



MEN'S MINISTRY 101

The goal:
Planning & creating a unique environment for men
to become more like Christ together

Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.
Matthew 4:19

BUILDING MEN'S SMALL GROUPS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Name _____

Date Completed: _____

AN INTRODUCTION:

These training manuals have been created to give you material that we have used in training over 2500 pastors and key men's leaders. They are comprehensive and include much more information than you will be able to use in developing your own men's discipleship plan. Choose some of the ideas and add your own.

One misconception about starting a men's ministry is that only mega churches can have effective men's discipleship ministries because of their abundant resources. The average American church is made up of around 100 people. Obviously, the average church does not have the same resources as the mega churches. But, many of them have better men's discipleship going on than churches of 5000 people. That's because, they have learned to be good stewards of what God has given them. A good steward takes what God has given him and does the best he can. It's not about results, it's about faithfulness (See Matthew 25:14-31).

You are about to venture into materials that will tempt you think that you have to do it all in order to have an effective men's ministry. You will want to have a comprehensive men's ministry with retreats, sports teams, work projects, breakfasts, and all the rest; all with two or three leaders. We're here to tell you, that's not going to happen. In fact, that's not what we want you to come away with from working through these materials.

Instead, know right up front that the size of your leadership team determines the size of your ministry. God has placed certain men in your church with the desire to reach other men. The most important thing you can do is to pay attention to those men...your leaders. Invite them, call them, nurture them, and develop them, and you will one day wake up to discover that your men's ministry is changing the lives of the men of your church.

Some of the material is designed to be primarily for individual leaders while other sections are best done as teams. You make the choice. Your judgment about your unique situation is probable more accurate than ours. Feel the freedom to use these manuals however they fit the situation.

So, be encouraged, even though we are going to walk you through a lot of material in these manuals, try to draw back and consider that the picture we are trying to paint is the big picture. It represents something unachievable in the macro. But, every church, no matter the size can benefit from putting these principles and concepts into practice. And, God is rejoicing at your efforts!

