



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 5: ARE THEY "SAFER" BECAUSE YOU'RE THERE?

KEY PASSAGES FOR STUDY: Matthew 19:13-15, 20:29-34, Mark 3:1-6, Luke 7:36-50, John 4:7-10, 27-30, 8:1-8, Romans 8:35-39, Ephesians 6:10-18 [Review Genesis 2:15 and 3:6, 7 as well as 1 Corinthians 16:13-14].

READ: "The Men We Need," Pages 77-108 [Decision 2: Protect the vulnerable.]

1. If your "garden" is represented by your spheres of care and influence and the world around you, who are the vulnerable ones in it? How would you define "vulnerable?"
2. Remember Eve in the garden? Review again how she was vulnerable. Has your perspective on your role as protector changed at all as you've considered this a couple times now through the lessons? How so? And where does it all apply most in your life personally?
3. Consider the passages above from the gospels altogether.
 - How does Jesus set the pace for us in how we as men treat others?
 - In what ways is he a protector in these accounts?
 - How might you need to follow his lead with greater intentionality?
4. In what ways do you see our culture as "dangerous?" In what sense would you say that godly, faithful, Jesus-like men are "the last line of defense?"

5. Focus on the Romans and Ephesians passages (as well as others you might note): Vulnerability, danger, fear – all have the potential to stop us in our tracks, paralyze us, and keep us from being the men we're called to be. What are the resources we have that will empower us to step up, step out, and lead others in our garden in a life of faith and victory?

6. In "The Men We Need" on page 94, Brant makes the claim that our culture "lacks grown men" and "...if you make the decision to be a keeper of the garden and a creator of order, peace, and security, you will stand out like a man among boys." Do you agree? Why or why not?

7. How is Jesus and the gospel helping you further define true manhood? There are plenty of illegitimate connections people have tried to make. What are the genuine ones?

8. Back in Lesson 4, you listed some of the things that might be on a mission statement for the man you want to be. Is there anything to add that list based on this specific lesson (more to come on this "exercise" in later lessons)?

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.