

Point Man – Week 1

*How a Man Can Lead His Family
From the book by Steve Farrar*

Read: Chapter 1 - Point Man on Patrol

Ephesians 5:25-31 - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

Questions for discussion:

1. What was a “point man” during the Vietnam war, and how does it relate to our roles as heads of our households?
2. What role do you think the leadership (or lack thereof) of husbands and fathers have in the statistics about divorce, teen pregnancy, teen drug abuse, etc.? Do you buy into the idea that it’s at least partly “our” fault?
3. How does Satan work by attacking our relationship with our wife? How about our kids?
4. Re-read the story on page 30 about Tom Peters, the author of many self-help books on business and professional excellence. In making the choice between excellence in family or business, what is his advice?
5. Is our job the part of our lives where we should get our greatest sense of accomplishment?

“I’ve asked you how you intend to keep your marriage off the casualty list. Let me ask you something else. How are you going to keep your kids off the casualty list?”

“You were appointed. Like it or not, you carry the responsibility. You are the point man.”

“If a man is passive and indifferent to the things of God and the spiritual leadership of his home, then attack is not necessary. He is already neutralized.”

“Gentlemen, I know that you love your families. You love your wife. You love your children. You would be willing to die for them. In most wars, that’s what men are asked to do. ... But in this war, it’s different. In this war, Jesus Christ is looking for men who will live for their families.”

Point Man – Week 2

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Read: Chapter 2 – Save the Boys

Deuteronomy 6:4 - Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 1:15 - So I took the leading men of your tribes, wise and respected men, and appointed them to have authority over you—as commanders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens and as tribal officials.

Questions for discussion:

1. With the rise of feminism, how have husbands/fathers become the “sixth man” in the story on page 35? (Ps 44:1-4)
2. Should we teach our boys that their future wives should follow their lead, or should we teach them to lead? What's the difference? (Dt 1:15, Nu 1:16)
3. How did the Industrial Revolution change family life for most people? Most of us aren't suited to go back to an agrarian society, so what are practical ways can we deal with the changes that the IR brought?
4. LESS TIME = LESS INFLUENCE. Error increases with distance. What do these principles mean to us as fathers? How about as husbands? As co-workers and neighbors?
5. Ep 6:4 tells us to bring up our children in the training and instruction of the Lord. What are the consequences of being a passive husband or father?

“If our boys are not equipped to lead families, then the families of the next generation will not have leaders.”

“We save our boys by giving them a role model to follow. When our boys have a clear role model, they intuitively know how to function when they assume the responsibility of marriage and parenting. But in this generation, there are too many crippled boys who have no idea what it is to be a man.”

“The choices that you make with your family today will determine the quality of life in your family tree for generations to come.”

Point Man – Week 3

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Read: Chapter 3 – Real Men Don't, and Chapter 4 – A One-Woman Kind of Man

Luke 9:62 - Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

1 Corinthians 7:4-5 - The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Questions for discussion:

1. Cortez burned his ships so his men couldn't retreat. How does our society view the permanence of marriage? How does God?
2. Job 31:1 talks about making a "covenant with our eyes." In Mt 5:28, Jesus says that looking at a woman lustfully is equivalent to adultery. Why does God place such a premium on men controlling their thought-lives? (Mt 15:19)
3. Is it wrong to be tempted? When is the line crossed between temptation and sin?
4. How big a problem is pornography for Christian men? Is saving ourselves for our wives limited to just the physical act, or our thought-life as well? How does the Golden Rule come into this?
5. Was David forgiven of his adulterous fling with Bathsheba? Did he continue to suffer consequences for it after he was forgiven?

adulterate (verb) make impure, degrade, debase, spoil, taint, contaminate; doctor, tamper with, dilute, water down, weaken; bastardize, corrupt; informal cut, spike, lace, dope. See note at pollute. antonym purify

"Real men protect themselves against adultery....And that's why they don't do it. It just isn't worth it. If you don't believe that, ask someone who has done it. He will show you the broken shards of a shattered life. He will show you the pain and disappointment that comes from making a series of wrong choices."

