

a beautiful design

WEEK 3

SEPTEMBER 21 - 27

MAN'S PURPOSE

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements. If you are using the study guide in your Home Group, be sure to work through the questions on your own before you meet. If your Home Group doesn't meet one week, walk through the guide on your own so that you can stay in sync with the series. For further study, explore the Recommended Resources on our website.

RECAP: Last week we looked at Genesis 1-2. We saw how God created man and woman and why He created them. We are created to be His image bearers and to be in relationship with Him. Man and woman are united together in equal dignity as the only species made in the image of God. They are equally entitled to the privileges of being image bearers and equally responsible for reflecting the God who has created them. When we come to comprehend this view, it leads to a greater understanding of the equal dignity and purpose of men and women, and our hearts should grieve where this dignity is ignored or rejected.

MAIN TEXT: Genesis 2 (with special attention to Genesis 2:5-15)

SUMMARY: When God creates man, He gives him a unique identity and purpose in life. God designs a specific role for man to fulfill and, by living out that role, to increase human flourishing. One of the unique ways that men fulfill their responsibility to the spiritual authority entrusted to them is through male headship in church and home. This headship should be characterized by the commands in Genesis 2:5-15 to work and keep what has been entrusted to man's care. As men lead, love, serve and protect, they fulfill God's commands to work and keep what the Lord has given to their care.

GETTING STARTED

How do commercials, movies and sitcoms depict men? Where do you think they have gotten it right and where have they gone wrong?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Who are the people in authority over you?
2. In your mind, what makes a man someone worth following? What disqualifies someone from being "worth following"?
3. What are some unique ways that men have been created by God to lead, love and serve? How do the men in your group do this?
4. In Genesis 1 and 2, there are two accounts of the creation of mankind. What is the relationship between the two passages?
5. Read Ephesians 5:22-30. Since husbands serve as the heads of their homes and are responsible for exercising authority over who and what has been entrusted to them, what could this look like in your home? What are the spiritual, financial, romantic and parental implications?
6. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7. What are some of the qualifications for being an elder? Why do you think that a man's ability to serve as an elder depends on his ability to manage his own household well?
7. How do single men live out the purpose God has given to them? Share examples of how single men can uniquely lead, love and serve in ways that married men cannot.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME: Parents, talk to your kids about what godly attributes a man possesses. Moms, if your husband is a believer, talk about what godly attributes attracted you to him. Dads, talk about how you would like to grow into the description of 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. Ask your kids to think about what makes it difficult to be that kind of man.

MOMENTS: Leverage opportunities to point out how we all submit to the authorities in our lives (God, police officers, politicians, bosses, parents, teachers) and use those moments to demonstrate gospel-centered submission.

MILESTONES: Parents, talk to your kids about the difference between being a boy and being a man. Plan a trip or event to mark your son's transition into manhood. Consider adding new, significant responsibilities to your sons to teach them the importance of leading, loving and serving. Sons, initiate a discussion with the men in your life about what areas of your life still require a lot of maturing and growth before you can call yourself a man.

In the weeks dealing with men and women particularly, it may be helpful to break up into gender-specific groups. Groups of single men or women may also consider pairing up with a group of the opposite gender. While this isn't necessary for fruitful discussion, each group's leaders should consider what method is best for their group.

FOR WOMEN

1. How did your father shape your view of what a man should or shouldn't be?
2. What has been your understanding of male headship? Are there obstacles you face in trusting men to lead in the church and in the home the way God has designed?
3. Why is it important for you to encourage men to live out the purpose God has given them? What are some healthy ways in which you can do this?
4. How have you been led, loved, protected and served by a husband, father or elder? Can you think of a time when this leadership has led to your flourishing?

FOR MEN

1. How did your father shape your view of what a man should or shouldn't be?
2. Are there any aspects of biblical manhood where you lack confidence? Where do you struggle to love, lead, protect and serve people who have been entrusted to your care?
3. Why is it important for you to love and serve the women in our church? What are some healthy ways in which you can do this?
4. How have you seen loving leadership help women and children flourish in the church and in the home?

NEXT STEPS

- **For women:** Pray that the key men in your life would have wisdom to walk according to their design. Confess to Him and to other women the ways in which your view of men has been corrupted by the Fall.
- **For men:** Ask the Lord to give you a renewed desire to live out the purpose that God has entrusted to you.
- Read Genesis 3 to prepare for next week's study, "Man's Hurdles."
- Commit to memorizing one of the following verses this week:

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Genesis 2:15

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14