



INITIATIVE

CHANGE MEN + CHANGE THE WORLD

STORIES

Experiencing Authentic Manhood in a community of men has literally CHANGED MY LIFE! It inspires me everyday to be more like Jesus.

– Richard Violette, Author of *Faith Tested*

The comprehensive and dynamic content in Authentic Manhood and 33 The Series addresses the issues that are at the core of every man's journey. With a relevant and biblical message, it empowers men from every background to find healing and restoration in a relationship with their True Father and in community with other men.

– Lt. Scott A. Dean, Command Chaplain, USS Emory S. Land

We have three crisis pregnancy locations around Paterson, New Jersey. If you don't know Paterson, it is not the safest and nicest area in the state. I am a volunteer, not a professional. I have no formal Bible training. And ... I am 61, twice the age of most of these guys.

I have 10 guys that show up to our Authentic Manhood meetings fairly regularly. This is not your typical church men's fellowship. We have ...

- An entrepreneur, Hispanic, no father, raised his siblings on his own when he was 18, a one-year-old Christian.
- A semi-pro football linebacker. When he walks in, everyone sits up!. Another young believer.
- A real estate broker who brought a college friend who has struggled with several addictions.
- A recently paroled prison inmate, not a believer.
- A former San Francisco gang leader.
- Two Muslims who just love the material and bring friends.

I have been in and led men's Bible Studies for decades. It is usually the same mix—same age, same ethnicity, same church. This is just a wild adventure with this Authentic Manhood material. The guys are real, they have honest practical questions. We do not sit around and discuss or debate religious concepts, that's for sure!

Thanks for creating outstanding content that speaks grace and truth to men, and for developing a strategy that can be taken to the streets. Great stuff!

– Bill Stone, Volunteer at Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center, Patterson, New Jersey

I had 10 young men and a couple of retired guys tonight. We've actually had 4 guys put their faith in Jesus and 6 guys get baptized. My Saturday morning group is about the same size. God is doing great things through Authentic Manhood.

– Rick Sturgis, Owner of Rick's Cigars, White House, TN

Authentic Manhood is making a huge impact on the Merchant Marine Academy campus. We have over 40 men gather every week. The men at the Academy are hungry for these timeless truths in this community of men. Parents call, professors comment, and the staff all know who the men are who attend because of the positive impact Authentic Manhood is having.

– Jerry Durham, Command Chaplain
United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY

\We had a maximum room capacity turnout for Authentic Manhood at Fort Leavenworth Military Prison. God is doing mighty things in the lives of these men!

–Dan Haas, Chaplain, Ft. Leavenworth, KS

Authentic Manhood has been a huge success at Folsom State Prison. Inmates are putting their faith in Jesus and relationships with families are being restored.

– Bill Thomas, Prison Fellowship

I am pleased to inform you that we have been able to start meeting as authentic men in Kumasi, Ghana. Our first meeting was awesome! The discussion time was engaging as men shared openly after the session video. Thank you very much once again for this material.

– Elliot Koranteng Tannor, Kumasi, Ghana

We have been doing the Authentic Manhood series for quite a while now. We started about five years ago with only five men and it has grown to over a hundred! Keep in mind that we are a small church in a small city in South Africa. It's been a great blessing seeing men change due to the impact of Authentic Manhood and 33 Series.

Thank you for creating these materials that God is using to change the hearts of so many men.

– Willem Nelson, South Africa

In the greater Cape Town region of South Africa we have a particular challenge around high rates of poverty and unemployment, along with associated socio-economic challenges of a gangster culture, alcohol and substance abuse, and increasing levels of prostitution and human trafficking. The areas with the most challenging environments are those areas facing an epidemic of fatherlessness. It's for this reason that I felt compelled to introduce Authentic Manhood to my sphere of influence.

Through facilitating 33 The Series, I've seen a marriage saved from the brink of divorce, a man forgiving his ex-wife after being divorced for two years, an unmarried man express how

invaluable the sessions were to prepare him for married life. One of the best stories is of an unsaved guy who joined us under no pressure and who later committed his life to following Jesus as a result of the community that had formed through our weekly meetings.

