

LIONS DON'T BOW

SERMON SERIES

4-Week Campaign to Launch Men's Groups

"A domesticated man IS fatherlessness."

Complete sermon outlines, fill-in-the-blank notes, movie clip suggestions, and church implementation guide for launching a men's movement in your church.

Sermon Outlines • Teaching Notes • Movie Clips • Listener Guides

Implementation Timeline • Team Roles • Promotion Strategy

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LISTENER GUIDES

Fill-in-the-blank handouts for each week (printable)

CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

Campaign Overview

The Lions Don't Bow campaign is a 4-week sermon series designed to awaken men to the crisis of passivity, cast vision for biblical masculinity, and launch them into 12-week men's groups using the Warrior Protocols curriculum. The sermons build momentum each week, culminating in a call to commitment in Week 4.

Campaign Flow

- Weeks 1-4:** Sermon series (churchwide)
- Week 4:** Sign-ups for men's groups during/after service
- Week 5:** Groups launch using Warrior Protocols (12 weeks)
- Week 17:** Groups complete; celebration and next steps

What You'll Need

- This sermon series guide (for the preacher)
- Warrior Protocols Leader Guide (for facilitators)
- Participant Handouts (for men in groups)
- Listener guides for each sermon (included at end of this document)
- Sign-up cards or digital registration
- Movie clips (optional but powerful; sourced by your team)

TIMELINE & CHECKLIST

8 Weeks Before Launch

- Senior pastor commits to preaching the series
- Identify Campaign Director to coordinate all pieces
- Download all materials from lionsdontbow.com/for-pastors
- Set dates for 4-week series and group launch

6 Weeks Before Launch

- Recruit Group Facilitators (1 per 6-10 men)

- Train facilitators on Warrior Protocols curriculum
- Decide on group meeting times/locations
- Create registration system (cards, website, app)

4 Weeks Before Launch

- Begin promotion (stage announcements, social media, email)
- Source and test movie clips for sermons
- Print listener guides for all 4 weeks
- Brief worship team on series theme and feel

Week of Launch

- Listener guides in seats or at doors
- Registration table staffed after each service
- Facilitators prepared and confirmed
- Follow-up system ready for sign-ups

TEAM ROLES

Campaign Director

Oversees the entire campaign from sermon series through group completion.

- Coordinates between preacher, facilitators, and church staff
- Manages timeline and ensures all pieces are in place
- Tracks registrations and assigns men to groups
- Troubleshoots issues during the 12-week group phase

Preacher

Delivers the 4-week sermon series with conviction and clarity.

- Reviews sermon outlines and makes them their own
- Shares personal stories of passivity and growth
- Casts vision for what men's groups will be
- Makes clear call to action each week, especially Week 4

Group Facilitators

Lead the 12-week Warrior Protocols groups after the sermon series.

- Complete facilitator training before groups launch
- Commit to leading weekly for 12 consecutive weeks
- Follow up with absent members
- Report progress/concerns to Campaign Director
- Model vulnerability and hold men accountable

Promotion Team

Creates awareness and urgency for the campaign.

- Designs graphics for social media, slides, print materials
- Writes email/text sequences for promotion and follow-up
- Creates video testimonials from men (if available)
- Manages registration table on Sundays

PROMOTION STRATEGY

4 weeks out: Teaser announcements. 'Something's coming for the men of this church.'

3 weeks out: Announce series dates. 'Lions Don't Bow starts [date].'

2 weeks out: Personal invitation from pastor. 'Men, I need you in your seat for this one.'

1 week out: Final push. Testimonials if available. 'This could change your family.'

During series: Weekly reminders. Registration updates. 'Spots are filling up.'

Week 4: Hard close. 'Today is the day to commit. Cards in your seat.'

SERMON 1 OF 4

THE SILENT CRISIS

Why Our Families Are Falling Apart

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."

— Genesis 3:6

THE BIG IDEA

"The greatest threat to your family isn't outside your home. It's inside you."

NOTE TO THE PREACHER

This sermon is a wake-up call. Many men in your congregation have never connected their passivity to the problems in their marriages and families. Go slow. Let the weight land. Don't soften it. The goal is awareness, not guilt, but don't skip the conviction to get to comfort.

