



# **MEN'S RESOURCES IN THE LOCAL CHURCH**

## **MEN'S MINISTRY 501**

The goal:

Choosing resources that will help you to disciple the men of your church.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEN WITH A PURPOSE**

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

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!

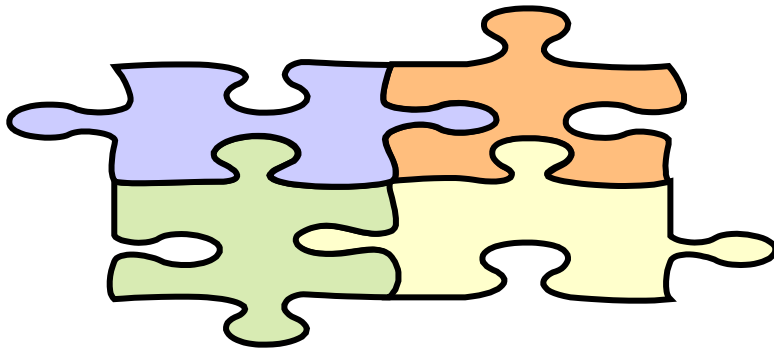
In His service together,



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# STEP 1: PRINCIPLES

The conventional approach that many churches take with men is to feed them a diet of “studies”. You know, in September we will be studying the book Wild at Heart for eight weeks. Then in January we’ll be studying the book of Ephesians for six weeks. Then in April we’ll begin a study of one of Steve Ferrar’s books. Studies like these are good, but, here are the down sides to living off that kind of diet.



First, receiving information like that is too random for most guys. They have all of the pieces of the puzzle stored away somewhere in their heads, but no completed puzzle. So, when you ask them a question that requires a deeper comprehension of biblical theology, like explaining what their view of heaven is, they falter. Why? Because they have some pieces of the puzzle that fit together, but not a full understanding that only the completed puzzle would provide.

Also, in receiving information like this where every few weeks they have to make a mental “ninety-degree turn”, a lot of uncertainty is generated. They never know whether these isolated experiences are going to be good, so-so, or even bad. So, they are reluctant to recommend it to others. This freezes your multiplication efforts.

Many churches are aware of this down-side to isolated studies and have made changes in their approach to keep this from happening. They have focused in on an ongoing *core curriculum* that becomes the center of their ministry to men. They have created a culture in their church where men are fully engaged in the core competencies and are being transformed.

This training session will introduce you to several key principles for avoiding the “studies only diet” and for selecting the resources for your core curriculum for the men of your church. We will begin with **STEP ONE: PRINCIPLES** and will complete **STEP TWO: WORKSHOP** to get you well on your way to strengthening your church’s men’s disciple making ministries.

 **Key Principle: If we are going to reach all of the men of our church, we will need to embrace a new \_\_\_\_\_.**

**1. God has given you provision over X amount of men.**

The question is, are you reaching all of them? Here's a quick exercise:

- a. Write down the number of men who call your church their church home \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Now write down the number of men who participate in men's activities at your church \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Finally, divide *b* by *a*. What number do you get? \_\_\_\_\_


That's the percentage of men (that God has given you) that you are reaching with what you are doing today. If it is less than 100%, then there are some men out there that your church is missing.

**2. A system perfectly designed.**

There is a saying in business: *"Your system is perfectly designed to produce the results that you are getting"* meaning that if you are not reaching every man, then your system needs changing.

**3. Remember the "Wide-Deep Continuum"**

In your church, all at the same time you have men who need Christ, others who are cultural Christians, others who are Christians, and still others who are leaders. Not only that, many men are hurting or in crisis. And if that isn't enough, there are married men, widowed men, divorced men, and single men. There are men in their twenties, thirties, forties, fifties, sixties, and so on. So you will need various approaches to reach all of these men.

 **Key Principle: During His ministry, Jesus taught the \_\_\_\_\_, His \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**1. Jesus spoke to the crowd.**

In Matthew 5, Jesus saw great crowds of people following Him. There were so many people that He used a special method for the situation. He went up on a mountainside so that everyone could hear Him, sat down and taught them as a large congregation. We refer to this as The Sermon on the Mount.

