

When the term “Brotherhood or Baptist Men” is mentioned, many automatically think of a Saturday or Sunday morning breakfast meeting in which men “meet, eat, burp, and go home”! Unfortunately, this reputation is well deserved in many instances. But that is all changing. More and more, local church Baptist Men leaders are discovering the need to stretch beyond the traditional boundaries of Brotherhood or Baptist Men and into areas that will attract non-active men to the ministry. One of the keys to this is to help men grow spiritually. Men want to be challenged. Most want a chance to enhance their relationship with Christ.

One area where spiritual growth for men can be enhanced is the monthly men's meeting. Rather than being a time for primarily reporting and planning, many Men's Ministry groups are seeing the monthly meeting as a time for inspiration and growth. Men are careful with their schedules these days. They are not likely to come to something that they feel is not worth their time. Therefore, it is important that a monthly meeting be one thing – “relevant”. That is, relevant to a man's needs – spiritual growth, involvement, challenge.

Below are a few suggestions that may improve the effectiveness of your monthly men's meeting. Remember, a goal is not only to enhance those men who attend regularly, but also to reach men who have dropped out of fellowship, or who have never been involved before.

1. **Find the best time for your men to meet.** Consider a weeknight meeting. Many men may not want to give up a Saturday morning for a meeting, but would consider a weeknight after work. If you determine that Saturday morning is the best time for your men, consider meeting for an hour after breakfast, and then engaging in a local mission or church project. Sunday morning may not be the best time to meet. Time is limited and there may be a “formal” feeling to meeting on Sunday morning.

2. Whatever time you determine to be best, **find ways to add a spiritual dimension to you meetings.** This is what many men are hungry for. This is also what will help you grow your Men's Ministry. This will require a transformation for many as to what the purpose of the monthly meeting is. There should be a short time for announcements, planning, and reporting, but those items are not the focus of the meeting. The focus should be on those things that will inspire and incite men in their spiritual growth.

Singing. Believe it or not, men love to sing! You will need to find the type of music your men respond to most favorably. Many groups are finding praise songs and choruses (with the use of overhead or PowerPoint) effective in setting a worshipful, meaningful tone to the meeting.

Teaching. This should be a time for challenging men and helping them examine their walk with Christ. This can be done with the use of a live speaker, discussion derived from a Men's Ministry book, or video. Either way, it should be geared specifically to issues men face (how to be a better father, marital relationships, money management, sexual temptation, spiritual growth, etc.). Your pastor or a visiting pastor or speaker could be enlisted. A live speaker allows for interaction. There are also many good video series that are specifically for men. Lifeway Christian Resources and Man in the Mirror are just two organizations to check out. There are others.

Discussion. If you use a book study, discussion will happen throughout your teaching time. If you show a video, prepare for discussion afterward. Organize the men into small groups of three. Give them a sheet with 3 or 4 questions related to the teaching they have just heard, and ask them to discuss. This sharing will reinforce the teaching lesson.

Prayer. Ask for specific prayer requests in the large group setting. Then ask men to pray in their small groups for these requests, as well as others they may share among themselves. Encourage targeted prayer for spiritual healing and awakening, not just for physical healing.