



# A Culture of **Manhood** at Journey Life Church

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## How did we get here?

- On [January 15th, 2023](#) - I felt like the Lord had a word for JLC men and many men responded -

*The Father is inviting men to intimacy through seasons of learning to walk in wisdom and grace to receive their full inheritance of manhood and authority - starting from enough.*

- A few people came up to me and said, "We need to do something. God is moving."
- Jared & I talked, outlined, and agreed on a mission: Build a *culture* of manhood.
- I [invited](#) a small team to explore that mission for the last 10 months - 4i's.

## What is culture?

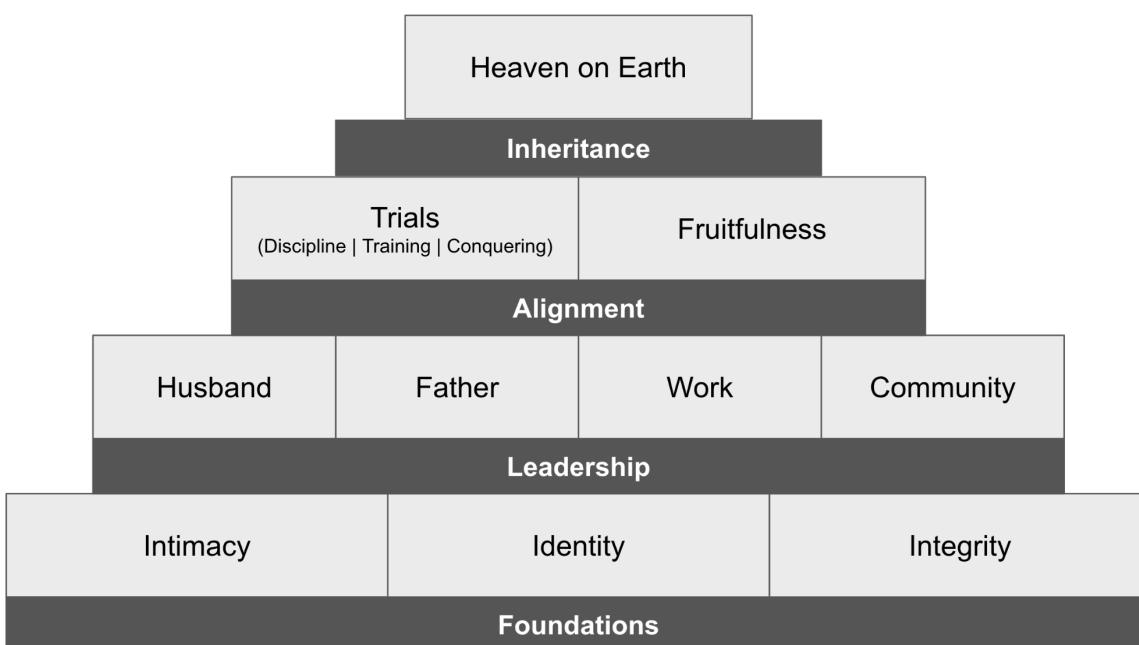
- The expression of values - both structural and organic.
- The empowerment of people and the expression of values at every interface.

## What is ministry?

- To serve, protect, and develop both people & culture (values).
- When we protect values over people, we become Pharisees.
- When we protect people over values, we promote idolatry.

## What are we doing?

We are inviting men to become wholehearted, to love the Lord their God with complete alignment between their heart, soul, mind, & strength. We think that is well represented by these values -



## **How does this impact you?**

Last year I asked each of you,

*"If the men of Journey Life Church are wholeheartedly walking with the Lord, leading their families well, and responding to the Lord's invitation to intimacy, identity, integrity, & inheritance, what would happen?"*

This is some of what you all said -

- [Family] We will see men leading their homes well, both spiritually, and as protectors and providers. Men will lay down their lives for their wives and cultivate an atmosphere of faith, hope, and love that trains up their children in the Father's presence.
- [Kids] We will see a change in our children. Children will be raised with a living example of Godly leadership and intimacy with the Lord.
- [Youth] We would see young men engaged as they are trained by their father and the overall culture of manhood at Journey Life Church. We would have teenage boys that understood true intimacy rather than the distraction of false intimacy offered by the world around us.
- [Young adults] We would see stronger leadership, a more potent atmosphere of faith, and stronger conviction for intimate community.
- [Journey Life Church] There would be overflow in our own community and our gatherings. Less meetings about messes and more meetings about the dreams and visions the Lord releases on our people. There would be more declarations of God's goodness, more joyful contributions to the atmosphere of faith we long to see every time we gather.
- [Impact outside JLC] Men will lead the charge in impacts. Yes, they will serve where JLC has developed influence, but they will also impact the community from their neighborhood, their workplace, and the every community they engage with.

I believe this is just the beginning of the fruit that is coming our way.

### **How do you impact this?**

1. **Pray for us.** We need wisdom, discernment, and grace for this journey. The Lord is providing those things in abundance, but our hearts need to remain tuned, courageous, and soft before Him.

