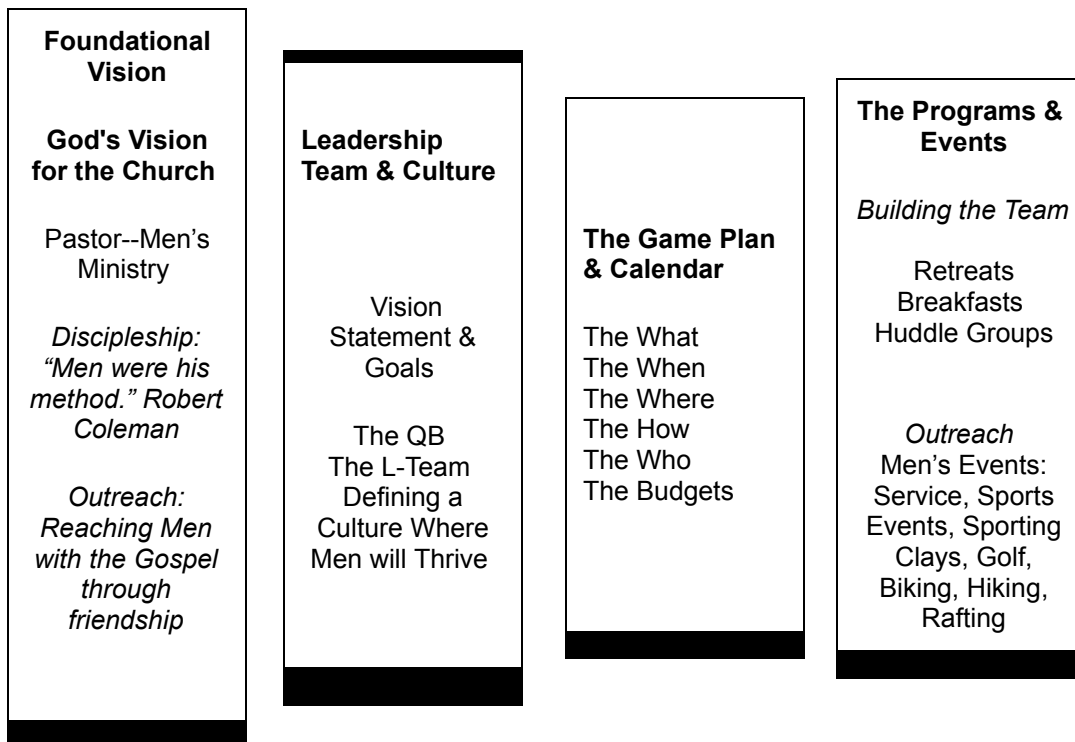


Four Cornerstones of Success for Men's Ministry



Why Men's Ministries Fail & Why They Succeed

1. Foundational Vision- "I will build my church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it."

- Problem: Men's ministry is often a low priority for the church in terms of time and money invested.
- Problem: Pastors have concerns / fears of being transparent with the men.
- Problem: Pastors are pressured to give equal attention/resources to all areas of ministry in the church, i.e. children/youth, women, small groups, etc...
- Solution: Pastors must understand the weighty calling on men to spiritual leadership, the equipping this requires, and the cultural landscape/spiritual battle men face.
- Solution: Pastors must place a high value (resources) on the discipleship & outreach dimensions of the men's ministry as a critical dimension to the health and vitality of families and the church as a whole. (Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Timothy 2:2 & Ephesians 4:12-13 undergird these priorities.)

2. Leadership Team & Culture

- Problem: The choice of leadership is not attractive to a wide variety of men. Solution: The key is the right compliment in your leadership team while matching gifts with appropriate roles. The most powerful tool in discipleship is still modeling; the power of men loving and serving one another shows that we are his disciples.
- Problem: A safe environment is not provided for men. Solution: The key is a culture of acceptance where trust is built. What is shared between men remains in confidence and accountability is deepened as a result. Safe environments need to be enforced.
- Problem: A religious environment is cultivated instead of a man's environment. Solution: The key is that men must feel the freedom to be themselves: to be authentic, to talk and act the way they would with their buddies.

- Problem: ministries that are relationship based may feel “closed” to newcomers who are un-churched and unfamiliar with the language/culture of your church. Solution: The key is to build a relational men’s ministry that is open, sensitive, and accepting of new men.
- Problem: Event- based ministries have short-term results but men often “fall through the cracks” and leave after a short time. Solution: Quality events are important but we must develop a caring team of men who take the initiative to build friendships during events and through follow-up.

3. The Game Plan & The Calendar

- Problem: Men’s ministries without a game plan or vision fail. Solution: Great ministries have a 6-month, one, and two year plan that provides good organizational structure and detailed program planning. Events should have individual point guys responsible for event details and recruitment of volunteers.

4. The Programs

- Men’s ministries need to be challenging, entertaining, adventurous, risk-taking, and life-giving.
- Programs need to feature men who are experiencing real “life-change” as a result of your ministry.

Men’s Ministry Vision

As the men of _____ Church our vision is to cultivate an environment where men feel safe and accepted for who they are. We are committed to building a culture where we can share our love for adventure, sports, and “guy stuff” while also getting real about our marriages, our jobs, our failures, and our faith. We believe that friendship, vulnerability, and the truth of God’s unchanging Word are the gateways to real life-change as Christians.

Goals:

1. To connect men through quality events where friendship, trust, and vulnerability can grow. Too often men are alone. Whether it’s due to shame, guilt, or personal rejection we will take the initiative to reach out because Christ first loved us.
2. To help men experience a relationship with Jesus Christ, a Biblical view of manhood, and deep friendships with brothers in Christ.
3. To equip men as spiritual leaders in their homes as husbands and fathers.
4. To help men in their pursuit of four key areas: to know and be known, to love and be loved, to serve and be served. This service area must include an emphasis on serving the poor.
5. To equip men with life to life discipleship groups focused on the Word of God and building community together.