



SANDALS CHURCH MEN
ADVANCE **SEASON 6**

ALIENS.
PORN AND
PETER PANS



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Think a happy thought, grab just a pinch of pixie dust and close your eyes. You can fly! You can fly away from all the cold and harsh realities of this world. You can fly to a place called NeverLand. A land where you're allowed to never become a man and when you finally open your eyes, you will find a boyish body made soft by the refusal of responsibility and deferral of work. You will hide from mirrors lest you must look upon the face of what could have been; what should have been. Boys were made to be men and when that metamorphosis is stunted, the product is something cancerous and destructive that eats away at them. A man who has chosen to stay a boy is the most dangerous thing in the world and in direct conflict with God's design.

Sounds more like a nightmare than a fairytale. Sounds more like reality than make-believe.

We all know the red-haired manchild clad in green tights that flies across London's tin sky and finds himself entering through the windows of young girls at night. The child who refused manhood to float in and out of made up worlds - Peter Pan, the symbol of a generation perhaps.

Now, before you get fired up and go on to rally under the banners of war flown against Peter Pans, or snowflakes as many call them, allow for a moment of thought. When you watch the movie Peter Pan (or, my personal favorite, Hook) there is a missing factor. A very crucial factor, one that every man needs - older men/mentors.

This role can be filled by a father, a friend, a teacher, or the like, but every man needs someone that has gone before him. One that has made the same mistakes and learned from them. Every man needs a man to teach them how to grow into one.

It's easy to dislike and even hate Peter Pans, but what are you doing to help prevent this phenomena from occurring in the first place?

As much as you may like to believe you pulled yourself up by your own bootstraps and you're just a hard working man, you didn't. We are called as men, by God, to help raise the boys below us into men. The reason there are so many Peter Pans and the way to get rid of them is the same thing.

Your action.

QUESTIONS

For the Group After the Video

1. What is the biblical role for men? How does society align with that biblical role?
2. Many young men do not have a father or a father figure in their lives, yet we expect them to somehow spontaneously become father figures on their own. What are you doing to help break that cycle?
3. What is the danger in becoming a “Peter Pan” (staying a boy, not working hard, not moving out of the house, etc)
4. Share a time that you acted like a Peter Pan, what were some of the adverse results of that?
5. Why don't older generations of men care about those below them? And if they do, why don't they act like it?
6. How can the younger generations be more approachable/teachable towards the older generations?
7. What danger is there specifically with the church if we don't mentor young men and teach them how to be men?



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WEEK 3 • PETER PAN

Day 1: In the Beginning

“Fire is the test of gold; adversity, of strong men.”

MARTHA GRAHAM

READ: Genesis 1:24-26

EXPLORE THE THEME: Genesis is the biblical account of how all this got started, how everything we know came into being. Genesis chapter 1 outlines God creating everything in seven days and is a pretty well known passage. So often, the reader will get caught up in exactly what was created on what day, and the order of the things created. While this is marvelous and mysterious, try to focus on the “why” of God creating everything. Focus specifically on what God created men for.

WRITE IT OUT: We, as men, were created in God’s image. Take a few minutes to really think about what that means. What does this say about you? What does this say about the other men in your life? What does this say about the generation of men under you that annoy you or worry you? Spend some time journaling what God puts on your mind.

LIVE IT OUT: As you go through your day today, take notice of the people around you. As you drive or walk around, look at all the faces of the different people. Pray for God to give you an eye that notices people and give you a heart that is like God’s and a passion to love people. Especially the ones that you don’t like

WEEK 3 • PETER PAN

Day 2: Fruitful and Multiply

“Fire is the test of gold; adversity, of strong men.”

MARTHA GRAHAM

READ: Genesis 1:27-28 and Genesis 2:23-25

EXPLORE THE THEME: God created men and women in his image and planned for them to multiply. I don't think there needs to be an explanation of what that means. What is not so obvious, however, is that God created men to desire women and to pursue them. He created us with a drive that pushes us to chase and pursue the opposite sex to create new life. Why do you think this is part of his plan? Continue to ask why instead of how or when. The true beauty and mystery of it all is in that question.

WRITE IT OUT: Why do you think that God put a sex drive in men? With all the bad that comes from it, or lack of it, what are some of the good things that come from it? Think of some of the non-obvious things too, not just families or children. Think of the good things that come from that motivation.

LIVE IT OUT: As you go through the day today, continue the exercise of seeing everyone as created in the image of God. Pray for God to give you that perspective. Take notice of how you feel about people as you do so

WEEK 3 • PETER PAN

Day 3: I Give You...

“Fire is the test of gold; adversity, of strong men.”

MARTHA GRAHAM

READ: Genesis 1:29-31 and Genesis 2:15-17

EXPLORE THE THEME: In this passage, God gives men dominion over the things of this world. Power over the animals and the crops. Think cattle ranchers and farmers. Think of plumbers and accountants. Think of artists and poets. We, as men, have been given the power to control the things of this world. He gave us jobs from the beginning. Keep in mind, this was before sin had ever entered the world. Why did God give us, men specifically, jobs from the beginning? Keep asking why.

WRITE IT OUT: Why do you think that God has given us, as men, jobs? What does this say about the way we were made? What does this say about the core of our being? Take some time to think about what this means for us as men when it comes to work.

LIVE IT OUT: As you go through the day today, continue the exercise of seeing everyone as created in the image of God. Specifically do this exercise with the people you work with. Pray for God to allow you to see them as you see them. Take notice of how you feel about people as you do so.

WEEK 3 • PETER PAN

Day 4: The Curse

“Fire is the test of gold; adversity, of strong men.”

MARTHA GRAHAM

READ: Genesis 2: 17-19

EXPLORE THE THEME: Eve and then Adam eventually eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil thus sinning for the first time in human history. When God finds them in the garden after this is done, he is heartbroken and angry for it now means that they can no longer be in the presence of God. They can no longer stay in the garden.

What you read in this week’s passage is the curse that has to be issued because of their sin. Work now becomes cursed and deviates from God’s original plan. Work becomes what we know it as today: difficult, political, frustrating, and all the other bad adjectives you can think of.

WRITE IT OUT: With the fall comes work as we know it today. It becomes difficult and cursed amongst other things. What are some of things you are currently struggling with when it comes to work? Take some time to write them out and pray over them with God.

LIVE IT OUT: As you go through the day today, continue the exercise of seeing everyone as created in the image of God. Pray for God to give you that perspective. Take notice of how you feel about people as you do so.

WEEK 3 • PETER PAN

Day 5: Man not Peter Pan

“Fire is the test of gold; adversity, of strong men.”

MARTHA GRAHAM

READ: Genesis 1-2

EXPLORE THE THEME: Reread the two chapters we jumped around in and continue to ask yourself why. Ask yourself why God created men the way he did. Ask yourself why you struggle with some things and don't with others when it comes to work (ex. You work too much or too little, etc.). Take your time and read the words carefully and slowly, asking for God to show you what you need to see.

WRITE IT OUT: Who were the men in your life that taught you to work hard? Write down their names and pray, thanking God for them. Continue to pray and ask for God to put men on your mind that you need to mentor and teach so they can avoid the dangers of becoming a Peter Pan. Write their names down and take action to reach out to them.

LIVE IT OUT: Let your group know whoever came to mind when you asked God to show you who you need to mentor. Inform them what action steps you plan on taking and ask them to keep you accountable to actually take those steps.