

## **Men's NetWork ~ How to Start a Men's Ministry in Your Church**

***Purpose:*** (To help congregations start a successful men's ministry)

***But first, a word as to why a men's ministry is important:***

Many men feel a total disconnect when it comes to church. If given a choice, spending time at church falls a distant second to spending time with friends, family, or doing just about anything else.

Why is this? Well, for one reason, men just don't feel connected.

A men's ministry group has the potential to change that, however. Men's ministry groups bond men by giving them a forum in which to share and a reason for getting together. Like a fire of burning coals, the combined energy of men gathered together draws men toward the flame and keeps them active and encouraged by the other members involved.

For any men's ministry to be successful it should offer three things: solid, Christ-centered resources for spiritual growth; ample occasions for fun and recreation; and the opportunity for members to use their God-given talents and time to make a powerful impact in their world. The tools and resources of the **Men's NetWork (MNW)** (given below this summary) offer you all three and should help you move forward on establishing a group.

### ***Getting the Ball Rolling:***

#### **Initial enthusiasm:**

Briefly meet with men interested in being part of a new men's group/ministry. This can be done at church or, if interested individuals attend different services, arrange an outside place and time to meet. (These individuals will form the core group from which to organize your men's group.)

#### **Initial organizational meeting:**

- a. Brainstorm ideas on what you would like to see your group do and the kinds of impact it can make.
- b. Determine what Bible study you would like to do as a group.
- c. Make and copy a list of some potential activities and impact events from the **MNW** website. Have men select three they would find interesting.
- d. Tally up selections to see which activities and impact events would be preferable to your core group.
- e. Determine where to hold your first "official" men's ministry meeting; make necessary arrangements.
- f. Procure whatever provisions are necessary for your meeting.

- g. Determine agenda for this first meeting: refreshments, activity and discussion of video Bible study series (and their demos).
- h. Choose who will lead the Bible study.
- i. Begin considering how best to publicize the event in announcements, bulletin/newsletter, congregational website, etc.
- j. Pray for wisdom, attentiveness to the Holy Spirit's guidance, and the courage to "talk up" your group to guys who would be interested or benefit from it.

**And, you're off and running....**

**First men's ministry meeting:**

At this point, your group has officially launched. As noted above, your core bunch of guys will determine the particulars, such as the length of first Bible study session, what impact event, activity, or local opportunity your group might involve itself in, etc. Whether you set out with three guys or ten, it's important to begin establishing some recognition for your group. Publicize when you can; do something hands-on when you can, and always be promoting the value of what you're doing. Above all, pray about your group, its direction, and how it can best make a difference. It is the Lord who will bless and multiply your efforts.

Starting a men's ministry group within your church is no small thing. By all means, drop us a line with questions you might have—either through our blog (see below) or by contacting us [mensnetwork@lhm.org](mailto:mensnetwork@lhm.org)

**Overview/Summary:** *(Be sure to send word to the **Men's NetWork** sharing your experiences on starting a men's ministry in your church. Please include suggestions for improving this "How To" and return them to us [mensnetwork@lhm.org](mailto:mensnetwork@lhm.org).)*

## ***Men's NetWork Resources:***

Here are few ideas to help you jump-start your men's ministry. These are all features of the **Men's NetWork**.

### ***Bible Studies:***

These award-winning Bible studies cover a variety of topics in fresh and innovative ways. Some treatments are light and a bit funny; others run pretty deep. All of them are put together with guys in mind. We think you'll find them interesting, stimulating and, certainly, different than most video Bible studies you've seen before. A number of these have an intentional appeal to the interests and concerns of guys near the fringe when it comes to church involvement. They want to get involved, but frequently feel the church lacks relevance. The last thing they want to do is step into something they'll have to withdraw from later. Our video-based Bible studies are produced to engage and inform. Our discussion guides will get your group thinking, talking, and growing together in Jesus Christ.

### ***How-To Instruction Guides:***

These helpful guides provide important info to help leaders and their groups do any number of things from organizing a golf or fishing tournament to leading a Bible study. With step-by-step instructions, you'll get details on how to pre-plan an activity and how to evaluate what you've done when it's finished. And since we don't have a "corner on the market," we welcome all topic suggestions or attempts at writing one for us.

### ***U.S. and International Impact Events:***

Few things energize guys like putting some muscle into doing something positive in the lives of others. A quick look outside our comfort zone quickly tells us there's more than enough need to go around. That's why we launched the **Men's NetWork** WORK DAY a few years ago. It gives guys a chance to do something hands-on and helpful in their neighborhoods and communities. At the international level, you or your group can work at an orphanage, assist in some construction projects, help teach English, or assist mobile medical clinics in dispensing health care—all in different places around the globe. There are other projects too. If it's work in another country you want, we have plenty of opportunities. Our International Impact section offers a wide variety of life-changing activities your men can apply their skills at.

### ***Local/Regional Calendar:***

Here's an online bulletin board where you can post the location, dates, times, topics, activities, contact info, and other relevant news about that new men's ministry group you and your church buddies have just formed. To get your data delivered to users nationwide, just send us your scoop and we'll post it on the website. It's also the place to see what's going on with other groups nearby in your state or region. It's a great way to mine ideas if your group is looking for something new too.

### ***Braggin' Rights:***

Here's where your names and mugs go up in lights! Send us a summary of your event and the pictures to prove it, and we'll post them prominently for the world to see. You can brag about the great things your men have done, and encourage other groups to do better—if they can, that is. Chances are you just might find some fresh faces—either from inside or outside your church—who are interested in getting involved and joining the fun.

### ***The Baloney Shop:***

This little out-of-the-way nook is where Rev. Ken Klaus, Speaker Emeritus of **The Lutheran Hour**, applies his theological training and deft sense of humor to discuss some of the more oddball and out-there items that put the burr under his saddle when it comes to Christianity and the world at large. For a diversion, show these short clips and see if the guys in your group have seen the same baloney—or worse. We also encourage you to submit your own questions on the boloney you see and hear.

### ***“Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School”***

Here you'll find Bruce Wurdeman, former executive director of Lutheran Hour Ministries, delivering 184 video vignettes as he offers his observations and insights on stories you know well from Sunday school, and a few you might not know at all. Written and presented to give the viewer some backstory and perspective that might not emerge in a typical Sunday school lesson, these popular video clips will get you thinking about and digging into Scripture to learn more.

### ***Men's NetWork E-newsletter***

This weekly info piece lets you know what's going on and what's up and coming. New men's groups joining, the latest, award-winning Bible studies, regional outreach events taking place, **Project Connect** booklets, contests, and more, it's all here to keep you in the loop.

### ***Man Stuff:***

This is the **MNW** blog. Here, each week, we post a blog, inviting your comments in response. You can write us with any questions, comments, or concerns you might have about your men's ministry group start-up. We might even have a suggestion or two that could make your effort easier.

### ***Find a Men's NetWork Group near You:***

This page is for men to find local men's groups they can join and for you to publicize your group! Men interested in participating in a men's ministry won't find you if you're not there to be found. Drawing men into your group means new energy, excitement and ideas! Get on board and promote your group!

### ***Thought of the Day Archives:***

These little gems give you something to think about when you're staring out the window at work or surfing our website at your local coffee shop. When you want to dazzle somebody



with your command of pithy witticisms, look no further. These bite-sized morsels can be surprisingly filling. Check out a few, when you get a chance.