## 2. Jesus spent time with his disciples in small groups.

Jesus singled out three of His disciples for special training. James, his brother John, and Peter made up this “inner circle”. Each eventually played a key role in the early church. In Mark 14:17-26, perhaps the most intimate moment in the entire Bible, Jesus is with only His twelve disciples who were closest to Him to celebrate Passover. We refer to this as The Last Supper.

## 3. Jesus sent His disciples out two-by-two.

In Luke 10:1-15, Jesus uses yet another method as He instructs His disciples. He sends thirty-six teams of two out to spread the Gospel among the multitudes. This was a kind of “on the job training” method of discipleship that had a tremendous impact on His followers.

### C. Purpose

 **Key Principle: Jesus’ training methods are expressed as the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ strategy for discipling men.**

### 1. Create value.

The men coming to your church bring their “felt needs” with them. They are looking for answers to questions that are not being answered anywhere else. Your church has a great opportunity to address questions like “Am I a good father?”, and “Is this all that there is to life?” and “How do I take Jesus to work with me?” The Bible has answers to all of these and many more. You can help them discover “*what* they need to do”. This creates value for your men.

### 2. Capture the momentum.

You wouldn’t leave the doors of your house open in the winter because you would lose all of the heat energy your furnace is creating to keep the house warm. Similarly, you don’t want to miss the opportunity that comes from providing value for your men. So, you want to give men a “right next step” in their discipleship journey to keep the momentum going. This provides the “*how* do I do it”

### 3. Sustain Change.

Once men are well on their way, they are more likely to see the value of longer-term relationships with other men for the accountability it provides. We can’t just point men in the right direction. We need to have a plan for connecting them with one another for meaningful change. This provides the “*who* can help me” do what I need to do.

### **Now let’s take a look at some examples of resources that are being used by churches to create, capture, and sustain momentum.**

If you are on the starting line, preparing to launch or re-launch your church’s ministry to men, you will want to choose one of the following resources to be your core curriculum for men. If you have a core curriculum up and running, then you can choose a resource from the following to supplement what you are doing and expand the number of men you are reaching.



### **What is it?**

Men's Fraternity is a series of three one-year curricula designed for men. They were developed by Dr. Robert Lewis, while he was serving as Sr. Pastor of Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. It was created in response to a request from the men in his church who wanted more than a short-term study. They felt that they needed practical insight into how to live as biblical men, and they needed a safe place each week where they could process these truths with other men. The men were seeking an environment of openness and brotherhood as they had in their college fraternities, except spiritually constructive.

The Men's Fraternity meeting that began in Little Rock is now attended by nearly 1,400 men weekly. The curriculum that developed from it is being used by thousands of churches around the world.

Men's Fraternity is not an event. It is a process that enables men to experience real life change during the weeks they meet together.

### **About the Author**

Robert Lewis is currently the pastor-at-large at Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock, Arkansas where he has served as directional leader for more than 20 years.

Graduating from the University of Arkansas in 1971 with a degree in management, Robert went on to obtain both an M.A. in New Testament Greek and an M.Div. from Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon, in 1977 and a doctor-of-ministry degree from Talbot Theological Seminary in LaMirada, California, in 1985.

Robert is passionate about helping men discover the biblical principles of authentic manhood. He founded and developed Men's Fraternity in 1990.

He went on to develop the feminine counterpart to Men's Fraternity in 2003. He was awarded Pastor of the Year in 2001 by the National Coalition of Ministries to Men.

Today, Men's Fraternity reaches men worldwide in churches, on college campuses, in corporate boardrooms, and in prison cell blocks through his three-year video curriculum.

### Men's Fraternity's Structure

Men's Fraternity is made up of three segments. Each segment is usually offered starting in the Fall and lasting until late winter or early spring. They are not prerequisite. Each segment can stand on its own, or they can be used in sequence.