Point Man – Week 4

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Read: Chapter 5 – Anorexic Men and Their Bulimic Cousins

Matthew 4:4 - Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Psalm 1:1-3 - Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Questions for discussion:

1. What's the difference between *anorexia* and *bulimia*? How do they each relate to our reading and application of the Word?
2. Is it possible to revere the Bible, but never read it? (Mt 15:8, Ja 1:22) What are some ways that we tend to give it lip service, but don't put it into practice?
3. What's the point of Bible study? To have done it? To gain factual knowledge? To win debates? (Ps 119:130, 133, Pr 2:1-11)
4. What are some ways we can find daily time in the Word? Some ideas: a "morning briefing," twenty minutes after dinner, lunch hour, replace a TV show that really isn't worth the time (few are), audio Bible on the way to work or while working out, etc.
5. Do our wives and kids ever see us reading our Bibles?

"The enemy does not mind if you revere the Bible, just as long as you don't feed from it. He will do whatever he can to keep you from interacting with the Scriptures."

"Some of you right now are in the biggest storm of your lives. I have written this to encourage you to get your roots deep into the Bible. That's what will keep you strong and steady in the storm. The Lord is not trying to ruin you, He is only rebuilding you."

Point Man – Week 5

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Read: Chapter 6 – Aerobic Kneeling

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Romans 12:11-13 - Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Questions for discussion:

1. What's the purpose of our prayer life? To get things? To get our friends and family well when they're sick? Or is it to get to know the CEO of the universe? To know His heart and His will in our lives?
2. Who and what should we pray for? Should we maintain a prayer list and organize it like Steve Farrar suggests? (Ge 25:21)
3. Have you ever tried planning a personal time of prayer? Did you keep it up? What does it take to be more diligent in our prayer life? (Mk 1:35, Lk 5:16)
4. What are good topics for public prayer? Do our kids ever hear us praying for them? Do they hear us lifting up to God our desire for wisdom in a big decision, or our desire to reach a particular neighbor or co-worker with the message of Christ?
5. Why should we pray more specifically rather than generally? (Ps 72)

"Our Bibles our gathering dust, and our prayer lives consist of mumbled petitions before dinner."

"Instead of saying 'Lord, bless my children today,' say 'Lord, give each of my children wisdom today to stand for what is right instead of giving into peer pressure.'"

Point Man – Week 6

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Read: Chapter 7 – Husband and Wife Teamwork in the Marriage Cockpit

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - 9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!

1 Peter 3:7 - Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. (1 Corinthians 7:5)

Questions for discussion:

1. In light of 1 Peter 2 and 3 about submission, what do you think of Steve Farrar's football analogy? Is the Montana-Rice Principle scriptural?
2. What does submission mean? What does it NOT mean? What does headship mean? What does it NOT mean?
3. What's the difference between authoritarianism and sacrificial leadership? How does our choice of styles affect our wives and kids?
4. What role does communication play in effective leadership of the home? What role does communication play in an authoritarian relationship? What are ways to get better at communicating with our wives?
5. What role does trust play in effective leadership? What happens when our wives don't trust our leadership? How can we earn the trust of our family?

"One ambitious young lawyer asked how one went about winning trust, and the senior partner said dryly; 'Try being trustworthy.'"

"To the wife it should be said that the form your submission takes will vary according to the quality of your husband's leadership. If the husband is a godly man who has a biblical vision for the family and leads out in the things of the Spirit, a godly wife will rejoice in this leadership and support him in it."

"[I] also believe a man should not demand submission from his wife. Instead, he should be such an exemplary model of submission to the authorities in his own life, that he provides the kind of leadership in the home that is easy to follow."

