



MEN IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

GUIDE FOR DIRECTING MEN'S MINISTRIES



Manual for the Organization of Men's Ministries

Mesoamerica Region



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
PURPOSE	4
MINISTRY OBJECTIVES BY AREA	5
DESCRIPTION OF FUNCTIONS.....	5
MINISTRY DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION	6
BEFORE YOU START	8
STARTING	9
PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE LOCAL DIRECTOR	11
SUGGESTIONS OF THEMES	
• How to establish Family Responsibility	16
• Considering the reasons to identify yourself with the biblical doctrine of holiness	16
• Deepening a clear understanding of the implications of living in community	17
• A Man's responsibility for the wellbeing of his marriage and family .	17
• Enriching your meetings	18
• Fathering adolescents	21
• Family Altar	23
• Devotional Life	25
CONCLUSION	26

INTRODUCTION

Men in the Image of God (MIG) ministry is born from the need to share with every man – Christian and non-Christian, the message about his relationship with the Creator and his role in today's society. This ministry wants to create a conscience in every man's mind about the meaning of being created in God's image and likeness, which represents an unending search for the Lord's holiness in his life.

The main message of MIG ministry is found in John 15:5. Through the study of this passage, each man will develop a firm conviction about his calling to be God's servant. He will see himself as the branch who cannot be separated from Christ the Vine, feeding himself everyday with His grace to fulfill his role as a man.

John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

This passage shows how success in developing a Christian character depends on a permanent relationship with Christ; this means his priority will be to work hard to always remain attached to Christ. In order to do this, he will need to practice the following disciplines:

1. Keep his faith in Christ all the time.
2. Have a life of prayer and devotional study of the Bible.
3. Ensure and keep Christ as his Savior and Lord, as well as in the life of his immediate family.
4. Serve others passionately, so God may be glorified.
5. Be a disciple who makes disciples –including, of course, his family (John 15:8)

Men of God, if we want to be good people and fruitful branches, we must follow the recipe of the divine doctor who ordains us: "Remain in me, as I also remain in you." (John 15:4)

PURPOSE

"Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). When we study the Bible and we go back to the origin, to the creation of man itself, we find 3 basic points:

- Man (Adam) is the trinitarian transcendence of the Creator himself.
- His unity is a symbol of perfection (spiritual and earthly man)
- He is a worthy being (made in God's image); and therefore is able to be righteous, fearing the Lord and set apart from evil.

"Men in the image of God" ministry wants to restore the image of men attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Ro. 8:29; Eph. 4:13 Col. 3:10; 1 Jn. 3:2).

We believe that men need a group of equals to openly study relevant topics with. We share a list of the reasons why a ministry among men is important.

To achieve this purpose, you must:

1. Involve men with appropriate activities for them
2. Provide information about the different life stages men go through
3. Study the specific characteristics of men (personality, needs, changes, etc.)
4. Challenge men through this program
5. Strengthen fellowship
6. Provide opportunity for the development of their gifts and talents through service
7. Promote a life of prayer
8. Share the Gospel
9. Develop intentional discipleship

OBJECTIVE OF THE MINISTRY IN THE DIFFERENT AREAS



SPIRITUAL AREA

- Engage in personal evangelism with other men.
- Exhort other Christians to be guided by the Holy Spirit.
- Achieve stronger participation of men in the worship to God.
- Help to establish and strength their devotional lives.
- Strengthen the life of prayer.

MINISTRY AREA

- Strengthen the sense of purpose and mission of the Church among men.
- Teach men their responsibility in the preservation and growing of the work.
- Promote education for personal growth.
- Facilitate opportunities of service in the Church.
- Provide tools to bring other men to Christ.

