

## Designing the Basics for Men's Ministry

On a recent visit a man sat with a friend who had thrown his life away as he allowed sexual sin to overtake his entire being. As the two old friends tried to make sense out of a lost situation, the one who had lost it all voiced the question "Where did I go wrong?" He had, for all to see, been a model of faith and Christian commitment. He served his church, community, and friends faithfully in living out a ministry of love. But underneath he lost the inner battle as he was slowly destroyed by sexual sin. No one saw it coming. He was good at hiding his desires. But the world was better at picking him off to destroy him in its realm of pleasure.

How many of us, or the people we know, are plagued with the same temptations and problems in our everyday life? As Christians are we immune to the tactics of the world in falling to its temptations? If you think so, ask Peter how easy is it to deny our faith to get what we desire. The great need of men today is to understand that faith is a daily work in life and the need for support is critical. A man needs a brother to draw close, minister to him, and help him mature. He has a need for someone to demonstrate to him the true way to live, modeling a godly marriage, biblical parenthood, and the love of Christ. He needs a friend willing to invest time in his life to help him find new life in the promise of Christ.

The purpose of your Men's Ministry program should be to do that. You need a plan that designs a framework of vital relationships for men that can be fitted into their concept of masculinity and that will intentionally reconcile men to God and other Christian men. This will enhance the building of Christ's church to be both a place of healing and ministry as men learn to share their faith as they live. Men will then be equipped to face the common problems the world sends their way.

### Basics

What does Men's Ministry need to relate to men in your church?

1. Vision...there needs to be a vision of what your men need and what your church wants as they relate to men. Without a true vision, your ministry will never get past the early beginnings. It will become another exercise in frustration. Men will not continue to meet for the sake of a meeting. They will invest time in something that makes a difference in their lives.
2. Leadership...effective leadership is a key to success. Don't try to be the sole leader of your group. Build a team with ideas, abilities, dreams, and talents. This team will be the creative genius of any success you achieve with men.
3. A plan...
  - Discover the needs, failures, and successes of the men. Offer helps that they will need in life planning.
  - Help them take a new look at the Bible and how it speaks to their life. Don't just plow through scripture, but select Bible plans that give direction that touches the everyday experiences of men.
  - Encourage men to build a prayer life. We only grow in faith as we talk to the one we follow.
  - Create opportunities for mission encounters. Most men want to do something to help others, but don't know how to begin. Use the creative team to design plans for helping others.
  - Help men explore relationships with family, friends, and others. Most great failures in the life of men relate to relationships. Offer opportunities to help men as they build and secure personal relationships.
4. Action...Challenge men to action. Use leisure time more effectively. We generally have adequate time that we waste in unprofitable endeavors.

## Today's Man

In our world, society has opened the inter-most depths of men's lives and hearts and allowed all the evils of the world to slip in. This is the thought of many who deal with the spirituality of men. They see men today in a battle with the world that they are increasingly losing. What are the difficulties that they are facing?

1. World pressures
2. Work related stress and desire for success
3. Financial responsibilities that push men to the limit
4. Family issues that they feel incapable of dealing with
5. Moral deterioration in their personal life, environment, and communication

## Making Christian Men

What will it take to lead a man to become the Christian, husband, father, and leader that he needs to be?

1. Help him develop worthy goals for his life.
2. Give awareness that his thoughts and actions need to be led by Christ instead of the world.
3. Provide opportunities to assist him in designing Christian values.
4. Lead him to have dreams that enhance his Christian life and value to his family.
5. Encourage a careful selection of Christian friends.
6. Provide opportunities for understanding relationships and how they develop.
7. Enhance his opportunities to build his faith through Biblical concepts.

## Our Strategy

1. Determine the unique needs of the men of our church.
2. What will bring success in our church men's program and how will it look?
3. How can we measure success in our church?
4. What are the obstacles that we face?
5. What are the present challenges and weaknesses we face in our community?
6. What type of ministries would appeal to our men today?
7. What materials are available to use?
8. Design a systematic approach to ministry using the expertise of our men.
9. Move forward with a faith that this will enhance a relationship to Christ.