

BEGINNING A MINISTRY WITH

Tips and how to's to
help you get started

MEN

What is Men's Ministry? A men's breakfast or wild game dinner? Oftentimes these events reach men because meat is on the menu! But growing men in discipleship is much more than offering food and small talk. It also includes opportunities for studying God's Word, for mentoring and being mentored with accountability, for sharing their faith, and for serving.

Men need a band of brothers with whom they can lock arms and shoulder-to-shoulder fight for what they know is good and helpful. Though all men need help, many of them also desire to help others, but they need someone to lead them. Are you that leader?

Men need other men. Proverbs 27:17 says, "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another" (ESV). Men need other men to speak into their lives, to cheer them on, to impart the courage to persevere, and to summon them to keep stepping up in life. Men need other men beside them in the struggle of life.

Men also need to speak into the lives of other men, sharing wisdom and challenging them to "be the man."

If you sense a God-given vision to start leading men through your church, here are some steps to consider:

- **Pray.** Investing your life in men is a spiritual battle and that battle belongs to the Lord. Pray for God to direct your plans, pray for Him to enable you to find favor with church leaders, and pray for Him to connect you with other men who want to partner with you in leading the ministry with men. Ask God to stir the hearts of men to long for a strong brotherhood with other men who live their faith.
- **Prepare a one page summary of your vision** with an outline of how you would structure a ministry with men.
- **Request a meeting with the appropriate church leader.** Share your vision and your summary page. Ask for the church leadership's buy-in before beginning.
- **Seek out other men to come alongside you.** Ask God to reveal them to you. Then boldly share your vision for calling men up and see who responds. Those whose hearts are filled with the same passion will surface. Ask them to partner with you to lead the men in your church to something more than superficial attendance at events.
- **With your co-leaders, create plans for three to six months.** This will give you enough time to implement, evaluate, and adjust as needed.
- **Develop a sustainable plan.** The size of the team will determine the breadth of the plans. Plan what makes sense for your church and what your lay leadership team can sustain. After you get your plans on paper, ask yourselves, "Can we keep all this going?" To avoid burnout with your team of leaders, don't attempt anything you cannot sustain.
- **Schedule events on the church calendar and execute.** Per the church's calendar, determine the best timing for your events or small groups. If you have several men on the team, divide responsibilities among them.
- **Ask men for feedback.** Is it worth their investment of time? Is it making a difference in their lives in some way? Make adjustments along the way as you see what is effective and what isn't.
- **Have a follow-up plan in place.** Men may ask, "What's next?" so be prepared to share your plans.
- **Keep prayer central to your planning and evaluating.** Depend on God's leadership, not your own.

IDEAS FOR WHERE TO START



Consider a plan that follows the pattern of Jesus' life as He grew into manhood. We learn from Luke 2:52, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" (ESV). Jesus grew in four ways:

- **Spiritually**—in His relationship with the Father
- **Emotionally**—in how He related to others
- **Intellectually**—increasing in knowledge
- **Physically**—with physical strength and stamina

These four growth aspects can be the starting point for your ministry planning, creating a plan that involves activities from one or more aspects:

A PLAN FOR GROWTH

Spiritual growth

- Bible study
- Accountability partners or groups
- Prayer partners or groups
- Service projects

Intellectual growth

- Bible study
- Topical studies

Emotional growth

- Accountability partners or groups
- Topical studies
- Support groups (addictions, job search, etc.)

Physical growth

- Sports leagues or informal pick-up basketball, tag football, volleyball
- Jogging/hiking/bicycling outings

FamilyLife can assist you in planning. Our ministry advisors are passionate about helping churches have effective ministry with men. They can provide training to volunteer leaders, assist in assessing needs, provide ideas for events and curriculum suggestions for small groups, and generally guide your church in developing and sustaining a men's ministry. And, this service is free. Call us at 800-358-6329 or email us at MinistryAdvisor@FamilyLife.com.

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YOUR PLAN FOR GROWTH

Spiritual growth

Intellectual growth

Emotional growth

Physical growth

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CHALLENGE YOUR MEN THIS FALL TO STEP UP



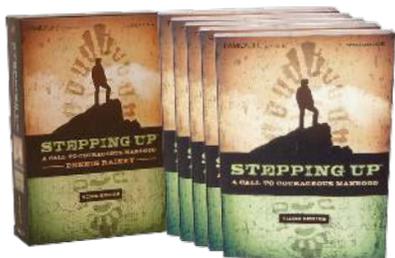
Stepping Up: A Call to Courageous Manhood has proven to be a game changer with men. Countless guys have told us it challenged them to reconsider how they lived their lives:

"I had my own interpretation of what a man was but . . . I actually learned that I was the furthest thing from a man. Thank God for showing me the direction in how to be a better husband, a better father, and a better person as a man."—Series participant

"I attended a Stepping Up video event yesterday in Albany, Oregon. I have to say this was a wake-up call and a great reminder that I need to step up to become a better leader in my household. Also, [it was] a great reminder that I need to step up and gain courage to defeat the giants that have been hindering my walk with God. Going through this, I definitely gained my "bearings" on what it takes to step up and become a man of God!" —Event participant

In **Stepping Up** Dennis Rainey calls men to courageous manhood, offering a powerful vision for what it means to be a man who truly conquers and wins in life. He defines courage throughout the five stages of manhood and commissions men to honestly evaluate where they stand. Then, he prepares men to bravely master their life purpose by developing a strategic plan and establishing a winning vision. Over twenty renowned ministry leaders challenge men to dig deep into what it means to live godly and courageous lives and present transferable concepts for applying the teachings to life. The video sessions also feature man-on-the-street interviews, humorous vignettes, and engaging personal stories that bring home the truths in memorable ways.

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