

NO MOVE OF GOD WITHOUT MEN OF GOD

SLEEPING GIANT

core team workbook kenny luck



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CORE TEAM EXPERIENCE
WRITTEN BY BRIAN GASS

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Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| About the Author | 04 |
| Introduction | 05 |
| The <i>Sleeping Giant</i> Experience | 06 |
| SESSION 01 | |
| Waiting for a Hero | 08 |
| SESSION 02 | |
| A Movement Begins with a Man | 30 |
| SESSION 03 | |
| Mission, Vision, and Alignment | 52 |
| SESSION 04 | |
| Strong Funnels and Pathways | 74 |
| SESSION 05 | |
| Strong Relational Core and Groups | 96 |
| SESSION 06 | |
| “Go” Time | 118 |
| Leader Notes | 140 |
| Group Covenant | 156 |
| Group Directory | 157 |



About the Author

KENNY LUCK is the Men's Pastor at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, where over 7,000 men are connected in small groups. He is also the Founder and President of Every Man Ministries which helps churches worldwide develop and grow healthy men's communities.

He is an ECPA Platinum Award Winning Author, who has written and coauthored 20 books, including *RISK, DREAM, FIGHT, SOAR, Every Man, God's Man, Every Young Man, God's Man*, and the *Every Man Bible Studies* from the best-selling *Every Man Series*.

Kenny is a trusted expert on men's issues. In addition to logging over 2 million miles in the air to speak to audiences, he has made numerous radio and television appearances that include ABC Family, Christian Broadcasting Network, and over 100 other programs worldwide. He has been a featured contributor to *SermonCentral.com*, *ChurchLeaders.com*, Rick Warren's *Ministry Toolbox*, *New Man*, *Men of Integrity*, *The Journal*, *HomeLife*, *Walk Thru the Bible*, and *Young Believers Magazine*.

So what does he think about all his private and personal achievements?

"None of this matters if my wife and children don't respect me as a man, husband, and father. ... They are my first ministry, and respect by others is meaningless without theirs. My relationships with them are the acid test of my life and ministry. So many parts of me are still broken, but God is healing me every day and I wake up every day in awe that His kingdom has come to me and comes through me. Every day I ask myself: *How did I get here?* When I speak I ask myself constantly, *What am I doing here?* or *How do I get to do what I do?* Absolutely none of it makes sense outside the grace of God."

Kenny is a graduate of UCLA where he met his wife, Chrissy. They have three children, Cara, Ryan, and Jenna, and live in Trabuco Canyon, California.

Follow Kenny on Facebook (facebook.com/kennyluck), on Twitter ([@kenny_luck](https://twitter.com/kenny_luck)), and at www.everymanministries.com.

A Word from Kenny

DEAR PASTOR AND CORE TEAM, you are engaging this training because you get it. Healthy men change things at every level of society. You understand and see the reality that men have been given a mantle of influence that creates a large blast zone for better or for worse. You also see the victims of unhealthy men. Some of you have experienced that firsthand. Nowhere is this radius of impact more relevant than in the church. We are supposed to be reaching cultural man and producing leaders who support the kingdom mission and vision in local communities alongside their pastors. In that process, we are to be empowering health at all levels of society. But society is asking, “Where have all the good men gone?”

Sleeping Giant is going to attack the root of the problem.

This pathway for men’s ministry has as its goal waking the *Sleeping Giant*—turning affiliated men in the church into activated men, moving men from the audience to the army and from being unintentional to intentional. Instead of skimming the surface of the water to limit the damage of the current moral and spiritual oil spill polluting communities, *Sleeping Giant* is going to cap the spill at its source. The church is going to become a center of masculine transformation and greatness. This is how the church was conceived and this will be its legacy again.

God has called every pastor worldwide to advance the kingdom of God in the community He has selected them to reach. God has also called the men of that body of believers to help Him. The *Sleeping Giant* strategy is the biblical way to implement and execute that vision. As you work together toward this goal, God is going to move mightily in your midst. As you pray and train together, God will create a powerful unit of God’s men capable of attracting other men. By trusting God together and following the biblical directions laid out in the *Sleeping Giant* model, you will build the leadership engine that your church and community so desperately need. You are going to see men Get In, Get Healthy, Get Strong, and Get Going.

