

A person is fishing in a green canoe on a calm lake. The lake reflects the surrounding dense forest of tall evergreen trees. The person is wearing a dark jacket and a hat, and is holding a fishing rod. The canoe has the number '11' on its side and the text 'Kingman - Scotts' on the bow. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

14-DAY CHALLENGE

**SET YOUR MIND
ON THINGS THAT ARE
ABOVE, NOT ON THINGS
THAT ARE ONEARTH.**

COLOSSIANS 3:2

Men,

This is your challenge. Are you willing to examine your heart and live out the adventure God has for you?

This challenge is not meant to manage your behavior. Behavior management is exhausting and only leads to pride or shame. You don't need more rules. You don't need to be told how bad you are. You don't need someone yelling in your face. You need Jesus to change your heart. We need Jesus every day, not just once a week. It is a daily journey following and pursuing Jesus. Changed behavior comes from a changed heart.

Days 1-7

The first seven days you will examine your own life and hit the reset button on several areas of dysfunction or false fulfillment. These are not meant to discourage you but rather inspire you to live out the potential that God has put in every man. You must be firm in knowing what God has done for you through Jesus. You did nothing; it is by grace you are saved. You will also look at men in the bible and how they lived out their calling as men of courage. Lastly, you must examine your blind spots and how to battle against the enemy who wants to destroy you.

Days 8-14

The last seven days are focused on your heart. Not your neighbor's heart or your best buddy, YOUR HEART! At the core of every man is a heart; deep in a man's heart are some fundamental questions that simply cannot be answered neatly. Questions like, Who am I? What am I made for? What am I destined for? The journey of life is where we find answers; you must take the journey yourself. God made the masculine heart, set it within every man, and thereby offers him an invitation: "Come, and live out what I meant you to be."

This world needs men. Men who understand that God has placed within the heart of every man an overpowering desire for three things—"a battle to fight, an adventure to live, and a beauty to rescue. We do not need more "nice guys" we need men who love Jesus and live for him daily.

Day's eight through fourteen are pulled from the book *Wild at Heart*, written by John Eldridge, if you would like to dig in deeper, please go and grab a copy of the book and read it.

Day TWO (The Battle of the Mind)

Read Colossians 3:2

Your mind is a powerful thing. Research says that we have nearly 50,000 thoughts each day. Satan knows this and wants to attack your thoughts. Your mind is a battlefield each day. The war of your mind is not a passive activity, but an active, vigorous fight with the power of God and spiritual weapons made available through the gospel.

Sure, being affirmed at work satisfies for a minute, but it leaves you wanting more. The same is true for porn, money, alcohol, affairs, or whatever else. It always leaves you wanting more. Your mind and your thoughts must be on things above. A simple exercise to try...[look up] what do you see? Often times, when our minds wander and the enemy attacks, we just need to look up. Look at what's above you right now. Look above you and describe it as though you were telling a blind person about what's on the ceiling above. Look above and notice the detail, What do you see? Most of the times, we don't look up; you may find yourself fascinated with what you see above you. You may be asking, "Has this always been here?" When is the last time you looked up and asked God to help you with your thoughts?

What ways are you looking for satisfaction?

Where do you search for joy outside of Jesus?

Day THREE (Alone is Dangerous)

Ready Hebrews 10:24-25

ALONE IS DANGEROUS. As men, we default to isolation. In isolation we are prone to attack secret sin and loneliness.

On a recent fishing trip, I was fishing with a buddy in our kayaks on the river. We hit a honey hole and began to bring in some big ones. So big in fact that one of them busted my line and took my hook with him. As I put a new hook on my line, I was looking down concentrating on tying an extra tight knot. When I looked up, I found myself drifting. You see, I forgot to put my anchor down and within a few moments, I could barely see my friend, I was one hundred yards away and didn't even realize I was moving.

This is often how life goes; a few days, a few weeks, a few months and you find yourself far from God.

Have you drifted? On a scale of 1-10 (1 being far and 10 being close) what would you rate your relationship with God right now?



Day FOUR (Fight Lions and Bears For Fun)

Read: 1 Sam 17:33-37

David is known as a man after God's own heart. In this passage read, I want you to notice that David tells Saul that he has killed both lions and bears. He recalls these previous challenges to plea his case for going up against the big and mighty Goliath. As men we must recognize the challenges of our past and how they have prepared us for the challenges of our future. John Wayne once said, "Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyways." A key benefit of taking on bold challenges is learning to press through even when your body might send you signals to flee danger. When your heart beats faster, it's not necessarily a sign of fear but possibly a sign of life.

What great challenge has God placed on your heart? Do you have a Goliath ahead?

When is the last time you faced a lion or bear to test yourself?

Day FIVE (Biblical Manhood Starts with Serving)

Read Job 29:11-17

Job is an astounding model of bold, masculine servant leadership. Job didn't see the blessings of his life as a reason to lord over those around him. Instead, he served the poor, the fatherless, the dying, the widow, the blind, the lame, the needy, and those in need of justice.

