

Lesson in a Nutshell:

The purpose of men is to lead, both socially and spiritually, as modeled by God. God created man in His own image and gave man the mandate to create and cultivate, whether it be a family, career, or business. God wants men to take responsibility and own it, bringing things under control. If men ignore this responsibility, chaos and pain follow for those left in its wake. Masculinity is about courage, not being a natural-born leader, and any man can lead with courage by initiating and following through.

Lesson Purpose:

- To bring clarity to the confusion about manhood by looking at God's original design for men. We have to go back to the very beginning to see what God intended when he created man.

Genesis 1: God's Model of Leadership

- **God modeled leadership through creating and cultivating**
 - Created: galaxies, planets, earth, plants, animals, and mankind
 - Cultivated: surrounded his creation with a nurturing environment for it to grow and mature
- God created man in His own image, meaning **men were intended to lead like God.**
 - Genesis 1:27 states, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created them."

Genesis 2: God's Mandate to Men

- God's instructions to man to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, and have dominion.
 - Genesis 1:28 says "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
 - To "subdue it" means to bring it under control. In other words, **God wants man to assume responsibility – to really own it!**
- Responsibilities of man to Create and Cultivate:
 - To bring things into existence and develop and nurture them.
 - It's what God, Himself, modeled. He created man not only to bring things into existence – whether that's a marriage, or children, a business, a ministry – but also to develop and nurture, to cultivate whatever it is he creates.
 - **God created men to be social and spiritual leaders. Like God, men are designed to initiate (to create), and then, to follow through on what they started (to cultivate).**

The Consequences of Ignoring God's Mandate for Man

- Chaos occurs when men don't lead and don't accept their responsibilities to create and cultivate.
 - Example: Fathers abandoning their families and not leading. Disorder and confusion follow. Without a head of the house to
 - Their children are more likely:
 - To die in infancy
 - Live in poverty
 - End in prison
 - Use drugs
 - Drop out of school
 - This not only applies to fathers physically absent but emotionally and spiritually absent too!
 - Families need a strong male figure to lead and love them. They yearn for this because that is how God made man's role.
 - **God did not intend for men to create chaos. God intended for men to create and cultivate—to solve problems, not create problems.**
 - Other examples of men not leading:
 - Open up to group to discuss impacts of men not leading in other areas: sports, school, society, etc. (*Group Discussion*)

The Definition of Masculinity

- **Masculinity is not about being a natural-born leader, but about courage.**
 - It doesn't mean you have to be:
 - Type A, take charge kind of guy
 - A natural born leader
 - What is courage? The ability to do something that you are afraid of. Strength in the face of fear and pain.
 - Take time as a group and come up with situations or examples that take courage as a man (*Group Discussion*)
- Any man willing to be courageous can lead in the areas of creating and cultivating.
 - If there is time: go over what you learner today about what it means to create and cultivate as modeled by God and how you can step up in courage this week (*Group Discussion*)

Following Lesson:

Next week we will see how Adam's **passivity lead to chaos** in the world. Be thinking on how men's passivity, and possibly your own, has created chaos in the world we live in and in the people's lives we love. We will also look into how **Jesus modeled manhood for us** and how He is the right example of how man is to operate.