

# Built for Freedom



And you will know the truth,  
and the truth will set you free.  
John 8:31

[www.blueprintformen.org](http://www.blueprintformen.org)



Greetings Brothers,

Welcome to the 2024 **Built for Freedom Men's Summit**. We are glad you are here and are confident you will be blessed by the time you spend with other men who desire to become free in Christ.

You were "Built for Freedom", not the freedom that the world offers, but the true freedom that is found only in Jesus Christ!

Our key text for the weekend is John 8:32 which provides the "secret" ingredient to living in freedom.

"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ~ Jesus Christ

The secret is simply "knowing the truth". This "knowing" is a deep intimate relationship with Jesus Christ who is "the way, the TRUTH, and the life". When you truly know Jesus, you will walk in freedom. It sounds so simple, so easy, yet very few men experience this deep relationship with God and therefore very few men experience this level of freedom.

When a man has a daily walk with God, trusts him with all that he is, all that he has, his life is full of joy, peace, and power! But you can't live in freedom riding the fence or by being lukewarm. You must be ALL IN!

At last year's retreat 10 men were baptized in the lake and started their journey to freedom. And this year we are praying that many more men will take the plunge and break free!

So glad you are here and can't wait to see how God shows up this weekend. He always does!

Here's to Living in Freedom,

The Blueprint Leadership Team,

Marty Miller, Founder | President  
Mike Hansen, Communications | Content  
Tom Pyke, Small Groups | Data  
Rick Patton, Finance | Events  
Rudy Escobar, Spanish | Video Editor  
Grant Graves, Podcaster | Speaker

## Basic Schedule

### FRIDAY EVENING

4:00 pm	Registration Check-In	Magnolia Lobby
6:00	Supper	Peach Dining Hall
7:00	SESSION #1 - "Freedom IN CHRIST"	Magnolia Auditorium
8:30	Afterglow Fellowship	Various Locations

### SABBATH MORNING

7:00	Morning Prayer & Praise	Lodge Fireplace
7:30	Breakfast	Peach Dining Hall
8:45	Welcome & Orientation	Magnolia Auditorium
9:30	SESSION #2 - "Freedom TO BE"	Magnolia Auditorium
11:00	SESSION #3 - "Freedom FROM Bondage"	Magnolia Auditorium
12:30 pm	Lunch	Peach Dining Hall

### SABBATH AFTERNOON

1:30	Rest, Recreation, and Small Groups	Various Locations
4:00	SESSION #4 - "Freedom TO LOVE"	Magnolia Auditorium
6:00	Supper	Peach Dining Hall

### SABBATH EVENING

7:00	SESSION #5 - "Freedom FOR GOD'S GLORY"	Magnolia Auditorium
8:30	Evening Activity Options	Various Locations

### SUNDAY MORNING

7:00	Morning Prayer & Praise	Lodge Fireplace
7:30	Breakfast	Peach Dining Hall
9:00	SESSION #6 - "Freedom AS ONE"	Magnolia Auditorium
10:30	Circle of Men Prayer of Blessing & Farewell	

# THEME SONG

## FREE

BY TAG GARMON

I AM FREE, I AM FREE  
FOR YOU HAVE FIRST LOVED ME  
AND YOU BORE MY SIN UPON THAT TREE  
I AM FREE, I AM FREE

AND I AM UNAFRAID  
FOR YOU HAVE RISEN FROM THE GRAVE  
AND ALL MY ENEMIES WERE OVERTHROWN  
I AM UNAFRAID

I AM FREE, I AM UNAFRAID  
FREE AND UNAFRAID  
IN JESUS I AM FREE  
THANK YOU, JESUS, I AM FREE

I AM CLEAN, I AM CLEAN  
FOR YOU HAVE PURCHASED ME  
AND YOUR PRECIOUS BLOOD REMOVES MY SHAME  
I AM CLEAN, I AM CLEAN

AND I AM UNASHAMED  
FOR YOU HAVE GIVEN ME YOUR NAME  
AND I WILL NOT CARE WHAT OTHERS SAY  
I AM UNASHAMED

I AM FREE, I AM UNAFRAID  
CLEAN AND UNASHAMED  
IN JESUS I AM FREE  
THANK YOU, JESUS, I AM FREE

I AM FREE, I AM UNAFRAID  
CLEAN AND UNASHAMED  
IN JESUS I AM FREE  
THANK YOU, JESUS, I AM FREE

# WEEKEND NOTES AND JOURNAL

**SESSION #1**

Freedom IN Christ... Life's Greatest Decision

**Marty Miller**

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

NOTES:

ACTIONS I WILL TAKE:



Marty Miller is a lover of God, a lover of nature, and a lover of people. These three loves have defined all that Marty has pursued in life. After nearly 30 years in education Marty transitioned into full-time ministry by creating *Blueprint for Men*. Through retreats, small group support, leadership training, and curriculum development, Marty is helping men to step up and become the men God designed them to be! Marty and his treasured wife Gale, live in Collegedale, Tennessee. They are the proud parents of two adult children and four grandchildren. Life is good!

# WEEKEND NOTES AND JOURNAL

SESSION #2

Freedom TO BE Loved... Life's Greatest Need

Tom Pyke

"He that maketh many friends doeth it to his own destruction; But there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Proverbs 18:24

NOTES:

ACTIONS I WILL TAKE:



**Tom Pyke** has been involved with Blueprint for Men since its inception and is an integral part of the ministry leadership team. Tom's career path included senior management positions within large corporations, specializing in organizational effectiveness and process improvement. Tom has a passion for teaching men how to connect with God and become authentic men. He is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys hiking and backpacking in remote places. Tom is married to Trina and lives in Oceanside. He is the proud father of 3 sons and 2 stepsons and is blessed with 4 grandsons and 2 granddaughters. Life is good!

# WEEKEND NOTES AND JOURNAL

SESSION #3

Freedom FROM Bondage... Life's Greatest Battle

Joe Martin

"You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness." Romans 6:18

NOTES:

ACTIONS I WILL TAKE:



**Dr. Joe Martin** is an award-winning international speaker, author, educator, and certified "man builder." His life story can be summarized in one simple sentence: "He went from rags to riches to ruined to redemption." Joe leads Real Men Connect, a multimedia-based men's ministry that produces resources that helps Christian men win!

# WEEKEND NOTES AND JOURNAL

SESSION #4

Freedom TO Love... Life's Greatest Work

Grant Graves

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let everything you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

NOTES:

ACTIONS I WILL TAKE:



**Grant Graves** is an author, speaker, and educator. Grant has produced scores of inspiring Blueprint for Men podcasts during the past several years that have been listened to by men around the world. He has authored several men's ministry books including *Morning Summit*, *Coaching Champions*, and *Fearless*. Currently Grant serves as an elementary teacher, men's small group leader, and speaker at a variety of events throughout the southeast. He and his treasured wife have two young children.



# WEEKEND NOTES AND JOURNAL

SESSION #5      Freedom FOR God's Glory... Life's Greatest Purpose.      Jorge Torres

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

NOTES:

ACTIONS I WILL TAKE:



Jorge L. Torres is a U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Chaplain serving the Army Special Operations Aviation Command (Airborne) in Fort Liberty, NC. He is a decorated combat veteran who has served in multiple operational environments during his tenure. Jorge enjoys challenging men to live courageous lives of uncompromising integrity. He and his wife are blessed with four adult children.

## WEEKEND NOTES AND JOURNAL

GENERAL SESSION #6 Freedom AS ONE... Life's Greatest Encouragement Marty Miller

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25*

NOTES:

ACTIONS I WILL TAKE:

## SPECIAL GUESTS



**Ben Roy** is an award winning educator, science showman, and founder and president of Science Zone. He enjoys doing science shows and dramatic demonstrations that convey spiritual object lessons to audiences of all ages. He has worked with organizations as diverse as the Weather Channel and the American Astronomical Society.



**Shawn Wray** is from Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies, and resides in Calhoun, Georgia with his wife Kaydene and son Kai. He serves as the Men's Ministries leader at the Adairsville SDA Church in Adairsville, Georgia. During the week, he works as a Land Development inspector for Dekalb County Planning and Sustainability as a Land development inspector.

## MUSICIANS



**Tag Garmon** is a husband, father, musician, and craftsman. Tag has performed music in prisons, churches, schools, concert venues and at events of all kinds throughout the southeast. He and his wife Kirsten have three adult children and 2 grandchildren.



**Raymond Dewar** has a love for the Lord and a desire to serve. The father of three sons and happily married for 27 years. With a strong love of music and especially hymns of faith he loves to lead congregations in enthusiastic singing. He owns and operates Three Oaks Wellness in Ethridge Tennessee as a Manual Therapist specializing in therapeutic bodywork for over a decade.



