

SESSION 3

BAND OF BROTHERS

PART 1



It is so important for young men to have male role models who are good mentors and examples of what it means to be a man. It is also important to have brothers—loyal friends who challenge them to grow in faith and partner with them on the journey toward heaven.

The CONNECT section of the parent sheet connects you with the information that was presented to your teen in our small discipleship group. The DISCUSS section contains questions that you can use to start meaningful discussion on the topic covered and how it relates to your teen's life. The COMMIT section explains to you the commitment or challenge that your teen committed to as a way to grow in his/her faith.



CONNECT

When Jesus sent His Apostles out in their public ministry, he sent them out two by two. The Christian life is not intended to be lived alone. Jesus knows that we need support to follow Him and gives us a faith that is meant to be lived in community—we thrive when we have friends who help us strive for virtue. A band of brothers can help support young men in their efforts to conform their lives to Christ and reach the goal of heaven.

In this study, teens learned the importance of finding, forming, and journeying with a band of brothers—a group of friends who challenge them to be men of faith, joy, and accountability. They also discussed the importance of finding friends who help build them up in the four key attributes of Christian brotherhood: friendship, loyalty, sacrifice, and purpose. Brothers who follow Christ together and who seek to grow and be strengthened in these areas can accomplish things they never thought possible. It is also especially important for young men to have mentors—men who they can look up to as examples of what it means to be a man.



DISCUSS

Christian brotherhood is able to make men better. It pulls a man out of himself and allows him to do things he never thought he could do. There are four key attributes of authentic Christian brotherhood: friendship, loyalty, sacrifice, and purpose. Discussing brotherhood with your teen is a great way to help him find his band of brothers and build friendships that truly embody these attributes.

Here are some conversation starters to help you discuss this topic with your teen. And remember to share your perspectives as well.

- » Describe a time when you were able to do something because someone had your back. How did their encouragement and support get you through it and help you accomplish your goal?
- » The key attributes of true brotherhood in Christ are friendship, loyalty, sacrifice, and purpose. Is there a person in your life who embodies all of these attributes? What are some examples of living these out?
- » Who do you consider to be a part of your band of brothers right now? Who are your close friends and your mentors?



“And he called to him the Twelve, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. And he said to them, ‘Where you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. And if any place will not receive you and they refuse to hear you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet for a testimony against them.’ So they went out and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them.”

—Mark 6:7-13



COMMIT

This week, teens were challenged to do the one daily discipline that they have struggled with the most, with one important twist: it is now their responsibility to make sure that their accountability partner tries to practice his daily discipline as well. They are going to encourage each other every day throughout the week in the way that works best for them—such as texting reminders, checking-in with each other on the phone, or meeting up in person and working on their daily disciplines together.



PARENT TIP

Scripture is full of wisdom about true, lasting friendship. For more insight and passages on friendship, read:

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 – “Two are better than one”
- Sirach 6:14-17 – “A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter”
- John 15:12-17 – “I have called you friends”
- Romans 12:9-21 – “Love one another with brotherly affection”

You can also read about some examples of true friendships in Scripture:

- David and Jonathan (1& 2 Samuel) and Ruth and Naomi (the Book of Ruth)