

# THE JOURNEY OF A GOOD REAL MAN

## SELF RESPECT

<p><b>Describe the Issue</b></p>	<p>Many men feel that they must do what others expect of them. They do not feel their beliefs, opinions or choices are as important as other people's.</p>
<p><b>Define the Problem</b> Create small groups After discussion ask for Group Feedback noting it on flipchart if appropriate</p>	<p>Many men feel pressured into saying and doing things they disagree with instead of what they really believe to be true and right. <b><u>Split the participants into small groups (max 4) and ask them to list :</u></b> a) the reasons why this pressure is applied and men submit to it b) the problems this causes to men <b><u>Feedback - ask for answers and then suggest any important ones they have missed</u></b> <i>e.g; a) Cambodian culture, Buddhist beliefs, family pressure, friends, poverty b) feel inferior, bad, guilty, ashamed</i></p>
<p><b>Scripture Teaching</b></p> <p><b>This is not to be intended to be used as a message to be delivered to the men. It is Bible information to give leaders confidence that they know enough about the subject to lead a discussion on it.</b></p> <p><b>This information may give ideas for more than one discussion</b></p>	<p><b>WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT THE ISSUE OF SELF-RESPECT AND CHOICES?</b></p> <p><b>1. Gen 1:26</b> God said, "Let us make mankind (male and female) in our image...so that they may rule over..all the animals. So God created mankind in his own image SUGGESTION <b><u>Ask participants what they think this means for their lives.</u></b> (<i>God made both men and women in His image to have a relationship with Him. We are superior to animals. We should be treated with respect and we should treat others with respect, not like animals).</i></p> <p><b>2. John 1:12</b> .. to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God <b>I John 3:2</b> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears we shall be like him Believers in Jesus are given a new status and a new nature; we are made into God's children and one day will be completely changed into Jesus likeness. SUGGESTION <b><u>Ask the men "How do you think this should affect how we behave?"</u></b> <i>(We should respect and value ourselves and not choose anything that damages, oppresses or shames ourselves or anyone else. We should say "No" to any urge or pressure to do wrong, This may come from our own feelings and ideas or from someone else trying to influence or bully us)</i></p> <p><b>3.</b> The Bible tells many true stories of men who knew they were important to God and chose to do His will, even when it was very difficult. SUGGESTION ask for examples of such men(e.g; Noah, Abraham, Joshua, Daniel and his friends). One of the best examples is Joseph. <b><u>Perhaps tell the story of Joseph (based on Genesis 39). His self-respect came from knowing that God had a purpose for his life. He refused to choose sinful behaviour (Gen 39:9 "How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.")</u></b>. <b><u>When he was falsely accused him of rape and thrown into prison the LORD was with him. Because of his faithfulness, God rescued and used him greatly to save his people.</u></b></p> <p><b>4.</b> When Jesus said to his disciples, "<b>Follow me and I will make you fishers of men</b>" He called them to a high purpose and to transformation. They became Jesus' co-workers and brave men who overcame fear and threats, to do his will. SUGGESTION <b><u>Tell the story (based on Acts5:17-41) of what happened when they were arrested, imprisoned and told to stop preaching Christ; (Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.)</u></b> <b><u>Even though they were beaten God gave them inner, peace, joy and strength to continue doing what was right.</u></b></p> <p><b>5.</b> One very important area of choice is in sexual matters. 1 Cor 6:18-20 Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Don't you realize that your body is the</p>

	<p>temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honour God with your body. God values us so highly that He sent His Son to take the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross. Therefore He wants us to value and respect ourselves. He does not want us to make wrong choices dictated by our feelings, our family, our friends, our employers or our culture. This is because God no longer lives in buildings – He lives in us! When we become a true Christian the Holy Spirit lives in our body - it becomes His temple. So we should do nothing to dishonour or damage it.</p> <p><b>6. 1Peter 4:3-5 You have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and idolatry...but they will have to give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead</b> One day we all will die and we will <u>not</u> come back again to live many more lives. <b>Heb 9:27</b>says <b>people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,</b> We are responsible to God for our lives, not to others. <b>When</b> we choose to obey Him, we <b>are</b> assured that after this life we will be with Him in heaven forever. Those who <b>choose to</b> follow others into ways that God hates will be separated from Him and every good thing forever.</p> <p>7. Self-Respect leads to respect for others. It helps us to fulfil God’s commandment; <b>Luke 10:27 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbour as yourself</b></p>
<p><b>Group Discussion</b> 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. <b>Split the participants into small groups and ask them to list either or both:</b></p> <p>a) if Christian men do not follow this teaching, how can they be helped? b) how should this teaching be shared with other Khmer men?</p> <p><b>Feedback - ask for answers and then suggest any important ones they have missed e.g; a) be fully committed to Christ, learn of their identity in Christ as a greatly loved son of God*, ask God to enable them to stand for what is right b) explain that men were not made by God to be oppressed, Jesus can change and make us strong.</b></p>
<p><b>Summarise</b> 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 often do not respect or value themselves, which causes problems such as: *****. The answer for Christian men is *****. Then we can share this truth with others. <b>*(summarise the answers from the discussions)</b></p> <p># We understand that only Jesus changes hearts and enables men to be good, strong, people who choose what is right - free from the control of others. # It is good to help each other by listening to and praying for each other. # 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. # Good friends keep things told privately to themselves. If we need help with such a friend it is good to talk together with someone you trust. # It is good to ask God to give us opportunities to talk with others about this. Some may laugh at us but others will be glad we showed them how to be helped</p>
<p><b>Close and agree the next meeting and what you will do</b></p>	<p><b>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 and share the truth with others</b></p>



Journey of a BLP  
**Level 1**  
**Module 1**