FAMILY AREA

- That men build their families on the values and principles of the Kingdom of God shown in the Bible.
- Provide direction for a good marital relationship.
- Provide direction for raising children

DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

Responsibility: Local director

Field of work: Local Church

Time of service: According to the time the person was elected for

Accountable to: SDMI council



The local director of Men's Ministries serves on the Adult Ministries Council and is accountable before the same local board. The local director must:

- 1) Serve on the Adult Ministries Council of SDMI.
- 2) Inform, create and develop plans and ask for funds from the local church's Adult Ministries Council.
- 3) Determinate the needs and interests of men in the local church through surveys, observations or suggestions that men express.
- 4) Provide opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship of those involved.
- 5) Promote the activities and relevant information through a local bulletin or information wall of the church (if there is one).
- 6) Help men develop their talents and gifts and put them into service in the Church.
- 7) Cooperate with the district in activities, reports or whatever they are asked for.
- 8) Prepare the annual activity agenda.
- 9) Develop a local plan for discipleship of men (in case there isn't one in the local church).
- 10) Organize and carry out programs to help in the growth and edification of men; using this as a channel to reach men for Christ.

PROFILE OF THE LOCAL DIRECTOR OF MIG

The director of MIG ministry must be considered a servant-leader who will be followed by others. That's the reason why he can't be elected without considering some characteristics that will help him when doing ministry.



Characteristics such as:

- A) **Christian character.** A character according to the Biblical model (Matthew 5, 6 and 7)
- B) **Dedicated.** A person who has consecrated his gifts and time, knowing that his spiritual investment will bring fruit to the Kingdom.
- C) **Committed.** Once he has established goals, he must take the appropriate decisions for the ministry, and he must act diligently (once this has been presented and approved by the corresponding council).
- D) **Organized.** We know that effective leadership depends on organization and influence. It is true not everyone has the natural abilities for organization, but these abilities can be learned.
- E) **Motivating.** It is necessary to be affective and have the capacity to appreciate others. Some ways to show people that their work is important and appreciated are sending letters, thank you notes or certificates.
- F) **Creative.** When there's creativity, the work will always be fresh and exciting; therefore, the leader is capable of giving and receiving ideas, thoughts and plans.
- G) **Trainer.** He must be constantly training and involving others in serving in this ministry.

COLLABORATORS

The director can look for a secretary and a treasurer. These functions are:

SECRETARY

- Have an address book with detailed names, phone numbers, addresses, characteristics of every attending man in the church, and a picture if possible.
- Write down the agreements and plans in every meeting of the executive council.
- Invite men to the meetings or activities of the group.
- In every activity it is good to share snacks; a list can be made so everyone participates, whether individually or by pairs / groups.

TREASURER

Must be an ideal person to keep the men's group finances. Ideas of how to raise funds will depend of every situation and local plan.

- He must elaborate a budget with the expenses of every project and ways to finance it.
- He can collect an assigned small amount during every men's meeting; this amount must be voluntary so it doesn't become the excuse for non attendance.
- Promote activities to raise funds.
- Do the shopping or give the money for every approved expense, and keep the receipts or expense notes.
- It is important to present a clear report about the incomes and expenses for every month.
- The treasurer must always guard the money, knowing he is not the one who decides what to do with it.

BEFORE STARTING

Organize a meeting with all the men to have a clear vision about the realities and needs of the group.

After that, a plan can be elaborated.

Options for the talk:

* Distribute papers with 3 key questions.

1. Have you ever participated in activities for Christian men? _____

2. What would you expect from an activity like this?

3. What would you like to contribute to an activity for men?

* Check the topics you would like to hear in the men reunions.

a) Raising children. _____

b) Spiritual care of family. _____

c) Divorce. _____

d) Sexuality. _____

e) Stewardship of the body. _____

f) Others: _____

Invite all men for a meeting and explain through a brief introduction the reason why this ministry is starting. After this you can give everyone opportunity to express ideas or expectations for the ministry.

GETTING STARTED

Once you have the vision for the ministry and before the first meeting, you must review the following issues:

Logistics

- a) Invite every man (regardless if single or married).
- b) Extend the invitation (written and verbal) several times before the date of the meeting.
- c) Prepare a good environment for the meeting.

