



## No Man Left Behind Guides

### The Big Picture

#### Key principles raised in this session:

1. Be purpose-driven rather than event-driven
2. Be relationship-based rather than task-oriented
3. Form disciples and pray for workers

#### 4 Cornerstones of a Ministry to Men

1. A Leader
2. A Committed Leadership Team
3. The Right Strategy
4. Pastor's Support

## Mission

The first task to identify the mission of your ministry. What does your ministry exist to accomplish? Until you know this, you cannot answer any further questions about the ministry. The mission should come from prayerful discernment and discussion with the members of the leadership team.

**It is VERY tempting to get right into roles and responsibilities and get this thing MOVING! It feels great but let me caution you. Unless a ministry is grounded in a Christ-centered mission and the focus is on the spiritual first, the ministry will be short-lived. I hate to be that blunt, but decades of experience in ministry to men around the world has showed over and over again that without those two components at the center, a mission and a spiritual focus, the ministry will likely not exist in 3 years. Please take the time to really find some good answers to these first few questions before moving on.**

### OUR MISSION



## Leader/Leadership Team

Identify a primary leader and who is on, or who you will invite to be a part of, your parish leadership team. Think about key roles or tasks and who might be suitable to fill them. All leaders should have a strong relationship with Christ.

<b>Ministry to Men Leadership Team Members</b>	<b>Strengths/Interests</b>	<b>Current Involvement</b>
Designated Leader:		

Your team must be connected in spiritual brotherhood. You are in ministry, not business. How can you foster intentional spiritual connection with men on your leadership team?


## Strategy

- Write your thoughts now, and discuss further with your leadership team and pastor later

What do you think a men's ministry can do for your parish? Describe a few of the benefits you would like to see.


Does your vision for a men's ministry align with the needs of the men around you? If not, what needs to be removed or added?


Does your parish have a purpose statement? If so, write it in the space provided. If not, think about your experience of your parish and put what you think might fit. Then, write out a purpose statement for your ministry that supports the parish purpose.


What are some things you can do in your specific community situation to keep the focus on discipleship and not just on getting things done?


## Pastors Support

When you approach your pastor about ministry to men, there are a few key points to keep in mind:

- Your pastor's schedule. Be respectful of his time, and be willing to meet him on his terms. You don't want to just catch him after Mass, try to get some scheduled time with him.
- Come prepared. Know exactly what you want to communicate and exactly what your ask is. A well-organized presentation inspires confidence.
- Ask how engaged men could help his vision for the parish. Ideally, ministry to men isn't one more thing on his plate, the discipleship that your ministry fosters becomes an engine supporting your pastor and making meaningful progress in accomplishing his vision.
- When you invite your pastor's involvement, give your pastor space to define what involvement looks like. If you come with too many requests, he may shut down. The most important thing you can ask for is his prayers and for his spiritual fatherhood over the group.

### Outline your plan to get your pastor on board:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Creating Momentum by Providing Value

**Key principles raised in this session were:**

1. Reach the 5 types of men
2. Keep the cookies on the bottom shelf
3. Give men what they need in the context of what they want
4. Relationships > marketing

### 5 TYPES OF MEN

- Write down some men you know in your community who fit each type of men.
- Write down some ideas for how to best reach these men and what sorts of events would be engaging for them.

Type	Name(s)	Communicate	Engage
Men who need Christ			
Unengaged Catholics			
Mature Catholics			
Leaders			
Hurting Men			



If you have an existing ministry, think through the events you have hosted in the last year. Which of these contributed to your purpose and which did not? Which of the five groups did you minister to? Which groups of men did you let slip through the cracks? What should you do differently in the future?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What events would you like to do in the next 12-18 months that would further your ministry's purpose and build momentum with men? Keep it realistic and remember the principles: give men what they need in the context of what they want

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Men come to events because of relationships much more than marketing. List 5 men you will personally invite to your next event.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Think about the men you never see at events. How can you reach these men? What events might they enjoy? What are the “cookies” you can offer, what value can you provide, and how can you put them “on the bottom shelf,” make the environment comfortable? Write some ideas below:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Capture Momentum With The Right Next Step

**Key principles raised in this session were:**

1. Always have a right next step
2. Before men leave an event they should be committed to the next step
3. Be realistic with expectations
4. Respect each man’s pace, discipleship is a long-term low-pressure process

### RIGHT NEXT STEPS

Using events identified for each type of man in the previous section, brainstorm good next steps to those events, again based on the type of man you are trying to reach.

Type of Man	Events	Right Next Step Ideas
Men who need Christ	Example: Super bowl party	Example: Softball team signup
Unengaged Catholics	Example: Service project	Example: Info meeting for mission trip
Mature Catholics	Example: Seminar or retreat	Example: regular small groups
Leaders	Example: Prayer meeting	Example: Visit a leader’s meeting

What are some ways you have captured momentum from events in the past? How effective have those efforts been, and why?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What are some of the ways that we communicate expectations to men? How does the church make men feel guilty? How can you avoid this in favor of a long-term low-pressure approach?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Sustain Momentum Through Relationships

**Key principles raised in this session were:**

1. True change requires long term commitment
2. Maintain variety
3. Know and use your resources
4. Invest in men who will invest in other men
5. Pray to be a part of God’s plan, not that he would be a part of yours

### RESOURCES/HEROIC MEN

Heroic Men is a compilation of thousands of videos specifically for ministry to men. Some include ready made study guides for small groups as well! Visit [heroicmen.com](http://heroicmen.com) and browse their programs for one that is right for your group. 4 of the most popular series are:

- The Search
- Into the Breach
- Kapaun’s Men
- That Man is You

What resources did you find that look like good options for your parish, and what type of men would you target with that resource?

Video/Resource	Target Type of Man

Sustaining ministry is all about long-term relationships. What are some formats that you think would work well in your parish to keep men in communion while moving towards Christ?

Examples: weekly breakfast (or earlier) meetings, large groups, small groups, virtual meetings or prayer, sacramental meetings (e.g. Adoration) etc.

Think about your parish demographics as you do this. While early meetings are very common, you might miss young fathers who are helping get kids to school. Just as with content, having variety in format will help reach a broader section of men in your parish. That doesn't make morning meetings bad, but be on the lookout for who the formats will be more or less effective in reaching.

List some potential formats with pros and cons below:

Format/Session	Pros	Cons

