

Contents

Foreword	11
Introduction	15
Part One—Awareness	
Chapter One: Archetypes—The Making of Men	23
Chapter Two: Extremes—A Tale of Two Men	29
Chapter Three: Fathering—Breathing Life into the Son	35
Part Two—Honesty	
Chapter Four: Depression—Trapped In Our Anger	43
Chapter Five: Silence—The Relational Abyss	49
Chapter Six: Stuck—Moving Out of Your Box	53
Part Three—Openness	
Chapter Seven: Encounter—Shaped by the Other	59
Chapter Eight: Vulnerability—Opening Ourselves Up	63
Chapter Nine: Intimacy—Being Known	67
Part Four—Movement	
Chapter Ten: Receiving—Taking Care of Ourselves	75
Chapter Eleven: Giving—Returning Home to Community	79
Chapter Twelve: Action—Out of Reflection	85
Chapter Thirteen: Vocation—Hearing God’s Call	89
Conclusion	93
Small Group Study Guide	95
Notes	113
Acknowledgments	117

Archetypes

The Making of Men

*And out of darkness came the hands
that reach thro' nature, moulding men.¹*

Alfred Lord Tennyson

1

I have always been intrigued by the Bible's account of David's encounter with Goliath. What little boy isn't immediately captured by the story of another little boy going to battle against a giant and slaying him with only a smooth rock and a slingshot? It's larger than life, one many of us identify with as we grew up. Every boy throws rocks and most dream about it, wondering, "Do I have what it takes to slay the giant?"

That's a question we still ask. Our giants may not come in the form of other men, but there are plenty of others we battle on a daily basis. That makes David's story an archetype we frame our lives around. After all, he was a man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22).

The word *archetype* is taken from the combination of two Greek words: *arch* (meaning first), and *type* (meaning a model or mold).²

***Every boy throws rocks
and most dream
about it, wondering
“Do I have what it takes
to slay the giant?”***

“An archetype is a universally understood symbol, term, or pattern of behavior, a prototype upon which others are copied, patterned, or emulated.”³

In essence, archetypes are models we want to emulate. Whether we realize it or not, most of us constantly scan the horizon looking for one. If it resonates, it becomes the reference point for our masculinity. Though discovering the role of male archetypes in our life can be an insightful experience, we also want to avoid modeling our lives solely around them. There is potential danger that any model, even a biblical one, is prone to weakness and sin. David embodies several male archetypes (warrior, lover, king, and sage), and his sin with Bathsheba is a prime example of their unhealthy forms (2 Sam. 11–12).

The text starts with a telling statement: “In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem” (11:1).

David is the king of Israel. God anointed him to bring peace and prosperity to the land. We get a glimpse of that in 2 Samuel 5:9–10: “David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built up the area around it, from the supporting terraces inward. And he became more and more powerful, because the LORD God Almighty was with him.” But at this critical moment he chose to stay home when “kings go off to war,” giving us a glimpse of his controlling and manipulative warrior side. A righteous warrior would have led his men into battle, putting his safety at risk for their good. By staying home, David chose self-interest over that of the kingdom and those who live in it.

As the text proceeds, we get a glimpse of his shadowy lover side. He lets passion turn to lust and commits adultery with Bathsheba. Then he shows us his shadowy king side by using his power to arrange Uriah's death, involving his commander Joab (unknowingly) in the plot. Finally, in an ironic twist, his shadowy sage (or prophet) side is exposed as Nathan reveals his sin, exposing the once eloquent author of God's Word with judgment from God's Word (2 Sam. 12:7).

In essence, archetypes are models we want to emulate. Whether we realize it or not, most of us constantly scan the horizon looking for one. If it resonates, it becomes the reference point for our masculinity.

Male Archetypes

Recognition of male archetypes isn't limited to the Bible. There are a surprising number of Christian, secular, liberal, and conservative writers who discuss it—and they use many of the same terms. Some of the more common are warrior, king, sage (sometimes described as “magician”), and lover.⁴ That's further proof they're images that have informed and shaped our perceptions of manhood.

The Big Four

As seen in David's life, archetypes have an unhealthy side. When a man accesses his immature or “shadowy” side, he is a boy, not a man. We'll touch briefly on those below—but also look at the positive side.

The King Archetype

As mature kings, we're secure. We're the source of order, and our actions sacrificially bring life to those around us. We encourage others to use their God-given talents and enable them to try things with a sense of confidence. When we're kings from an immature or shallow place, we can be tyrants, controlling those around us, always thinking about ways to exercise power over them.

The Warrior Archetype

As warriors, we live by a code. We act quickly with purpose and intention and sacrifice for our beliefs and those around us. It's the archetype we see most frequently in our culture, especially in our literature and movies, and it's the one most of us try to emulate. However, many are stuck on its shadowy side, which means being emotionally detached and quick to be aggressive and violent.

The Sage Archetype

When we're doing well as a sage, people come to us for advice and discernment. We speak truth to all who are willing to listen and, like Old Testament prophets, even those who aren't! We lovingly guide others and encourage them to be more Christlike. When we're behaving immaturely in this area, we can't be fully trusted because we manipulate others for our benefit.

The Lover Archetype

As mature lovers, we're full of life and passion. We're creative, think outside the box, and find solutions to problems in unique ways. We talk openly about our feelings. We bring life to others and emotionally connect with them. When we reflect this archetype

from an immature or shadowy place, we pursue things that make us feel good about ourselves, often at others' expense. We seek our own gratification because it brings the instant pleasure and affirmation we long for. We're also prone to addictions to escape life and find relief from our pain.

Challenge

Now that you have had a glimpse of the four archetypes, sit down with a trusted friend, explain the positive and negative sides of each, and ask him which archetypes sound the most like you. Give him permission to let you know when you are accessing its positive and negative sides.