SUGGESTED MOVIE CLIPS

Braveheart (1995)

William Wallace's 'They may take our lives' speech. Use this to contrast courageous leadership with passive abdication. 'What would it look like if men led their homes with this kind of conviction?' (2 min)

The Shawshank Redemption (1994)

Brooks being released from prison, unable to cope with freedom. 'Some men have been passive so long they don't know how to live any other way.' (3 min)

Gladiator (2000)

Maximus in the arena: 'What we do in life echoes in eternity.' Contrast this with men who drift through life making no impact. (1 min)

SERMON 1: THE SILENT CRISIS — OUTLINE

1. There's an epidemic no one is talking about.

Fill in the blank: Male _____ is the silent killer of marriages and families.

(Answer: *passivity*)

Over 70% of divorces are initiated by women. When researchers ask why, the answers are consistent: 'He checked out.' 'He stopped leading.' 'I felt like a single parent.' 'He was physically present but emotionally absent.' We're losing families not to dramatic affairs or addictions, but to men who simply stopped showing up.

2. This isn't a new problem. It's the original problem.

Fill in the blank: Adam's sin wasn't just eating the fruit. It was his _____ while Eve was deceived.

(Answer: *silence*)

Look at Genesis 3:6 again. Adam was 'with her.' He wasn't somewhere else. He was right there, watching the serpent deceive his wife, and he said nothing. He had received the command directly from God. He knew the stakes. And he stood there silent. Every passive man since has been replaying Adam's failure.

3. Passivity isn't neutral. It's destructive.

Fill in the blank: A domesticated man IS _____. Even when he's physically present.

(Answer: *fatherlessness*)

We talk about fatherlessness as if it only means dad moved out. But there's a more insidious kind: fathers who are home every night but completely checked out. Kids who have a dad at the dinner table but not a dad who engages, leads, or protects. That kind of absence might be worse because it comes with the illusion of presence.

4. Your silence is saying something.

Fill in the blank: When men don't lead, someone else has to. Usually it's your _____, and she's exhausted.

(Answer: *wife*)

Every decision you defer, every conflict you avoid, every responsibility you dodge, someone has to pick up. Your wife didn't sign up to be a single parent with a roommate. She wanted a partner who would lead alongside her. When you check out, she has to check in for both of you. And she's tired.

CLOSING

Here's the truth: You can't fix what you won't face. And many of us have been avoiding this mirror for years. But something brought you here today. Maybe it was the Holy Spirit. Maybe it was your wife. Maybe it was the quiet desperation of knowing things aren't right but not knowing how to change. Whatever it was, this is your moment. Over the next few weeks, we're going to talk about what it means for men to stop being passive and start leading. Not dominating. Leading. The way Christ leads the church. But it starts with honesty. It starts with admitting: 'That's me. I'm that guy. And I don't want to be him anymore.'

CALL TO ACTION

This week, I want you to do something simple but hard. Ask your wife this question: 'Where do you wish I would step up more?' Then listen. Don't defend. Don't explain. Just listen. Write down what she says. And bring that awareness into next week.

SERMON 2 OF 4

DESIGNED FOR MORE

Recovering God's Blueprint for Men

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

— Genesis 2:15

THE BIG IDEA

"You weren't made to drift. You were designed to cultivate and guard."

NOTE TO THE PREACHER

Last week was conviction. This week is vision. Men need to see what they were made for, not just what they've failed at. The Hebrew word 'shamar' (guard/protect) is key here. Adam wasn't just a gardener, he was a guardian. Spend time on this distinction. It reframes masculine purpose.

SUGGESTED MOVIE CLIPS

The Lion King (1994)

Mufasa teaching Simba about the Circle of Life and his future responsibility. 'Everything the light touches is our kingdom... A king's time rises and falls like the sun. One day, Simba, the sun will set on my time here, and will rise with you as the new king.' (2 min)

Man on Fire (2004)

Creasy's transformation from checked-out bodyguard to fierce protector. The scene where he commits fully to protecting Pita. 'What does it look like when a man decides to actually guard what's been entrusted to him?' (2 min)

Hacksaw Ridge (2016)

Desmond Doss saving soldiers one by one: 'Lord, help me get one more.' A man fully committed to his calling, regardless of cost. (3 min)

SERMON 2: DESIGNED FOR MORE — OUTLINE

1. God gave men a job before He gave them a wife.

Fill in the blank: In Genesis 2:15, God called Adam to _____ the garden and _____ it.

(Answer: work / take care of (guard))

Before Eve was created, before the fall, before everything went wrong, Adam had a calling. Work and protect. Cultivate and guard. This wasn't a curse. It was a commission. Men were designed for mission and responsibility from the very beginning. You weren't made to drift. You were made for purpose.

