



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.

LESSON 9: WE NO LONGER LIVE FOR OURSELVES

KEY PASSAGES FOR STUDY: Mark 8:34-37, Romans 8:35-39, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 2:5-8, Colossians 3:1-17 (see 2 Corinthians 10:5 also), and 2 Peter 1:3-11.

READ: "The Men We Need," Pages 177-199 [Decision 5: Decide today who you will be tomorrow.]

1. We've been at this "men we need" thing for 8 lessons now. What "put off" → "put on" transformation have you seen in your life ("old self" to "new self" change)? Give a couple of examples.
2. **SET YOUR MIND:** Think about decision #5 in our reading, "Decide today who you will be tomorrow." Hansen says, "Who you become is a direct result of what you pay attention to (p. 177)." What does God tell us in both 2 Corinthians 10:5 and Colossians 3:1-4 about our minds and how our attention impacts who we become?
3. **DENY YOURSELF:** In light of Jesus' call on our lives in Mark 8, what does it really mean to deny self and follow him? Where do we *actually* find the most fulfilling version of "self?" How does this go against popular opinion? (Prayer: Are you committed to grow up, show up, and stand up in our world?)

4. **EMBRACE YOUR TRUE IDENTITY:** Men are looking for significance in so many places that offer false promises. What are some of them? What do Romans 8:35-39,¹ and 2 Peter 1:3-11 tell you about your true identity and how God empowers you to be who he wants?
5. **BECOME LIFE-GIVING TO OTHERS:**² If you are setting your mind on the things above, denying self, embracing the attitude of Christ, and it really IS no longer you who live but Christ IN you – Make a list of the kinds of things people around you will see growing in you as you do life:
6. **LOOK BACK:** What real life opportunities have you had this last week to live some of this out? What happened? **LOOK FORWARD:** What opportunities do you see ahead to die to self (that is “become the man people around you need.”)? What’s at least one practical step you’re leaving this lesson with?

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.

¹More to think and pray on from the reading. Romans 8 tells us we truly have nothing to fear. If God is for us, who can be against us? What words stick out the most and why? How do you feel after reading this passage? Can you rally be a man with “no fear?”

² “Do you know who you are? The Creator of the universe loves you so much, he wants to change you. He wants you to become the rare, remarkable man who is life-giving to others.” The Men We Need, p. 192