

Groups

The 10 Disciplines of a Godly Man by Kent Hughes

Overview: This group is designed for a 10 week semester. Each chapter should be covered on the corresponding week.

Chapter 1: Discipline of Purity

Purity is foundational to a godly life, yet it is constantly under attack in today's world. Hughes emphasizes that men must be vigilant in guarding their hearts and minds against sexual temptation, which can lead to moral failure. Using the example of King David's fall with Bathsheba, he illustrates how unchecked desires can lead to devastating consequences. He warns that purity is not just about avoiding outward sins but also about maintaining a pure heart and thought life.

To combat impurity, Hughes encourages men to be intentional in their daily choices, avoiding situations and content that may lead them into temptation. He highlights the importance of accountability, urging men to have trusted friends who will challenge them in their pursuit of holiness. Scripture memorization and prayer are also emphasized as powerful tools to renew the mind and resist temptation.

Ultimately, Hughes reminds men that purity is not about legalism but about loving God and honoring Him with their bodies and thoughts. He calls men to pursue holiness with determination, relying on God's strength rather than their own. A disciplined life of purity not only strengthens one's relationship with God but also impacts marriage, family, and ministry.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does modern media influence our perceptions of purity?
2. What lessons can we learn from King David's moral failure?

3. In what ways can accountability partnerships aid in maintaining purity?
 4. How does rationalization lead to compromising our values?
 5. What practical steps can we take to guard our hearts against impurity?
 6. How does immersing oneself in Scripture combat temptations?
 7. Why is vigilance crucial in the pursuit of purity?
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Chapter 2: Discipline of Marriage

Hughes presents marriage as a sacred covenant that mirrors Christ's relationship with the Church. He challenges husbands to love their wives sacrificially, putting their needs above their own desires. Drawing from Ephesians 5, he explains that true love in marriage is not based on emotions or convenience but on a commitment to serve and cherish one's spouse. Just as Christ gave Himself up for the Church, a godly husband should be willing to give of himself for his wife's well-being.

The chapter stresses the importance of communication, faithfulness, and intentional investment in the marriage relationship. Hughes warns against the dangers of complacency, urging men to actively cultivate love and respect in their marriages. He also discusses the role of forgiveness and grace, explaining that conflicts are inevitable but should always be resolved with humility and a Christlike attitude.

Hughes reminds men that a strong marriage is not built overnight but through daily acts of love and service. He calls on husbands to pray for and with their wives, to lead their families spiritually, and to prioritize their marriages above work or hobbies. A disciplined marriage reflects the love of Christ and serves as a testimony to the world of God's design for relationships.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does marriage reflect Christ's relationship with the Church?
 2. What does sacrificial love look like in a marital context?
 3. Why is effective communication vital in marriage?
 4. How can couples maintain fidelity in today's society?
 5. What role does personal growth play in strengthening a marriage?
 6. How can husbands prioritize their wives' well-being daily?
 7. In what ways can a marriage honor God?
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Chapter 3: Discipline of Fatherhood

Fatherhood is a sacred responsibility, and Hughes highlights its lifelong impact on children's spiritual and emotional well-being. He emphasizes that a father's actions and words shape his children's view of God, making it essential to lead by example. He warns against the dangers of passive parenting and neglect, which can leave children feeling unloved and directionless. Instead, he calls men to be engaged, providing both affection and discipline in their children's lives.

Hughes stresses the importance of balance in fatherhood—combining love with strong moral guidance. He cautions against provoking children to anger through inconsistency, harshness, or favoritism. Instead, he encourages fathers to nurture their children with patience, teaching them biblical values and encouraging their personal growth. Time, presence, and intentional mentorship are critical in shaping children's character and faith.

Ultimately, Hughes points to God as the perfect model of fatherhood. He reminds men that their role is to reflect God's love and wisdom, helping their children grow in faith and maturity. A disciplined father not only raises responsible children but also leaves a lasting legacy of godliness for generations to come.

Discussion Questions:

1. What impact does a father's behavior have on a child's development?
2. How can fathers balance tenderness and discipline effectively?
3. What are the consequences of inconsistency in parenting?
4. How does favoritism affect sibling relationships?
5. In what ways can fathers model godliness to their children?
6. Why is it important for fathers to provide clear instruction?
7. How can fathers nurture their children's spiritual growth?

