

***Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone...”***

***Genesis 2:18a.*** God the father, in His wisdom, has spoken to us men about going at life alone. He is against it!

## **Why go to a men’s Bible Study?**

- Perhaps I was raised, or have come to believe; that real men should not need help from other men when it comes to living life.
- It’s possible that I may not know much about the Bible; the order of the books in the Old Testament and the New Testament .
- Perhaps I am uncomfortable about what the experience could be like? What if these guys ask me to read out loud, or worse we sing together, or hold hands?
- Maybe I feel a little intimidated studying with what I perceive as “experts” in theology and don’t want to look foolish. You know, I only have two Bibles; a children’s living Bible with pictures that my grandma gave me when I was 9 years old, and a family Bible the size of a large brick (15”x 20” and 8” thick and weighing 9lbs). Oh and by the way, I AM STILL NOT GOING!

***I asked those questions and put up those objections to my pastor long ago. He said: “Come and see.” And I did ... I came, I saw, and this is what I found.***

Early that first Saturday morning, I met a group of men who welcomed me as the new guy. I immediately witnessed how they interacted with each other like brothers. There was no evidence of special words or phrases, nor did I feel intimidated that I would not understand or keep up. Rather, it was an interaction much like old friends without the curse words. These guys liked each other and obviously believed the early Saturday wake up was worthy because they got to hang out.

***This is what happened:*** The study started with light banter and then came to order with a prayer from the leader. We studied from a weekly devotional book which required the reading of scripture from both the Old and New testaments. Most of the guys had to use the “tabs” on their bibles to find the books. I was not alone! (some admitted that they needed the tabs, even if it was ‘cheating’) I remember thinking: “These guys are like me, my brother and my friends when we’re having fun just without the F-bombs.”

At the end of my first Men's Bible Study, the leader asked how we could pray for each other? **Never in my life, had anyone asked how they could pray for me!** My intent prior to coming was to play my hand with my cards close to my vest, listen much, and speak little. However, when my mouth opened I heard myself tell these 'strangers' about my son being diagnosed just a week before with a terminal disease that would end his life before his second birthday. So much for my poker face. However, my eyes were the only dry eyes in the room. I was wearing that "tough guy" mask I was taught to wear that demands no emotional expression on my part. **Here's what is real and honest; It is in our culture that men are supposed to be rugged and expressionless. It is clear that God never intended us to be this way.**

**Here's what happened next:** These guys gathered around me to pray... everyone of them prayed a prayer (short one) over me and my family. They prayed right then and there! Have you ever heard someone say: "I'll pray for you" and thought it was just a cliché? You ever wonder if they ever did? Well, these guys did pray right on the spot and then throughout the week, every single day!

**There's more:** Some called me during the week to invite me to come next Saturday morning to Study, pray and shoot the bull with them. These guys were real men who stood by their deep convictions, demonstrating their faith in God, while praying for me and my family. They accepted me and looked forward to seeing me again. I realised at that moment that I felt the same towards them. I've been involved in a men's study on Saturday mornings for 19 consecutive years now.

I know from experience that it is NOT good for a man to be alone in the battle common to all men. Even the strongest warrior needs brothers to cover his back. There is a peace found during the regular reading of God's word with other brothers. There is strength, encouragement and comfort knowing that you have brothers praying for you and your family during the week.

**Is a men's bible study for you? "Come and see, I know you will be glad you did."**

Pastor Ken