2. You're not just a provider. You're a guardian.

Fill in the blank: The Hebrew word 'shamar' means to guard or protect. It's the same word used for a _____ guarding a city.

(Answer: watchman)

Adam wasn't just supposed to pull weeds. He was supposed to protect the garden from anything that would threaten it, including the serpent who showed up later. Men are called to be watchmen over their homes. Not passive observers, but active guardians. The question isn't 'What's wrong?' The question is 'What's threatening what God has entrusted to me, and how do I stop it?'

3. Culture has tried to domesticate masculine purpose.

Fill in the blank: The world says masculine leadership is _____. God says it's your calling.

(Answer: toxic (or oppressive))

Somewhere along the way, men got the message that taking initiative is controlling, that leading is dominating, that protecting is smothering. So they backed off. They domesticated themselves. They traded mission for comfort, conviction for compliance. But a lion in a zoo is still a lion. He's just forgotten what he was made for.

4. Your design hasn't changed. Your obedience to it has.

Fill in the blank: Men are still called to _____, _____, and _____.

(Answer: work / protect / provide)

Build something meaningful. Guard what's been entrusted to you. Ensure your family has what they need, not just financially, but emotionally, spiritually, and relationally. This isn't cultural oppression. It's creative design. The problem isn't that you have too much responsibility. It's that you've abdicated the responsibility you were designed to carry.

CLOSING

God didn't make a mistake when He made you a man. He designed you with purpose, capacity, and calling. The passivity you've settled into isn't your identity. It's a cage you've accepted. But the lion is still in there. The guardian is still in there. The leader your family needs is still in there. He's just been asleep. This series is about waking him up. Not to become a tyrant. Not to become a dictator. But to become the cultivator and guardian God designed you to be. Your wife is waiting. Your kids are waiting. Your own soul is waiting. It's time to step into what you were made for.

CALL TO ACTION

This week, I want you to identify one thing in your life that needs 'guarding.' It might be your marriage, your kids' hearts, your own integrity, or your family's time. Something that's been drifting, unprotected. Then actively guard it this week. Notice what's different when you're on watch versus when you're checked out.

SERMON 3 OF 4

NO MORE EXCUSES

The Day Everything Changes

"David said to Saul, 'Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.'"

— 1 Samuel 17:32

THE BIG IDEA

"The difference between Saul and David wasn't ability. It was initiative."

NOTE TO THE PREACHER

This is the action sermon. Men have had two weeks of awareness and vision. Now they need the challenge to move. The Saul/David contrast is powerful because Saul had everything (authority, armor, army) but was passive. David had nothing but initiative. Push hard on the 'waiting for perfect conditions' excuse. Most men are waiting for something that will never come.

SUGGESTED MOVIE CLIPS

We Were Soldiers (2002)

Lt. Col. Hal Moore's prayer before battle and his commitment to be the first one in and last one out. Leadership by initiative.
(2 min)

Rocky Balboa (2006)

Rocky's speech to his son: 'It ain't about how hard you hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward.' (2 min)

The Pursuit of Happyness (2006)

Chris Gardner running to catch the bus, refusing to give up despite impossible circumstances. Initiative when everything says quit. (2 min)

SERMON 3: NO MORE EXCUSES — OUTLINE

1. There are giants roaring at your family every day.

Fill in the blank: Goliath came forward every morning and evening for _____ days, and no one did anything.

(Answer: forty)

For forty days, a giant stood in front of Israel's army and mocked them. Every single day. Twice a day. And what did the army do? Nothing. They waited. They hoped it would resolve itself. They complained about the problem while taking no action. Sound familiar? The problems in your marriage, your parenting, your leadership... how long have they been roaring while you've done nothing?

2. The king had every advantage. He did nothing.

Fill in the blank: Saul had the authority, the armor, and the army. David had nothing but _____.

(Answer: initiative)

Saul was the king. He was supposed to be the leader. He had every resource at his disposal. But he was paralyzed by fear, uncertainty, and passivity. Meanwhile, a shepherd boy with no armor, no training, and no authority stepped forward and said, 'I'll go.' The difference wasn't ability. It was willingness to move.

3. Passive men have a million excuses. David had none.

Fill in the blank: David didn't wait for perfect _____. He moved with what he had.