Spiritually

- a) Have prayed for the ministry.
- b) Have read Christian books for ministry among men.
- c) Have received counseling and advice from pastors/other leaders.

Administration

- a) If necessary, elaborate an organizational chart before the beginning of the ministry. Example of an organization chart:
 - **Pastor**
 - SDMI local superintendent
 - Local director of adult ministry
 - Director of MIG
 - Secretary
 - Treasury
 - 2 lay representatives
- b) Detail financial aspects with the local director of adult's ministry or with the SDMI local superintendent (in case there's no local director of Adult's ministry).
- c) Determine the frequency of meeting (taking ideas from what was expressed during the conversations with the men, considering everyone's schedule and possibilities).

It is necessary to establish ministries aimed at men with special activities like:

- Is it possible to start a musical project with some of the men?
- Is it possible to have outdoor activities to reach others through sports or other activities outside?
- Is it possible to collaborate with the trustees in any projects?
- Are classes to teach crafts possible?
- Are talks about taboo topics wanted?
- Will the meetings work in places like restaurants, parks, public spaces?
- Which evangelistic projects can be done?
- How can Bible study sessions be organized?
- Etc.

It will be necessary to create a database with the following information:

A picture can be requested or taken for the archive.

Name:

Age:

Marital status:

Address:

Phone number / E-mail:

Church member: (if you consider necessary knowing this status)



PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR THE LOCAL DIRECTOR

Now we will give a series of practical guides especially addressed to the leaders looking after the men's group. We divided these suggestions in two groups: ministry inside church and ministry outside church.

A. Ministry inside church

This area of the ministry is designed to work with men who actually attend church and are interested in ministry, regardless of if they are just two or three.

1. Hold meetings with them
 - a. To plan.
 - b. To elaborate special programs.
 - c. To evaluate the fulfillment of the objectives of the group.
 - d. To pray for spiritual and daily needs.
 - e. To study the Bible.
2. Pray constantly to receive God's blessing in their activities:
 - a. In the home
 - b. In the workplace
 - c. In schools or universities
 - d. When travelling
3. Keep in touch with every man in church:
 - a. Through visiting.
 - b. Through phone calls.
 - c. Through thank you notes, exhortation notes, etc.
4. Teach them about the importance of ministry and involve them in different service areas. Encourage them when they are doing ministry:
 - a. Expressing congratulations for a job done
 - b. Making them feel important
 - c. Letting them know their ministry is valuable
 - d. Thanking them for their collaboration
5. Being thankful and supportive when they bring new ideas for the growth and edification of the church.
6. Prepare talks, workshops or short conferences about the topics they are interested in:
 - a. The Christian family
 - b. Management of household finances
 - c. Sects and doctrines of religions
 - d. Evangelism
 - e. Andropause
 - f. Overcoming temptation
 - g. Others (chosen by them)

7. Training them for the development of specific ministries:
 - a. Visiting
 - b. Being a deacon
 - c. Ministry among the elderly
 - d. Sunday School teaching
 - e. SDMI superintendency
 - f. Leading Bible studies or prayer groups in homes
 - g. Planning and directing programs
 - h. Teaching
 - i. Counseling young people and children
 - j. Evangelism
 - k. Missions
 - l. etc.
8. In the group you'll always find gifts, talents, different personalities and conditions that must be discerned with intelligence to involve everyone in service. Help every man to discover and use their gifts.
 - Facilitate a study about the fruits of the Spirit.
 - Facilitate a study about missions.
 - Facilitate the access to written information about the Great Commission.
 - Facilitate evangelism strategies and put them into practice.
 - Facilitate evangelism and discipleship strategies of the Church of the Nazarene ("Being like Him", Evangucube, the Jesus Film, Each One Wins One).
 - Facilitate training and opportunities to participate in missionary projects.
13. Provide opportunities to collaborate in church:
 - a. In missionary projects
 - b. Through social relationships
 - c. Through intercultural relationships
14. Use your experiences to give advice

B. Ministry outside church

This ministry will require intentional and organized efforts to obtain positive results. The purpose of this ministry is reaching young and adult men who don't know Jesus as their personal Savior. Also, to reach those who have stopped attending church or have walked away from the Lord.