In His service together,

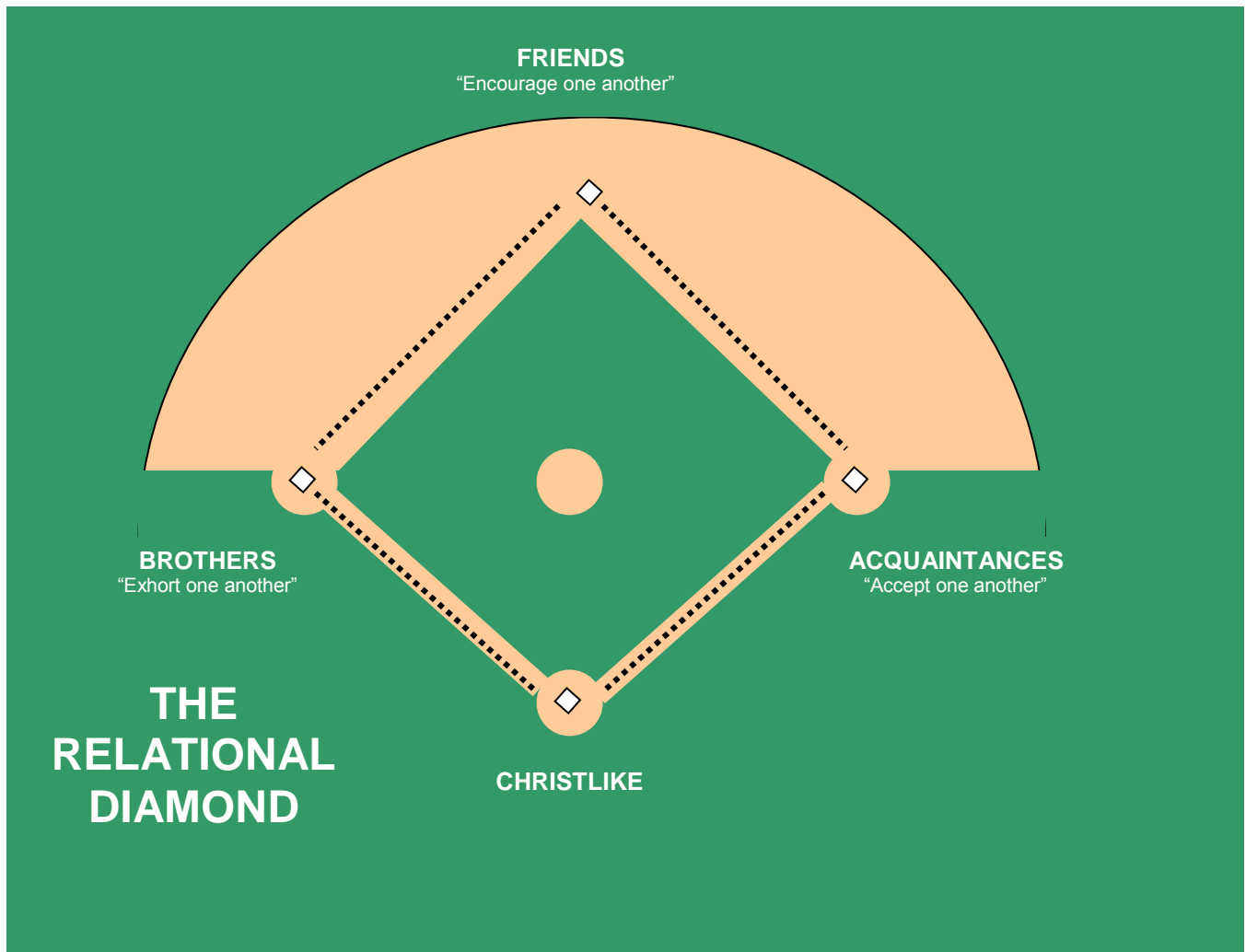


Chris Van Brocklin
Men With a Purpose

STEP 1: PRINCIPLES

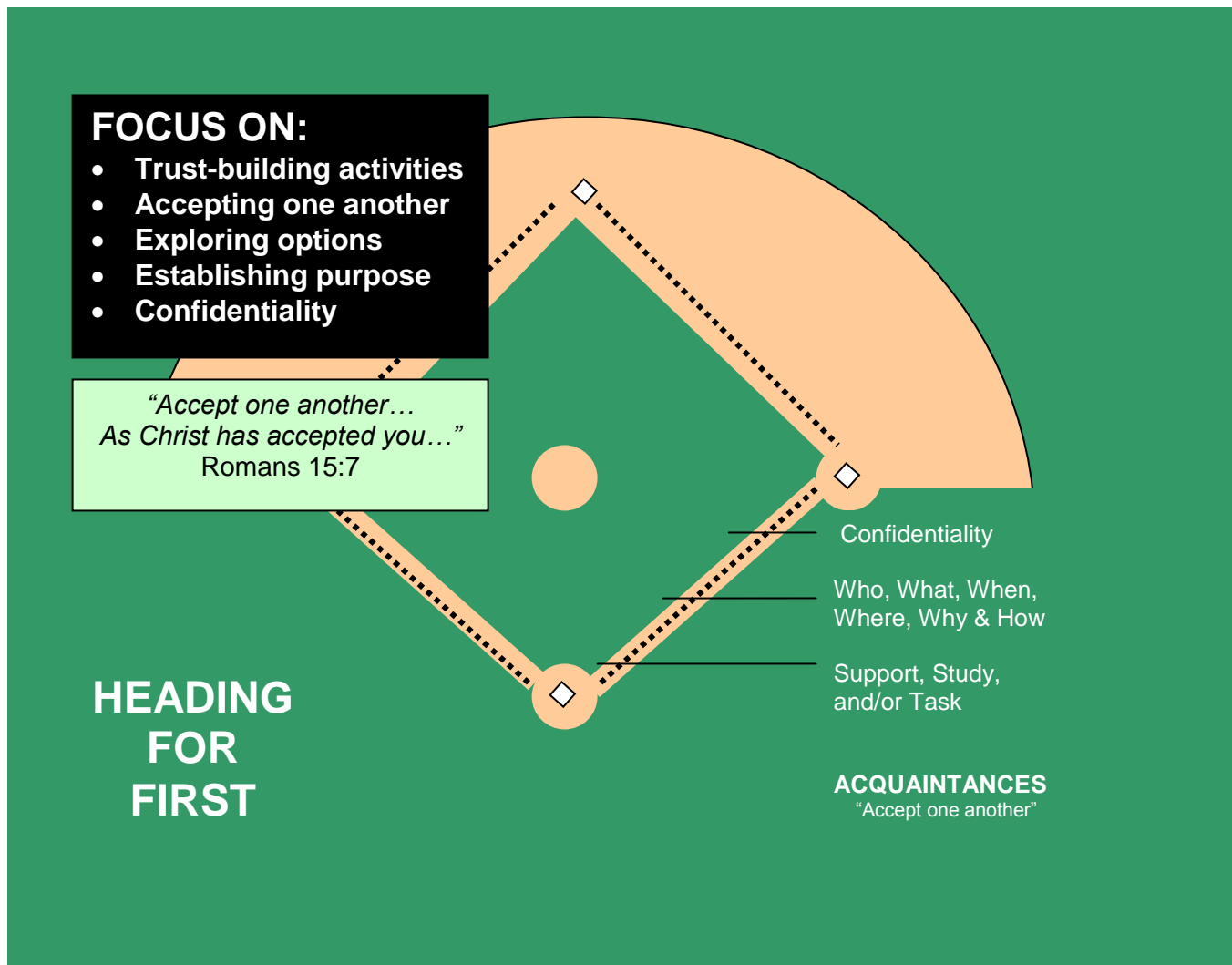
In spite of the clear biblical mandate to “love one another” (John 13:34&35), most Christian men have very few close friends. Yet many of these men wish they had a brother in Christ whom they could really count on.


The following relational principles derived from the game of baseball will help you see how to overcome the distance between men. It is a proven small group model for the men in your church.



Each base on the Relational Diamond corresponds to a biblical command related to the 50+ “one anothers” in the New Testament. We define a brother as a Christian man who _____ the “one anothers” of scripture, and is someone who can be _____ on by other brothers. Normally it takes a men’s small group (4 to 7 men) from three to six months to round each relational “base”. But the goal of becoming more like Christ, as well as gaining a few brothers along the way, is well worth the time invested. As men in small groups grow spiritually and relationally, they deepen their commitment to Jesus Christ, their family, friends, church and community.

A. FIRST BASE: "BECOMING ACQUAINTANCES"



 **Key Principle:** This initial phase of a small group is characterized by the men _____
_____ in one another. It takes time – don't hurry.