Point Man – Week 7

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Read: Chapter 8 – The Birth of a Tangent

Psalm 127:3-5 - Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

Matthew 6:30-34 - If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Questions for discussion:

1. Having children is certainly not a Biblical requirement of Christians. While it's definitely looked favorably upon in the Word, our culture doesn't emphasize the benefits of having children. What are some of the benefits? (1 Timothy 5:4)
2. What do you think are the reasons our society has grown accustomed to the idea that having two incomes, 1.75 kids, and a Hummer in the garage is "normal?"
3. One of the principle motivations for many couples who decide not to have kids (or to have very few of them) is acknowledged to be selfishness. Child-rearing takes time, money, and commitment.
4. Can Christians be advocates of larger families without being judgmental of those with smaller ones?
5. When is adoption worth considering? Should it always be a last resort? (Psalm 68:5, James 1:27)

"Christian homes are the salt of the earth. But if we stop producing salt, what will happen to our influence?"

"You may indeed have to lower your standard of living—in fact, you probably will—but I guarantee that your quality of life will go up dramatically."

Point Man – Week 8

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Read: Chapter 9 – How to Raise Masculine Sons and Feminine Daughters

Hebrews 12:9-11 - Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. (NIV)

Ephesians 6:4 - Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (NIV)

Questions for discussion:

1. The scriptures teach fathers to be firm, and to discipline and "chasten" their sons. What kind of damage do we do to kids when we are overprotective and coddling of them? What are the consequences of the other extreme, being too firm? (1 Kings 1:5-6, Colossians 3:21)
2. The sexual revolution of the 60s and 70s brought about the masculinization of women and feminization of boys. Did it result in women being liberated from men, or men being liberated from their families?
3. We tend to think only of the short term consequences of our actions. What are the longer term consequences to our sons and daughters if we don't model a godly, compassionate, but masculine identity to them?
4. Is there a difference between building self-esteem and self-confidence? How does self-confidence help our kids, and how can we impart that to them?

"Fathers help boys develop strong healthy masculinity when the boys perceive them as the one who sets limits, makes decisions, controls disbursements of family capital, and administers discipline..."

"Fathers help girls develop strong healthy femininity by the above actions combined with personal intimacy and non-sexual physical contact."

"Relationships are built up, like a fine lacquer finish, with the layers of kindness."

Point Man – Week 9

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Read: Chapter 10 – Telling Your Kids What You Don't Want to Tell Them

Proverbs 1:1-8 - The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

Job 31:1 - I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.

Questions for discussion:

1. What was Solomon's purpose in writing the book of Proverbs? Are we taking seriously enough our role of imparting wisdom to our sons and daughters?
2. It is really that important that parents be the instructors for their kids' sex education? Does the Bible really teach dads to be in charge of that? Who else wants the job?
3. Why is the world's focus purely on health and biology in sex education so damaging to our kids future happiness as adults? What's lacking in the world's approach?
4. At what age do you think sex education is important to start imparting to our kids? What do you think of the author's age guideline of seven?
5. How do you know what content to include in "The Talk?" Should it be scripted? What are some high points that we should consider including?

"Sex education is ignored by most parents, both Christian and non-Christian, out of discomfort, ignorance, or indifference. According to surveys, most adolescents report that they have never been given any advice about sex by either parent."

Point Man – Week 10

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Read: Chapter 11 – Rock and Roll Model

Matthew 7:24 - Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Questions for discussion:

1. In Joshua 24:15, Joshua stands before Israel and confidently says "as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." In Psalm 51:10, David prayed for a steadfast spirit: "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Can our families count on us being on God's side of every situation, or do we find ourselves being a little lukewarm about our faith sometimes?
2. How would our wives describe our walk with God? How about our kids? Would they use the words "rock," "steadfast," and "firm," or maybe "hit" and "miss?"
3. As fathers, we're to model Christianity for our kids like Paul did for his students. In 1 Corinthians 11:1, he says to "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." Are we modeling Christianity well enough that we can say to our wives and kids, "Follow me as I follow Christ?"
4. How are we affecting our kids adult lives if our example is not one of rock solid faith, but instead is one of passive, lukewarm Christianity?

"Now we are the parents, and we get to make the decisions. And the decisions we make with our power and influence will have a tremendous impact on the next generation."