



MVC MEN

THE MEN WE NEED

Read and study through the listed passages and answer the questions as you go. Ideally, you'll work through the lesson on your own and then talk and pray about your discoveries together in a men's small group. Take good notes as you go and take plenty of time to dive in, think, and pray. Our goal is to run at a longer distance pace more than a sprint (about one lesson per month). Read the pages in "The Men We Need" along with the lesson to foster additional discussion as well.

LESSON 1: ADAM, WHERE ARE YOU?

KEY PASSAGES TO STUDY: Genesis 1:26-31, Genesis 2:15-25, Genesis 3:1-24, Romans 5:12-21

READ: "The Men We Need," Pages 15-31

1. What are some of the ways our culture defines "a real man?" What images come to mind? What does he look like? What does he do for work? What does he wear? How does he act, etc.?¹

2. Consider reading all of Genesis 1-3 first. Then dive further into the creation account again in Genesis 1 and 2 (esp. 1:26-31). What was God's vision and intent for humanity as a whole?

3. Now focus in on Genesis 2:15. What did God want Adam to be? What was his "relationship" to the garden and what was he to do? Research the words "work" and "keep" and see if that exercise yields more. What implications does all of this have on how God intends for us to live as men?

¹ Portions taken from "The Men We Need," p. 241-245. Reprinted with publisher permission.

4. And then comes the FALL: Read Genesis 3 carefully and make as many observations as you can about what took place. Focus on Adam. Where is he? What is he doing? How specifically does he neglect what God made him for? What are some ways you see yourself in Adam?

5. The astounding solution! What does Paul say about the first man (Adam) and Jesus Christ (sometimes called the "2nd Adam") in Romans 5:12-21? How does this change your identity in Adam and empower you to be the man God created you to be? How does this encourage you?

6. In Jesus Christ, we are no longer bound to our old identity as sons of Adam. What is one way you want to live differently as a man in our world as you continue to follow Jesus?

HEART & ACTION: Summarize the biggest thing(s) God is doing in your heart and the main action step(s) you believe he wants you to take. Discuss one of each with the group. Get accountable, pray together, stay dependent, and make a commitment to sacrificial love in action.