Year One is *The Quest for Authentic Manhood - 24 weeks*

Year Two is *Winning at Work and Home – 16 weeks*

Year Three is *The Great Adventure – 20 weeks*

Here are some key principles from the pros.



**Key Principle: Get the \_\_\_\_\_ before you begin.**

#### 1. View the Men's Fraternity workshop DVDs included in the kits

It is important to understand where you are going before you begin. Too often, studies are destined for disaster because the leader tries to prepare along the way. Present the workshop DVDs to the men who will help you launch Men's Fraternity.

#### 2. Choose the best format

Men's Fraternity can be used effectively with live presenters who have mastered the material, as well as in settings with a live host and a DVD presentation of the teaching. A winning combination is when the church's pastor presents the material with his own illustrations.



**Key Principle: Timing is \_\_\_\_\_.**

#### 1. Be wise when you choose to begin.

Groups that have followed the pattern of doing half of a series before Christmas and the second half after the first of the year have the best attendance for their meetings.

#### 2. Choose the day and time carefully

By far, the most popular meeting time is on a weekday from 6:00 a.m. until 7:30 a.m. This honors families because early morning isn't considered to be as critical a time for men to be away. (We know it's hard though!)

 **Key Principle:** Remember, it's a \_\_\_\_\_ -thing.

### 1. Create a friendly male context

We have found that even men who do not have a church background are attracted to the content of Men's Fraternity and an environment that feels more like a men's gathering than a Bible Study is better for them. Men's Fraternity becomes a great outreach tool when handled properly.

### 2. Skip the opening prayer and singing

Remember, this is not a worship service. Men are more comfortable with soft contemporary music leading up to the start. Beginning the morning with a topic -friendly movie clip is a big hit and motivates men to show up on time each week.

### 3. Food is always male friendly

You can get away with serving a light continental breakfast, but you can't get away with no coffee. Some churches make items like cold cereal, milk, fruit, bagels, and/or doughnuts available, but it is optional.

 **Key Principle:** \_\_\_\_\_ are big

### 1. Allow adequate time in your schedule for small-group discussion

One of the goals of men's Fraternity is to give men who have not experienced healthy small group dynamics, to get a taste of why many men will never go without it in their lives. Most churches seat men around round tables to facilitate discussion. It is true that men need about triple the time allotment for processing what they've heard than the actual length of the presentation. They will remember the small group discussions long after they've forgotten the lesson content.

### 2. Here's a good schedule

6:00-6:10	Video clip and greeting
6:10-7:00	Presentation
7:00-7:30	Small Group Discussion
7:30 Sharp	End

 **Key Principle:** Spread the \_\_\_\_\_.

### 1. Promote, promote, promote

Use posters, fliers, brochures, business-size cards, bulletin announcements, radio spots, etc. Anything you can do to make men aware of Men's Fraternity is great.

## 2. Invite, invite, invite

By far, the number one reason that men attend is because someone asked them personally. All the posters, announcements, and fliers are *information*. What motivates a man to attend is a personal *invitation*. So, your small group leaders have their work cut out for them in the weeks leading up to the first morning of Men's Fraternity.



**Key Principle: Keep men \_\_\_\_\_.**

### 1. The more assignments you can hand out, the more the men will feel needed.

You will need lots of help to pull off a major event each week, so delegate all of the responsibilities you can (food, greeting, sound, video clips, etc.)

### 2. Make sure that every man attending Men's Fraternity has his own Viewer's Guide

This is to help him apply truths from each weekly presentation and small group discussion. Each series has a final project that comes from the content of the weekly sessions. The Viewer's Guide keeps notes and fresh ideas organized. It also allows them to reflect on the material during the week (which many men do).

### 3. Promote the series project early and keep it at the forefront

There is no weekly homework for Men's Fraternity. But, each series has a project that must be completed in order to graduate. Be sure to introduce that early and repeat it often so that the men will not be caught off guard, but will actually be anticipating further direction as the year progresses. Make graduation a big deal and fun.