Know this: you will be fiercely opposed. Just as Moses walked out of Egypt with Pharaoh’s work force, you are going after the one group Satan invests a great deal of effort and resources to control—men. Begin this battle with prayer and bathe all strategy in prayer. Lay down strong blankets of suppressive fire and guard your own heart. Then march together toward your victory.

The world is waiting for us to rise,

Kenny

The *Sleeping Giant* Experience

WELCOME TO A SIX-WEEK JOURNEY INTO *SLEEPING GIANT*! HERE'S HOW THE TRAINING WORKS:

INTRODUCTION // Each session begins with a narrative overview of the weekly topic. You will want to read this to set the stage for your personal study and to establish context for your time with the Core Team.

WORK AT HOME // If you want to grow in faith and find out what it means to be part of awakening the Sleeping Giant, you will enjoy unpacking this challenging material and applying it to your own journey as God's man. Each session in this workbook contains four short "Work at Home" segments for you to read and write about during the week leading up to your Core Team meeting. You may choose to do one per day or settle in for a Saturday morning personal retreat. There is also a testimony for you to read that fleshes out the principles you've been studying in real time.

ENRICHMENT // Throughout the Work at Home segments, you will see boxes that guide you to further enrichment. These will involve additional reading material for those who want to go deeper or grow in a particular area of faith and practice, movie ideas that will personally challenge you, or internet resources that can be faith-stretching exercises. Participate in as many or as few of these as God leads you.

CORE TEAM EXPERIENCE // Men appreciate getting together to hear each other's opinions, share some laughs, study the Word, encourage one another, and pray. Each week, your Core Team experience will begin with a review to get everyone on the same page. Next, you'll watch a video message from Kenny Luck and interact with questions for group discussion. (Discussion will be best if everyone has completed the Work at Home segments.) There is also an activity and/or Bible study in each Core Team experience that will help lay the foundation for your intentional men's ministry. You'll wrap up each meeting by summarizing key points and praying together.

ADDITIONAL ENCOURAGEMENT

This workbook includes ample space for you to write your answers, comments, and questions. A Notes page follows each session. This is where you can write any ideas, conclusions, challenges, and personal insights that you found meaningful that week.

This study is designed to cover a six-week time frame. However, if it takes you longer to complete the study personally or as a Core Team, take all the time you need. It is not unusual for a group to spend two or three meetings completing one lesson. Always go for depth over distance.

One last thing: Before you begin each session, commit your time to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind, guide your heart, and energize your spirit as you read each section and answer each question. Above all, adapt this study so that it truly works for you. Follow His leadership. This is your invitation to know God better, your opportunity to explore what a more passionate devotion to God means, and your encouragement to do this together with other God's men.

WAITING FOR A

SESSION 1

HERO

Gotham is in trouble. A pervasive sickness has fallen across the land, evil has the upper hand, and the people are desperate for leadership—someone to make things better and heal wounds brought by merciless men and unsavory thugs. But who? Who will make things right? Who will bring justice? Who will give the bully a taste of his own medicine? Will the Dark Knight rise to save the day?

Hundreds of millions of dollars are spent as moviegoers seek to discover the answer to that question for the third time. We can't get enough of super heroes, but here's the problem: Hypothetical fantasy, which makes good-versus-evil movies resonate, now illustrates the real-life drama of our time. Unfortunately, mythic heroes with synthetic abs are not available to stop the bad guys. Real women and children in real communities oppressed by real evils wait for regular men like you, me, and the local mechanic to transform into a hero who delivers hope.

But will men rise to the occasion? Will good men take a stand? Will God's men answer the call?

In this session, Core Team members will awaken to their context for men's ministry.

"THE GOOD MAN BRINGS GOOD
THINGS OUT OF THE GOOD
STORED UP IN HIM, THE EVIL
MAN BRINGS EVIL THINGS OUT
OF THE EVIL STORED UP IN HIM."