(Answer: conditions)

David could have said, 'I'm just a shepherd.' 'I don't have armor.' 'I've never fought a giant.' 'Someone more qualified should handle this.' Those excuses would have been reasonable. But reasonable men don't slay giants. David moved toward the problem instead of away from it. He trusted God with the outcome and took the first step.

4. Initiative is risky. Passivity is riskier.

Fill in the blank: David could have been killed. But Israel would have been _____ if he'd done nothing.

(Answer: destroyed (or enslaved))

Yes, initiative means you might fail. You might have the hard conversation and it goes poorly. You might make the decision and it turns out wrong. You might step up and fall short. That's scary. But do you know what's scarier? Doing nothing while your family drifts further into chaos. The risk of action is real. The cost of inaction is certain.

CLOSING

Every man in this room has a giant. Maybe it's a conversation you've been avoiding. Maybe it's a sin you've been hiding. Maybe it's a decision you've been deferring for months or years. That giant is roaring at your family every single day. And every day you wait, it gets louder. Today is the day you stop waiting. Today is the day you stop

making excuses. Today is the day you pick up your five smooth stones and run toward the giant. Not because you're guaranteed to win, but because you were made for this. Because your family is counting on you. Because passive men don't slay giants, and your family needs a giant-slayer.

CALL TO ACTION

Right now, I want you to identify your giant. Not a vague idea. A specific name. What is the one thing you've been avoiding that needs to be confronted? Write it down. This week, you're going to take one step toward it. Not solve it. Just move toward it. Next week, we're going to talk about how to do this together, because you're not meant to fight alone.

SERMON 4 OF 4

RISE TOGETHER

Why You Can't Do This Alone

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

— Proverbs 27:17

THE BIG IDEA

"Isolated men stay passive. Brotherhood creates warriors."

NOTE TO THE PREACHER

This is the invitation sermon. Everything has been building to this: the launch of men's groups. Cast vision for what these groups will be (not another Bible study, but a band of brothers). Be specific about the commitment required. You want men who are hungry, not men who are casual. The 12-week Warrior Protocols start next week for those who sign up.

SUGGESTED MOVIE CLIPS

Band of Brothers (2001)

Easy Company's 'Currahee' training and bond. 'We few, we happy few, we band of brothers.' The power of men forged together through challenge. (2 min)

Remember the Titans (2000)

The team coming together at Gettysburg and breaking down racial barriers through shared mission. Brotherhood formed in the fire. (3 min)

300 (2006)

The Spartans fighting in formation, each man protecting the man beside him. 'A single Spartan is worth any ten soldiers of another land. A Spartan in formation is worth any hundred.' (2 min)

SERMON 4: RISE TOGETHER — OUTLINE

1. Isolation is the enemy's strategy.

Fill in the blank: A lion separated from the pride is _____.

(Answer: *vulnerable (or easy prey)*)

Predators don't attack the herd. They isolate the target first. The enemy knows that men who walk alone are easier to take down. So he whispers, 'You can handle this yourself.' 'No one would understand.' 'Real men don't need help.' And men believe it. And they stay stuck. And their families suffer.

2. You were never designed to do this alone.

Fill in the blank: Ecclesiastes 4:10 says, 'Pity the one who falls and has no one to _____.'

(Answer: *help them up*)

God created community before He created woman. He said it wasn't good for man to be alone. Men need other men. We need brothers who will challenge us, encourage us, call out our excuses, and refuse to let us quit. You cannot sharpen yourself. Iron sharpens iron.

3. A band of brothers changes everything.

Fill in the blank: Men in isolation make _____. Men in brotherhood make progress.

(Answer: *excuses*)

When you're alone, it's easy to rationalize. Easy to minimize. Easy to stay comfortable. But when you've got brothers looking you in the eye asking, 'Did you do what you said you'd do?', everything changes. Accountability isn't punishment. It's fuel. It's the difference between good intentions and actual transformation.

4. The next step is commitment, not just agreement.

Fill in the blank: Knowing what to do isn't enough. You have to _____ it. With others.

(Answer: *do*)

You've heard the sermons. You've felt the conviction. You've seen the vision. But none of it matters if you walk out of here and do nothing. This is your moment to commit. Not just to try harder alone, but to lock arms with other men who are done being passive. We're launching something called Warrior Protocols. It's a 12-week journey for men who are serious about change.