1. Dedicate time to know them.
 - a. Investigate their work schedule
 - b. Investigate their study schedule
2. Prepare programs of their interest
3. Create small groups in houses:
 - a. To study the Bible
 - b. To have special meetings (share coffee, talks, etc.)
4. Reach non-Christian men through the attendance of members of their family (wife, children):
 - a. Invite them to attend and observe special activities of their children
 - b. Invite them to outdoor activities or camps where their wife and children are participating.
5. Contextualize methodologies and strategies.

6. Invest time in visiting them.
7. Focus evangelism not on one person, but on the whole family (parents and children).
8. Plan special activities in which wives can invite their non-Christian husbands or those who haven't attended regularly.
 - a. Field trips or camps
 - b. Sports activities (many men play tennis, soccer, swimming, etc.)
 - c. Dinners, lunches, breakfasts.
 - d. Organize Bible studies in the homes of non-Christian people (to create relationships with them).
9. Organize an evangelistic project outside the church:
 - a. The purpose is to reach only non-Christian people
 - b. The talks can follow the format of a forum (questions and answers)
10. Try to reach difficult people: if you achieve this, the men in community will be more accessible.
11. Take a census in the community: even when using the given resources, without knowing the community, it is possible to miss real needs and people in crisis situations.
12. Ask for addresses of the church members to establish contact with:
 - a. friends
 - b. neighbors
 - c. family
 - d. colleagues
13. When you have the information from the last point, some resources and literature can be sent:
 - a. Local bulletin
 - b. Birthday card
 - c. Invitation to activities
14. Use phone calls to reach the contacts, but always with care and politeness, and only to inform:
 - a. That the church is there to serve him
 - b. That he is in church's prayers

It is important to know that some suggestions imply a financial effort, but it's an effort that is worth it in order to achieve the objective.

Some suggestions must be applied according to the context of the local church. Remember: strategies and methods must be contextualized.



Suggested topics

HOW TO ESTABLISH RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FAMILY

- Organize campaigns where this topic will be developed integrally.
- Teach the priorities of the Christian man according to the Bible. (God, marriage, children, church, etc...)
- Establish principles about raising and disciplining children. Prepare activities about the topic (Round tables, conferences, group talks, forums with experts – psychologists, doctors, educators, pastors, etc.).
- Restore commitments with the celebration of family devotions.
 - ❖ Prayer (Reciting Bible verses about the family).
 - ❖ Bible reading (diverse readings).
 - ❖ Teaching (adapting the lesson to the needs of every member of the family).
- Study the Bible and books about educating children, keeping in mind the verse: “Test them all; hold on to what is good”.
- Organize camps for dads and sons. Have activities to strengthen the bonds between men.
- Start short, medium and long term projects to enhance the spiritual life of families.

CONSIDER THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF HOLINESS

- Add to the Bible studies in your Church topics related to the Wesleyan doctrine.
- Stop and consider a group study of the following suggested texts: “What a time to be Wesleyan!” (David L. McKenna); “Unseen Powers” (Everett Leedingham); “How to Live the Holy Life” (Stephen M. Miller); “In His Likeness” (John A. Kight).
- Apply theoretical concepts through Holiness campaigns in your discipleship group and in your personal relationship with God.
- Be intentional about learning the basics of the Wesleyan-Arminian doctrines.
- Let everyone know this group is a way to be accompanied in your journey: you are not alone and isolated. Almost everyone wants to identify with a healthy doctrine; dialogue about your personal spiritual experiences with honesty and sincerity.
- Plan meetings to craft collages, murals, compilations and bulletins about the core beliefs of the Nazarene Church (the research work can be distributed among the men and then shared in a celebration named “Nazarene men”).
- Remember: your pastor can help you with understanding the doctrine of Holiness.

