

FORTY PRINTABLE CARDS

Forty Cards for Men

A passage, the point in one line, and one thing to do with it today.

Most scripture cards are decoration. A verse in a nice typeface goes on the desk, gets read for four days, and then becomes furniture. These are built the other way round: the passage is named, the point is compressed into one line, and every card ends with something to do before the day is out. Carry one in a wallet, tape one to a dashboard, or work through the deck one card a day for forty days.

- Forty cards, eight to a page, with cut lines
- Every card names a passage - open it, because the card is not a substitute
- Every card ends with an action, not a sentiment
- Four suits: the man himself, the marriage, the children, the work
- Prints on plain paper or card stock, in black and white if you need it to

Cut along the dashed lines. Ten cards a page-side if you print double-sided.

Break the cycle. Build the system. Be the man.

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For personal and small-group use.

How to use forty cards

There is no correct order. Three ways that work:

- One a day for forty days. Read the passage first, do the action before bed, and put the card face down in a done pile. At the end, count the pile. Forty cards and a pile of eleven is a more useful piece of information than a good feeling.
- One in the wallet, replaced weekly. Pick the card that names the thing you are currently worst at, not the one you like reading.
- One on the dashboard. The car is where most men have their only uninterrupted twenty minutes, and it is the place a card actually gets read twice.

Why the verse is not printed on the card

Because a man who reads a compressed line on a card and counts that as having read scripture has quietly swapped the source for a summary of it, and after a year his standard is a set of other men's conclusions. The reference is on every card. Open it. The card is the pointer and the action - the text is the text, and it is not mine to reprint at you.

The four suits

- THE MAN - what you do when nobody is watching. Cards 1 to 12.
- THE MARRIAGE - what she can tell without asking. Cards 13 to 24.
- THE CHILDREN - what they will still be able to quote in twenty years. Cards 25 to 32.
- THE WORK - money, time, and what it is all actually for. Cards 33 to 40.

PROVERBS 4:23 - THE MAN

Guard what goes in, because everything else flows out of it.

TODAY

Name one input you will cut, and cut it before tonight.

BE THE MAN

JAMES 1:19-20 - THE MAN

Hearing first. Speaking second. Anger last and slowed down.

TODAY

Decide your ninety-second interrupt while you are calm.

BE THE MAN

PSALM 32:3-5 - THE MAN

Silence was the cost, not the sin. Unnamed things accrue.

TODAY

Name one thing out loud before it gets raised.

BE THE MAN

JOB 31:1 - THE MAN

He made a covenant with his eyes. Terms agreed in advance.

TODAY

Make one structural change, not one more resolution.

BE THE MAN

JAMES 5:16 - THE MAN

Confess to one another. Private confession costs nothing.

TODAY

Write the name of the man you will tell, and a date.

BE THE MAN

GALATIANS 6:1 - THE MAN

Restore gently, watching yourself while you do it.

TODAY

Ask one man to check on one specific thing.

BE THE MAN

PROVERBS 27:17 - THE MAN

Iron sharpens iron. It removes material. That is the point.

TODAY

Book the recurring slot. Not when things are bad. Now.

BE THE MAN

LUKE 16:10 - THE MAN

Faithful in the least is the test for the rest.

TODAY

Do the small thing you said you would, before it is mentioned.

BE THE MAN

MATTHEW 7:3-5 - THE MAN

The beam first. You are not equipped for her speck yet.

TODAY

Write the thing you would change in yourself first.

BE THE MAN

JAMES 1:22-25 - THE MAN

A hearer who does nothing forgets his own face immediately.

TODAY

Go back and do the last thing you read and skipped.

BE THE MAN

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27 - THE MAN

He ran with a fixed aim and a stated failure condition.

TODAY

Write the point at which your system counts as broken.

BE THE MAN

GALATIANS 6:9 - THE MAN

In due season - which is further off than you wanted.

TODAY

Schedule the next ninety days, not the next burst.

BE THE MAN

EPHESIANS 5:25 - THE MARRIAGE

The measure is a man who moved first, one-sidedly.

TODAY

Start the conversation you have been waiting on.

BE THE MAN

PROVERBS 3:27-28 - THE MARRIAGE

Do not say come back tomorrow when you have it now.

TODAY

Replace every "later" with an actual hour.

BE THE MAN

1 TIMOTHY 5:8 - THE MARRIAGE

Provision is wider than income and she already knows that.

TODAY

Own one domain end to end, including the remembering.

BE THE MAN

PROVERBS 27:23 - THE MARRIAGE

Know the state of it. Not the revenue - the condition.

TODAY

Find the number she does not have. Say it before she asks.

BE THE MAN

COLOSSIANS 3:19 - THE MARRIAGE

Love her, and do not be harsh. The second half is separate.

