group time, regardless of what day of the week your group meets. Each group session uses the following format to facilitate simple and meaningful interaction among guys and with God's Word.

### START

Each group session begins with a few questions that are designed to help you introduce the session's topic and to encourage guys to engage with Scripture.





## DISCUSS

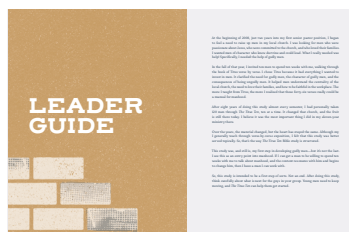
This section is the main component of each group session, with content and questions that are designed to facilitate discussion around the session's topic. The goal is to better understand God's heart for young men and help students apply the biblical teaching to their lives.

## PERSONAL TIME

The group times and personal studies are complementary. Each group session is followed by five days of personal time to help students think biblically about the session's topic. With biblical teaching and thoughtful questions, this content challenges young men to grow in their understanding of God's Word and to respond in faith and obedience.

## LEADER GUIDE

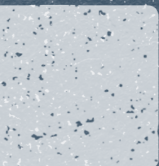
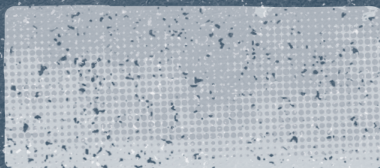
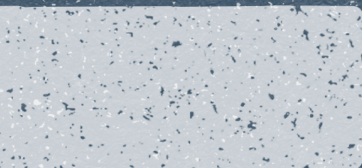
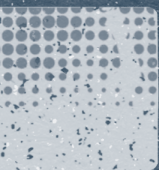
In the back of this resource, you will find a guide for potential ways to use this resource. Josh has taught this study over many years in several formats. See the leader guide for proven ways to lead this study, and use this information to decide what works best for your group.





**Week 1**

# DOMINION



# Group Time

## START

*Welcome to Week 1 of The Titus Ten.*

*Use this page to get the conversation going.*

Each week, we are going to discuss one foundational aspect of what it means to be a godly young man.

When you think about what it means to be a man, what images come to mind? Use your phone to show us a picture of what you think a real man looks like. (If you don't have a phone, draw a picture or list characteristics that define a real man.)

So, what does it mean to be a man?

What is your definition based on?

To understand the kind of man God wants you to become, you must understand the kind of young man God *created* you to be. That means the journey to manhood must begin with the creation of man. Almost everything you need to know about manhood has been clearly stated in the first two chapters of the Bible.

In Genesis 2, we get a picture of God's original intentions for manhood. But the picture doesn't last long. Starting in Genesis 3, most of the remainder of the Bible shows how God's original intentions have been distorted. Since we see the distortions throughout the pages of Scripture—as well as in every man around us—we tend to focus more on the distortions than on God's intentions. But our goal is not to tear you down; it's to build you up. We are trying to lay a foundation on which to become a godly man, and to do so, we must begin with God's original intentions.



## DISCUSS

*Use these pages to facilitate group discussion.*

Before we begin, let's talk about the word *dominion*. Dominion means having the authority and responsibility to care for something. In this session, we'll see how you have dominion over some things today and will have dominion over some things in the years to come. Building a godly foundation for manhood is very much about preparation, and you are in the preparation phase right now.

**Read Genesis 1:26-31 and 2:15-17 together.**

**What do you learn about manhood from these verses?**

We were created to have a relationship with God, to live under God's authority, and to have authority—dominion—over everything God created. Adam found his true identity in his relationship with God, and he was to fulfill his God-given assignment by ruling over God's new creation on God's behalf.

The responsibility God gave to Adam and Eve was clear: "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Gen. 1:28).

**Dominion is not domineering. What's the difference between the two?**

**When God called Adam to work and care for the earth, what do you think Adam's responsibilities were?**

Although sin has distorted everything, the original command from God to take care of the world that He created is still in place. Everything we are trying to do, by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ, is to get back to God's original intention for our lives. God has created us—under His authority, on His behalf, and as His representatives—to display His character. This means dominion is not self-centered; it's others-centered. It's sacrificial, and sacrificial actions often go unnoticed. Dominion is about caring for the people and things God has entrusted to you.

**In what ways do you see the distortion of manhood in the world around you?**

**What can you do now as a young man to begin living out this calling from God?**

There are two words in Genesis 2 that give clarity about the meaning of dominion: *work* and *keep* (see Gen. 2:15). Another way to think about this is to serve and care. The primary role of every man in every area of his life is summarized in those two words. Every man is called to work (serve) and keep (care). That is godly dominion.

**What are some areas of your life where God is calling you to “work and keep” His creation? How are you doing with those responsibilities?**



*End your time together by praying for one another. Remind the group to complete the five days of personal time prior to your next group meeting.*



## PERSONAL TIME 1

# WORKING & KEEPING

*Read Genesis 2:8-15.*

When you think about the word *work*, imagine a plow. A plow is used to turn up the soil and to get the ground ready for seeds. Plowing is hard work; it's preparing the ground so that what is planted will grow. That is a great picture of what is going on in your life right now: Seeds are being planted in your heart and you are preparing for what is to come. How ready is the ground of your heart for godly manhood?