NOTE: Recently, a magazine called “Nazarene Essentials” was published by the Church of the Nazarene. This is a useful resource for this purpose.

STUDY BROADLY THE IMPLICATIONS OF LIVING IN A COMMUNITY.

- Review topics like: marriage, society, ethnicity, the Church, etc. and discover the purpose of all these concepts.
- Organize meetings in homes where you can share quality time through meals, using special dates in the group as pretext (birthdays, anniversaries, job promotions, etc.)
- Make a difference by helping each other; use the Nazarene Compassion Ministries, get involved in a network of social work and communications.
- Gift books, Christian themed music and everything that communicates unity and the desire to live in harmony in community.
- Start the practice of living in harmony in community in your house: your wife and children come before others.
- Identify concepts as: identity, dignity, equality, priority; apply them to your community life.
- Meditate constantly in the word **COMMUNITY**

UNDERSTAND THAT A MAN IS FIRST RESPONSIBLE FOR CARING FOR HIS MARRIAGE AND HIS PHYSICAL HEALTH

- Organize conferences about marital topics (inviting experts in the topic: people who teach with their example, Christian psychologists, counselors, etc.)
- Promote talks about marriage and the reasons why this relationship is successful / unsuccessful; allow the participation of everyone bringing ideas and comments.
- Grow the interest in the need of investing time in family. Share ideas and suggestions to let this happen.
- Read books about Christian paternity in the Bible and the changes in today's society.
- Organize conferences about nutrition and health in our bodies, emphasizing the stewardship of our physical being.
- Promote dialogue about the unhealthy habits that surround us and work against our bodies.
- Facilitate professional medical information about physical care and God's role in health.

Always let the Holy Spirit guide and teach the way.

Here we don't suggest something written. This is the part where the ministry is flexible and allows refreshing, anointing and reshaping from the Holy Spirit.

ENRICHENING YOUR MEETINGS

A) About the stewardship of the body.

Smoking cigarettes: Addiction to tobacco is one of the most dangerous health issues in Latin America, destroying more lives than other substances like cocaine and heroine.

- **Nicotine-** This substance considerably increases the risk of developing cancer. Also, studies have shown that parents that smoke are 20% less likely to conceive children.
- **Smoking increases:** Blood pressure, which in the long run will damage the cardiac muscle. The components in a cigarette damage the inside of the coronary arteries and compromise the arteries' structure.
- **Cigarette smoke-** Worsens the allergies in people with such symptoms, as it irritates the breathing system. When a person smokes, cilia located in the bronchi and lungs is damaged and eventually, lung function will decrease. Cigarette smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals compounds, just imagine that!

Drugs and depression:

Recent studies have shown that drug consumption is related to anxiety episodes and depression. Scientists say that treating depression can prevent drug consumption. More than two thirds of suicides in people under 35 years are related to drug abuse.

Alcohol:

It reduces the levels of serotonin in the brain, which may lead to an aggressive behavior. It is believed that serotonin has an important role in controlling aggression; violent delinquents report lower levels of this substance. Most of these people are also alcohol consumers.

*Alcohol permanently damages the liver, kidneys and brain. This includes beer, even when the alcohol level is low in this beverage.

The human body is highly valuable for two basic reasons: Its wonderful design and the purpose of its creation. God is interested in our physical health (John v.2). He gave us an amazing organism with great capacity of adaptation and regeneration. It is a complex machine capable of self-defense against illness and the stresses of life. But it also requires care. Tobacco, drugs and alcohol destroy the delicate balance of a designed organism not made for those substances. Our body was created with a spiritual purpose: to be the temple of the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote: "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." (1 Co. 6:19-20). God's specialty is to free slaves from sin. He will free from these enslaving habits every man who asks Him with a humble heart, and He will forgive him.