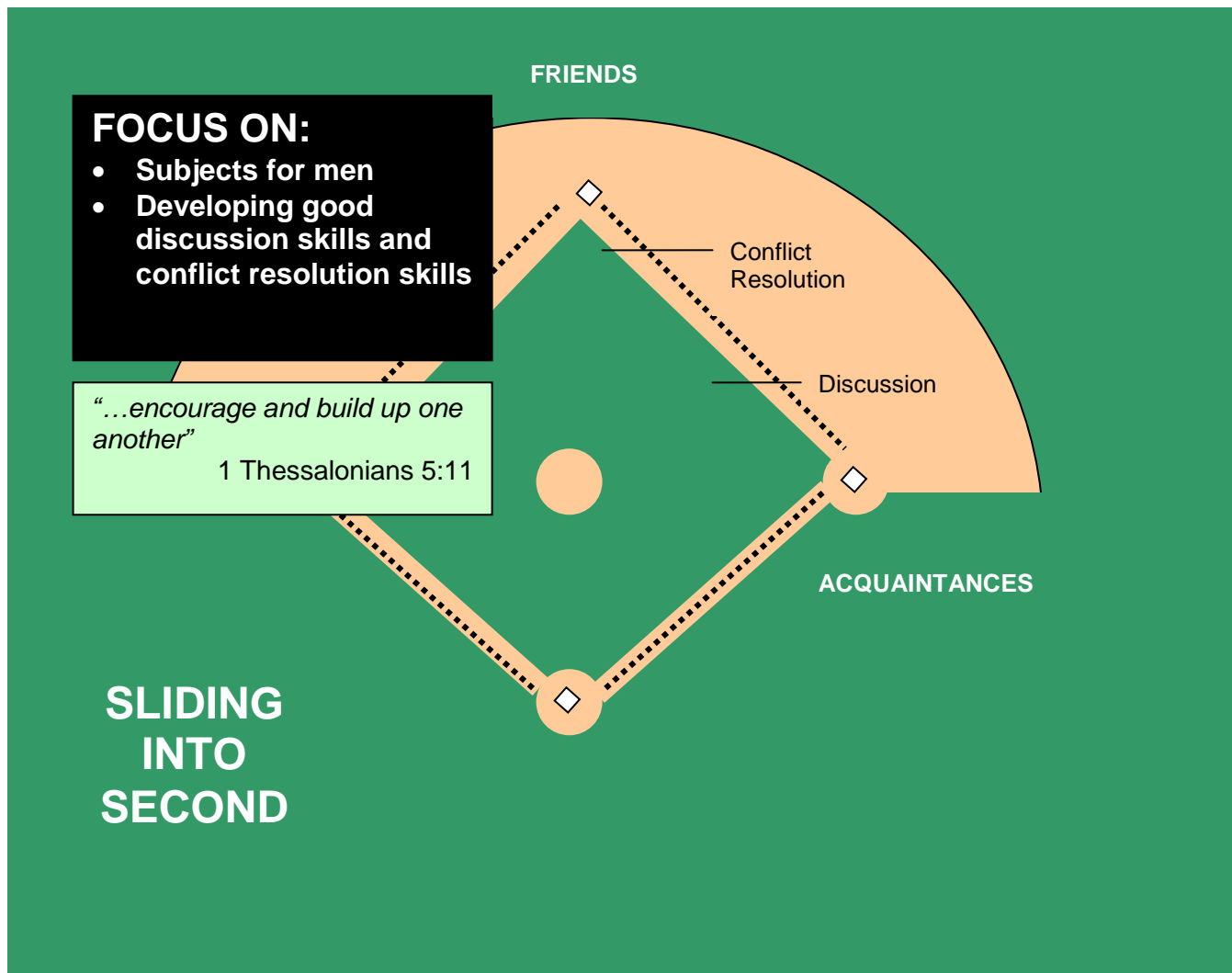
1. Your men will usually get to know each other as they spend time **doing** things together (playing, eating and working). The goal of these activities is to help the men in your church to accept one another as they begin to build relationships with each other.

2. Though light conversation will often characterize this phase, as your men begin to form small groups, they should determine **what** they want to do as a group and **why**.