MATTHEW 12:35

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES, YOU WILL FIND SEVERAL PERSONAL STUDY SECTIONS TO READ AND THINK ABOUT BEFORE YOUR CORE TEAM MEETING. YOU ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS AND JOURNAL IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.

Broken Male Culture

We all know a guy who represents broken male culture. He might be like one of the beer commercial actors who comes off as so effeminate that the other macho guys in the scene mock him as they make plain that life can't get any better than making it to the bottom of a nice cold one. Or he could be like some TV personalities who think themselves "winning" when everyone knows otherwise. But perhaps the most representative figure of broken male culture is the deputy in *Courageous* who realizes that his life goal has been to be "good enough" as a husband, father, and man. For most of us, one of these descriptions may hit just a little too close to home.

What makes these distortions more painful is realizing the impact such men have on others around them. Broken-culture men are like sticks of dynamite that can go off, producing massive collateral damage. They self-preserve, self-protect, self-indulge, and seek to be self-important even at the expense of others. This powerful and dangerous acting out disappoints a loving Father who watches His sons expectantly, desiring that healthy expressions of character flow from them into the lives of others. Scripture tells us that the blast zones of broken male character and conduct break God's heart and boil His blood.

LESSONS FROM THE BIG SCREEN. Watch *Courageous*. Consider how these men's blast zones became an impact for good. Consider the other blast zones of influence in the film as well.

"The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of his delight. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress." Isaiah 5:7, NIV

1. The second part of verse 7 paints a terrible picture. How does this picture illustrate the world we live in while God's man sleeps? What are some examples of injustice, bloodshed, and cries of distress that come to mind? What role have men played in causing this pain?

2. Describe a typical vineyard or garden. How do those places symbolize the world God wants to see? In what ways can awakened men contribute to cultivating that kind of world?

Black Velvet

I was dazzled when I went to the jeweler to buy a diamond for my wife's engagement ring. As the jeweler popped open his briefcase, I expected to see a small bag holding a few diamonds preselected just for me. But after he placed a black velvet place mat on the table in front of me, I was stunned to see him pour out tens of thousands of dollars worth of diamonds. Against that black velvet I could see every cut and every facet of each gem. The contrast was remarkable and necessary to display the diamonds' glory.

The backdrop of our world is black

- 163 million orphans worldwide¹
- 38.6 million global HIV cases²
- 27 million modern-day slaves³
- 2 million sexually trafficked children⁴
- 11.5 million single mothers in the U.S. alone⁵

Against this backdrop God wants to pour out His diamonds: men who'll love Him through their actions, shining hope into a hurting world. Let's look at one picture Jesus gave of our potential to impact the world rightly—to foster a culture of life rather than death, light instead of darkness.

READ FOR YOURSELF

"Why Men Are In Trouble"
by William J. Bennett
(www.cnn.com)

"The End of Men"
by Hanna Rosin in
The Atlantic Monthly
(www.theatlantic.com)

"Men's Lib"
by Andrew Romano and
Tony Dokoupil in *Newsweek*
(www.thedailybeast.com)

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men. You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:13-14

3. Jesus used the image of salt to describe the need for a preserving influence in this world of decay. What examples of decay most disturb you? Which ones have the most impact in your community? Explain.

4. Jesus calls men to shine like diamonds against the backdrop of a very dark world. In what ways have you seen men impacting their world for good? How can you and your church be more involved as a force for good?

1. "UNICEF Progress for Children: A Report Card on Child Protection," no. 8, September 2009.
2. *Global Report: UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*, 2010.
3. Andrew Cockburn, "21st Century Slaves," *National Geographic*, September 2003.
4. "UNICEF Progress for Children: A Report Card on Child Protection," no. 8, September 2009.
5. 2009 U.S. Census Bureau Report.

