

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 8: HOW DO YOU TREAT THEM? REALLY.

KEY PASSAGES FOR STUDY: Matthew 18:13-14, Mark 5:25-34, Mark 9:35-37, Luke 7:11-15, Luke 7:36-50, Luke 8:1-3, John 4:7-29, John 8:3-11, Ephesians 5:25-32, Ephesians 6:4, James 3:3-12.

READ: "The Men We Need," Pages 147-173 [Decision 4: Make women and children feel safe, not threatened.]

1. We think this is some of the best and most biblical writing in the book overall. Be sure to read the pages thoughtfully, carefully, and maybe more than once. What things stand out the most to you?

2. As you read through all the gospel passages listed above, list as many observations as you can about how Jesus interacts with and treats women and children.¹

- 3. Based on what you are seeing, write down at least 3 principles for how you are called to treat women and children (wife and kids, etc.) if you are going to truly follow Christ.

 - •

¹ Bonus Question: Remember Adam? Review how Jesus' actions stand in stark contrast to Adam's behavior in the garden.

- 4. STOP! Don't rush. Think, pray, and be honest and vulnerable. What might you need to confess (Laziness, passivity, anger, harshness, impatience, indifference, other)? What practical steps can you begin to take right now to authentically reflect Jesus to the women and children in your life?
- 5. "I came to realize that the man I needed to kill in order to protect my wife (and kids) is *myself as a sinner*." What is your response to this statement? Can you relate to the damage you can cause with your anger and harsh words in your own home? In what way?²
- 6. Would others around you describe you as "encouraging?" (See James 3:3-12) Write down some encouraging things you need to say to the ones closest to you—maybe something that you have never said or don't say enough—and say those things to them as soon as possible.
- 7. Each of us probably longs to be a "life-giving" man in the lives of others. We don't want those closest to us simply to be "surviving" or not too adversely impacted by us. We want to bring joy and help people *flourish*. In what specific ways would you say God wants to mold you more into that kind of man ("the man we need")?
- 8. You have been working on a life purpose/mission statement. At the end of the last lesson, you wrote down a first draft based on all your previous notes. Spend some time refining it if needed.

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