3. Effective men's small groups include three key elements:

- a. **Sharing** and relationship building
- b. **Prayer** for one another's personal needs
- c. **Applying** God's Word

B. SECOND BASE: "BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS"

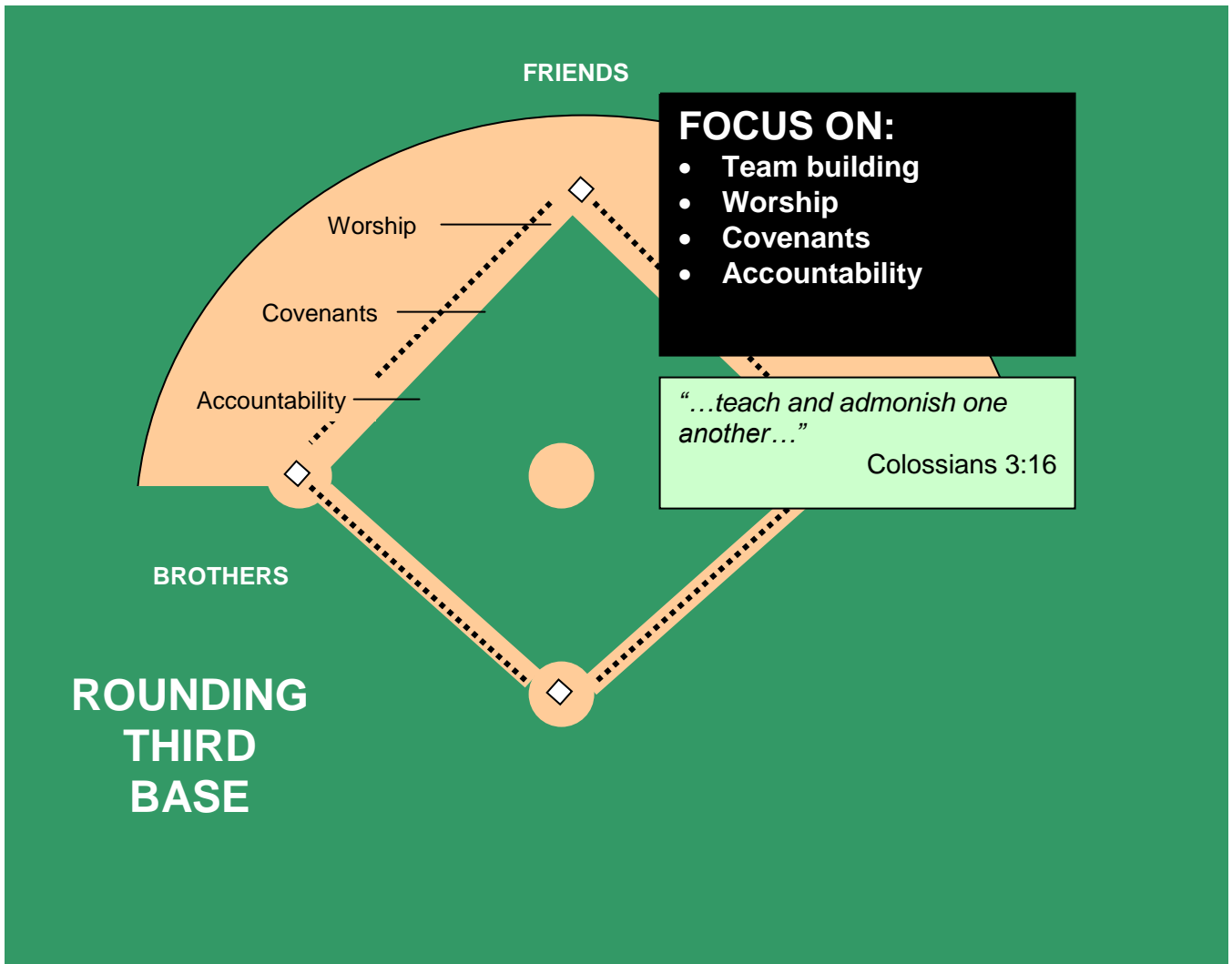



Key Principle: This small group phase is characterized by the men _____ in one another by going through some friction and battles together. Expect some conflict – manage it.

1. As men in your small groups are encouraged to **process their lives together**, they will begin to express different beliefs and ideas. There will usually be some disagreement and conflict as a result, but your men will learn to respect one another's **different strengths** (Proverbs 27:17).