This is what biblical manhood does. It serves needs and advocates for justice as the hands and feet of God. The gifts and resources God has given you provided the means for you to serve others. Like Job, be diligent and masculine in your response to needs and in "breaking fangs of the unrighteous" to free their prey.

What resources have you been given?

What is God calling you to do with your resources?

Day NINE (A Battle to Fight: Strategy)

Read: Rev 12:10-12

Satan is constantly putting his spin on things. He is called the accuser. His deepest and most crippling attacks are always accusations against our heart, our identity and our name. We have to see this more clearly and expose it.

Do you find yourself coming to conclusions about what another person is thinking or feeling toward you? Below, write down what you think your wife (if applicable) your boss and your closest friend thinks about you these days. Then ask yourself, have they actually said that to me, or is that just what I kind of “sense” is going on?

Wife _____

Boss _____

Friend _____

The enemy wants you to believe lies, He wants you to think that people are talking about you when they are not. When we believe these lies, we are making an agreement with the enemy. When we make agreements with these lies we start fighting the wrong battle. We start fighting with our spouse, with our boss, with our friends instead of the enemy.

Have you been fighting the wrong battles?

Day TEN (A Beauty to Rescue)

Read: Genesis 1:26-28, 2:18-24

Sleeping beauty, Cinderella, Helen of Troy, Romeo and Juliet... From ancient fables to the latest blockbuster, the theme of a strong man coming to rescue a beautiful woman is universal. It is written in our hearts it's one of the core desires of every man.

Man and woman are both made in the image of God. Initially man is formed from the dust of the earth, and in the beginning he bore the full image of God. But here we see that God exists in relationship and community, and since man is made in His image, he is created for that same existence. So God causes him to fall into a deep sleep, He removes a rib, which in Hebrew is the word *tsela`*. It is a feminine noun, and refers to God removing the feminine part of His image from man and forming a woman who is now the bearer of half of God's image. It is in marriage, that the two become one, where the halves become whole, and the full image of God is displayed to creation.

One of Adams greatest failings was his passivity with Eve. He simply stood by and watched her fall; he didn't step in to rescue her.

How have you been silent or passive?

Day ELEVEN (A Beauty to Rescue: Strategy)

Read: John 1:12, 2 Cor 5:17, Ps 139:14, Eph 2:10

If you are married, one of the most courageous things you can do for you wife is to pursue her heart. To invite our wives in and give them permission to be honest and tell us whatever is on their hearts, to be true about what we have done and what they desire from us. This may feel a little like rock climbing without a safety rope, but should provide safety and intimacy.

In order to be able to ask your wives this honest question, you must know who you are. You must, as a courageous man, know that your identity is found in Jesus and what he has done for you. You have read some incredible passages about who you are. Your wife cannot and should not validate you. Most men take their souls search for validation to the woman, but she can never give you what you can only find in God. A man cannot fight for his beauty if he is still trying to find validation from her.

Are you looking for validation from your beauty?

Thinking about your wife and her needs, what do you need to do to fight for her?

Day TWELVE (An Adventure to Live)

Read: Matthew 14:22-33

Life is not a problem to be solved; it's an adventure to be lived.

Think about every great story you love. It has a main character, and it has danger, excitement and conflict. We don't really love boring movies. This is part of who we are. This is in our DNA. We are born to live in adventure. In this passage, Jesus was walking on water, why do you think Peter asked to go out on the water? At some level, knowing the character of Peter, I'm sure he thought to himself, "That looks awesome, I want to do it." In the heart of every man is adventure.

Are you bored? Why?

What are your dreams? What are you doing to go after them?

Are you telling a powerful story with your life? What can you do tomorrow to change that?

Day THIRTEEN (An Adventure to Live: Strategy)

Read: Matthew 28:19-20

Why did God create Adam? What is a man for? Most men think they are simply here on earth to kill time --- and it's killing them. The secret longings of your heart, whether it's to build a boat, to write a symphony or plant a field and care for it --- those are the things you were made to do. That's what you are here for, the adventure of perusing the passions God has put inside of you.

In the middle of this adventure is a calling. We are called to live the adventure Jesus has told us to live. He didn't tell us to sit; he told us to GO. As we go, we must be adventurous in the Gospel. In spreading the Kingdom, and sharing Jesus everyday. You don't have to have all the details of the journey or even have a map; you must simply be willing to take the first step.

What adventure do you feel called into?

Day FOURTEEN (Men of Courage)

Battle to Fight

What great battle would you love to devote your life to? What do you want to be different about the world or about the church or about someone's life because of you?

What is the next step, the next move you need to make in order to move toward that vision?

Will you do it? When? Make a plan!

A Beauty To Rescue

Who is the woman God has called you to fight for? (Of course, some of you won't have an answer for this right now. That's okay. This can apply to the women in your family, female friends, or a the woman who may one day come.) What is the impact you want your life to have upon hers?

What is the next step you need to take in order to move toward her, fight for her?

Will you do it? When? Make a plan!

An Adventure To Live

What great adventure would you love to enter into? (No doubt all three of these core desires are going to be related somehow.)

What quests would you love to take?

And what is the next step, the next move you need to make in order to move toward that vision?

Will you do it? When? Make a plan!
