

### Taking It Home:

- Process the power of generosity as a hallmark of true manhood. Women, in what ways can you appropriately encourage and properly receive the generosity of the important men in your life?
- Men, in what ways can you raise the bar of generosity in your life? What can it look like for you to strategically give to those around you, investing not just materially, but emotionally, spiritually, socially, and so forth?
- Recognizing the power of partnership, collaboration and accountability, in what ways can you network with trusted people so that you grow and mature as a person of influence? Women, with what other women can you have this “iron-sharpening-iron” relationship? Men, with what other men can you have this kind of relationship? What steps will you take today to pursue this?
- At the conclusion of the Manhood series men were invited to commit themselves to the following covenant: *Lord, I hear your call to be a noble man. I understand the need for sacrifice. To put others first. To love with the love of Christ as He loves the Church. I reject the world’s notion of manhood and I embrace the model of Christ. Make me the man you want me to be. Lead me, so I can lead.* Walk through each line of this covenant. Evaluate what each line means. If you are a man, process how you will personally honor each line of this covenant. Who will you invite to help you? Read through Mark 10:42-45, Ephesians 5:22 and following, Proverbs 27:17, 1 Samuel 18:1-5, and Philippians 2:1-11 for insights into being a noble (generous) person of influence.

### Related Resources:

- Steve Farrar, *Point Man*, revised 2003.
- William Bennett, *The Book of Man: Readings on the Path to Manhood*, 2011.
- E. Glenn Wagner, *The Heart of a Godly Man*, 1997
- Stu Weber, *Tender Warrior: Every Man’s Purpose, Every Woman’s Dream, Every Child’s Hope*, 2006.
- Howard & William Hendricks. *As Iron Sharpens Iron*, 1995.

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew’s sermon points, visit [pastormatthew.net](http://pastormatthew.net) and click on the “Write This Down” tab.

**Manhood** | A Bold Call for Men of Nobility  
On Noble Things He Stands  
Isaiah 32:8

Dr. Matthew R. St. John  
Bethel Church  
March 25, 2012

## On Noble Things He Stands

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit [www.bethelfc.com](http://www.bethelfc.com).

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 25, 2012

Isaiah 32:8

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**Quick Review:** Ours is a world in crisis, one in which maleness is regularly demeaned and mocked, most likely so that the scrutiny and accountability that comes with mature manhood can be avoided. Despite the combined effort of the world and the flesh and the devil to diminish the impact of true manhood, and perhaps because of it, there is, though, a deep hunger for noble men to lead well.

## My Story:

- What is your initial reaction to the word “noble”? In your experience how has the concept of nobility been manifested? Think about the influential people in your life and the positive or negative ways they have shaped you.
- If you are a man, evaluate the ways in which you are truly accountable and connected with other men. To what extent are you part of a “band of brothers,” and how has that participation or lack of participation shaped your life?
- If you are a woman, what might be your aspirations for the important men in your life? What is your hope for these men? Why? Please talk as openly as you can about this.

## Growing Deeper:

- What did Pastor Matthew say is a more amplified definition of the word “noble” found in Isaiah 32:8? How can that more amplified definition shape the way a man lives and the world in which he lives?
- Isaiah 32:8 talks about a man who “plans” noble things. Pastor Matthew suggested that the word “plans” implies collaboration among men, men working together toward a common cause. What value is there in men coming together around a common cause?
- Are there biblical examples of men collaborating together for a noble cause? What about “every-day” examples in your own experience? Discuss what you find.
- Read Proverbs 27:17. What does it look like for people to sharpen one another?
- Read through 2 Samuel 15-16, particularly 2 Samuel 15:5-14. In what way does King David enjoy friendship and accountability with men like Abishai the son Zeruiah? In what ways does King David yield himself to God’s work in his life, and offer grace even to someone who curses him? What does this story reveal about true nobility, strength, accountability, and humility? See 2 Samuel 19:16-23 for the rest of the story.