

THE JOURNEY OF A GOOD REAL MAN

DRINKING ALCOHOL

<p>Describe the Issue</p>	<p>Drinking alcohol is increasing among Khmer men. When it is done to excess it causes many problems for the person drinking and those close to them.</p>
<p>Define the Problem Create small groups After discussion ask for Group Feedback, noting it on flipchart, if appropriate.</p>	<p>Many men are not able or do not want to control their drinking of alcohol. Split the participants into small groups (max 4) and ask them to list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the reasons men drink too much b) the problems this causes. <p>Feedback – get answers and then suggest any important ones they have missed e.g; a) Cambodian culture, friends, addiction b) wastes money, foolish drunken actions, domestic violence , damage to health</p>
<p>Scripture Teaching</p> <p>This is not to be intended to be used as a message to be delivered to the men.</p> <p>It is Bible information to give leaders confidence that they know enough about the subject to lead a discussion on it.</p> <p>This information may give ideas for more than one discussion</p>	<p>WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT DRINKING AND DRUNKENNESS?</p> <p>1. The Bible clearly states that drunkenness is a sin: Gal 5:19-21 “ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: ...drunkenness...and other sins like these. Let me tell you again...that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God” 1 Cor 6:9-10 “Don’t you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who...are drunkards... will not inherit the Kingdom of God”.</p> <p>Paul makes it quite clear that those who make a habit of drunkenness won’t inherit the Kingdom of God either in this life or after we die..</p> <p>2. Here are some reasons why God doesn’t want men to be drunk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> We have already seen that drunkenness is a work of the sinful nature. Paul also tells us in Rom 8 “ that the one who lives according to the sinful nature, and sets his mind on it, cannot please God and in fact is hostile to God. To set the mind on the sinful nature leads to death, but to set the mind on the Spirit brings life and peace”. Once we are aware that drunkenness is sin we become an enemy of God if we choose a drunken life instead of a godly life. Such a life of sin cannot be helped or blessed by God and it leads to damage, disaster and death. A life that is turned to God and away from sin will experience peace, blessing and eternal life <input type="checkbox"/> Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians (5:18): “And do not get drunk with wine ... but be filled with the Spirit”. From this we see that instead of alcohol God wants us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We need to be influenced and directed by Him. When we are drunk, we are controlled by alcohol but we should not be controlled by anything other than God’s Holy Spirit. <input type="checkbox"/> When you are drunk, you are not in your right mind. You can’t think clearly. In Luke 21 Jesus says there will be times when we need to have a clear mind saying “Watch out! Don’t let your hearts be dulled by parties and drunkenness..... Keep alert at all times and pray that you might be strong enough to escape what is about to happen“ We are easily deceived and we fail to do what we should when we have had too much to drink. <input type="checkbox"/> Another reason that Paul tells us not be drunk, but filled with the Spirit, is so that we don’t waste our days: “So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.” Eph 5:15-16. Life requires us to work hard to care for our families, serve the Lord Jesus Christ and overcome many difficulties. We cannot do this if we lose our money, our mind and our days through drinking. <input type="checkbox"/> The apostle Peter seriously warns us “Be sober-minded, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (1 Pet 5:8). The devil uses alcohol to destroy men’s minds, health and lives. When people are drunk they do stupid things.

	<p>SUGGESTION <i>Ask the men to give examples of such things</i> (e.g. they commit more sin, they get into fights, they abuse their families, they lose their money, they injure themselves, they drive dangerously they make foolish decisions) Perhaps some are willing to talk about their life before they became a Christian.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> There is also another important reason to avoid drunkenness. God’s people are called to be holy, as He is holy (1 Pet 1:15-16). To be holy is to be set apart. God wants us to be set apart, and different in our behaviour, so that others will know that we follow Jesus by the way we live. Peter talks about this: “You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols.” (1 Pet4:3). God has a much better, cleaner, healthier, happier and more holy life for us.</p> <p>3. So we can see why drunkenness is a sin because drink controls us, not the Holy Spirit. It damages and destroys lives. God loves us and wants us to be filled with the Holy Spirit and let Him produce His good life inside us (Gal 5:22-23). Our lives are short and we don’t have much time here on Earth. We need to make the most of all of our time. We can do that by thinking clearly and being sober-minded, so that we can focus on the things that are really important and act wisely. Most of all God wants us to be holy, as He is holy.</p>
<p>Group Discussion See how this applies to Khmer men-note feedback on flipchart</p>	<p>This teaching is not followed by all Christian Khmer men or by most other men.</p> <p>Split the participants into small groups and ask them to list either or both:</p> <p>a) if Christian men have a problem with drink, how can they be helped? b) how should this teaching be shared with other Khmer men?</p> <p>Feedback – get answers from each group then suggest any important ones they missed e.g; a) go with them to coffee shops instead of bars, do things together with your families, see what can be bought with drinking money saved;pray for them and with them showing them that God doesn’t reject them but loves them b) same as a)</p>
<p>Summarise How Good Real Men deal with this issue and how they can help friends and other Khmer men with this</p>	<p>Today we have learned that men turn to excessive drink because: ***** , which causes problems such as:***** , The answer for Christian men is :*****. Then we can share this truth with others. *(summarise the answers from the discussions)</p> <p># We understand that only by letting Jesus reign in our heart can we be truly changed and set free from the damage caused by excessive drinking</p> <p># As Good Real Men we help each other by listening to and praying for each other.</p> <p># Also we need to be humble enough to ask for help when we need it. None of us is perfect so Jesus has brought us together as brothers to help each other.</p> <p># We don’t speak harshly to anyone who is struggling with this issue. We encourage them with the truth that God forgives us when we turn to Him.</p> <p># We are good friends and keep things told privately to ourselves. If we need help with such a friend we may arrange to talk to our men’s group leader together.</p> <p># Finally we ask God to give us opportunities to talk with other Khmer men about God’s way to deal with alcohol. Some may laugh at us when we talk about this but others will be glad we were a true friend and showed them the way to be helped.</p>
<p>Close and agree the next meeting and what you will do</p>	<p>If you pray - include personal commitment to, a) receive the power of the Spirit to please God (but not legalistic striving to be good) b) help each other c) seek opportunities to befriend others and share the truth with them</p>



Journey of a BLP
Level 1
Module 6