

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 3: THE SWINDLING POWER OF LUST

KEY PASSAGES FOR STUDY: Job 31:1-2, Psalm 101:2-4 (see Psalm 119:36-37 also), Proverbs 4:23, Proverbs 5, Proverbs 20:17, Matthew 5:28-30 (see Luke 11:34-36 also), Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 1 Peter 2:11.

READ: "The Men We Need," Pages 53-67 [Decision 1: Forsake the fake and relish the real.]

1. "Lust is the craving for salt of a man who is dying of thirst (p. 60)." Explain this statement. How does it relate to you? What's dangerous about "supernormal stimuli (p. 57-58)"?

2. How is the struggle against lust/sexual sin described in these key passages? Take some time to make as many observations as you can. What are the pictures used? How is the intensity of the fight expressed? What are the results of giving in? What are the paths to victory? Etc.?

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

3.	The author claims that we need a bigger vision for our lives than the pursuit of the false pleasures. In what ways does this "swindling power" work against you being the man you're called to be? How does your identity in Christ empower you to "forsake the fake" and to be that man?
4.	Look up Psalm 34:8, 37:3-7, and John 10:10. With these and the other verses above in mind, consider the phrase, "Enjoy superior satisfaction in God." How does the pursuit of joy and delight in God overpower the lust for fake satisfaction and fleeting pleasure?
5.	Walking in integrity (be honest & transparent)! If you are currently caught in the "swindling power of lust," how are you fighting it or how will you commit to fight it? ² If you are walking in purity and victory (by God's grace), how do you keep at it and how will you help others?
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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.	

² Go to https://www.covenanteyes.com/e-books/ for a growing wealth of incredible free resources on temptation and addiction related to porn. Need a place to start? This is IT!

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