



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 2: TOXIC PASSIVITY

KEY PASSAGES TO STUDY: Matthew 26:36-56, Luke 9:51-62, Luke 19:10, 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, Philippians 3:12-16, Hebrews 12:1-4 (review Genesis 2:15 and Genesis 3:1-12)

READ: "The Men We Need," Pages 32-48

1. We follow Jesus, not Adam. How does the intentionality and focus of our Savior-King as he walked this earth inform the way we are called to live as men?

2. Write down your observations about Jesus from Matthew 26:36-56. What is he like? What does he do? Etc.? In contrast, what are the disciples like? Any parallels to Adam back in Eden?

3. Two different gardens, two VERY different men: Think hard and write down some observations comparing Adam in Eden vs. Jesus in Gethsemane. In what ways might we be able to say that Jesus showed up in our world as the perfect "keeper of the garden?"

Adam in Eden

Jesus in Gethsemane

4. Think through the following statements in light of who Jesus is and our call to follow him. Do they ring true to you? Why or why not?

- True masculinity is about taking responsibility and moving toward the need.
- Male passivity is harmful to those near to us and to our culture overall.
- Women (and children) will be drawn to men who actively and joyfully “show up”
- God has placed a unique call on men to be exemplary in strength, maturity, and sacrificial love.
- The scariest thing should be that you might never become the man you were intended to be. ¹

5. GOD is able. In Jesus and the power of his Spirit in us, we can now cast off the ultimate abdication and passivity of Adam in our lives! What could it look like practically if you *actively* sought to become less passive in your given circles of influence (your “garden”)? How would it impact those around you? Home? Work? Neighborhood? Church? What will it look like if you DON’T?

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.

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