The Church Is Naked

Hans Christian Anderson once told a simple tale of two salesmen who convince the emperor that they have magical cloth only the wise can see. Not wanting to appear unwise himself, the emperor commissions them to make him a suit of clothes fit for royalty. Then the story gets purposefully uncomfortable. While the emperor cannot see the cloth himself, he pretends he can out of fear of appearing stupid. One bad decision follows another as everyone supports his denial. The painfully humiliating turning point is when the new “suit” is finished. The tailors pretend to dress the emperor, attending to every delusional detail before he proudly marches in a parade before his subjects who energetically join in the fantasy—that is, until one boy has the courage to shout, “The emperor has no clothes!” Appearance collides with reality.

The church has long lived in denial of a similar, serious problem. We continue the procession of appearances, focusing on a seemingly healthy church with successful weekend services, discipleship programs, and different ministries and outreaches to our credit. But often we mask the deep and abiding reality that no one wants to say out loud: the men of our congregations are affiliated but not activated, in the audience but not in the army.

AFFILIATED MAN

- I am not really needed.
- I am not being developed.
- I can't see where I fit in.
- I feel more welcome outside the church.
- The church is mainly for women and children.

ACTIVATED MAN

- This church needs me.
- I am becoming better here.
- I see where I fit in.
- I feel accepted and welcome here.
- Men are leading in the church.

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”
Matthew 6:21-23, NIV

5. This passage is about where we place our investment. Where is your church currently placing most of its treasure, time, energy, and passion?

6. How do you think a congregation of activated men could impact ongoing ministry and other areas of church life that currently seem to get more attention? How can activated men make things better?

High Value Targets

High value targets. This is what a sniper sees nestled in the cross-hairs of his high precision rifle. When I read the book *Point of Impact* by Stephen Hunter I was immersed in the world of the sniper for the first time. I was fascinated by the way these men's minds were trained to work and I was amazed at the parallels to Satan's assault on the church. The whole idea of a sniper reducing the enemy's fighting ability by striking at high value targets (especially officers) was certainly memorable. The goal: maximum disruption to enemy operations. Target leaders. Pin down. Demoralize.

For a sniper, rank is synonymous with influence. And when it comes to our topic of the church, men, and their capacity to deliver help or harm, Satan is no fool. In fact, the Bible warns of a savvy Enemy, lying in wait specifically for men, capitalizing on their ignorance of his proximity and presence to take them down. In the process, the man is neutralized, people around him suffer, and the church's best potential leaders are carried away from God's purposes, conformed to a pattern of broken male culture in the world. What is shocking is the willingness of churches to view men in the community as acceptable losses.

“Therefore my people will go into exile for lack of understanding; those of high rank will die of hunger and the common people will be parched with thirst. Therefore Death expands its jaws, opening wide its mouth; into it will descend their nobles and masses with all their brawlers and revelers.”

Isaiah 5:13-14, NIV

7. What are some ways you feel that the Enemy has specifically targeted the men of your church?

8. Isaiah said “common people will be parched with thirst.” For what do you see the people of your church thirsting as a result of men being sniped?

// TESTIMONY // “BLEACHER GUY”

Meet Paul. He is the proverbial man on the sidelines. Paul sat in the bleachers of Saddleback Church for seven years. He thought about all the things, carried around all the feelings, and fought all the internal battles we have mentioned. The tip of his iceberg looked like this: ex-college football player, successful pharmaceutical sales executive, smooth talker, trainer, strong man-in-command. But below the water line he was that all-too-common blend of outward confidence whose eyes betray fear. Paul had fragmented family issues, identity issues connected to being adopted, acceptance issues, career transitions to overcome, and powerful negative emotions connected to them. After seven years of sitting on the bleachers, Paul was invited to come to our men’s leadership community on Thursday mornings. The result?

Bleacher Guy was transformed.

Paul encountered mentors, messages, and models that passed his “sniff test.” That gave God the opportunity to get under the waterline of Paul’s life. Slowly but surely, the Lord began to transform Paul’s fears into faith in a loving God who makes men secure enough to look beyond themselves. Paul caught God’s vision for his life in the church and began to see the church’s vision for the community. His experience was so complete that he wanted every next step toward true significance and leadership we could offer him. Today Paul is Men’s Director at one of our regional campuses and has led hundreds of men through that same life-transforming process.

