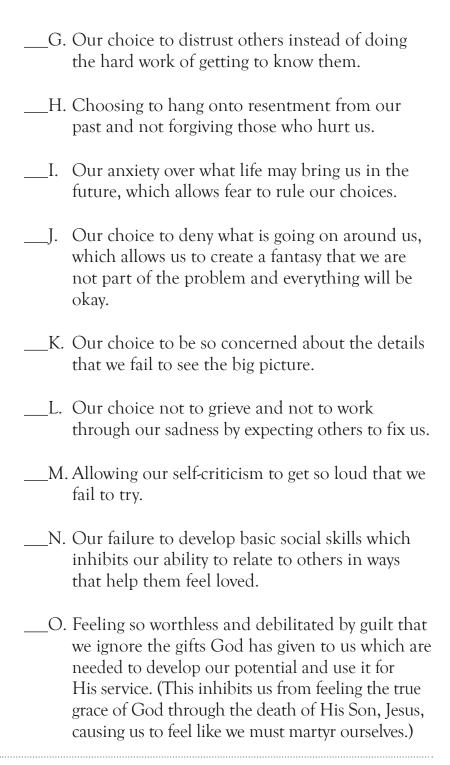
#### Lesson 4

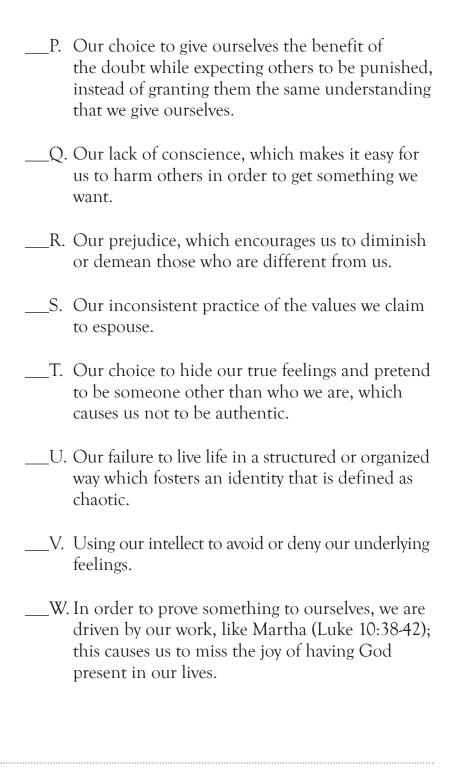
## Fulfilling God's Plan

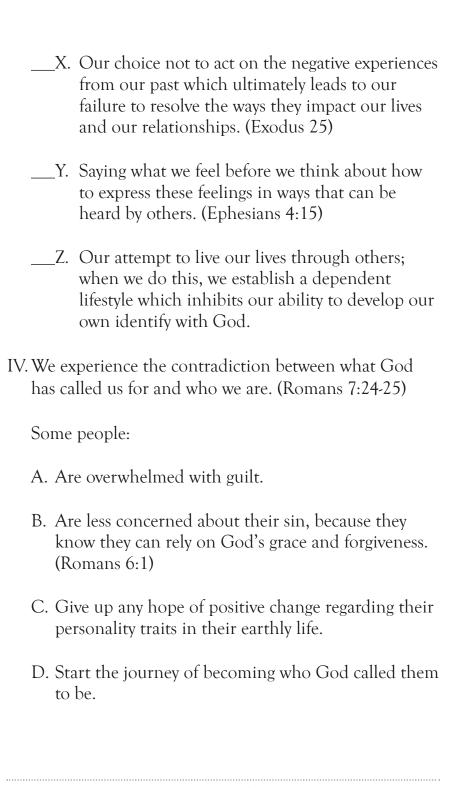
- I. It is God's desire that you believe in Jesus Christ and accept Him as your Lord and Savior. This allows:
  - A. Your human spirit to be resurrected, enabling you to communicate with Him. (John 3:8)
  - B. You to experience His forgiveness; His forgiveness begins to relieve the distress caused by the human tragedy. (1 John 1:9)
  - C. You to receive His guidance; God wants to be a positive force in your life and help you to develop your full potential. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
  - D. You to feel His presence, as you make pragmatic choices regarding how to live life.
  - E. You to fully engage with your original design, as you integrate Him into the complex areas of your life.
  - F. You to utilize His power to avoid future self-destructive choices.
  - G. You to fulfill His purpose in your life by your unique representation of \_\_\_\_\_ in all of your relationships.

- H. You to share His message of love and salvation with others and inspire them to make a similar spiritual choice. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- II. God wants us to apply His perspective and influence to every aspect of our lives. In order to do His will:
  - A. Our bodies should be viewed as His temple; our bodies should not be defiled, but honored.
  - B. We should base our personal decisions on what we learn from the Bible. "Never stop reading this Scroll of the Law. Day and night you must think about what it says. Make sure you do everything that is written in it. Then things will go well with you. And you will have great success." (Joshua 1:8)
  - C. We need to communicate regularly with Him through prayer. "Look to the LORD and to his strength. Always look to him." (1 Chronicles 16:11)
  - D. We need to stay in tune with God's will; when we do, He will give us what we want. "Find your delight in the LORD. Then he will give you everything your heart really wants." (Psalm 37:4)
  - E. We need to interact regularly with our Christian brothers; this will help us become more Christ-like. "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17)

the do mu	e need to be aware of our personality traits and make changes which allow God to be seen in everything we. We have negative personality tendencies which we ask God to help us with. Place a check mark (🗸) side each tendency that is a struggle for you:
A.	Our tendency to others, which is a way to avoid taking responsibility for our choices.
B.	Our self-focused nature which causes us to be insensitive to the needs of others.
C.	Our use of behaviors and substances (food, drugs, alcohol, work, sex) to avoid feeling our emotions and facing reality.
D.	Our anger, when it is expressed in sinful ways. (Ephesians 4:26)
	1. Expressing ourselves with words or moods that are threatening, dominating, explosive or harsh.
	2. Expressing our anger and hurt in indirect ways (passive aggressive).
E.	The ways we misuse our bodies when we internalize the stress of the unresolved issues in our lives can make us physically sick.
F.	Our choice to become dramatic, as a way of avoiding the hard work that is required by facing reality, developing a plan and executing it.







### Group Discussion: Share your answers with your group.

- 1. Briefly talk about your week, sharing the highlights or the concerns you may have. You may also want to give an update on what you shared last week.
- 2. Share a thought or an idea that stood out to you from this lesson.
- 3. Review the benefits described in Section I; select one that you appreciate, as a result of your belief in Jesus Christ.
- 4. Is it easy or hard for you to take care of yourself physically? Remember, to be your best, you must be willing to see a doctor and a dentist regularly!
- 5. Review the list of negative personality tendencies you checked off in Section III; identify the one that you struggle with the most and would like to improve.
- 6. Psalm 142:1-2 states: "I call out to the LORD. I pray to him for his favor. I pour out my problem to him. I tell him about my trouble." How do these Bible verses apply to your manhood journey?

# **Answer Key**

#### Lesson 4 - Page 20

I. G. Him III. A. blame

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