**Key Principle: Follow \_\_\_\_\_ carefully and resist the temptation to "tweak" the approach too much.**

### 1. Use the online instructions, best practices, and leader's resources

Mensfraternity.org has a wealth of information for executing your plan. There are lots of ideas and resources that have come from churches that have gone before you.

### 2. Plan ahead, and follow your plan

The churches that have learned how to do men's Fraternity from the experts have the most success. The more that you deviate from the original plan, the less success you will have. The worst messes we've seen are churches that think that they can use some of the materials and try to improve on it by themselves. Once you have actually done it a few times, you may be able to tweak it a little, but not until then...trust me!



**Key Principle: Make \_\_\_\_\_ available to your men.**

**1. Audio CDs make absences more palatable**

Most men are too busy to attend every session so purchase CDs and lend them out. This keeps men from getting discouraged and helps them keep up.

**2. All sessions are also available online at [www.mensfraternity.com](http://www.mensfraternity.com)**

Men can download any of the presentations from any of the Men's Fraternities for a minimal fee from the website. That way, they can review a presentation, or make up a missed one. But discourage men from thinking that this is an easy way to get through Men's Fraternity. They will get less than half the value by missing the small group discussions. Besides it would cost a fortune!

**Ordering Details**

Order from Men's Fraternity at [mensfraternity.com](http://mensfraternity.com) and enter discount code BROCKLIN to get free shipping on DVDs and workbooks.



### What is it?

Top Gun is a two-year curriculum written and developed by Rev. Steve Sonderman, Men's Pastor at Elmbrook Church in Brookfield, Wisconsin. Steve and Elmbrook's senior pastor, Stu Briscoe were looking for a training tool that would build leaders for the future of their church. Finding nothing that fit their vision, Steve began by writing a year-long curriculum that would thoroughly prepare leaders.

The US Navy created an elite squad of fighter pilots following the Korean War by identifying potential talent and then putting them through an extremely tough series of training. They named that program and squadron of elite fliers Top Gun.

That fit the vision for Elmbrook; to identify emerging leaders and take them through some of the best and most challenging training available so that in the end, they would provide a "bench" for their ministry leaders.

The first year, Steve personally selected several men and invited them to go "where they had never been before" spiritually with him. Twelve men made the final cut and spent 34 weeks in Steve's *Basic Training* material. The transformation was apparent.

The next year, eight of those men took twelve men of their own through *Basic Training*. The results were equally life-changing. Steve wrote the book Building a Life-Changing Men's Ministry based on those first two years. Eventually, Steve wrote a second 34-week curriculum called *Discipleship Training*. These tools are being used today by hundreds of churches around the world.

### Top Gun's Structure

Top Gun was designed to be used in a small group setting of ten to twelve men. It can be successful with groups of other sizes; however, we do not believe it will be as productive without the small group setting.

Often times Christian men, like other men, live lives in isolation with no meaningful relationships with other men. Top Gun is structured to show men how to invest themselves in other men and how to develop meaningful relationships.

Most men know how to “act” like a Christian, but are they really growing in their faith and trust in the Lord? Top Gun incorporates and teaches the spiritual disciplines of prayer, study, meditation, memorization, and solitude to provide an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to transform their lives.

Most men believe that the work of the church is the responsibility of the staff. Top Gun is designed to identify, train, and equip leaders to *be* the church and to *do* the ministry of the church.

Most Christians do not have a good sense of what “mission” should be. Top Gun is designed to challenge the participants to better understand this aspect of their faith and to develop plans and actions to follow through.

*Basic Training* and *Discipleship Training* are structured the same. Each is divided up into modules and the modules into weekly lessons. Each have their own set of materials including a manual, a set of books and a set of audio recordings to use as supplements to the manual, and a set of memory verse cards. Each participant needs a set of these materials.

Here are some key principles from the pros.



**Key Principle: Select your men \_\_\_\_\_.**

### 1. Top Gun isn't for everyone

Unlike Men's Fraternity and some other men's resources, Top Gun is not designed for every man in your church. It's a leadership development tool and not every man is going to lead a ministry in your church.