B) ABOUT ABSENT PARENTS.

There is a theater called home where daily functions are performed. There are three characters: "Dad", "Mom" and "Son". There's comedy sometimes, but too often there's genuine tragedy. The lead role is "Mom", as "Dad" spends too much time backstage. Nevertheless, "Dad" is such an important role that should be present; he is especially vital for the male character "Son".

Sometimes dads leave home due to work and occupations, without even realizing the damage this does to their sons. Children are the responsibility to both the Mom and Dad. There shouldn't be separation under any circumstance. Parents should look for God's guidance and help to stay together in love no matter the situation.

"As always, daddy isn't here" (Reading to reflect upon)

Being a dad is an easy task when one is an emotionally healthy man, confident, established in work and in the home; when one isn't, it is the most difficult of the tasks."

The actor who makes the most mistakes at his role is “Dad”, an actor that abandons stage for hundreds of reasons.

Dad can be absent from the home for legitimate reasons. He may have passed away, and still, with his involuntary absence he will still cause a real disturbance that goes beyond a financial struggle. There will be no lead and paternal authority, even when it will be supplied with love and tenderness by the widowed wife.

It may also occur that work is so absorbent that it takes most of his time. Still, a father must find a way to fulfill the non-transferable job of caring for his family. This is his first occupation. Work doesn’t have sense if it’s not related to the home, as piles of money won’t guarantee righteous children. Work is always a great excuse to leave the responsibility of education to the mother, and optimal opportunity to get up to mischief.

Another reason for dad’s absence is affairs. In these cases, it is very likely that dad will be despised by his children. These negative feelings towards the father will grow when a mother takes the task of feeding the resentment and talking bad about the dad and making herself the perfect martyr. No one would blame her for that: dad earned this. But the tragedy behind this is that the price for hate –hate against a father, is paid by her children’s emotional health.

It is wise behavior in a mother if she excuses the father when absent by valid excuses; and that she tries, at least, not to feed the hatred against the father when there’s no excuse for his absence. It is only logical that there is no excuse for fathers who won’t miss the football game, the club meetings, the business reunions, the social events, the opportunity to help friends and colleagues; but won’t be found at home to deal with the daily tasks and issues with his children and wife.

This kind of dad will be hard to understand by his kids. He is not a tyrant, unfair, lazy; he is just... alien. Alien to his children but familiar to everyone else. His house is a hotel where he goes only in urgency of food and sleep. House is the place he looks eager to leave.

I’m afraid these lines will be read only by mother’s eyes. As usual, daddy isn’t here. He has left for work...

-J. A. Peñalosa.

After this reading ask the group

1. Where does this reading place me?
2. What does the Bible say about this?
3. What are my responsibilities as a father?
4. What’s the cost of being a dad?

For parents of teenagers

External factors that influence teenagers:

Countless factors influence teenagers. They experience changes and they find themselves lacking the safety and comfort they had during their childhood. They don't know who they are: they have lost their identity. They are confused about their role, as they think they are too big to feel like children but too small to feel like adults.

Changes in adolescents:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Environmental
- Hormonal
- Spiritual
- Intellectual

Factors adolescents face outside home and Church:

* Friends * Fashion * Brands and marketing * Music * School * Sports * Work * Street culture * Vices * Suicide * Pornography * Materialism * Swear words * Hypocrisy and lies * Occultism * Injustice * Pessimism * Sects * Illicit sex * Mass media communications

Adolescents are in the hands of:

A) Parents B) Teachers C) Pastors

Two Bible verses to remember:

Philippians 2:15 2 Timothy 3:1-5

What adolescents are looking for:

Affection, dialogue, communication, protection, limits. It is important to remember this stage is crucial because the most important decisions in life are made in these years. This looks like a contradiction, but today's society demands it that way.