CLOSING

Over these four weeks, we've talked about the crisis of male passivity, God's design for men, the call to initiative, and now the power of brotherhood. If you've felt something stirring in you... that's not coincidence. That's calling. God is inviting you to become the man your family needs. Not through another book or podcast or sermon series. Through action. Through accountability. Through brotherhood. Starting next week, we're launching men's groups using the Warrior Protocols. Twelve weeks. Small groups of men. Real conversations. Real challenges. Real change. This isn't for casual attenders. This is for men who are done being passive and ready to do the work.

CALL TO ACTION

If you're ready to commit, here's what I'm asking: Sign up today. Don't wait until you feel ready. You won't. Don't wait until your schedule clears up. It won't. Decide right now that you're going to be in a room with other men every week for the next three months, fighting for your marriage, your family, and your own soul. Cards are in your seat. Fill it out. Turn it in. And show up next week ready to work. Lions don't bow. And lions don't hunt alone.

LISTENER GUIDES

Print and distribute these fill-in-the-blank handouts each week.

Each guide is designed to fit on one page. Print double-sided with notes on the back, or single-sided for simpler distribution.

WEEK 1 — LIONS DON'T BOW

THE SILENT CRISIS

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."

— Genesis 3:6

Big Idea: The greatest threat to your family isn't outside your home. It's inside you.

1. There's an epidemic no one is talking about.

Male _____ is the silent killer of marriages and families.

2. This isn't a new problem. It's the original problem.

Adam's sin wasn't just eating the fruit. It was his _____ while Eve was deceived.

3. Passivity isn't neutral. It's destructive.

A domesticated man IS _____. Even when he's physically present.

4. Your silence is saying something.

When men don't lead, someone else has to. Usually it's your _____, and she's exhausted.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE:

This week, I want you to do something simple but hard. Ask your wife this question: 'Where do you wish I would step up more?' Then listen. Don't defend. Don't explain. Just listen. Write down what she says. And bring that awareness into next week.

NOTES:

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WEEK 2 — LIONS DON'T BOW

DESIGNED FOR MORE

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

— Genesis 2:15

Big Idea: You weren't made to drift. You were designed to cultivate and guard.

1. God gave men a job before He gave them a wife.

In Genesis 2:15, God called Adam to _____ the garden and _____ it.

2. You're not just a provider. You're a guardian.

The Hebrew word 'shamar' means to guard or protect. It's the same word used for a _____ guarding a city.

3. Culture has tried to domesticate masculine purpose.

The world says masculine leadership is _____. God says it's your calling.

4. Your design hasn't changed. Your obedience to it has.

Men are still called to _____, _____, and _____.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE:

This week, I want you to identify one thing in your life that needs 'guarding.' It might be your marriage, your kids' hearts, your own integrity, or your family's time. Something that's been drifting, unprotected. Then actively guard it this week. Notice what's different when you're on watch versus when you're checked out.

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WEEK 3 — LIONS DON'T BOW

NO MORE EXCUSES

"David said to Saul, 'Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.'"

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1. There are giants roaring at your family every day.

Goliath came forward every morning and evening for _____ days, and no one did anything.

2. The king had every advantage. He did nothing.

Saul had the authority, the armor, and the army. David had nothing but _____.

3. Passive men have a million excuses. David had none.

David didn't wait for perfect _____. He moved with what he had.

4. Initiative is risky. Passivity is riskier.

David could have been killed. But Israel would have been _____ if he'd done nothing.

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WEEK 4 — LIONS DON'T BOW

RISE TOGETHER

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

— Proverbs 27:17

Big Idea: Isolated men stay passive. Brotherhood creates warriors.

1. Isolation is the enemy's strategy.

A lion separated from the pride is _____.

2. You were never designed to do this alone.

Ecclesiastes 4:10 says, 'Pity the one who falls and has no one to _____.'

3. A band of brothers changes everything.

Men in isolation make _____. Men in brotherhood make progress.

4. The next step is commitment, not just agreement.

Knowing what to do isn't enough. You have to _____ it. With others.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE:

If you're ready to commit, here's what I'm asking: Sign up today. Don't wait until you feel ready. You won't. Don't wait until your schedule clears up. It won't. Decide right now that you're going to be in a room with other men every week for the next three months, fighting for your marriage, your family, and your own soul. Cards are in your seat. Fill it out. Turn it in. And show up next week ready to work. Lions don't bow. And lions don't hunt alone.

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Download the complete Warrior Protocols curriculum at:

lionsdontbow.com/for-pastors

- Leader Guide (20+ pages with facilitator notes)
- Participant Handouts (printable weekly sheets)
- 50+ articles for continued learning
- Free assessments for men

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