

**Welcome to**  
***MEN'S FRATERNITY!***

**Week 4**

**Unpacking the  
suitcase**

# WHY MEN STRUGGLE TODAY

A. Some of it has to do with  
society.

Changes in the way men worked, away from  
their sons

--natural masculine modeling was lost

1950's – fathers emotionally disconnected from  
sons

Gender revolution – expansion of women's  
world, at the expense of men's roles

# WHY MEN STRUGGLE TODAY

B. Some of it has to do with  
family dynamics.

Every man has a story, and your story has impacted what kind of man you are.

“Engaged but visionless” parenting, warm and loving but directionless

Other family issues – favoritism, unholy alliances, amateur mediator, abuse, betrayal, abandonment, or just poor manhood modeling – **important b/c you cannot change what you don't understand**

# WHY MEN STRUGGLE TODAY

C. Some of it has to do with  
Dad.

## DAD IS DESTINY

For sons and daughters

1960 – 17% American  
families fatherless

2000 – 40%

## THREE CRITICAL ISSUES

How do we resist the forces that have changed us into less than effective men, to be more than victims of our past...?

# THREE CRITICAL ISSUES

A. Addressing the unfinished business of my past.

Not a “blame game,” but understanding who I am, and what I need to change, to move forward.

Every man carries his suitcase... unfinished business = wounds

# THREE CRITICAL ISSUES

## 1. What do we mean by wound?

A wound is any unresolved issue where lack of closure adversely impacts and shapes the direction and dynamics of a man's life now

Physical wounds leave physical scars, but the deepest wounds of a man's life are the open wounds of his soul, which mark him for life, and for which he tries to compensate his entire life.

# THREE CRITICAL ISSUES

## 2. Five Wounds

### a. The Absent Father Wound

Seen in multiple generations....

It never goes away until you face it and put it rest.

# THREE CRITICAL ISSUES

## 2. Five Wounds

### b. The Overly Bonded with Mother Wound

Almost always done in love

Bonding too deeply with son

Reactions – resents – resists control

must dominate/control

succumbs to control –mom still dictates terms of life,

emotions, boundaries

# THREE CRITICAL ISSUES

## 2. Five Wounds

### c. The All Alone Wound

Lack of connection to other men, to cheer us on when we are noble, admiring our success

Show us blind spots we cannot see

Lack of mentors who encourage – this power can change a young man's life – and **both lose**

# THREE CRITICAL ISSUES

## 2. Five Wounds ...

### d. The Lacking a Manhood Vision Wound

No vision – a “conventional manhood” of life. Put on the Warrior face, work hard, you will be happy. But they reach a “wall” – the lie of “conventional manhood.”

# THREE CRITICAL ISSUES

## 2. Five Wounds ...

### e. The Heart Wound

A wound that every man is born with, a wound of the soul

We are pulled to do evil, what is wrong

Give in to temptation, fail to be our best

“What was I thinking?”

Failure to acknowledge will undercut  
Authentic Manhood

# THREE CRITICAL ISSUES

- A. Addressing the unfinished business of my past.
- B. Establishing a clear and compelling manhood vision.
- C. Creating a high impact, workable plan for my life – specific goals for becoming a noble, Authentic Man

***See You Next Week!***

**Week 4**

**Unpacking the  
suitcase**

Outline Next Slides

# ***Session Four***

## ***Unpacking the Suitcase***

### ***Why Men Struggle Today***

**A. Some of it has to do with society**

**Changes in men's work**

**Changes in dad's/men's connections**

**The gender revolution**

**B. Some of it has to do with family dynamics**

**C. Some of it has to do with Dad**

Week Five

*Dad is Destiny!*

# *Three Critical Issues*

A. Addressing the unfinished business of my past

Not a “blame game”  
Unfinished business = wounds.

“Wounds” defined: any unresolved issue where lack of closure adversely impacts and shapes the direction of a man’s life now.

# *The Five Wounds of a Man's Life*

The Absent Father **Wound**

The Overly Bonded with Mother **Wound**

The All Alone **Wound**

The Lack of a Manhood Vision **Wound**

The Heart **Wound**

# *Three Critical Issues*

- A. Addressing the unfinished business of my past
- B. Establishing a clear and compelling manhood vision.
- C. Creating a high impact, workable plan for my life, for becoming a noble, Authentic man.

## Questions for discussion:

1. Comment on “Dad is Destiny.” Agree? Disagree?
2. Discuss “engaged but visionless” parenting.
3. How might the Overly Bonded with Mother wound affect a man’s marriage?
4. Any experience with having/being a mentor?
5. Ever hear a man say “What was I thinking?”