



SMALL GROUPS

Life alone isn't living. We SHARE community.

Beautiful Design

Week 8 – Woman's Hurdles

Sin has crept into every crevice of creation and is most clearly seen in the rebellion and confusion present in humanity. God created woman with a specific role and purpose, but when sin entered the world, everything became fractured. 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.*

Reflect on last week's sermon and any discussions you've had over the last week. How has God challenged you concerning the purpose of women?*

What statement or idea stood out from this week's topic, Woman's Hurdles?*

Read James 1:14-15.

Pastor Bob talked about desires, even good ones, becoming disordered. What's an example of a good desire that could be problematic if one's priorities get out of order?

Disordered desires ultimately bring forth death (not just physical, but also relational, emotional, etc.). What could be the deadly end of that "good" desire with disordered priorities?

Read Genesis 3:16. Describe the fleshly cycle that takes place at the end of the verse.

How do you break that cycle?

Pastor Bob talked about "2 Buckets" that most of women's struggles can be lumped into, comparison and perfectionism, and how these relate to the uniquely feminine desire for control.

WOMEN: Where do you see women fall into sin repeatedly. What are ways that your group can support women when facing these hurdles?*

MEN: How has your life been impacted by the sin of women?* (Think about the “2 Buckets” that Pastor Bob mentioned: “Comparison,” and “Perfectionism,” and the desire for control.) Which did you see your own mother struggle with?

WOMEN: When you encounter a woman who seems to have it all together whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually, what feelings does it bring up in you? How do you usually respond to these feelings?*

MEN: Is it surprising to you that women have these struggles? Do you have any “aha” moments you’d like to share?

MEN: When have you witnessed a woman you care about caught in the snare of comparison?*

WOMEN: How does your sin hinder your ability to be the woman God designed you to be?*

Read Ecclesiastes 7:20, Isaiah 64:6, Galatians 3:3, and Ephesians 2:8-10.

Summarize these scriptures and put them into your own words.

In what areas of your life do you struggle with perfectionism?*

How do you feel when your expectations of yourself don’t line up with reality?*

WOMEN: Thinking about the “Buckets” and “Control,” and about how what we desire ends up ruling us, can you share an example of how either comparison or perfectionism rules you in a particular area?

WOMEN: How does your life exhibit a uniquely feminine desire for control, particularly in your key relationships?*

MEN: How does this feminine desire for control affect you in your relationships?

MEN: If you’re married, what do you wish your wife realized or believed about herself?

WOMEN: How does your sin hinder your ability to be the woman God designed you to be?*

MEN: What can you do this week to encourage the women in your life to live in their God-given security instead of comparing?*