2. Your men's small group leaders should be prepared to ask open-ended questions to encourage discussion, as well as using differences of opinion in their small group to **develop mutual respect** for one another.

C. THIRD BASE: “BONDING AS BROTHERS”

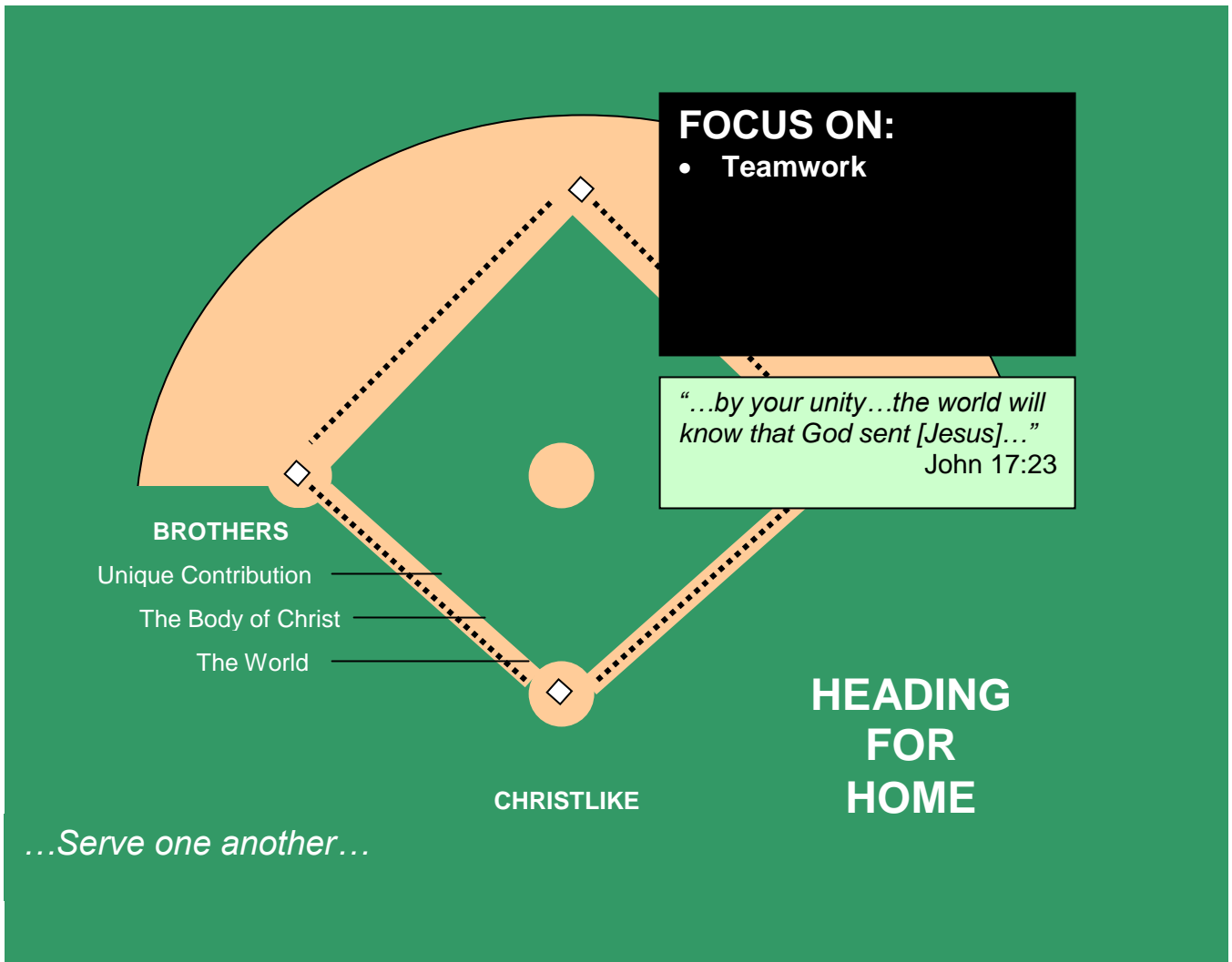


 **Key Principle:** This phase of a small group is characterized by the men _____ and accountable to one another. Covenants are made when trust is assured.

