



Greater Sydney SDA Conference

Mobilizing Men for Ministry

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Mobilizing Men for One-On-One Ministry

The Transforming Power of Authentic Friendship and Discipleship

Bethany House, 2010

Effective ministry starts with seeing people as Jesus sees them. Every man has a wound that needs healing. Every man has a need for others to carry him at times.

Real Estate = location, location, location

Ministry = relationship, relationship, relationship

What One-on-One Ministry Looks Like:

- Invest Your Life in Others
- Fervent Prayer
- A Consistent Life
- Genuine Love
- Use The Word

What Do Men Want In Life?

1. Relevance

Many men do not see the value in going to church because they do not see the connection to the issues they are facing. e.g. 92% of church going men had never heard a sermon on work. This implies what you do for 40-70 hours a week does not relate to spirituality.

Questions Christian men are asking:

- What is true masculinity?
- What is success?
- What is male sexuality and is purity possible?
- How do I deal with feelings of guilt?
- What does a healthy marriage look like?
- How can I raise my children to be 'successful'?
- How can I be a man of integrity?
- How can I survive an economic meltdown?

- How can I be a leader in the home?
- What is my purpose in life?

2. Men want to be involved in a cause greater than themselves.

- Men are looking for a compelling vision.
- Men love to be part of a team
- Give men a variety of ministry opportunities that will stretch them and expose them to the needs of the world.

3. Men want a shot at greatness

- Men want to win, they want to be a hero. Most churches today want 'nice' men, not 'great' men.
- Help men catch a vision for what they can become.

4. Men want to be challenged

- When it comes to faith we expect too little.
- Challenge men to take the next step in their development

5. Men are looking for action

- Unfortunately most churches today are set in maintenance rather than missional mode.

6. Men are looking for leaders

- Men do not follow programs, they follow leaders. They want to follow a bold, courageous, visionary leader.

7. Men are looking to have fun

- Give men a chance to laugh and enjoy themselves

8. Men are looking for brothers

- Men have something within them that wants to have a friend, but they don't know how.

9. Men are looking for healing

- Provide spaces for men to share their wounds and deal with them.

10. Men want to be spoken to in their language

- Most of the language we use in the church today is more feminine in nature.

Feminine: Sharing, intimacy with Jesus, fellowship
Masculine: Adventure, risk, challenge, team, game plan, partnership

- Use stories men can relate to and provide plenty of application.

Pointing a Man to Christ:

- God uses ordinary people
- It starts with prayer
- Evangelism is a process, not a religious activity
- Leave our comfort zone
- Relationship building is key
- Love and serve
- Look for open doors
- Share your story
- Share 'the' story

How Men Grow Spiritually:

Keep the end in mind

- Help them 'grow into adulthood'. Our job is to help lots of big babies grow up. To teach them how to feed themselves, walk on their own, find their place of service and reproduce in others what you have done for them.
- We don't know what we are trying to produce, so we are keeping them very busy with little like change and little resemblance to Jesus.

We must be intentional

- Everything we do has a purpose and is part of the process of moving babies in Christ to leaders in their homes, workplaces, church and community.

Spiritual formation is a process

- Feed Me
- Teach Me
- Show Me
- Follow Me

Spiritual formation is not uniform

- Three components (Willard)

1. Relationships

Every man needs relationships that inspire, encourage, ask difficult questions and provide counsel, support and comfort.

2. Experiences

e.g. suffering (take men on overseas on a mission trip for example)

3. Activities

Spiritual disciplines

- The work of the Holy Spirit

Spiritual growth is the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

- The optimal place for spiritual growth is in a small group.

How to Disciple a Man:

- The quality of a church's leadership is directly proportional to the quality of its discipleship (Allan Hirsh)
- So few people in our churches have been discipled that we now have a problem with our 'product' – the way people are living.

Keys for Discipleship (Greg Ogden)

- Intentionality
- Relationship
- Walk alongside
- Maturity in Christ
- Equipping to do for others what you have done for them
- Identify a few
- Invitation to a relationship, not a program

Basics:

- Help them cultivate an eternal perspective
- Help them cultivate godly character
- Help them love as Jesus loves
- Help them cultivate the spiritual disciplines to walk with Jesus
- Help them discover their place of service
- Help them become a servant leader

Mobilizing Men for Service:

- We are built for service:

S – Spiritual Gifts

H – Heart

A – Abilities

P – Personality

E – Experiences

Ask: Too often men are not involved because they simply have not been asked.

Developing Leaders:

- Character formation
- Competency Training
- Cognitive Training (worldview)
- Calling clarification
- Chemistry Issues
- Communion developed

Coaching

- The art of listening
- The art of asking good questions
- Prayerful preparation
- One thing at a time
- Invest in your men

Ministering to Twentysomething Men:

Modernism

Truth

Autonomous Self

Scientific Discovery

Human progress

Head leads heart

Star Trek

Postmodernism

Preference

Community

Virtual reality

Human misery

Heart leads head

The Matrix

- Broken and Blended Families
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- Primary frame of reference is pop culture. The TV served as a surrogate parent for many of these kids.

Effective Small Groups: (Geoff Gorsuch)

Stages:

- Becoming acquaintances

- Building friendships
- Bonding as brothers
- Christlikeness

Creating a Safe Environment

- Time, time, time
- Be an example of vulnerability
- Know what men need
 - A place to belong
 - A place to be accepted
 - A place to be affirmed
 - A place to be authentic
- Use guiding questions to keep the discussion flowing
 - Extending
 - Clarifying
 - Justifying
 - Redirecting
 - Summary
- Facilitate Healthy Communication
- Handle prayer time carefully

Helping a Man in Crisis:

- Show up
- Prayer
- Dependence on the Holy Spirit
- Listening
- Use truth from God's Word
- Serving with compassion

Crisis Points:

- Loss of a job
- Loss of a loved one
- Facing death
- Pornography
- Moral failure
- Midlife crisis
- Marriage problems
- Uncontrolled Anger

Jesus wants to give each of us the ball and tells us, "Now it is your time, the game is on the line, the stakes could be no higher. Get in the game and be an impact player for Christ."