

Keeper of the Garden

BIG IDEA

“We are ‘masculine’ not to the extent that we body-build or achieve sexual conquests or fix stuff, but to the extent that we are faithful to the job of being humble, consistent, dedicated keepers of the garden.” (p29)

HUDDLE UP

What images of manhood did you grow up with? Did anyone tell you what it meant to be a man, or was that something you caught on your own?

Have you ever thought of your responsibilities as being a gardener, keeper, or steward of some kind? What does that mean to you?

FROM “KEEPER...”

“Women love it when we prove we’re *willing* to do what needs to be done. It turns out it’s not about muscle at all but about character.” (p26)

“We naturally respect men who take responsibility for themselves. We have even more respect for those who go beyond themselves to their families. And we have immense respect for men who take responsibility for those well outside their own homes.” (p29)

“When we do fulfill our purpose, we become a refreshing source of life wherever we are. . . . We are all called to be keepers and protectors in our spheres of influence, whatever and wherever they are.” (p30)

“It’s simply not enough for someone to say about their life, ‘I didn’t bother anybody.’ . . . Jesus goes well beyond that: ‘In everything *do* to others what you would have them do to you.’” (p36)

“A passive man is a threat to the woman in his life.” (p38)

“A strong relationship is never a choice, it is a series of choices.” (p44)

KEY QUESTION

**What “gardens” has God entrusted to you to protect, guard, and keep?
What are the consequences when we fall short?**

NEXT STEPS

In your area of growth (see “GOOD WORK” section, page 10) what is one thing you can do to be a “keeper of the garden”?

“Make it Stick” Tip...

One idea to help you this week is to set a reminder in your calendar mid-week. This way you are reminded of what you committed to, rather than depending on your memory recall. In the busy-ness of the week, “next week you” will be thankful for “last week you’s” foresight!

PRAYERS / NOTES FOR NEXT TIME

**What prayers or thoughts do you have in this area of your life?
How can this group help you?**