### 2. Top Gun is by invitation only

Don't get up in front of the congregation and invite men to participate in Top Gun. Instead, select only those men that show signs that they need something deeper spiritually. Then meet with them individually to challenge them to go deeper with you and some other selected men. This means that you need to get to know your men well so that you can identify which ones will rise to the challenge. But, it's the best way...the only way...to assure success with these tools.



**Key Principle: Plan your small group \_\_\_\_\_ carefully.**

### 1. Decide on a day, time, and location

As with all small groups, work with the participants to determine when and where they will be able to meet. Again, weekday mornings are by far the best for most men.

## 2. Set up a schedule for your time together

There is a lot to do during your meetings. You need to budget time for each part of the weekly meeting. Most groups meet for two hours every week except holidays. Here is an example of a weekly meeting schedule:

6:00-6:05	Greeting and opening prayer
6:05-6:15	Bible verse quiz
6:15-7:00	Small group accountability
7:00-7:45	Large group discussion
7:45-8:00	Assignments
8:00 Sharp	Finish



**Key Principle:** Top Gun requires approximately \_\_\_\_\_ hours of class time and \_\_\_\_\_ hours of homework each week.

### 1. Bible Study

Each week, there is a Bible study made up of a few verses and some questions to reflect on to be completed before class.

### 2. Supplementary Reading

There is an outside reading assignment each week. These are selections from Christian authors such as Steve Farrar, Gary Smalley, and John Ortberg.

### 3. Supplementary Listening

There are supplementary audio recordings to listen to each week of presentations by teachers like Howard Hendricks, Joseph Stowell, and Bill Hybels.

### 4. Verse Quiz

Each week there is a verse quiz that every man is expected to participate in, so another pre-class preparation is to memorize the week's verse.

### 5. Accountability

During class each week, your men will meet with a sub-group of three to four other men to discuss accountability questions and pray for one another.

### 6. Large Group Discussion

There is large group discussion each week around the readings and recordings. Discussion is also centered on things like case studies and the application of the week's principles.

**Key Principle: Top Gun \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1. Top Gun was designed to engage men with other men as they grow together spiritually.**  
It delivers on all aspects of that assignment. Men looking for a challenge satisfy their longing to go deeper when they participate in Top Gun training.
- 2. Transformation is real**  
Men who are participating in Top Gun training and complete it are brothers for life. They enjoy each other and often include their families in outside activities together. This is the kind of brotherhood so many Christian men are longing for.

### **Ordering details**

You can order Top Gun from ChurchSmart Resources at [churchsmartresources.com](http://churchsmartresources.com).



## What is it?

Operation Timothy is a discipleship tool that has been used successfully for more than a quarter of a century. It's designed to build a solid Biblical foundation into the lives of believers – whether it's a seeker with lots of questions, a new believer, or a man who's been walking with God for many years.

Operation Timothy gets its name from the Apostle Paul who took a young Christian named Timothy under his wing and invested his life into his life.

This life-on-life brotherhood was lived out in practical daily accountability, teaching of the scriptures and simply “doing real life together.” Paul's investment into Timothy's life helped Timothy to grow into a mature believer who went on to be a tremendous leader and pastor in the first century church.

Today, in the church, our currency needs to include life-on-life discipleship. We recognize that it takes personal investment to grow mature believers who truly comprehend God's calling to “go and make disciples” themselves (Matthew 28:18-20),

By leveraging the natural connections that form in the trenches of day-to-day life, a man can make this investment in another man, and both will be impacted for all eternity.

Along with your Timothy, you will search the Scriptures and commit many Bible passages to memory. Both of you will gain a better understanding of God's plan for your life, and most importantly, you will develop a deep, intimate relationship with Christ.

## Operation Timothy's Structure

There are 3 books in the Operation Timothy series. Each book builds concept upon concept, and will take you deeper and deeper into the truths of Scripture. Whether you are a Paul or a Timothy, God will use this experience to take you into a deeper journey with Christ.

