



B REVEALING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

# God's view of men



## Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study helps us explore how God views men, and what it means to be a Christian man.



## “We love because he first loved us.”

**Read 1 John 4: 19.** Jesus died on the cross for us so that our sins could be forgiven. We often do not put God first in our lives and make gods of other things – this is what the Bible calls sin. Out of our hearts come the desires and appetites that lead to objectification of women and sexual violence. Through Jesus' death we can be brought back into the relationship with God which we were designed for. Men's lives and relationships with women can then be marked by love and respect. It is important to recognise that we can only love because we have been made in God's image and because he first loved us.

**Read 2 Kings 17: 14-15.** Christian men should not imitate the world. Jesus calls us to live counter-culturally. We need to make a stand for what is right when we are with both our Christian and non-Christian friends.

**Read Mark 10:43-44:** Christian men need to lay down the power we have been given. We are called to lead servant-heartedly, just as Jesus did, giving up all that the world has to offer in order to serve.



## Key points

- Being a Christian man means dealing with sin and laying down our power.
- Objectification of women and sexual violence are wrong and offend God.
- Christian men should live lives marked by love and respect for women.
- Jesus laid down his power and life to lead servant-heartedly. We are follow his example.



## Questions for discussion

- What does society say about what it means to be a man?
- How do men treat women in our community? Are our relationships marked by love and respect?
- What do you think a man should be like?
- How does this compare with Jesus?

Awareness-raising

Children & youth

Climate & environment

Conflict & peace-building

Corruption & governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination & inclusion

Food & livelihoods

Gender & sexual violence

Health & HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration & trafficking

Water, sanitation & hygiene



## Reflection

Pray for the Holy Spirit to show you how you may need to change. Think about the practical ways that you can love and respect women in your attitudes and actions. What changes can you make in the next few weeks?



## Notes

This Bible study is adapted from one written by Peter Grant for *Restored*, an international Christian alliance working to transform relationship and end violence against women

[www.restoredrelationships.org](http://www.restoredrelationships.org)

### Related tools

- A1 – Revealing violence against women and girls: information for facilitators [A1: Gender & sexual violence-1]
- A1 – Revealing female genital mutilation: information for facilitators [A1: Gender & sexual violence-2]
- A1 – Revealing inequality between men and women: information for facilitators [A1: Gender & sexual violence-3]
- A2 – Understanding how men and women use their time [A2: Gender & sexual violence-1]
- A2 – Exploring men and women's control over resources [A2: Gender & sexual violence-2]
- A2 – Why address violence against women and girls [A2: Gender & sexual violence-3]
- A2 – What are the root causes of violence against women and girls? [A2: Gender & sexual violence-4]
- A2 – Exploring gender roles and power [A2: Gender & sexual violence-5]
- A2 – Men and women: listening to one another [A2: Gender & sexual violence-6]
- A2 – Self-discovery tool (Violence against women and girls) [A2: Gender & sexual violence-7]
- B – Gender and restoring relationships (Bible study) [B: Gender & sexual violence-1]
- B – God's view of women (Bible study) [B: Gender & sexual violence-3]
- B – Men, women and God [B: Gender & sexual violence-5]
- B – Protecting those vulnerable to sexual violence (Bible study) [B: Gender & sexual violence-7]
- B – Sexual violence in the Bible: the story of Tamar (Bible study) [B: Gender & sexual violence-8]

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