1. This stage of the game is where significant change can take place in the lives of the men in your church. As your men grow in their relationships with each other, they will find the freedom to express their **commitment to God and one another** as members of a team.

2. Your men’s small group leaders will need to encourage the men in their group to enter into covenants/commitments with God and one another. The men in your small groups will also need to hold each other **accountable** to the commitments they have made, as they pursue spiritual and moral excellence together.

D. HOME BASE: "BEING PLAYER/COACHES"



 **Key Principle:** The last small group phase is characterized by the men _____.
_____. When men share responsibility, they mature deeply.

1. Here is where your investment in the lives of your men pays off: they become **servant leaders** to their family, friends, community, and your church! Men's small groups provide a **unique environment** for your men to grow into their responsibility of fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19&20) and the Great Commandment (Mark 12:30&31).


2. Finally, since the goal of becoming more like Jesus Christ is a lifetime process, you need an **intentional disciple making plan** to help the men in your church to continue to develop their relationship with God and a few other brothers. .

STEP 2: EVALUATION


Whether your men's small groups are just beginning or have been active for several years, your men's leadership team should go through the following questions at least once a year. Be sure to use this evaluation in conjunction with STEPS ONE AND THREE of the EFCA Men's Training "BUILDING SMALL GROUPS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH."

A. FIRST BASE: BECOMING ACQUAINTANCES


1. Building Relationships

 What are some enjoyable activities or common interests your men have that your church can do to help the men get better acquainted?

2. Purpose and Planning

 Have each of your men's small groups determined their purpose and what they plan to do? If so, list each group, their purpose and their plans.

3. Small Group Essentials

 How will you encourage your men's small group leaders to share their heart, pray for their men's personal needs, and help the men in their group to apply God's Word to their lives?

B. SECOND BASE: BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

1. Transparency



How can you tell if the men in your small groups are sensing the freedom to share what they really believe?

2. Key Questions



What open-ended questions are your small group leaders asking, in order to help encourage discussion in their group?

3. Managing Conflict



How will you help your small group leaders to communicate to their men that it's ok to disagree, and that a goal for the group is to *understand* where each man is coming from, rather than winning an argument?


C. THIRD BASE: BECOMING BROTHERS

1. Teamwork




What are your men doing in their small groups that demonstrates their interdependence as brothers?

2. Commitment


 How can your men's small group leaders encourage the men in their group to enter into covenants/commitments with God and each other?

3. Accountability


 Who in your men's small group can you ask to regularly check and see that you are following through on those commitments you've made to God and one another?

D. HOME BASE: BEING PLAYER/COACHES


1. Leadership

 How can you tell if the men in your church are becoming servant leaders?

2. Discipleship

 Do you have an intentional disciple making plan that is helping your men grow to become more like Jesus Christ and serve others? If so, describe your disciple making plan.

3. Influence

 If all your men's small groups disbanded today, would you have impacted anyone's life for Jesus Christ outside of the groups? Why or why not?

STEP 3: WORKSHOP

Your pastor and men's leadership team should go through four important steps as you prepare to implement men's small groups in your church: 1) **Prayer**, 2) **Purpose**, 3) **Plan**, and 4) **Perspective**.

I. PRAYER

Key Idea: When your men's leadership team prays together, it helps you begin to see the men in your church as God sees them.

You will be able to minister to them with the Lord's direction and purpose as a result. Proverbs 15:8 says that "... *the prayer of the upright is His delight.*"



What would you like to pray for in relation to men's small groups in your church?

II. PURPOSE


Key Idea: Your men's small groups need a vital purpose.

