

The Image and Glory of God Part 1

Small Group Questions ([audio here](#))¹

1. What are some of the ways that men and women are different? Have you seen these differences in your children or in other children?

2. What was man created to be? What did God task him to do in Eden?

3. What does it look like for men to be cultivators? Are we all cultivating something?

4. What things are men called to cultivate? What are you cultivating?

5. What happens when you see laziness enter the picture? Is this something that you struggle with? What is your plan for helping your son not struggle with laziness?

6. What are the consequences of sin that God exacts in Genesis 3:16-18?
 - a. Specifically For Women (verse 16)

b. Specifically For Men (verse 17-19)

7. How do we see these consequences played out in our lives? Discuss your propensity to fantasize or dream about a life that worked better than yours.
8. Wouldn't it be better if God blessed those who follow Him by giving them a life that worked smoothly (i.e. easy marriages, successfully jobs, obedient children, healthy lives)? What is the problem with this belief?
9. What do we learn when life wars against us? How is this God's love and Grace? Is this a new concept to you? Describe what this does for your perspective on life, marriage, parenting, etc.
10. Paul discusses our roles in relationship to our wives in Ephesians 5:22-33. What does he use as the metaphor for marriage?
11. Husbands love by initiating (25-27, "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"). Who initiated the relationship between you and God? What was your condition prior to God's initiation? How does this translate in to your role as husbands?

12. List specific ways that you can initiate loving your wife?
13. There is a tendency to make formulas (especially in marriages) that are comprised of things that you should do in order to get a response from your wife? How is this dangerous? Is this true biblical love?
14. Husbands provide by nourishing their wives both physically and spiritually (29). List some specific ways that you can nourish your wife spiritually and physically.
- a. Physically
 - b. Spiritually - You can only do this if you are feeding your own soul.
15. Husbands are to cherish their wives (29, see also 1 Peter 3:7). What does Peter mean when he says “weaker vessel?” List some specific ways that you can cherish your wife spiritually and physically.
- a. 1 Peter 3:7 - weaker vessel means:
 - b. Physically
 - c. Spiritually

16. As men, we are to cultivate our children. What does it mean to not provoke your children to anger (Ephesians 6:1)? Why is anger specifically pointed out in this text? What are some ways that we can short circuit anger in our children and in our homes?
17. We are also called to raise our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). What does this look like (see Psalm 78:1-8)?
18. What area spoke to you the most? What specific action(s) do you need to take in order 4 to address what God has revealed to you?

Recommended Resources:

- *Sacred Marriage, What if Marriage is for Your Holiness Not Your Happiness* by
- *Love & Respect* by Emerson Eggerichs
- *What Did You Expect, Redeeming the Realities of Marriage* by Paul David Tripp
- *ESV Illustrated Family Bible*
- *The Jesus Story Book Bible, Every Story Whispers His Name* by Sally Lloyd-Jones
- *Getting to the Heart of Parenting* by Paul David Tripp

¹http://fm.thevillagechurch.net/resource_files/audio/200808070630HWC21ATAAB_MattChandler_MBS2008bPt1-TheImageAndGloryOfGod.mp3