**Kyle Neuroh** is a husband, father, musician, and carpenter that joyfully walks with God.



## FREEDOM QUOTES

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free." Ronald Reagan

"May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please but as the opportunity to do what is right." — Peter Marshall

"You can have peace. Or you can have freedom. Don't ever count on having both at once." — Robert Heinlein

"If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter." — George Washington

"He who is brave is free." — Lucius Annaeus Seneca

"True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of the individual, freedom and equality not only for Americans but for all people on earth." — Eleanor Roosevelt

"Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves." — Abraham Lincoln

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." — Nelson Mandela

"Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes." — Mahatma Gandhi

"Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." — Benjamin Franklin

"Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred." — Martin Luther King Jr.

"The function of freedom is to free someone else." — Toni Morrison

"While we are contending for our own liberty, we should be very cautious not to violate the rights of conscience in others." — George Washington

"The basic test of freedom is perhaps less in what we are free to do than in what we are free to not do." — Eric Hoffer



## FREEDOM SCRIPTURES

### The Universal Cry for Freedom

#### John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

#### Psalm 79:9

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name's sake!

#### Psalm 91:14-15

"Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

#### 2 Peter 2:9

Then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

#### Psalm 9:9

"The Lord is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble."

### Freedom IN Christ...

#### Life's Greatest Decision

#### Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

#### John 8:36

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

#### Corinthians 3:17

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

#### John 8:31-32

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

#### Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

## Freedom TO BE Known... Life's Greatest Need

### **Psalms 133:1**

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

### **Ecclesiastes 4:9**

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor, For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow;

### **Romans 8:1**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

### **James 5:16**

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

### **Romans 12:9-10**

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

### **John 13:34-35**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

### **Leviticus 26:13**

I broke the yoke of slavery from your neck so you can walk with your head held high.

## Freedom FROM the Bondage... Life's Greatest Battle

### **Romans 6:18**

"You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness."

### **Romans 8:21**

"That the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God."

### **Romans 6:7**

For one who has died has been set free from sin.

### **Galatians 5:1**

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

### **Romans 6:22**

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

### **2 Timothy 1:7**

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

### **2 Peter 2:19**

They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.

### **Galatians 5:16**

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

## Freedom TO Love... Life's Greatest Work

### Colossians 3:12-14

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

### Galatians 5:13-14

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

### 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let everything you do be done in love.

### Romans 13:8-10

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

## Freedom FOR God's Glory... Life's Greatest Purpose

### John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

### Romans 8:21

That the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

### 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

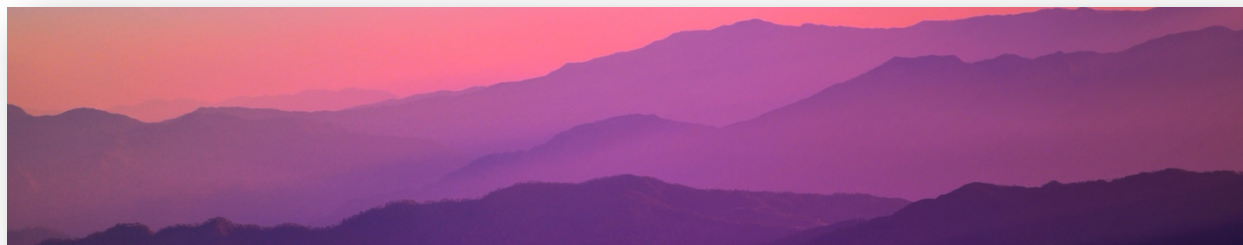
Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

### 1 Corinthians 9:19

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.

### John 8:32-36

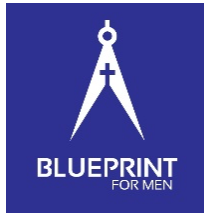
And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.



