



Getting Men into a Small Group

FUEL TOOL #1

First Steps

- 1 Pray** - As you go about preparing to start and lead a group, it is a great idea to bathe your efforts in prayer.
- 2 Decide what kind of group you want to lead.** You could wait and make a group decision, but it will likely fall apart. Leaders lead – and men like that. There are many different types of small groups:

<i>Type of Group</i>	<i>Suggested Size</i>	<i>Types of Men</i>
Bible Studies	6 to 12 men	Disciples; Fringe Men; Leaders
Discussion Groups	4 to 8 men	All types
Support Groups: specific issues like addictions	6 to 12 men	Hurting Men
Prayer Groups	2 to 6 men	Disciples; Leaders
Accountability Groups	4 men	Disciples; Leaders
Fellowship/Affinity Groups	2 to 8 men, depending on the type of activities	Men who need Christ; Fringe Men
Mentoring Groups	2 to 4 men	Disciples; Leaders
Mission Groups: service projects	5 or more men	Fringe Men; Disciples; Leaders

- 3 Select Material** – Check out Amazon or Christian Book Distributors, or look for materials from members of the National Coalition for Ministries to Men (ncmm.org).
- 4 Schedule a planning meeting.** Call this meeting to decide on the day, location, time, explain the purpose of the group, gather feedback from the men and ask everyone to consider making this commitment for 4-8 weeks.



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Ready, Set, GO!

There is no set agenda for a small group meeting. For a small group Bible Study or Discussion group, here is a sample 90-minute schedule:

- 30 minutes on the material – this includes reviewing the material and discussion
- 45 minutes of sharing – what's going on in guys' lives, follow up on previous week's issues if warranted
- 15 minutes of prayer time – includes gathering prayer requests and some time to pray together

Leadership Tips:

- Don't talk more than 25% of the time. If there is silence when you ask a question, don't try to fill the space.
- Allow and encourage all men to participate. Draw out the quiet man without making him feel uncomfortable.
- Ask open-ended questions, not ones that can be answered, "Yes," or "No."
- Show men the grace and mercy of Christ.

What will make your group last?

Value: Every time a man shows up, he has decided not to do something else. Most men have many choices, so your small group has to meet the "real and felt needs test" or it won't last. Real needs are met through content, felt needs through caring.

Content: Simply put, use good stuff. If you are going to do a Bible study, make sure it is a practical, application-oriented Bible study.

Caring: Men will come if they sense you really care about them. If they don't, they will eventually drift away – but rarely tell you why. Care extends beyond the small group and into the lives during the week. It happens between the meetings – personal phone calls, coffee or lunch, e-mails, social activities.

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