Operation Timothy was designed to customize to the needs of the participants. If your Timothy is a new believer, for example, you will want to spend as much time as it takes to go through book one. If he is a seasoned Christian, you may move quickly through book one and slow down as you reach his level of understanding in book two or three. So, there is no schedule applied to this tool. All you need

is a quiet meeting place, an hour or so of time together, your Bibles, and a couple of OT books. There are great supplemental audio recordings that add to the understanding of the lessons.

## The Operation Timothy Books

The three OT books are actually workbooks, with blanks to fill in, divided into several chapters. Usually both the Paul and the Timothy will spend an hour each week reading through a chapter and filling in the blanks. That way, their discussion is well guided by the content of each week's lesson. There are tear-out memory verse cards at the end of each book that are a part of the training as well.

Book One – *Life Questions* – includes training around basic questions like *What is the purpose of life?* and *Is the Bible credible?* It moves through “*Who is Jesus?*, *Why did Jesus come?* and *Can I be accepted and forgiven?* By the end of book one, your Timothy should have developed assurance of eternal life.

Book Two – *Life Foundations* – continues to develop your Timothy around these topics: *New Life in Christ, Our New Identity, Battling With the World, the Flesh, and the Devil, Dealing With Temptation, Discovering the Holy Spirit, Communicating With God, and Telling Others Our Story.*

Book Three – *Life Perspectives* – includes lessons on *Digging into the Bible, Knowing God's Will, Becoming a Person of Character, Relationships, Kingdom Perspectives, Your Calling as an Insider, and Multiplying Your Life.*

The intention is for your Timothy to invite someone they know to work through OT with them when they finish. And so on – the true multiplication model of disciple-making.

Here are some key principles from the pros.

**Key Principle: Operation Timothy is the tool, but the method is one-on-one**

### 1. Discipleship is a relational mentoring experience.

It is an experience in which one person empowers another by sharing God-given resources. The goal of the experience is to provide a developmental relationship where men will grow personally to become servant leaders to their families, churches, and communities.

### 2. The result of the discipleship experience will be to multiply leaders.

These leaders are the ones who will impact others for Jesus Christ (1Tim 2:2).

**Key Principle: The strategy is characterized by the “Paul” intentionally looking and praying for a \_\_\_\_\_ man (“Timothy”), and initiating a discipleship relationship with him.**

**1. Where are all the Timothies?**

Mature Christian men will be astounded at the number of Timothy’s around them who are wide open to this strategy.

**2. It does take intentionality.**

Work with the men of your church to mobilize this strategy. It will not happen by wishing, hoping, and messaging the strategy to death in planning meetings. Your leaders must model it for the men of your church. A popular saying among men’s leaders is that they are “becoming to each other what they want their men to become to each other”. Good thought!

**Key Principle: Operation Timothy \_\_\_\_\_.**

**1. The strengths of this strategy**

OT is very intentional, highly relational, very personal, and best of all it follows God’s design for men.

**2. Hundreds, if not thousands, of Christian leaders were trained with OT**

This method of discipleship with these tools has been used by The Navigators, Christian Business Men’s Connection (CBMC), and others for years with great results.

**Ordering Details**

You can order Operation Timothy from the Christian Business Men’s Committee at [operatintimothy.com](http://operatintimothy.com) and mention Chris Van Brocklin to get our discount.

**Final Thoughts**

As you think through all of the details of planning and implementing a sustainable discipleship ministry for the men of your church, don’t be in a hurry. You will not be able to do this overnight. In fact, most churches will tell you that it takes from three to five years to fully appreciate the results of the changes they’ve made.

So, it’s more of a marathon than a sprint. But, don’t be discouraged either, for the fruits of our labors will have eternal consequences...as we battle together for men’s souls.

## **Answer Key**

Pg 2 mindset; crowd, followers, few

Pg 3 create, capture, sustain

Pg 5 big picture; critical

Pg 6 guy; Small groups; word

Pg 7 involved; directions

Pg 8 audio recordings

Pg 10 carefully; meetings

Pg 11 two, two

Pg 12 delivers

Pg 14 discipleship

Pg 15 teachable; delivers