**Ideas for Men’s Ministry Leaders to Discuss**

**[November 11, 2019](https://maninthemirror.org/2019/11/11/ideas-for-mens-ministry-leaders-to-discuss/)***in*[**Equipping Men Blog**](https://maninthemirror.org/category/equipping-men/)

Men’s ministry is a tough job…ask any men’s leader and he’ll tell you that it can be downright *exhausting*.

Over the years, we’ve worked with thousands of churches, and most of them would agree that it can be hard to stop long enough to meaningfully reflect on how they’re doing at accomplishing their mission to make disciples.

***Allow us to give you permission to do that here.*** Below are nine ideas for you to ponder over the next several weeks before you begin planning for a new year. Consider using the discussion-starters below at your next several leadership meetings:

**SENIOR PASTOR SUPPORT VS. INVOLVEMENT**

To implement an effective disciple-making ministry requires both the support and involvement of the senior pastor. At first, support and involvement may seem like synonyms. They are not. Support can be offered from a distance. Involvement requires up close and personal engagement. [Mark 3:13-15](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Mark%203.13-15) says:

*“Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.”*

**Jesus was “with” His disciples.** That’s more than support; that’s involvement. So how did it work out? After Jesus returned to heaven, [Acts 4:13](https://biblia.com/bible/niv/Acts%204.13) tells us how religious leaders responded to the courage of Peter and John:

*“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”*

The biblical model for discipling men is to be with them, not merely support an effort to disciple them.

**Discussion Starters:**

* What is the difference between support and involvement?
* What is the biblical warrant for involvement?
* If you are the senior pastor, how can you be involved like Jesus was involved?

**PUSHING MEN UNTIL THEY DROP OUT**

Men often drop out without explanation. One reason is that they feel the pressure to perform because we ask too much of them too soon. Evangelism is simply taking a man as far as he wants to go with Jesus. Never push. We need discernment to take men as far as they *want* to go instead of as far as they *need* to go.

Discipleship should be like orthodontic braces; a little pressure consistently applied over a long time will eventually change the location of your teeth. In the same way, a man’s beliefs are transformed.

**Discussion Starters:**

* Does your church adjust to where your men are, or do you ask your men to adjust to where the church is?
* While it would take incredible people skill to get an honest answer, consider contacting a man who dropped out without explanation. If he believes he can trust you, he may tell you what went wrong. This would be incredible to know.

**THE QUESTIONS MEN ARE ASKING**

What are the right questions? Reinhold Niebuhr once said, “There is no greater loss than the answer to a question no one is asking.” The right questions will produce the right answers. What are the questions men are asking? It’s always about finding the right questions to answer.

**Discussion Starters:**

* What are the men’s questions your church is answering?
* How do they stack up against the questions men are asking?
* How can you bring them into alignment?

**THE ATTRITION OF MEN**

People aren’t surprised by what they expected. If you are surprised by the high level of attrition in your ministry to men, then dwell on the principle of the parable of the sower in [Matthew 13:18-23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+13%3A18-23&version=NIV). We must expect high levels of attrition if the Bible is correct.

We must also work to preserve the fruit we harvest. Learn how to capture the momentum and sustain the change you help to create.

**Discussion Starters:**

* What is your church doing to create momentum among men?
* What is your church doing to sustain that change?

(***Editor’s Note:****We teach in depth about how to create vision, capture momentum, and sustain change among men in our*[**No Man Left Behind**](https://nomanleftbehind.org/)*training model.*)

**EVANGELISM OR DISCIPLESHIP?**

The great evangelist Dwight L. Moody once said, “I would rather wake a slumbering church than a slumbering world.” Bill Bright once told me he thought it was a much better investment for the kingdom to help a Christian understand how to walk in the Spirit than help lead an unbeliever to faith. Of course, it’s not either/or.

However, when we think of the billions of dollars we spend to get people to “join” Christianity, let’s balance that out by spending what it takes to fully equip them to be followers of Christ.

**Discussion Starters:**

* Would you rather evangelize a man or disciple a man?
* What does that tell you about you?
* What does that tell you about the other kinds of leaders you need on your team?

**FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF THE MOVEMENT**

If I don’t look after the health of the whole movement, I will eventually eliminate myself. Personally, I look at this sentence and I try to live within it; I nestle between the words—even the letters—and I let them saturate my mind. It’s true: a rising tide will raise all boats.

As we continue to forge the Christian men’s movement into a sustainable part of local church life, think about what you have to offer for the greater good.

**Discussion Starters:**

* Why is it valuable to know what’s going on at a larger scale than just your church?
* How can you get more involved at a larger scale?

**THE OVERARCHING GOAL OF THE MOVEMENT**

The overarching goal of the Christian men’s movement is to restore discipleship as the central mission of the church. It is not enough to make better husbands, dads, time managers, and workers. We must be careful not to merely seek to improve men’s behavior (better flesh).

Instead, our calling must bring men to the foot of the cross where they negotiate the terms of a full surrender of their lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. That’s the deal.

**Discussion Starters:**

* Why are you doing men’s ministry?
* What is the goal of your men’s ministry?
* What is the danger?

**HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR MEN’S MINISTRY**

If you want different results, you have to do different things. However, people don’t change until they become uncomfortable with something. Our job as leaders is to help men become uncomfortable with the way they live. Jesus comes with tension.

If we declare the Scriptures in love, men *will* become uncomfortable. Benjamin Franklin said, “You can’t keep doing things the same way and expect different results.”

**Discussion Starters:**

* Does your men’s ministry need improvement and, if so, what needs to happen?
* How can you help your men become uncomfortable with lukewarm ways?

**INCREMENTAL CHANGE VS. QUANTUM LEAPS**

Singer Jewel spent 15 years on the road, often living in her car, to be discovered overnight. Google, arguably the greatest product launch in history, took four years to go live online. It is a roll of the dice to plan and wait for quantum leaps because they are so unpredictable. Steady plodding, though, always adds up to something over time.

**Discussion Starters:**

* Does you men’s ministry model depend on big hits?
* If so, what has produced effectiveness and sustainability?
* What do your answers suggest about your model?

*(This post is adapted from a*[*December 10, 2008 article*](https://maninthemirror.org/2008/12/10/134-ideas-for-mens-ministry-leaders-to-discuss/)*in A Look in the Mirror by Patrick Morley.)*

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