

a beautiful design

WEEK 8

WOMAN'S HURDLES

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: When God creates woman, He gives her a unique identity and purpose in life. God designs a specific role for woman to fulfill and, by living out that role, to increase human flourishing. She is called "helper." Far from being a demeaning role, the Bible uses this term to communicate the unique strength and ability that God has entrusted to women. Women work together with their male complements to cultivate and exercise dominion over the earth and to spread God's image throughout the world. Without vibrant female engagement and leadership in the home and church, the ministry and power of both will be lacking.

MAIN TEXT: Genesis 3:1-24 (with a focus on Gen. 3:16)

SUMMARY: When we look at the world around us, it doesn't seem to match up with the biblical ideal that we find in Genesis 1-2. Sin has crept into every crevice of creation and is most clearly seen in the rebellion and confusion present in humanity. God creates woman with a specific role and purpose, but when sin enters the world, everything becomes fractured. Both men and women share equal responsibility in their rebellion against God. Now, because of the Fall, woman wrestles with particular sins and struggles. The intimacy she shared with God and man has now been marred by sin. Instead of partnering together as God intended, the woman and the man now live in opposition to one another. Created with a unique strength to serve as helper alongside man, the woman's task has been made difficult by sin and she now seeks control.

GETTING STARTED

Which of the world's problems would you solve if you could?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Where do we see women facing great injustices?
2. Where have we seen women be perpetrators of great injustices?
3. What are the various temptations that Eve faces in Genesis 3?
4. What temptations did Eve face that still tempt women today?
5. How does the use of the word "desire" in Genesis 4:7 help you understand its use in Genesis 3:16? How do you see Genesis 3:16 as a modern-day reality?
6. Ask the women in your group where they see women fall into sin repeatedly. What are ways that your group can support women when facing these hurdles?

In the weeks dealing with men and women particularly, it may be helpful to break up into gender-specific groups. On the other hand, groups of single men or women may 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 of discussion would be best for their group.

FOR MEN

1. How has your life been impacted by the sin of women?
2. Are you holding any prejudices or grudges against women?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

TIME: Build an intentional time into the rhythm of your family's week to sit down and discuss the desire we all have to reject authority. Why is that a hurdle? What does that hurdle look like? Discuss Hebrews 13:17. How can we "keep watch over each other's souls"?

MOMENTS: Leverage opportunities in the course of your day to talk with your kids about sins that we struggle with over and over again. Be ready to talk about repentance and what it implies about not returning to our sin again. Proverbs 28:13 talks about forsaking our sins after we confess them. Use this verse in your family discipleship moments to call your family to not only "confess" but "forsake" sin.

MILESTONES: As a family, identify a bad habit or sin you can hold each other accountable for over a set period of time. Some examples might be not bringing phones to the dinner table, not watching more than a certain amount of TV or not yelling when frustrated. When the time period is over, discuss what was hard about being held accountable, as well as what was good about it.

3. Is there any repentance or reconciliation that needs to take place in your life with a certain woman?
4. What opportunities do you have to encourage women to be godly?

FOR WOMEN

1. What are your recurring sins that consistently remind you of your need for Christ?
2. Are there any men or women whom you need to repent to or offer forgiveness?
3. How does your sin hinder your ability to be the woman God designed you to be?
4. How does your life exhibit a uniquely feminine desire for control, particularly in your key relationships?

NEXT STEPS

1. **Women:** Make time to meet with another woman in your group to discuss the steps you are going to take to battle your desire for control over a particular relationship or circumstance.
2. **Men:** Make time to meet with another man in your group to discuss ways that you can encourage the women in your life to trust their need for control to the Lord in tangible ways.
3. Are there specific people whom you may have injured through a sinful desire for control? If so, pursue reconciliation with these people by asking for forgiveness.
4. Commit to memorizing the following verse this week:

Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." –Genesis 3:13