## 2024-2025 Blueprint Network Event Calendar

Sep 13-15	Georgia-Cumberland Built for Freedom Summit @ Cohutta Springs
Sep 20-22	Ohio Conf Built for Freedom Summit @ Camp Mohaven, OH
Sep 27-29	Carolina Conf True to Duty Retreat @ Nosoca Pines Ranch, SC
Oct 18-20	Gulf States Conf Men of Power Retreat @ Camp Alamisco, AL
Oct 25-27	Advent Wilderness Expedition Challenge @ Pocket Wilderness, TN
Oct 25	The Forge @ The Men's Outpost, TN
Nov. 15-17	KYTN Conf Built for Freedom Summit @ Indian Creek Camp, TN
Nov 15-17	TX Conf Men's Retreat @ Lakeview Camp, TX
Nov 22	The Forge @ The Men's Outpost, TN
Nov 1-3	Man Camp @ Stern Mountain, TN
Dec 20	The Forge @ The Outpost, TN
Jan 4-6	Winter Backpacking Trip @ Huckleberry Knob, TN
Jan 17	The Forge @ The Men's Outpost, TN
Jan 27	Blueprint for Men 10-Year Anniversary Celebration @ Collegedale, TN
Feb 14-16	Marriage Blueprint Retreat @ Hiwassee Acres, TN
Feb 28	The Forge @ The Outpost, TN
Mar 6-9	Men's Ministry Leadership Summit @ Cohutta Springs, GA
Mar 6-9	Florida Conf Men's Convention @ Camp Kulaqua, FL
Mar 14-16	UCC Men's Freedom Summit @ Camp Mohaven, ID
Mar 28	The Forge @ The Men's Outpost, TN
April 18-20	Daddy-Daughter Campout @ Hiwassee River, TN
May 2-4	NorCal Conf Built for Freedom Summit @ Leoni Meadows, CA
May 16-25	Ministry Leadership Expedition @ Grand Canyon, AZ
June 15	Father's Day @ Everywhere
July 20-27	Father-Son Rite of Passage @ Wind River Range, WY
Sep 26-28	CC "ALL IN" Men's Retreat @ Nosoca Pines Ranch, SC
Oct 3-5	KYTN "ALL IN" Men's Retreat @ Indian Creek Camp, TN
Oct 3-5	GCC "ALL IN" Men's Retreat @ Cohutta Springs, GA
Oct 17-19	GSC "ALL IN" Men's Retreat @ Camp Alamisco, AL
Nov 14-16	TXC "ALL IN" Men's Retreat @ Lakeview Camp, TX





# The Men's Ministry Blueprint

Dear Brother,

Let's be honest... you, me, and every other man is struggling to succeed in life for one reason or another. Research shows that for every 10 men in the church...

- 9 will have kids leave the church
- 6 will have a major problem with pornography
- 4 will get divorced
- 1 will have a biblical world view
- And all 10 will struggle to balance work and family

When you reflect on these statistics you likely see yourself somewhere in the mix. And for some of us it can be a bit discouraging to think about. So how did we get here... how did we get in this manhood mess?

## The Manhood Crisis

Men, there is a manhood crisis. We have major issues that we can't ignore any longer. The enemy has ramped up his efforts to destroy men in these last days and it's time to fight back! And the way to fight is to address the deficits most men find in their lives as listed below.

## Deficits:

Men are struggling because they are lacking...

A Walk with God

Knowledge & Discipline

Guidance & Leadership

Wise Plans & SMART Goals

Brotherhood & Accountability

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The Manhood Solution

During the past several years I have witnessed the incredible transformation of many men through what is formally known as “men’s ministry”. Men who engage in a solid men’s ministry will become stronger men of God. These men have the following characteristics...

## Character Traits of Strong Men of God

Reject	Reject Passivity
Accept	Accept Responsibility
Lead	Lead Courageously
Love	Love Unconditionally
Live	Live with Integrity
Serve	Serve Humbly
Invest	Invest Eternally