What is your testimony?

How can you encourage other men to leave the bleachers?

CORE TEAM MEETING

REVIEW

Welcome to our group time for *Sleeping Giant*! Hopefully you are looking forward to sharing life with the men of your Core Team and learning to lead other men to follow Christ passionately. Here are a few questions to help us review the week as well as begin participating in the group conversation.

1. When you first heard the title *Sleeping Giant*, what came to mind?

2. What are your personal goals for this study? What do you hope to learn about yourself or God and His kingdom?

3. What came to mind this week regarding where the Enemy is targeting the men in your church? What solutions is God beginning to stir in your heart?



In this video teaching session, Kenny establishes the context for why we need a strong movement of God among men. Listen carefully as he reminds us of the importance of men for the church and for the world. We'll unpack this together after the video.

Watch Video Session 1:

"WAITING FOR A HERO" (29:00)

- The _____ of men are at the center of most suffering.
- Broken male culture is the _____ of modern journalism.
- Men are being called by God into a movement of _____ and _____.
- The hope of the world is the local _____.
- If the men of our churches are not _____, the churches are not _____.



Review your notes from the video teaching and answer the following questions together.

1. Kenny said that broken male culture is the wallpaper of journalism. What examples of that can you give?

2. If indeed the hope of the world is the church and the hope of the church is God's men, how bright does the future look to you? What gives you cause for hope?

3. Kenny gave several examples of Jesus standing up for people and administering justice. Which of these examples most moved you? Why?

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CORE TEAM ACTIVITY

Church and Parachurch: A Marriage Made in Heaven

Consider a men's event that your church has hosted or one that you have attended. If not a men's event specifically, consider another churchwide event or campaign and how it might relate to men. Break into small groups and discuss together.

- 1. What were the strengths of this event? What made it attractive to men?**
- 2. What were the drawbacks to the event or things that might have turned men off?**
- 3. How did your church ride the wave of momentum from the event and follow up?**
- 4. How could you have done a better job of that?**

If your church is like most local churches, you've been exposed to Christian, faith-based events with mixed results. At times the relationship seems competitive; at other times their work has seemed obsolete. God has often inspired such movements, though, with the intent of growing His local churches. Here are some questions to ask when your church considers working alongside other men's ministries on a similar mission. It would be helpful to answer these questions together before an event:

- What are the core values and vision of your church?
- What has God called you to do here in your community?
- What initiatives do you have that need energy and muscle?
- How can the men of our church help support what God has called you to do?
- Where is leadership most desperately needed?
- Would you be open to getting men connected, healthy, strong and going into those areas of need through the local church?

As your church begins to develop an overall strategy for activating men, the answers to these questions will guide you—whether you're focusing on your church's men's ministry or looking to partner with others in your community.

CORE TEAM BIBLE STUDY

On the next few pages, you will find Scriptures to read and questions to discuss that will help your Core Team further develop an effective biblical philosophy for a movement of God's men. Read the Scripture and discuss together.

"For what makes everything clear is light. Therefore it is said: Get up, sleeper, and rise up from the dead, and the Messiah will shine on you."
Ephesians 5:14

**1. In what ways do you see men as sleeping giants in your church?
If they were to be awakened, how would it impact your church?
Your community?**

If a movement of men is to begin in your church, cultural man must become God's man. This process begins with your Core Team.

"Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God." Romans 12:1-2

2. A fine line exists between being cross-cultural to reach men for Christ and becoming too cultural. What does your church do to move men's allegiance away from the world and toward God?

If we are to see our communities changed for Christ, men will need more than a program. They will need to be transformed and inspired to move from the audience to active duty. That's a heavy burden to carry, but you are not alone. Your Core Team will lead by example.