Between the age of 15 and 18, a teen will decide what to do with his knowledge of Christ, what profession to choose, who they will give themselves to, among other issues.

Due to the fact that adolescents belong to God and constantly suffer the external aggression and traps the enemy has set for them, we must (in an urgent way) resist with the weapons the Lord provided for us. We must frustrate the enemy's purpose: "to steal, to kill and destroy". We must help them through our actions to enjoy the abundant life that the King of kings and Lord of Lords has reserved for them (Jn. 10:10).

Suggested bibliography:

- "Radically Plugged in: High Voltage Devotionals to Ground Your Faith"/ Michael Ross and Jeff Edmondson
- "If Jesus Were a Parent", Hal Perkins
- "Shepherding a Child's Heart"/ Tedd Tripp
- "Things We Wish We Had Said: Reflections of a Father and His Grown Son" Tony and Bart Campolo
- "My Son, My Son"/ Bernard Palmer
- "Raising Teenagers Right"/ James Dobson

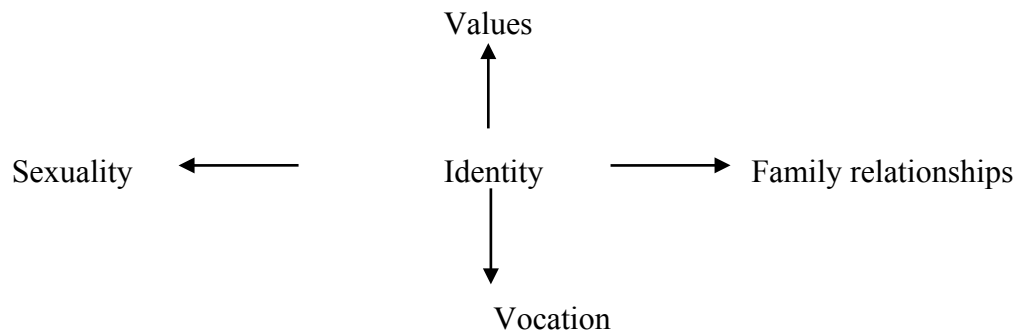
More for parents of teenagers

To Reflect upon- “Parents who made their children laugh when they were in diapers, who taught them how to walk, who were holding them to keep them straight when riding a bike for the first time; these parents will play and dialogue with their children when they turn into teenagers”.

Do you have teenagers at home? Do you know them? Do you understand them? Are you unconfident about your relationship with them?

❖ Your teenagers are adapting to:

- A) A new body scheme
- B) Hormonal growth
- C) Identity crisis (as shown in the following image)



❖ A father goes through the mid-life crisis, where physical and psychological changes appear.

Generational gaps are generated from these changes. (A parallel between both generations)

Children: Adolescent crisis, authority defiance and desire of autonomy.

Father: Mid-life crisis, authoritarian and over-protective attitude.

Advice for men who are fathers of teenagers

- **Dialog.** Listen, understand, counsel. This process starts from childhood (hugs, kisses and caresses), as communication goes beyond words.
- **Teach.** Our priority will be to guide our children to love God from an early age. We should avoid the “Eli” syndrome (1 Sam 2). Education is related to teaching the Bible, setting aside time dedicated to this purpose, and disciplining with love and firmness (Prov. 29:15).
- **Pray.** Do you pray every day for your child? Do you pray with him? Children need to be surrounded and supported in prayer. That’s a good reason to practice family devotions.