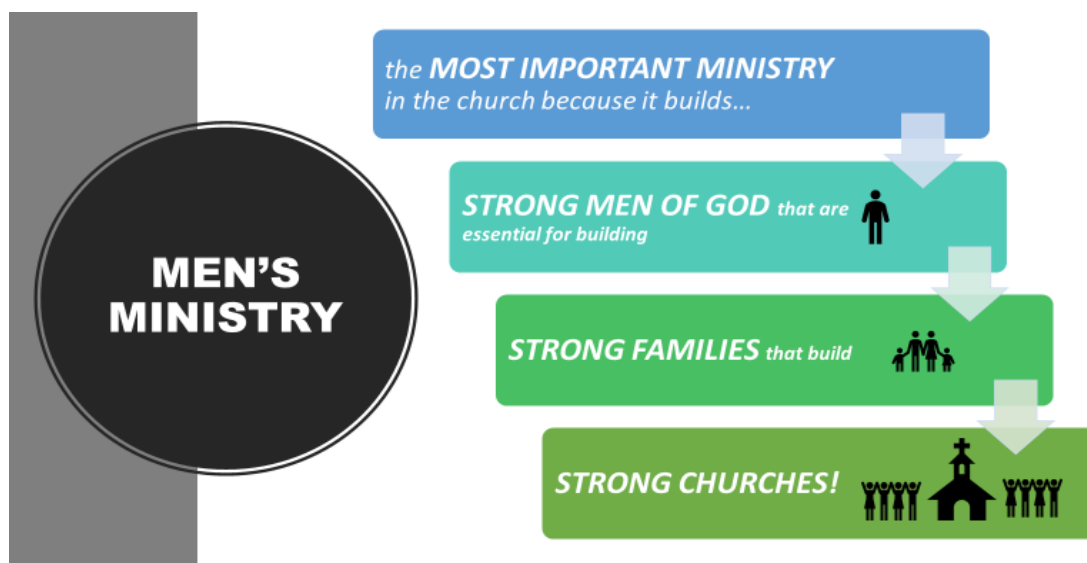
Men’s Ministry Defined

So, what is men’s ministry? Men’s ministry is simply a Christ-centered, relationship-based, discipleship program designed to transform ordinary men into extraordinary men of God. This is primarily accomplished through small discipleship groups where men experience brotherhood, learn what godly manhood is all about, and find support and accountability.



### The Importance of Men's Ministry

If done correctly men's ministry strengthens families and the church like nothing else. So, to respond to this need, Blueprint for Men was created to provide leadership to grow men's ministry within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



### How do I Start a Men's Ministry at My Church?

If you desire to start a men's ministry at your home church, read and follow the recommendations found in "How to Build a Successful Men's Ministry" later in this booklet, or better yet download, study, plan, and implement "The 7 Steps for Launching a Men's Ministry" eBook found on our website.

### How do I Start a Men's Group?

It's been exciting to see increasing numbers of men's groups around the country and we know this is just the beginning! Most small groups meet weekly and follow one of our recommended curricula found on our groups' webpage. There is something for every man! Visit our Groups webpage for complete details.

### Need Help?

If you need personal assistance, please reach out to those on the Blueprint for Men leadership team to get started! Our ambitious goal is to have active men's ministries at every church.

### Regional Leaders Needed

As men's ministry grows in the years ahead, we need to have strong leadership emerge in each of our regions. By the end of the year, we hope to have leadership teams established that can plan and coordinate the large momentum events such as our rallies and retreats. If you or any of your men desire to help with the next phase of growth, contact us at [contact@blueprintformen.org](mailto:contact@blueprintformen.org).

Join the Blueprint for Men Brotherhood!

In closing I would like to encourage you to join the Blueprint for Men Brotherhood. It's the essential first step in becoming involved in men's ministry. By joining our men's ministry network, you will receive training and resources to grow you personally and as a leader of men. If God is calling you to get involved don't hesitate! Join with other men as we create a movement of godly men in these last days!

*Here's to Building Men for Eternity,*

Marty Miller

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marty Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent dot above the 'i' in "Miller".

*Blueprint for Men, Founder & President*

*GCC Men's Ministries Coordinator*

Phone 423-322-8491

Email [marty@blueprintformen.org](mailto:marty@blueprintformen.org)

# I. How to Build a Successful Men's Ministry

## A GAME PLAN FOR STARTING A MEN'S MINISTRY

By Minner Labrador

### Core Group

Men's ministry starts with a few good men who are committed to meet regularly to pray for the men in their church, to pray for a clear purpose and strategy, and to pray for unity among the men. This group becomes the core group.

### Organizing

One of the first tasks of the core group is to establish a mission statement. The things to be considered when determining a mission statement are the following:

- Why do we exist as a ministry?
- What is our purpose?
- What results do we want to see happen?

When the direction is clear, the leadership can articulate it to others.

### Pastoral Involvement

We suggest that the pastor be requested to preach a two or three week series on men's ministry or issues relevant to men, articulating the mission and purpose of the men's ministry. The series can conclude by having the men come to the front for a dedication service.

### Special Events

In addition, the men's ministry leaders could recruit men to come to a special event designed for men. For example:

- The annual men's convention/retreat
- A sporting event, out
- Father-son camp out or father-daughter banquet
- A Men's Prayer Breakfast

Events like these serve as an excellent opportunity to introduce men to the mission of the men's ministry and to offer them an opportunity to form a men's small group.