Chapter 4: Discipline of Friendship

In this chapter, Hughes highlights the importance of strong, godly friendships, which provide accountability, encouragement, and spiritual support. He argues that many men today lack deep friendships because of societal expectations of independence and self-sufficiency. However, Scripture emphasizes the need for companionship, as

seen in the relationships between David and Jonathan, Paul and Timothy, and Jesus and His disciples.

Hughes stresses that true friendship requires intentionality and vulnerability. He warns against surface-level relationships that lack depth and accountability, as they fail to provide the encouragement and challenge needed for spiritual growth. Instead, he calls men to invest in friendships based on mutual respect, trust, and a shared pursuit of godliness. He also encourages men to seek out friends who will sharpen them spiritually, as Proverbs 27:17 states, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

The chapter concludes by emphasizing the role of friendship in resisting temptation and enduring trials. Hughes explains that isolation often leads to spiritual weakness, while strong friendships help men stay steadfast in their faith. He encourages men to be the kind of friends they desire—faithful, honest, and Christ-centered—so they can build relationships that strengthen and encourage one another.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why are deep friendships important for personal and spiritual growth?
2. What qualities define a genuine friendship?
3. How can men overcome societal norms that discourage vulnerability in friendships?
4. What role does accountability play in friendships?
5. How can shared values strengthen a friendship?
6. What steps can be taken to cultivate meaningful friendships?
7. How do superficial connections differ from authentic friendships?

Chapter 5: Discipline of Mind

A godly man must cultivate a disciplined mind, as thoughts shape actions and character. Hughes warns that an undisciplined mind is easily influenced by the world's distractions, leading to spiritual stagnation. He emphasizes the importance of renewing the mind through Scripture, meditation, and intentional focus on what is true, noble, and praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8).

He challenges men to be mindful of what they consume—whether through entertainment, social media, or conversations—as these inputs directly impact their spiritual lives. Hughes calls for a deliberate rejection of harmful influences and an active

pursuit of wisdom through God's Word. He explains that the disciplined mind is not just about avoiding negative thoughts but about filling the mind with truth that leads to transformation.

Ultimately, Hughes argues that a strong mind leads to a strong faith. He encourages men to develop daily habits of Scripture reading, prayer, and reflection, allowing God's truth to shape their worldview. By training their minds in godliness, men can resist temptation, make wise decisions, and become spiritual leaders in their homes, churches, and communities.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to renew one's mind in a Christian context?
2. How can an undisciplined mind hinder spiritual growth?
3. What are some practical ways to discipline the mind?
4. How does consuming Scripture influence our thought patterns?
5. What challenges arise in maintaining a godly mindset in today's culture?
6. How can we guard our minds against negative influences?
7. Why is it important to align our thoughts with Christ's teachings?

Chapter 6: Discipline of Devotion

Hughes underscores the importance of personal devotion through prayer and meditation. He asserts that these practices are foundational for cultivating a deep, intimate relationship with God. He provides practical guidance on establishing consistent devotional habits, emphasizing that such disciplines require intentionality and commitment amidst the distractions of daily life.

The chapter also highlights biblical figures who prioritized devotion, such as Daniel, who maintained a disciplined prayer life despite opposition. Hughes encourages men to set aside dedicated time daily for prayer and Scripture study, ensuring that their faith is not merely reactive but proactively deepened. He argues that true spiritual maturity is impossible without a life centered on consistent communion with God.

Finally, Hughes warns against treating devotional time as a mere ritual. Instead, he encourages a heartfelt approach that includes worship, thanksgiving, confession, and intercession. Through these practices, men can develop a strong spiritual foundation that influences all areas of life.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does a consistent devotional life impact spiritual growth?
2. What can we learn from biblical figures like Daniel about devotion?
3. How can men create sustainable devotional habits?
4. What are some common distractions that hinder devotion, and how can they be overcome?
5. Why is it important to approach devotion with sincerity rather than obligation?
6. How does prayer deepen our relationship with God?
7. In what ways does Scripture study transform our daily lives?