Thank you for putting this material together! What a privilege it has been to see the love, grace, and power of God at work in the lives of men who chose to participate. I've seen first-hand how this has the power to enter households and change the lives of men who would not be found near a traditional church. Authentic Manhood has helped us take Jesus to them.

– Errol Van Staden, Cape Town, South Africa

We started with five men and quickly went up to 14-15 on a weekly basis. We meet around the fire pit with snacks and cigars and watch a session from 33 The Series followed by about 30 minutes of discussion. All of the guys show up excited to learn and are quick to brag about how this experience is helping their relationships and overall lives. With the number of high-ranking military men and contractors in our group, the name of Jesus is being carried into places of vast influence. God bless you and thank you for battling with us.

– Michael R. Burke
Emergency Response Team / Razor 1
Baghdad Embassy Security Force
U.S. Embassy, Baghdad, Iraq

DEALING WITH EXTENDED ADOLESCENCE

by Daniel Mays

It was a typical evening. I got home from a full day of work and needed to unwind. I retreated into my office, fired up my *World of Warcraft* account, and got ready for another full night of video games. I had been thinking about it all day. At points throughout the evening I would hear my wife speak to me, and I would rattle off my auto-response: “Yes, dear. Okay ...” But, without missing a move, I would play on until I was exhausted, then I would stagger to bed where my wife was already asleep.

Disengaged and passive—an absent husband described me best. This would go on for days or weeks until we would have a fight. I would storm off and start playing games to avoid another long conversation about how my wife was unhappy and unfulfilled in our marriage.

The problem truly was that I did not know how to be a man, let alone a husband. The better part of our marriage was cluttered with fights and arguments that I would avoid. It got worse and worse to the point that my wife said she didn't love me anymore. She wouldn't divorce me, but she didn't love me. It cut deep to think “how am I so bad that my wife doesn't love me anymore?” I went to church and read my Bible and paid the bills—how am I so bad?

One of my friends invited me to his 33 group and told me about how God views manhood. I have always been skeptical of these types of “workshop groups” but I went anyway. The study was called ***A Man and His Traps***.¹ I still remember going over make-up videos on sessions I missed and clinging onto every word of advice these men had to give me.

I think the game-changer was the moment I came home and told my wife to turn off the TV so we could talk. I spent the next two hours apologizing to her about how I had failed as a husband. All the empty promises I did not keep. How I left her to make all the decisions, and how I failed to listen and give her proper respect. I showed her everything we were going through in 33 and pointed out areas I needed to work on and improve.

Each volume of 33 made me examine myself, and as each responsibility was revealed, I had to come up with a game plan for how I would meet the challenge. It was probably after a year or so of working on our marriage and working through 33 that I apologized for something small like not taking out the garbage. I'll never forget how my wife responded. She gave me a kiss and said, “I see that you're trying, and I am so proud of you.” She saw the growth in my life. She respected me. We became friends all over again and began spending time together. Through each volume of 33 I showed her what we were learning, and each time I realized the value of implementing it into my life I saw our marriage get stronger.

We have been married now for over 8 years. Having wasted 4 to 5 of those years on video games I realized I had my wife back. When she told me she loved me again it brought me to tears. To have my wife look at me and tell me I am a good man, showing the respect that I had worked so hard to earn back, is worth it all. Giving up video games and learning how to be a man saved my marriage.

I now have a son and another baby on the way. I feel like I have the tools, the resources, and most importantly the accountability to become a better husband and father. I am so thankful for the creators of *33 The Series*. It truly is something that every man needs. I believe every man has some form of addiction. Understanding it and facing it head on has been hard, but it was the shock to my system that I needed to change the path I was on and begin my journey toward authentic manhood.²

– Daniel Mays, Spring, TX

¹ ***33 Volume 3: A Man and His Traps*** reveals the deep root idols of a man's heart that are behind the battles like Daniel had to face. It provides a biblical battle plan to help men admit the struggle, identify the lies, and replace them with the truth of God's Word.

² ***33 Volume 1: A Man and His Design*** exposes extended adolescence and helps men like Daniel recalibrate to God's original design. It calls them out of a culture of childish consumers to walking in the light of the life-giving spirit of Jesus and becoming men who create and cultivate.