God promises in Psalm 32:8 that, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you shall go: I will guide you with My eye." It is important that you have a clear direction for the men's small groups in your church. This will help you to define your small group ministry, and evaluate it in relation to you're the mission of your church.

Spend some time in your men's core group answering the following questions, to help develop the purpose for the men's small groups in your church.



Why do you believe men's small groups are needed in your church?


 What is God leading you to accomplish in your men's small group ministry? (This is your overall purpose)


 How does that help to fulfill the mission of your church?


III. PLAN


Key Idea: God's plans for the men in your church are greater than anyone can imagine (Ephesians 3:20&21).


The following questions will help your leadership team plan how to accomplish the purpose for men's small groups in your church.


 What percentage of the men in your church do you think will become involved in men's small groups? How many men is that?


 How many men's small group leaders will you need in your church? (One leader per 4-7 men)


 Who are some faithful men (II Timothy 2:2) with relational ability that could serve as men's small group leaders? (Write their names below.)

 What will you use to train your men's small group leaders? When?

 How will the men in your church (especially newcomers) find out about opportunities to be in a men's small group? **(see Checklist #1)**

 **Key Question:** How will you match interested men with small group leaders? **(see Checklist #2, Men's Small Group Sign Up Sheet)**

 What books and resource materials can you recommend for your men to study in their small groups?


 When will you meet with your men's small group leaders to encourage them, evaluate how their groups are doing, and give them further training?


IV. PERSPECTIVE

Once your men's leadership team has worked through your small group plan and begun to implement it, you will want to evaluate the impact it is having on your men's lives. This will give you perspective on how well the men's small groups are doing.


Key Idea: Remember, a top priority is that your men are in vital relationship with one another (Hebrews 10:24&25).

Take time in your men's leadership team to evaluate how your men's small groups are doing by answering the following questions. **Do this at least once or twice each year.**

 Do your men feel like they are "coming home" when they're in their small groups? Why or why not?

 Are your men bringing their friends to their small group? Why or why not?

 Are new men rising to small group leadership? Why or why not?

 Have you accomplished the purpose that God gave you for your men's small group ministry? (See the second question under PURPOSE.) Why or why not?

CHECKLIST #1

Communicating Opportunities To Be In A Men's Small Group

- Pastor promotes men's small groups.
- Testimonials from a few strategic men already in small groups.
- Personal invitation/visit.
- "Kick-off" event.
- Promotional videos/power point
- Men's small group informational folder (include in newcomers/new members packet).
- Church bulletin/newsletter announcements.
- Men's retreat.
- Other ideas:

CHECKLIST #2

Possible Criteria For Placing Interested Men In A Men's Small Group

- Have already developed relationships with one another.
- Similar stages in life, common backgrounds.
- Different backgrounds and stages in life, different churches.
- Common time to meet, live/work close to one another.
- Groups based on men's topics (The Man in the Mirror, spiritual leadership in the home, dealing with temptation, marriage/fathering, etc.)
- Common spiritual focus: service group, Bible study group, evangelistic group, accountability group, discipleship group, etc.
- A similar interest (fishing, baseball, computers, fixing cars, etc.)

MEN'S SMALL GROUP SIGN UP SHEET

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Email Address _____

Times you can meet (write in specific hours):

	AM	PM
Monday	_____	_____
Tuesday	_____	_____
Wednesday	_____	_____
Thursday	_____	_____
Friday	_____	_____
Saturday	_____	_____
Sunday	_____	_____

What topics would you be interested in discussing in a men's small group?

What kind of men's small group would you be interested in?

- Service group Accountability group
 Bible study group Discipleship group
 Evangelistic group Other: _____

What are some of your personal interests and hobbies?

Are you already in a men's small group? Yes No

If so, when/where does it meet and what topic are you discussing?

Small Groups
Key

Page 3 practices, relied

4 building trust

5 gaining confidence

6 becoming interdependent

7 becoming leaders