*“‘What you’re doing is not good,’ Moses’ father-in-law said to him. ‘You will certainly wear out both yourself and these people who are with you, because the task is too heavy for you. You can’t do it alone. Now listen to me; I will give you some advice, and God be with you. You be the one to represent the people before God and bring their cases to Him. Instruct them about the statutes and laws, and teach them the way to live and what they must do. But you should select from all the people able men, God-fearing, trustworthy, and hating bribes. Place them over the people as commanders of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. They should judge the people at all times. Then they can bring you every important case but judge every minor case themselves. In this way you will lighten your load, and they will bear it with you. If you do this, and God so directs you, you will be able to endure, and also all these people will be able to go home satisfied.’”
Exodus 18:17-23*

3. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, helped him become a more effective leader and solved one of the real problems the community faced—activating the capable men. Describe the men waiting to be activated in your church. What are their strengths and weaknesses?

“Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. So Moses chose able men from all Israel and made them leaders over the people as commanders of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. They judged the people at all times; they would bring the hard cases to Moses, but they would judge every minor case themselves.” Exodus 18:24-26

4. Talk about ways Jethro’s approach to ministry helped Moses. How might this approach help your Core Team and your pastor?

Church leaders can’t accomplish alone the tasks to which God calls them. As churches continue to pour massive amounts of resources into programs and staff, a network of men who could accomplish the same things more effectively lies dormant.

“If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you.” John 5:19

Our negligence to reach out to men and inspire them to lead is always Satan’s gain. The men of the church too often become a muscle that doesn’t get used. That’s why the church must press hard to win the battle for men’s souls, encouraging them to be Christ-followers not just in name, but in daily service to Him.

5. In what ways does the church allow God’s man to look more like cultural man? What role do you think Satan plays in this?

“For just as through one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.” Romans 5:19

6. Consider the blast zones emanating from Adam and Christ, the two men mentioned in this passage. How might your church better mirror the latter?

*“So the eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ Or again, the head can’t say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’”
1 Corinthians 12:21*

7. How does your church communicate that men are needed and valued as leaders? How might your church better validate the men who serve?

For too long the church has communicated to men that their presence is appreciated but not really needed. In truth, men are seeking purpose, significance, legacy, and validation. If the church does not provide these things, men will find them outside the church, within the broken culture.

“Jesus called them over and said to them, ‘You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles dominate them, and their men of high positions exercise power over them. But it must not be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be a slave to all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many.’” Mark 10:42-45

8. Jesus does not neglect the needed influence of men in this passage. How does Jesus redefine their power to influence others?

If we pour our lives into developing the men in our churches, guiding them into strong moral and spiritual pathways, a shallow cultural vision will fall by the wayside. Men will stand up as God’s men and will change the world for good.

WRAP

- Behaviors of men fuel cultural suffering.
- Transformed men reduce suffering and become culturally relevant.
- God's man must be distinguishable from cultural man.
- The goal is to have healthier leaders and healthier churches through activating the affiliated.
- A vision of a better future and a clear pathway will capture the imaginations of men.
- Satan's primary targets are leaders and complacent, unsuspecting men.
- Men need a place to express what they have experienced through other Christian, faith-based events. The best place for that is the local church.
- Strong moral and spiritual pathways will guide men away from shallow cultural vision.

PRAY TOGETHER

NEXT WEEK

- [] Read session introduction on page 31
- [] Complete Work at Home study
- [] Review enrichment options
- [] Read *Sleeping Giant* chapters 5-8 (optional)

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no move of God without **MEN OF GOD**

As our culture decays around us and the armies of evil win one battle after another, a giant sleeps—the men of your church. Thankfully though, the time for the enemy to run roughshod, virtually unopposed in inflicting pain is coming to an end. This *Sleeping Giant* men's strategy examined and introduced in this *Core Team Workbook* is a clarion call to action.

Join your pastor in encouraging the men of your church to awaken, to move from the audience to the army, from affiliated to activated, and from lackadaisical to on-fire for God!

Men's ministry
in a box

The foundational resource for the **GET IN. GET HEALTHY. GET STRONG. GET GOING.** LifeWay Men Strategy. Visit LifeWay.com/Men for more information



Kenny Luck is president and founder of Every Man Ministries and co-author of the bestselling *Every Man, God's Man*. Kenny is also the men's pastor at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA. Learn more about Kenny and the ministry at everymanministries.com

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