



# MVCC 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.

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## LESSON 7: CONTENTMENT AND COMMITMENT

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**KEY PASSAGES FOR STUDY:** Exodus 20:17, Psalm 23, 37:3-4, Luke 9:57-62, John 4:13-15, 6:35, 7:37-39, Philippians 4:11-13 (See 2 Corinthians 12:9-10), 1 Timothy 6:6-10 (also see Hebrews 13:5), James 5:12.

**READ:** "The Men We Need," Pages 133-144 [Decision 3, Continued: **Be ambitious about the right things.**]

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1. In Lesson 6, you pondered some past decisions that have hindered your "ambition about the right things." This time, list some sacrifices you've made to stay focused on and fulfill your most important roles. How have those sacrifices helped you and those closest to you?
2. God's law (the 10<sup>th</sup> commandment) commands us not to covet. What temptations do you face in this area? How have you learned to fight through them?
3. Review what Jesus says about himself in the gospel of John passages. How does he become the perfect "antidote" to human dissatisfaction? Are you finding yourself joyfully satisfied in him? How so? What are the tensions in the battle?
4. Psalm 23:1 says, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing (or 'I shall not want')." How is it possible that we can actually "lack nothing? How might genuinely believing that make life as a man better for you and for those "in your garden?"

5. Philippians 4:13 is one of the most often misquoted bible verses. What is it specifically that Paul needs the strength of Christ for in this context? Why do we need so much help with this? Where in your life specifically are you wrestling with this and what help do you need from the Lord?
  
6. Write down a simple life-principle that sums up 1 Timothy 6:6-10. What are the challenges Paul describes here and how do you work through them in your own heart and life?
  
7. How would you explain the clear directives that come from Luke 9:57-62 and James 5:12 in the area of making commitments? How does your perspective on this impact the way you live even the Christian life itself?
  
8. List several things that come to mind when you think of a "man of commitment." i.e., "When he says yes to something, he always follows through." Discuss how challenges you personally.
  
9. Collect up the things you have written down in relation to a life purpose or mission statement. Start to narrow it down. ***Of the things you have listed over several lessons, which of them should you (will you) commit to?*** Maybe you have 3-5 items that could make up your actual purpose statement for all of life. Write down a first draft based on those items.

**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.