*Holy Spirit - restore the hearts of men in our community. Pour out your spirit on our men that they might walk in the fullness you have declared over them from the beginning. Anchor their hearts in intimacy, identity, and integrity. Give them wisdom, humility, and courage to lead in their homes and their community. Let their character endure so that their trials would lead to fruitfulness. We ask for nothing short of heaven on earth because you've invited us to nothing less.*

2. **Join us.** Ask the Lord how you contribute to this. As a man, you have a role. As a woman, the men in your life will value your prayers and encouragement.
3. **Celebrate manhood with us.** We need to be reminded who we are. We aren't weapons masquerading as strength. We aren't disconnected hearts disguised as toughness. We aren't absent and overworked professionals pretending we are on a mission. We are intimate lovers of God and sacrificial leaders of our family and community. Help us remove the counterfeit and restore our wholeheartedness.
4. **Point men to us.** At this moment, we have a level of capacity and a strategy. We can't solve every need today, but we have a plan that makes room for men to rise up as God gives grace and direction. Help direct men into what we are building so that we can honor, train up, and support what God is doing.
5. **Equip us.** As the spiritual leaders of our community, your work equips the saints (us) to do the work of ministry.
6. **Talk to me (us).** This mission can't succeed in a vacuum, and it won't be successful if it doesn't make an impact outside itself. Your ideas, your needs, and your influence matters.
7. **Be patient with us.** A culture of manhood isn't something that happens overnight, and it can't be led by one person, or even a staff of people. It has to be owned by the men of our community. It is a vision today, but given time infused by the grace and kindness of God, we can build something more magnificent than we can possibly imagine.

## **Principles of Ministry**

The men's ministry we are launching in March is a part of the bigger picture of building a culture of manhood at Journey. It is an open invitation to participate in community, be refined, and draw near to the Lord with others. The ministry will protect the values of manhood and walk men into healthy expressions. To balance that well, we have a few principles we are building from -

1. **Room For More** - We are intentionally starting as a blank canvas to make room for God to raise people up.
2. **Guiding to Intentionality and Intimacy** - The monthly meeting is a funnel to more intentional and more intimate relationships. Future success will be measured by how many people connect beyond this monthly gathering.
3. **Equip & Empower** - This is a time of equipping and empowering. As we declare the values of manhood, we equip men and challenge them to live more aligned to the invitation God has for them.
4. **Permission Granted** - If the Lord puts something on someone's heart, the default is "Yes, and let's see what is next?" The process that brings something to action might be days, months, years, or be pruned out, but we believe God is going to speak to people and refine us in the process of encouragement, discipleship, & accountability.
5. **Never Alone** - There are no solo missions. No matter how great the idea, we prioritize building teams to work together.

## **What's Next?**

- February - Start the hype train.
- Monthly meetings start March and then continue every third Saturday

## **Meeting Structure\* -**

- \*\*Testimony - Who responded to the challenge? What did God do?
- Teaching / Training - Where are we going next?
- Conversation - Building relationships and connecting ideas with others.
- Challenge - How do we own this in our lives this next month.

\*There is room for more! We will be coaching and inviting men to hear the Lord invite them to become a committed part of this expression.

\*\*Testimonies won't start till month two.

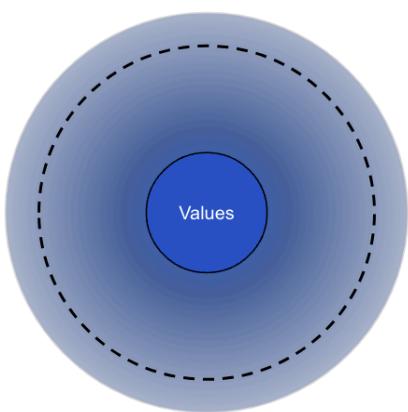
## **Is this for ALL men?**

Yes.

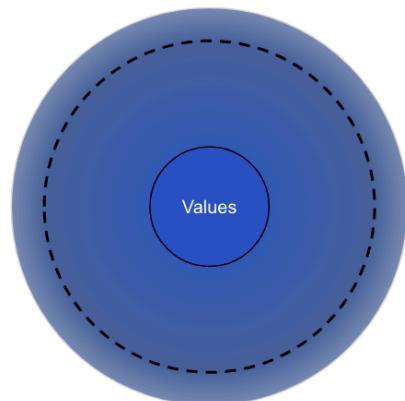
But to be more clear...

- The wounded and broken will find connections. Relief can happen in a meeting, so can miracles, but true wholeness will more likely come from developing intentional and intimate relationships.
- Young men will be trained up, but they will also have opportunities to be examples of speech, conduct, love, and purity.
- The immature - both young and old - will be called up in kindness and gentleness to build courage and character.
- Those mature in their faith will see a harvest of men who are genuinely interested in growing with the Lord. They will experience significant fruit from their time investment.
- And if we do this well, Holy Spirit has something for everyone.

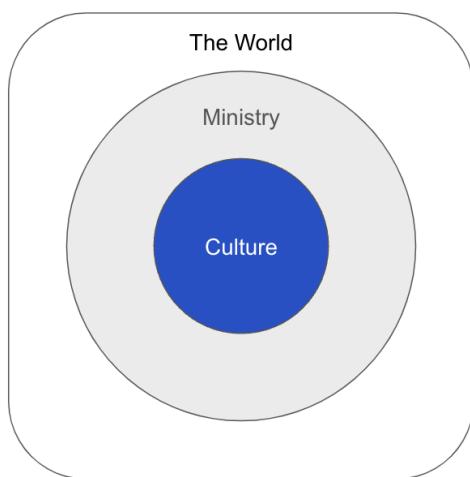
Weak Culture



Strong Culture



The World



Open

Intentional

Intimate

Monthly Gatherings

Small groups  
Common interests  
Bible Studies

Discipleship  
Boat Crews  
Swim Buddies