### Men's Small Groups

Small groups are the most important component of a successful men's ministry. Small groups are where men learn the basics of discipleship and Christian manhood. And it is where men find support and encouragement through the ups and downs of life. If your church doesn't have at least one men's small group that meets weekly, you really don't have a complete men's ministry. So if you aren't involved in a small group... start one!

## II. How to Grow Small Groups

### PRESENTING THE RELATIONAL DIAMOND

By Minner Labrado

From rules of Baseball to the rules of Relationships in Men's Ministries

Just as in a baseball game where the team moves from first base to home base in the diamond. The small group experience can be described in what we call the relational diamond. What happens at first base:

#### 1. FIRST BASE

What happens at first base:

- This is the acquaintance level.
- Men begin to accept one another. Romans 15:7.
- The goal at this level is trusting one another

#### 2. SECOND BASE

What happens at second base:

- This is the level where men begin to see themselves as friends.
- Men begin to encourage one another. Hebrew 3:13.
- The goal at this level is confidence in one another.

#### 3. THIRD BASE

What happens at third base:

- This is the level where men begin to see themselves as brothers in Christ.
- Men begin to exhort (admonish) one another. Colossians 3:16.
- The goal at this level is to create a sense of accountability in love.

#### 4. HOME BASE

What happens at the plate:

- This is the level where men begin to move towards leadership and ministry involvement in the homes and other opportunities.
- Men begin to experience Christian maturity in building a Christ-like character. (Romans 8:28-29).
- The goal at this level is to coach another team such as family and friends.

Men will begin to recognize the tools they will need to accomplish this call of representing Christ at home, church and the world. Reaching home base means that the men have moved from being an observer, to becoming a leader who serves.

## MEN'S GROUPS AND RESOURCES

### Manhood Education

Curricula in this category are video based which is great for groups just getting started. No virtual groups available right now. All men who engage in manhood curricula will create their own "manhood plan". Excellent! To discover more about this manhood education curriculum or to join a virtual group visit this [webpage](#).

### Disciple Making

Our "Every Man a Warrior" curriculum helps men develop a closer walk with God like nothing else we have found. Our "Virdux" (Leading Men) virtual group, led by seasoned leaders, meets on Saturday mornings from 7:30-9:00 am ET. To discover more about this disciple making curriculum or to join a virtual group visit this [webpage](#).

### Sexual Purity

Our "Men of Integrity" recovery groups follow well-proven SA curriculum to help men win this battle. Our virtual group, led by a licensed sex addiction therapist, meets every Monday evening from 7:00-8:30 pm ET. To discover more about this sexual purity curriculum or to join a virtual group visit this [webpage](#).

### Habit Building

Most men struggle with the most basic of habits. Our habit building program helps men become more self-disciplined. Our "Morning Summit" program helps men build their Core 4... mental, physical, spiritual, and social areas of life. To discover more about this habit building curriculum or to join a virtual group visit this [webpage](#).

### Men's Leadership

Men's ministry leaders need encouragement, training, and support. Good leaders don't lead alone! We provide training, resources, and support for men's ministry leaders at all levels of church organization.

#### Men's Leadership Academy

Our Men's Leadership Academy helps connect church level men's ministry leaders so they can succeed in their calling. To discover more about our Men's Leadership Academy or join this virtual group visit this [webpage](#).

#### Men's Leadership Council

If you are a conference level men's ministry director you are invited to join our Men's Leadership Council. To discover more about our Men's Leadership Council or join this virtual group visit this [webpage](#).

### Outdoor Adventure

God created men to embrace the rugged outdoors and experience the awe of God's creation. It's in your blueprint! Advent Wilderness Expeditions (AWE) is the outdoor adventure arm of Blueprint for Men. To join other outdoor adventure enthusiasts or just discover more, visit our AWE [webpage](#).

### Community Service

God designed men to work with their hands, to fix things, to invent things, and to help others. Helping Hands is a team-based ministry network that primarily provides day-to-day assistance to those in need and secondarily responds to the urgent needs in times of disaster.

To join up with other service minded men in the Chattanooga area, or to glean some ideas, visit our Helping Hands [webpage](#).

### JOIN OR START A MEN'S GROUP

While the gold standard for a men's group is to meet in person, we are discovering that more and more men are choosing to join virtual groups because of the schedule and financial constraints. And for most guys, these are big obstacles to joining a group!