TODAY

Watch your tone at the hour you are most tired.

BE THE MAN

PROVERBS 18:13 - THE MARRIAGE

Answering before hearing is folly, not a communication style.

TODAY

Say it back before you respond to it. Once.

BE THE MAN

PROVERBS 15:1 - THE MARRIAGE

A soft answer turns it away. This is mechanical, not moral.

TODAY

One soft answer at the moment you want to be right.

BE THE MAN

EPHESIANS 4:26 - THE MARRIAGE

Anger gets a deadline, not a ban. Deadlines are systems.

TODAY

Say the hour nothing carries past. Out loud.

BE THE MAN

MATTHEW 5:23-24 - THE MARRIAGE

Leave the gift. The repair interrupts the religious act.

TODAY

Repair one thing before your next act of worship.

BE THE MAN

1 PETER 3:7 - THE MARRIAGE

Live with her according to knowledge you actually acquired.

TODAY

Ask one question you do not know the answer to.

BE THE MAN

PSALM 15:4 - THE MARRIAGE

He swore to his own hurt and did not change it.

TODAY

Name the promise you quietly re-priced. Keep or say so.

BE THE MAN

EPHESIANS 5:28-29 - THE MARRIAGE

As reflexively as you care for yourself. That is the measure.

TODAY

Do for her the equivalent of one thing you did for you.

BE THE MAN

DEUTERONOMY 6:6-9 - THE CHILDREN

When you sit, walk, lie down, rise. Moments already in the day.

TODAY

Use the drive. It is the slot you already have.

BE THE MAN

EPHESIANS 6:4 - THE CHILDREN

Do not provoke them. Bring them up. Both halves are instructions.

TODAY

Name the thing you do that provokes. Stop that one.

BE THE MAN

PROVERBS 22:6 - THE CHILDREN

Train up - which is repetition, not a single conversation.

TODAY

Pick the one thing worth saying two hundred times.

BE THE MAN

PSALM 127:3-4 - THE CHILDREN

Arrows are aimed at something further off than your comfort.

TODAY

Write what you are aiming this child at. One sentence.

BE THE MAN

MALACHI 4:6 - THE CHILDREN

Hearts turned toward each other, in both directions.

TODAY

Turn first. You are the adult, so it is your move.

BE THE MAN

2 TIMOTHY 1:5 - THE CHILDREN

Faith that lived first in the generation before him.

TODAY

Tell one story about God from your own life, not a lesson.

BE THE MAN

LUKE 15:20 - THE CHILDREN

The father ran. He was watching, and he covered the distance.

TODAY

Close the distance you have been waiting for him to close.

BE THE MAN

PROVERBS 20:7 - THE CHILDREN

A just man walking in integrity - his children after him.

TODAY

Do the right thing in front of them, and do not explain it.

BE THE MAN

MATTHEW 6:21 - THE WORK

Fund it and the heart follows. That is the direction.

TODAY

Spend something on the thing you claim to value most.

BE THE MAN

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24 - THE WORK

Heartily, as for the Lord. Which raises the floor, not the hours.

TODAY

Do the part you were going to do badly, properly.

BE THE MAN

ECCLESIASTES 2:18-23 - THE WORK

He worked hard and could not sleep for it. This is in the canon.

TODAY

State the hour work ends. As a rule, not usually.

BE THE MAN

LUKE 14:28-30 - THE WORK

Sit down and count, while the numbers can still discourage you.

TODAY

Count the real number before you start the next thing.

BE THE MAN

PROVERBS 21:5 - THE WORK

The diligent plan. The hasty come to want. Planning is the diligence.

TODAY

Put next week in the calendar before the week starts.

BE THE MAN

MARK 2:27 - THE WORK

Rest was made for you. It is not the reward for finishing.

TODAY

Block the hours nothing gets scheduled over. Tell someone.

BE THE MAN

MARK 10:43-45 - THE WORK

Greatness is served, not ranked. It dissolves the scoreboard.

TODAY

Do one thing that will not be attributed to you.

BE THE MAN

MATTHEW 7:24-27 - THE WORK

Same storm, different foundation, laid long before the rain.

TODAY

Name the storm you are not ready for. Start one thing.

BE THE MAN

When the deck runs out

Forty cards is roughly six weeks at one a day. At the end, do not buy another deck. Go back through and pull the five cards where you did not do the action, and run only those five, one a week, for five weeks.

The cards you skipped are the deck. The ones you enjoyed are the ones you were already doing, and re-reading those is how a man can feel like he is growing for two years without anything in his house changing.

THE FIVE I SKIPPED

DATE I RAN THE DECK FROM

CARDS ACTUALLY DONE, OUT OF 40

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