



PASSAGE CONVERSATIONS: for boys ages 12+

Use this “God’s design” as the foundation for your talk on each of the 5 topics found in the passage conversations guide for boys.

GOD’S DESIGN: for manhood

God designed man and woman in His own image to be a reflection of Him in the world He created. Before He ever created woman, He gave man the job of headship over all of creation. Then He made woman, equal in value, to provide something man did not have on His own. Submitting to God as his authority, man’s role was to lead by protecting and providing for the weak and vulnerable, to work alongside woman to help all of God’s creation flourish.

Unfortunately, the first man ignored God’s good design and did not protect his wife from the lies of the enemy and let her *lead* him into sin, which brought the opposite of flourishing. Our world is now broken with sin and that means that man does not submit to God as his authority. Because of this, instead of joy in the work God gave him, there is pain and toil. Instead of serving sacrificially, men seek their own glory and power and exploit the weak and vulnerable for their own gain. Instead of flourishing, creation is groaning.

In their sinful state, men struggle with selfish passivity like the first man or selfish aggression like his sons. The world wants to strip man of His God given role as leader, provider, protector – but as followers of Jesus, our lives must show the goodness of God’s original design.

Jesus is the best man who ever walked the earth. He knew how to weep and how to call out injustice. He knew how to be gentle and how to speak a hard truth. He knew how to connect with people and how to be alone with God. He faced the challenges and hardships of life, yet as the God, the son, He got everything right. If we want to know what God’s definition of masculinity looks like in a fallen world, we can look at the person of Jesus.

- He submitted to God as His ultimate authority.
- He had a deep connection with the Father fueled by constant prayer and time in scripture.
- He worked hard: both as a skilled laborer and in ministry to people.
- He knew how to treat women in a way where they felt safe and valued.
- He was tempted by the enemy, but stayed obedient to God.
- He lovingly led others to know the truth of God.
- He respected human authority, but wasn’t threatened by those in power.
- He actively worked to help the weak and vulnerable people.