



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

CREATING A MALE CONTEXT 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

CREATING A MALE CONTEXT IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Step 1: Note-Taking Outline

Thousands of men have been gathering in stadiums and arenas to praise Jesus Christ. Why has this been happening?

We believe that these events provide a “male friendly” environment (male context), in which God’s Spirit impacts the lives of men. However, this environment is not limited to large stadiums. An understanding of the following principles will help you implement this same male context with the men in your church.

SIX KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE MALE CONTEXT



1. **Distance = Safety**
2. **Communicates Through Questions**
3. **Goal or Challenge Oriented**
4. **Focus on Logic or Emotions**
5. **Chooses Rules Over Relationships**
6. **Hesitant to Express Emotion**

There are several areas related to men that you will want to be aware of. First, most men change within the context of _____. Second, applying the Six Principles of the Male Context will help men to overcome their _____. Finally, these are _____ principles that represent a continuum. That means men are usually this way, but it also allows for individual temperament and culture, and avoids stereotyping.

The goal of understanding the male context is to help your church to work *with* the way your men are, not against them.

1. DISTANCE = SAFETY



Key Principle: Men, in general, view personal _____ as safety, and closeness or intimacy as a threat.

Implications for your church: Men are used to being guarded and competitive in their relationships with other men, so coming together in the church can be a difficult transition for them. Men in your church will seldom be transparent in the larger church gatherings. Your men will be more likely to share in a men's small group or on a one-to-one basis. They will need MEN'S SMALL GROUP LEADERS, that is, men in your church who have experienced the BENEFITS of healthy male relationships, in order to relinquish their personal distance.



Key questions:

Who are some men in your church that are experiencing healthy male relationships, who could help to initiate relationships with other men?

How can you challenge your men to take the first step in beginning a close relationship with another man (do they understand the benefits)?

What can your leaders do to encourage and promote men's small groups in your church?

2. COMMUNICATES THROUGH QUESTIONS



Key Principle: Men primarily communicate by asking a series of _____, in order to try to solve a problem or get to the “bottom line”.

Implications for your church: Men communicate their interest and attention by asking questions. When communicating with the men in your church, OPEN-ENDED questions should be asked, which causes them to think through an issue and respond. The focus should be on listening to their responses. They also need to know *exactly* what is expected of them.




Key questions:

What kinds of open-ended questions are you asking your men?
(examples: “What do you think...?” “How do you feel about...?” “Why do you think...?”)

How are they responding?

What specifically do you want the men to do in your church, and how will your leaders communicate that to them?

3. GOAL OR CHALLENGE ORIENTED

 **Principle:** Men view most situations as a _____ to be met or an obstacle to be conquered.

Implications for your church: Men enjoy meeting goals, because it gives them a sense of accomplishment. The men in your church need to be CHALLENGED with clearly defined goals, that are big enough to stretch their faith, but are also something that they can achieve with God's help.


Key questions:

What are the goals of your men's ministry?

How do your goals demonstrate your dependence on Christ to accomplish them?

What are your men doing that shows they understand the goals of your men's ministry, and are motivated to achieve them?

4. FOCUS ON LOGIC OR EMOTIONS

 **Key Principle:** The majority of men have “tunnel vision.” This means that they manage _____ thing at a time and tend to compartmentalize their lives.

Implications for your church: Men do one thing at a time in order to reach their goals. Therefore, the goals of your men's ministry should be broken down into “bite-sized” steps, so that your men's response will be, “I can do that!” Only *one* goal at a time should be emphasized – multiple focuses will seem overwhelming to most of the men in your church.


 **Key questions:**

What clearly defined steps have you given your men, so they can see *how* to accomplish the goals you have set before them?

Who are you accountable to for carrying out these steps?

How do your men's ministry goals relate to the overall goal of becoming godly men, husbands and fathers?

5. CHOOSES RULES OVER RELATIONSHIPS

 **Principle:** Men want order in various situations, so they place an emphasis on _____ and principles. While this brings order, it also creates distance from others.

Implications for your church: Men tend to place higher value on rules and principles. So the men's activities in your church should be structured to include: a) ORDER (topic, time, place, format), as well as b) RELATIONSHIPS (personal sharing, prayer for individual needs, application of scripture). This structure will create stability and help your men know how to relate to one another.

Key questions:

How can you plan your activities to help men focus on relating to each other? As you evaluate your activities, what is the *actual* amount of time they spend in:


1. personal sharing?

2. praying for one another?

3. applying God's Word to their lives?

What structure needs to be in place to create stability for the men in your church?

6. HESITANT TO EXPRESS EMOTION

 **Key Principle: Most men do not easily _____ their emotions, unless they feel that it is safe to do so.**

Implications for your church: Men limit how they express their emotions to what they think is acceptable for males. There are both internal and external reasons why men are hesitant to share the way they are feeling (cultural limitations, “distance=safety”, etc.). The men in your church will seldom share how they really feel unless there is a SAFE PLACE to express their emotions (i.e., a men’s small group or on a one-to-one basis). Your men also need enough TIME (12 to 48 hours) to figure out *why* they feel the way they do. If they don’t have adequate time to process their feelings, they will usually “fight or flee” (anger or abandonment).

