

Manhood Crisis

THE POINT: Men will understand society's manhood crisis and discuss how important it is for men to reclaim their leadership role.

WARM UP: Largely due to the feminist movement, much of Western culture has taken steps to empower and exalt females.

- ◇ How have the efforts to lift up women cut into the place of men in society? _____
- ◇ How do the school system and the criminal justice system favor women over men?

- ◇ How are men usually portrayed in American media (literature, news, movies, sitcoms, comedy, soap opera, etc)? Give an example. _____

Some men feel our demotion is well deserved, because we have mistreated women. Other men resent this low view of men, but they often feel helpless to change anything, so they just play along so as not to rock the boat and stir things up.

- ◇ Instead of guilt or resentment, how do you think men can reclaim their place without battling or harming women? _____

WORKOUT

1. Read **Isaiah 3:4,12**. What can we predict about a society where children and women control the homes? _____

- ◇ Give examples of how men have marginalized themselves in the family. _____

2. Read **Isaiah 4:1**. What will happen to families in a society where women really don't need men except for protection, entertainment, romance or child support? _____

3. Read **Judges 6:11-15**. What was God asking Gideon to do about the male leadership crisis that his country was facing? _____

- ◇ Why would God call Gideon a "mighty man" when he didn't feel that way about himself? _____
- ◇ How did Gideon turn the **FACTS** of his life into **EXCUSES**? _____
- ◇ Would you sound like Gideon if you were asked to step up and lead? ____ Why or why not? _____

THE TAKEAWAY: We can only rescue the status of men by going back to God's design for men as leaders in our families, communities, and country.

Pray It Loud (from the Heart): My Creator, it is what You think of me that really matters. I want to be the man you created me to be, not the man that society portrays me to be. Starting today, I am ready to begin a new adventure with You so I can reclaim Your blueprint for godly manhood. In JESUS' name! Amen!