If you would like to join or start a virtual group schedule a call with Tom Pyke, our small groups coordinator.

[SCHEDULE A CALL WITH TOM PYKE](#)

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## III. Tips and Strategies for Every Man

### Servant Leadership in Your Home

By Robert Lewis

The call to be a servant-leader is tough. No one gets it all right, and certainly no one gets most of it right overnight. It's a life plan — a way of living you grow into with practice and time. Here are 25 suggestions, men, for being a servant-leader in your home.

1. Include your wife in envisioning the future
2. Accept spiritual responsibility for your family
3. Be willing to ask forgiveness and apologize to your family
4. Discuss household responsibilities with your wife; are they fairly distributed?
5. Consult your wife on major financial decisions
6. Follow through on the commitments you make to your wife
7. Anticipate and prepare for the different seasons your marriage will pass through
8. Anticipate and prepare for the different stages your children will pass through
9. Frequently tell your wife what things you like about her
10. Provide financially for your family's basic needs
11. Move past distractions so you can talk to your wife and kids
12. Pray with your wife regularly
13. Initiate meaningful family traditions
14. Plan fun things for the whole family
15. Give your children practical instruction about life to build their confidence
16. Manage the schedule of the family and anticipate pressure points
17. Keep out of debt
18. Draw up a will and arrange a well-conceived plan in case of your death
19. Let your wife and kids into the interior of your life
20. Honor your wife in public
21. Explain sex to your children in a way that gives them a wholesome perspective
22. Encourage your wife to grow as an individual
23. Take the lead in establishing bible family values
24. Join a group of men dedicated to improving their skills as men, husbands, and fathers
25. Provide time for your wife to pursue her own personal interests

\*Robert Lewis, *The Men's Fraternity Bible* (Nashville: B&H, 2007).



## 10 Ways to be a Better Dad by Family First

**Love Your Children's Mother:** Absolutely the best thing you can do ... A husband and wife who let their kids know they're in love provide a secure environment for their children. "If Dad and Mom accept each other, then they must accept me, too" is the hidden message ... and that's a powerful declaration of security for any child. The best family education? Having parents who love and cherish each other.

**Spend Time with Your Children:** How you spend your time reflects what's important to you. It's a simple truth kids know long before Dads do. No matter what you might say to make up for lost time, if your children feel you are not as concerned about them as you are with work, or some other interest, they'll perceive that they're not valuable. To kids, perception IS reality. Which is why there's no greater love a father can give than giving of himself for his children.

**Earn the Right to Be Heard:** Want your child's first thought when they're facing adversity to be "I wonder if Dads available?" Then build the road that will lead them home now. That means taking an interest in their views and their issues. It means being honest, and vulnerable. It also means talking about anything ... and often. Children want to be led, but the successful father earns the right to lead.

**Discipline with A Gentle Spirit:** True discipline is a function of a fathers love for his children, which is why it should never be hard-nosed or harsh. Disciplines role is not to intimidate or tear down but to mold and to correct. So, discipline with a teacher's heart and your children will learn just how much you love them.

**Be A Role Model:** Fathers are role models to their children. A father can best teach his children the values of self-restraint and hard work. A father can also champion the virtues of honesty and humility by admitting when he is wrong. Modeling-being a living example-is worth more to your children than anything you could ever tell them.

**Teach the Lessons of Life:** For far too many fathers, teaching is something somebody else does. However, the responsibility for teaching children rests primarily with parents. A father who teaches his children right from wrong imparts his faith in God to his kids and encourages them to