About “Family devotions”

1. **Make the decision-** An old recipe to cook rabbit indicates: “First, hunt the rabbit”. The first step to establishing family devotions is to make the decision to do it. Have you done that? Now, communicate this to your family (it can be difficult, but also surprising to share this spiritual decision to those who know our failures and weaknesses). You can even write a commitment and get it signed by every member.
2. **Choose an appropriate time-** Experts say that we find time to do what we really want to do. Study the schedule of every member of the family and keep planning.
3. **Choose a place in your house.** A recent survey among students at the Chicago University revealed that young people pointed the source of their moral and religious values to the talks around the dinner table. Seems like what you say at dinner time has more influence on children than any other event in family life. Do not feel guilty if you can’t make dinner time happen: other times or moments will arise. Just consider the following principles:
 - A) Choose a place that everyone likes.
 - B) Choose a place in this room to keep a Bible and other materials at hand (to avoid distractions during daily devotions).
 - C) Choose a place with minimal distractions.
- 4.- **Remember you are the spiritual leader of the family.** I. e., you have the privilege of making the plan for family devotions; creating roles so everyone can participate, deciding the order of the program and the details of the teaching plan.

5.- Learn the Principles of Family Devotions.

- A) Read the Bible when telling a Bible story.
- B) Use additional materials (reading plans, devotional books).
- C) Memorize Bible verses.
- D) Sing hymns and modern music (always reviewing the theology of the lyrics).
- E) Pray together: **Short prayer** - Especially if there are children. **Simple prayer** - No need to use big words before a comprehensive God. **Honest prayer** - God and your family know you better than others. **Specific prayer** - Example: “Lord, someone stole the bike of my son. Please help him to forgive the person who did it”.

6.- Allow Family Devotions to be fun.

How? Three steps:

1. Create an atmosphere of healthy challenge.
2. Create a comfortable zone. (Everyone can put aside other things to let the family devotions become a warm, loving, joyful moment).
3. Make it a dynamic activity. Example: Combine Bible reading with charades, acting or riddles. Ask the children to finish the phrases or draw a picture about the story they learned.

Extra tips - Prepare a list of prayers with visual resources, like maps with names and places where people who the family is praying for are. Leave prayer requests in frequently visited rooms and in places easy to see.

7.- Make sure you persevere.

Practicing family devotions demands determination. If you think of this activity as something secondary, you’ll have to convince yourself this is a priority so your family feels the same way. If you see this time as a way to get ready for every day’s challenges, then the activity will become very important and enjoyable.

If there’s a reason that keeps you from doing family devotions, try at least to set a time to talk about topics related to your faith (in an informal way). You can use the time spent in the car or the time after everyone has finished their meal; do not let the opportunity of sharing with your children pass.

About Spiritual Stewardship

Isn't it curious? (By Dick Marcear)

Isn't it curious to see how great
Amount 10 dollars seem
When we use them for offering,
But how small they look
When we spend them in the shops?

Isn't it curious how hard it is
To read two Bible chapters
Or three everyday
But how easy is to read
Newspapers and magazines?

Isn't it curious how easy
Is to talk to a friend
About politics and other topics,
But how hard is it to talk about
Faith in Jesus Christ?

Isn't it curious how hard it seems
To work for any activity
In Church, but how easy
Is to work in any other project
In the community we live in?

Isn't it curious see how easy
It is to teach our children
How to play baseball or football,
But how hard is it to teach them
To pray, grow spiritually,
And obey the Gospel?

Isn't it curious seeing how easy
It is to talk to a friend
Through internet or phone
During hours, but how hard
It is saying something to God after
Two minutes in prayer?

All these things say
A lot of what we are
But, let's think for a while:
Will God find these things funny?

Jesus said: **"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness..."** Mathew 6:33



CONCLUSION

To reach the objectives of this ministry, the director and ministry team must start a process to invest their time in ministry inside and outside of the church. It is expected that the ministry starts reaching immediately young and adult men, using the suggestions presented here.

Starting a ministry among men is urgent. It represents a challenge for those who want men fully doing the functions they were created for, always enjoying being specially made by the Lord.

John Wesley said once: "Give me one hundred men who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergyman or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven upon the earth." We must take into account that God wants to use us to collaborate in the preparation of fellow servants who will transform the future Nazarene generations, to the glory of God.