

A MAN *in the* MAKING



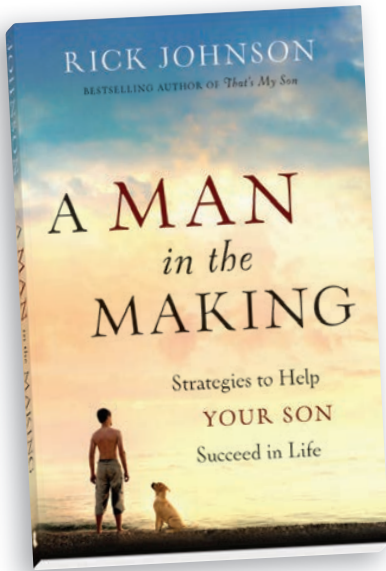
STUDY GUIDE

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STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS

The author encourages each participant to start a journal or chart listing all the character traits they want to intentionally instill in their son, along with the strategies they will develop during this study to help that happen. Once written down, they can then refer to it periodically and track how their program for their son is progressing.

■ ■ ■ Chapter 1 – COURAGE

1. Why do boys need to learn courage? What does courage look like in the average man?
2. Why did the author use Martin Luther King Jr. as an example of courage?
3. The author says, “Courage in males is the willingness to fail.” Why does it take courage for males to fail? How can you help your son “fail” and still succeed in life?

Strategy: Discuss three ways you can help instill courage in your son.

■ ■ ■ Chapter 2 – HONOR

1. Read and discuss the definition of the word *honor*.
2. Does our culture encourage those traits in males today?
3. What do you think our world would be like if all men lived by a code of honor as described by the author?
4. How did Robert E. Lee exhibit the trait of honor in everyday life?

Strategy: Discuss three ways you can help instill honor in your son.

■ ■ ■ Chapter 3 – DUTY

1. Why is George Washington connected with the trait of *duty*?
2. Is it natural for human beings to *want* to fulfill a life of duty? Do boys have a natural propensity to live lives of sacrifice and duty?
3. What happens to families and communities when men do not fulfill their duties and responsibilities?

Strategy: *Discuss three ways you can help instill duty in your son.*

■ ■ ■ Chapter 4 – LOYALTY AND INTEGRITY

1. Samuel Johnson said, “Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.” Can you give examples of men who represent both sides of that statement?
2. Should a man’s word be his bond? How can we model that behavior to boys?
3. Discuss your thoughts on the author’s assertion that males should make decisions based on principles and not emotions.
4. What do you think of John Wooden’s devotion to his wife, Nell?

Strategy: *Discuss three ways you can help instill loyalty and integrity in your son.*

■ ■ ■ Chapter 5 – SELF-DISCIPLINE

1. How did Theodore Roosevelt go from being a sickly, puny youngster to being one of the most accomplished men in the history of our country?
2. As a parent, how much self-discipline do you feel you have in your own life? Is it a strength or a weakness in your life?
3. In general, are young men in our culture today being taught self-discipline? What are the benefits to a culture when boys are taught this trait or the consequences when they not?

Strategy: *Discuss three ways you can help instill self-discipline in your son.*

■ ■ ■ Chapter 6 – PERSEVERANCE

1. Why do you think quitting is an easily learned habit for boys? (Hint: see chapter 1 on “failing”).
2. What happens to boys and men who do not learn perseverance? What are the consequences to their families?
3. Is a father or a mother probably best suited to teaching boys the art of perseverance? What ways can both parents teach sons to overcome difficulties in life?
4. How might our country have been different today had not Abraham Lincoln had the character trait of perseverance?

Strategy: *Discuss three ways you can help instill perseverance in your son.*

■ ■ ■ Chapter 7 – HARDIHOOD AND RESILIENCY

1. How are hardihood and resiliency related to each other, and how do they complement one another?
2. How is hardihood different from self-discipline?
3. Jedediah Smith died at a young age. Is it possible to develop hardihood and then use it in your life to make a difference, even at a young age? How?

Strategy: *Discuss three ways you can teach your son hardihood and resiliency.*

■ ■ ■ Chapter 8 – COMMON SENSE AND WISDOM

1. Are common sense and wisdom as important as education? What’s the difference between the two?
2. Do you believe that activities like internet surfing or gaming should be monitored? What are some consequences for boys of spending too much time playing video games?
3. Do you feel like you have wisdom and common sense? Is it possible to teach those traits to boys if you don’t have them?
4. How did Benjamin Franklin obtain wisdom and common sense?

Strategy: *Discuss three ways you can teach your son common sense and wisdom.*

■ ■ ■ Chapter 9 – VISION

1. The author states that men without vision cannot be effective leaders. How did Thomas Jefferson's vision impact the development of our country? How is your life different compared to the lives of people around the world because of that vision?
2. Do you agree with the author that our culture is losing one of its greatest assets—male leadership? (Many might not). How have the roles of manhood changed over the past forty years?
3. Everyone seeks redemption. How can you teach your son to use his God-given ability of vision to help others gain redemption?

Strategy: *Discuss three ways you can teach your son how to develop vision in his life. OR Discuss three ways you can help your son find the vision for his life in the short term and the long term.*

■ ■ ■ Chapter 10 – INTELLECT

1. Do you think intellect is natural (you're born with it) or something that can be developed?
2. Young males are struggling in many areas today, especially educationally. What are some strategies you can be intentional about to help your son overcome the educational achievement gap between boys and girls?
3. Why do you think that some research indicates that there has been a significant increase during the past several decades of autism spectrum, ADHD, and other brain disorders in males?
4. Why was da Vinci considered so brilliant (hint: see Leonardo da Vinci—Renaissance Man)?

Strategy: *Discover your son's learning style (or Intelligence Type), then develop a plan to help him succeed in school using that knowledge. Be sure to help him understand his strengths and weaknesses.*

■ ■ ■ Chapter 11 – COMPASSION AND EMPATHY

1. Do you think most males are naturally empathetic and compassionate?
2. The author states, “Compassion and empathy are the essence of a man’s soul. It is from the soul that all goodness springs: love, mercy, charity, forgiveness, respect, and humility, among others.” If males do not learn these traits, can they be “whole” men? Why or why not?
3. Why are mothers so important in teaching boys the traits of compassion and empathy?
4. Do you think George Müller’s compassion for others made a difference in anyone’s life? Review with your son some material that describes what the lives of orphans were like during that time frame in England.

Strategy: *Discuss three ways you can teach your son compassion and empathy.*

■ ■ ■ Chapter 12 – POET-WARRIOR

1. Is it important in today’s world for a man to be both a warrior and a poet? If so, discuss some reasons why.
2. Review the story of David and Goliath. What prepared David to be able to defeat such a powerful adversary? How could that apply to today’s life challenges?
3. Have you ever met a man whom you would be willing to follow into battle? If so, what character traits did he possess?
4. How does learning the arts complement a man’s rougher nature?

Strategy: *Read the story of David and Goliath with your son. Tell it as the exciting and ferocious battle it was. Then talk with your son about what prepared David to be able to defeat such a powerful adversary. How could that apply to today’s life challenges?*

■ ■ ■ CONCLUSION

Share with the other group members what you have learned from the study and what steps you will definitely implement to help your son become the man he was created to be.

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