One day you will wake up in the morning and go not to school but to a full-time job. You may also have a wife and children to care for and provide for. Seeds need to be planted in your heart today so that you will grow into the adult man God desires for you to be. That is the plowing that needs to happen in you right now. It's the hard work of letting God cultivate you to be ready and willing to work hard for the sake of others as you grow into manhood. As a man, you were created to work in this way.

When you think about the word *keep*, think about a sword. To keep is to watch, guard, and protect. Whatever God puts under your charge, He desires for it to grow and thrive—to be cared for and protected. This means that right now, God is calling you to be guardian, protector, and defender of your own mind, heart, and body, and of the minds, hearts, and bodies of the people you are in relationship with.

As a young man being cultivated for manhood, you live under different sources of authority: your parents, your teachers, your coaches, and most importantly, God. Today, when you submit to the authority of Jesus Christ and are filled with the Holy Spirit, you bear the image of God and are laying a foundation for manhood.

What work needs to happen in your life to help you become a godly man?

In what ways does growing into manhood require you to do work that no one else sees but that will bear fruit later?

Every man is called to *ḥāṣ*—to be a protector and defender. In what specific areas of your life do you see the need for keeping?

What specific examples of godly working and keeping can you think of from the Bible or from the men in your life?

*Close your personal time today, asking God to develop in you the things He wants that will help you grow into a godly man.*



## PERSONAL TIME 2

# THE FIRST DOMAIN: FLESH

*Read Titus 1:1-16; 2:6.*

The areas in which God calls a man to take dominion are called *domains*. This is where the structure of the book of Titus helps us. The three chapters of Titus give us three domains of every man: his church, his family, and his work. Each chapter of Titus also shows us another area in which every man must take dominion: his own body (or flesh). Another term for this is *self-control*. As a young man, learning self-control is vital for growing into godly manhood.

In today's verses, Paul showed Titus the type of leaders he should be looking for to serve in the church. Look at how Paul described the men the church needs:

*An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, with faithful children who are not accused of wildness or rebellion. As an overseer of God's household, he must be blameless, not arrogant, not hot-tempered, not an excessive drinker, not a bully, not greedy for money, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, righteous, holy, self-controlled, holding to the faithful message as taught, so that he will be able both to encourage with sound teaching and to refute those who contradict it.*

**TITUS 1:6-9 (CSB)**

A godly man must be able to control his pride, his temper, what he consumes, and his own body. A man cannot be a leader until he learns to have dominion over himself. It's important to learn self-control as a young man, because it's hard to learn it later in life.

Taking dominion over your flesh is not just about fighting against sin. We will never gain any victory over sin in our lives unless we genuinely believe that walking with Jesus is better than living in sin. We should desire most the life, joy, peace, and blessing that come when we walk with Jesus.

The qualifications for an elder or pastor that you read in Titus 1:6-9 serve as a list of what it means to be a godly man. You may not be called to serve as a pastor, but God is calling you to be a godly man. After reading the list, where do you see the need for self-control in your own life?

How have you seen a lack of self-control affect your life or the life of someone you know?

What are some practical ways you need to take dominion over your flesh?

What needs to happen in your own heart for you to believe that living for Jesus is better than living in sin?

***Close your personal time today, asking God to help you grow in self-control. This means both desiring and practicing self-control. Also ask Him to help you believe that living for Him is better than living in sin.***

# Get the most from your study.

Customize your Bible study time with a guided experience.

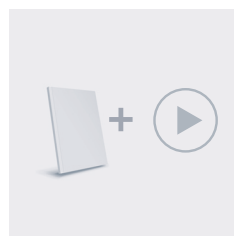


Most Christian young men want to become the men that God has called them to be, but many struggle to make that a reality. For many years, pastor Josh Smith has used the teaching from the book of Titus to lead men's groups to a clearer understanding of biblical manhood. This study is the blueprint for that process but tailored for young men to build a godly foundation for the future, starting now. *The Titus Ten for Teen Guys* will help young men grow in their understanding of the gospel, their identity in Christ, godly character, and their ability to serve God with purpose and passion.

Features:

- Ten small-group sessions
- Personal-study opportunities for ongoing spiritual growth
- Leader guide to help facilitate the study

Find more resources online at [lifeway.com/titusten](http://lifeway.com/titusten).



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### **TITUS TEN FOR MEN**

A ten-session Bible study for men based on the same content and material as the teen guy version.

### **TITUS TEN FOR MEN DVD SET**

A ten-session video series based on the men's version of *The Titus Ten* Bible Study.

### **DANIEL**

In this eight-session study, author J. D. Greear walks through the book of Daniel and helps young men know how to be faithful in the fire.



## Becoming the Man God Wants You to Be

Most Christian young men want to become the men that God has called them to be, but many struggle to make that a reality. For many years, pastor Josh Smith has used the teaching from the book of Titus to lead men's groups to a clearer understanding of biblical manhood. This study is the blueprint for that process but tailored for young men to build a godly foundation for the future, starting now. *The Titus Ten for Teen Guys* will help young men grow in their understanding of the gospel, their identity in Christ, godly character, and their ability to serve God with purpose and passion.

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