Chapter 7: Discipline of Integrity

Hughes emphasizes that integrity is the foundation of a godly life. He explains that integrity means living consistently with one's values, both publicly and privately. Using the example of Joseph, who remained faithful despite great temptation and hardship, Hughes shows that integrity is a deliberate choice that must be cultivated daily.

The chapter warns about the dangers of moral compromise, particularly in areas like business, relationships, and personal ethics. Hughes stresses that small compromises can lead to greater moral failures, making it essential for men to stand firm in their convictions. He encourages accountability as a safeguard against self-deception.

Finally, Hughes argues that integrity is not just about avoiding sin but about actively pursuing righteousness. A man of integrity is trustworthy, honest, and dependable, reflecting Christ's character. By prioritizing truthfulness in all aspects of life, men can honor God and serve as role models for others.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to live with integrity in today's world?
 2. How does Joseph's story serve as a model for integrity?
 3. What are some subtle ways men compromise their integrity?
 4. How does accountability help maintain integrity?
 5. Why is integrity essential in leadership?
 6. How can we actively pursue righteousness rather than just avoiding sin?
 7. How does integrity impact our witness as Christians?
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Chapter 8: Discipline of Work

Hughes highlights the biblical perspective on work, emphasizing that labor is not merely a means of income but an act of worship. He references Colossians 3:23, urging men to work "as unto the Lord" with excellence and diligence. Work, when done with the right heart, can glorify God and serve as a testimony of faith.

The chapter addresses the dangers of laziness and idleness, contrasting them with the biblical call to diligence. Hughes points out that work was ordained before the Fall, meaning that it is inherently good and not a punishment. He encourages men to find purpose in their labor, whether in a career, ministry, or serving their families.

Finally, Hughes discusses work-life balance, warning against making work an idol. He challenges men to honor their commitments to family and church while still working with excellence. The goal is to develop a biblical perspective on work that integrates faith and career without compromising spiritual priorities.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can work be an act of worship?
2. Why is laziness spiritually dangerous?
3. What does it mean to work "as unto the Lord"?
4. How can men maintain work-life balance without neglecting faith and family?
5. What are some ways work can become an idol?
6. How does the Bible portray work in both the Old and New Testaments?
7. How can men bring their faith into their workplace?

Chapter 9: Discipline of Giving

Hughes stresses that generosity is a key aspect of godly living. He explains that giving is not just about finances but also about time, resources, and service. He reminds men that God calls believers to be cheerful givers, reflecting His generosity toward us.

The chapter warns against materialism and the love of money, which can distract from spiritual priorities. Hughes explains that generosity strengthens faith, as it requires trust in God's provision. He urges men to give sacrificially, whether through tithing, charitable contributions, or helping those in need.

Ultimately, Hughes frames giving as a matter of the heart. He encourages men to evaluate their attitudes toward money and possessions, ensuring they reflect God's

priorities rather than worldly desires. A truly generous life is one that recognizes all resources belong to God and should be used for His glory.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is generosity important in the Christian life?
2. What are some non-financial ways to practice generosity?
3. How does giving strengthen our faith?
4. What does the Bible say about the dangers of materialism?
5. How can men cultivate a cheerful heart in giving?
6. In what ways does sacrificial giving reflect Christ's love?
7. How can we ensure that our financial priorities align with God's will?

Chapter 10: Discipline of Witness

The final chapter focuses on evangelism and the responsibility of every believer to share the gospel. Hughes emphasizes that witnessing is not just for pastors or missionaries but for every Christian man. He calls men to be bold in their faith, living in such a way that their lives testify to God's goodness.

Hughes discusses practical ways to witness, including personal conversations, lifestyle evangelism, and active participation in missions. He stresses that witnessing requires both words and actions—people should see Christ reflected in a believer's character and hear the gospel proclaimed clearly.

Lastly, Hughes challenges men to overcome fear and complacency when it comes to evangelism. He reminds them that sharing the gospel is an act of love and obedience. The chapter concludes by encouraging men to be intentional in making disciples and leading others to Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is witnessing essential for all Christians?
2. What are some practical ways to share the gospel in daily life?
3. How does a godly lifestyle serve as a form of evangelism?
4. What fears keep men from witnessing, and how can they be overcome?
5. Why is it important to use both words and actions in witnessing?
6. How can men disciple others effectively?
7. How does evangelism deepen our own faith?