 **Key questions:**

Where do the men in your church feel free to express their emotions?

Who will your men be accountable to when dealing with their feelings?

How will you encourage your men's small group leaders to:

a) *share* their own feelings?

b) *listen* when a man in their group is upset?

c) *follow through* after a day or so, to try to understand why the man was upset?

d) *deal with* those issues through confession, forgiveness, and appropriate action?

CREATING A MALE CONTEXT IN THE LOCAL CHURCH


Step 2: Workshop

As you implement the male context in your church, your pastor and men's leaders should go through the following steps together: 1) **Prayer**, 2) **Perspective**, 3) **Plan**, and 4) **People**.

I. PRAYER

Praying together in your leadership team will help you to get God's perspective and wisdom on how best to minister to your men in relation to the male context.


James 5:16 says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

 What are some needs of your men in relation to the male context that you'd like to pray for?

II. PERSPECTIVE

God wants to use you to help meet the needs of the men in your church, so it is important for your pastor and men's leaders to evaluate various church activities in relation to the male context.

This will help you prioritize which activities may have to be adjusted, in order to address some of your men's needs.

 Using the following Male Context Evaluation, list three regular church activities in the far left column that your men participate in. Then assign a letter rating to each activity according to the Six Principles Of The Male Context (V=Very Good, G=Good, F=Fair, P=Poor). A men’s Bible study group is offered as an example.

MALE CONTEXT EVALUATION

Activity	#1 Distance = Safety	#2 Communi- cates via Questions	#3 Goal Oriented	#4 One Focus	#5 Rules vs. Relations	#6 Expresses Emotion Hesitantly
Men’s Bible Study	P	G	V	G	F	P
1.						
2.						
3.						

III. PLAN

In light of the Male Context Evaluation you have completed, your pastor and men’s leaders can begin to plan how to adjust various church activities to help meet your men’s needs. You should take some time to identify: a) which activities are weak in relation to male context (i.e., those you rated “Poor”), b) one or two steps to improve that problem, and c) who will help to achieve those steps.

Example Activity: Men’s Bible Study

Problem: The men are focused on getting through the material, but seldom share their lives with one another (They rated “Poor” on Principles One and Six of the Male Context Evaluation).

Steps: Demonstrate to the Bible Study leader how to:

1. Share his struggles and victories.
2. Pray for the men’s personal needs during the Bible Study.

Who will help: Men’s small group leader.



Now your pastor and men's leaders should begin planning how to adjust those church activities you have identified that are weak in relation to the male context.

Activity#1: _____

Problem: _____

Steps 1. _____
to
improve: _____

2. _____

Who will help: _____

Activity#2: _____

Problem: _____

Steps 1. _____
to
improve: _____

2. _____

Who will help: _____

Activity#3: _____

Problem: _____

Steps 1. _____
to
improve: _____

2. _____


Who will help: _____

IV. PEOPLE

It has been said that there are only two things in this world that will last: the Word of God and the souls of men.

As necessary as prioritizing needs and planning steps to meet them is, it is essential that you identify *faithful men* (II Timothy 2:2) in your church, who can lead men's small groups and help to address your men's needs in relation to the male context.

In our example of the men's Bible study, the "steps to improve" were to demonstrate to the leader how to share his own struggles and victories, and pray for the men's personal needs during the Bible Study. The final "people" step would be to identify a **men's small group leader** to personally encourage the Men's Bible Study leader in those important qualities.

 Now spend some time in your men's leadership team considering the following questions.

1. Who are some godly, mature men in your church with the following qualities:
 - a. A heart for ministry to men?
 - b. Experience with healthy male relationships?
 - c. Availability to help meet men's needs?

Write their names in the boxes below, and ask them to consider serving as men's small group leaders.

The selections from scripture which follow are simply intended to stimulate thought on the Male Context. These verses are not intended to be “proof texts,” and should not be treated as such.

MALE CONTEXT

1. Distance = Safety
Genesis 3:9 & 10
John 21:3-17
2. Communicates Through Questions
Exodus 3 & 4:1-17
Job 38-42
Acts 9:4-6
3. Goal or Challenge Oriented
Joshua 14:6-12
I Samuel 17:26-51
Acts 4
4. Focus on Logic or Emotions (“tunnel vision”)
II Kings 5:1-15
Luke 9:51-56
Acts 11:5-10
5. Chooses Rules Over Relationships
I Chronicles 21
Mark 2:23-28
Luke 14:1-6
6. Hesitant to Express Emotion
Psalms 32:3&4, 39:1-3
Jeremiah 4:19, 20:9
Mark 3:1-6

Finally, you are encouraged to be like the Bereans in relation to these principles.
“...they received the Word with all readiness of mind and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” – Acts 17:11

Male Context Key

Page	4	relationships, isolation, general; distance
	5	questions
	6	challenge
	7	one
	8	rules
	9	express