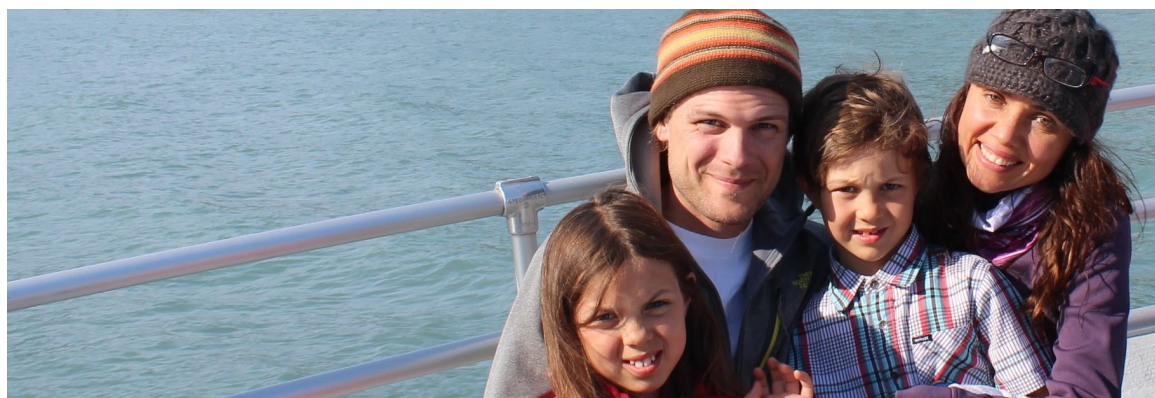
strive for excellence. He'll be rewarded as his children grow up to making good choices. A father should always be alert for everyday examples in which to teach his kids the lessons of life.

**Eat Together as a Family:** Most children today don't know the meaning of a family dinner time. Yet the communication and unity built during this time is integral to a healthy family life. Sharing a meal together breakfast, lunch or dinner provides structure to an often-hectic schedule. It also gives kids the opportunity to talk about their lives. This is a time for fathers to listen, as well as give advice and encouragement. But most importantly, it is a time to be together every day.

**Read to Your Children:** In a world wired for sound, it's important that fathers make the effort to read to their children. Childhood is a time for learning first by seeing, then by hearing and reading. When a father reads to his children, he draws out their creativity and helps inspire their dreams. Reading to your children also encourages literacy, a crucial step in a lifelong process of self-improvement. A father's desire to see his children soar above the clouds unfolds the moment he opens a book and begins to read.

**Show Affection:** Children long for a secure place in this fast-paced world. They find it most often in the warm embrace of a parent. As children grow, so does their need for acceptance and sense of belonging. Such a need is met when a father offers a hug, or a kind word, and expresses his appreciation and love for his children. But showing affection doesn't stop there. Letting your children know that you love them requires a daily effort.

**Realize A Father's Job Is Never Done:** Someday every father must let go of the youthful activities that bond him with his children. But a good father realizes that as he allows his children their freedom to direct their own lives, he doesn't abandon them at a dorm room, a wedding altar, or the door of their first job. His encouragement and discernment will leave a legacy to his children, and their children after that.



## F.L.E.E. — A Strategy for Pursuing Sexual Purity

By Trent Hunter

Here's a strategy: F.L.E.E. It's biblical, it's hard to forget, and it fits on a napkin.

### First, *fill yourself with Christ.*

The first step in our flight is to fill ourselves with Jesus Christ, who says, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst" (John 6:35). Sexual pleasure can never do what only God can. But Christ, on the other hand, is satisfaction.

### Second, *lock out the lies.*

Why do we run *to* instead of *from* sexual sin? Lies, I tell you! Our flight from sexual immorality requires that we lock out the lies that give it power. Or, as Solomon said, "keep your way far from her" (5:8).

### Third, *exchange lies for truth.*

What, then, should you do when tempted? Unsheathe your sword and go on the offensive, rejecting lies and rehearsing truth: Sinful pleasures are not filling, but fleeting (Hebrews 11:24-26). People are not objects, but image bearers (Genesis 1:27). This is not private but reaches heaven and eternity (Psalm 51:4). God does not approve of sin because he loves to forgive, but forgives to free us from sin (Romans 6:1-2). Your past does not define you, Christ's blood does (1 Corinthians 6:11). Are you embracing lies, or exchanging them for the truth?

### Finally, *expose yourself to the light.*

If you fall to sexual sin you will be tempted to hide in the dark and pretend it didn't happen. But remember, we are still sinners, so we confess sin.

Confession brings sin to the light and light to our eyes to see what we could never see in the dark: the holiness of God, the sinfulness of sin, and the glory of God's grace.

John weaves these themes together beautifully: God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:5-7)

Coming to Christ means coming out of hiding to be exposed by the light and covered with Christ's blood. As Christians, the best thing to do, of course, is just stay in the light. But the best thing to do when we wander into the shadows is to run back. Confession is where that starts.

So, are you hiding? Confess your sins to God. He forgives! But don't stop there. "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another" (James 5:16). That's what Christian friends in a small group are for! It is good news that we are not condemned in Christ, and it is good news that we are no longer slaves to sin. My friends, flee from sexual immorality and consider joining a sex addiction recovery group.

