



Introduction to David's Men

*Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." **Luke 9:23***

DAVID'S MEN

SEEKING THE HEART OF GOD



Introduction

David's Men is a discipleship group designed to deepen our walk with Jesus Christ, strengthen our relationships with other Christian men, and develop the next generation of leaders. It is not a Bible study or a fellowship group, even though we do both. It is not a collection of materials or information that makes David's Men successful. It is a process – a process that will challenge and stretch each man in the areas of prayer, worship, praise, leadership, communication, family and intimacy with God. It takes a few months for the group to start showing signs of real bonding and openness. It is at this point that the growth of the men begins to skyrocket.

The success of this group is not because of our leadership. The success comes from gathering six to eight men who have a desire to be closer to God and holding them accountable to each other and to God. *God is responsible for molding each man's heart. It is the group's responsibility to hold each man in the furnace long enough for God to melt his heart.*

At the beginning of the year, each man is required to sign a commitment covenant, which states they will commit for one year to reading all the material, doing all the assignments and praying for each man and the success of the group. It is essential that each man is committed to maintaining the dynamics of the group. It is a closed group for one year. No one enters or leaves. This allows the guys to develop a comfort level and establish an environment for openness. That is why it takes a few months for the real growth to begin.

There are several areas this we will touch on throughout the year. These areas include The Five Treasures (core values), spiritual disciplines, sexual purity, character, and leadership. We will start off by gaining a clear understanding of our core values and how to apply them. Once we are comfortable with them we will be prepared to move on to a wide variety of subjects and we will have the tools necessary to apply our core values in each area of our lives.



There are assignments each month designed to stretch every man and take him out of his comfort zone. Every month the men will meet for approximately three hours to discuss the current month's book and assignment.

A typical monthly agenda is as follows: Fellowship with food

- Corporate prayer
- Review scripture memorization Book discussion
- Discuss assignments
- Short lesson
- Accountability
- Next month's assignment

Included in this handout, you will find the following items:

Monthly Reading List - Each month we will read a book that will tie into the monthly topic. If you would like to purchase your own books on a digital device, please let me know so we can discuss.

General Information Form - Please fill out this form. This will ensure that we have your correct information and allow us to learn a little more about you and your expectations for this coming year.

Commitment Covenant - This group works best when we work together. It is important to the chemistry that each man is committed to this group and to each other. Please read the attached covenant before the first meeting.

“David’s Men” gets its name from King David in the Old Testament. King David was far from a perfect man. He was a man that struggled with lust, adultery, deceit, and murder. He is a man that we can identify with in his weaknesses. *Even though David struggled from time to time, the Bible describes David as a man after God’s own heart. That is one of the highest compliments given in the entire Bible.* God does not expect you to be perfect, but He does desire for us to be seeking after Him.

Our success will not be determined by how well we keep the Ten Commandments but on our willingness to surrender to the Lordship of Christ. Our goal this year is to come to the end of ourselves and come to the realization that not only is God all we have, but He is all we need. We can do nothing to earn our way into heaven. We are totally dependent on the grace and mercy of a Holy God. When this becomes a reality in our lives, we will live differently from the world. We will begin to live like the disciples of Jesus who gave up everything to advance the Gospel.

Because twelve men allowed themselves to be totally used by God, the world has never been the same. Let us pray that God would use us to impact the world in which we live. *“Not my will, but His be done.”*



Monthly Book List

Month	Topic	Book	Author
September	Kick-off Retreat	-	-
October	LOVE GOD Invitation	Joining Jesus on His Mission	Greg Finke
November	FINDING FREEDOM Learning	Grace is Greater	Kyle Idleman
December	SEE GOD Prayer	Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire	Jim Cymbala
January	EXPERIENCE HEALING Service	Servolution	Dino Rizzo
February	DISCOVER JOY Love Others	Everybody Always	Bob Goff
March	Spiritual Disciplines	A Man's Guide to the Spiritual Disciplines	Patrick Morley
April	Sexual Purity	Every Man's Battle	Stephen Arterburn & Fred Stoeker
May	Character	The Pursuit of Holiness	Jerry Bridges
June	Leadership	Spiritual Leadership	J. Oswald Sanders
August	Graduation	-	-



A primary purpose of David's Men is to strengthen spiritual disciplines in your life to equip you to be a stronger and more intentional follower of Christ. Everything we do all year is basically modeling the lifestyle of a follower of Christ.

Every disciple should be:

- Constantly in the Word (study and memorize scripture)
- Have a strong prayer life (a relationship is more than 5 minutes every morning)
- Taking responsibility to courageously lead in the key relationships of his life (wife, family, work, friends, community)
- Understand what it means to be a Godly man
- Navigate the difficult areas of life with integrity
- Leaders are readers (we need to be constantly growing and learning)
- Evangelism and discipleship



The Five Treasures

LOVE
GOD

FIND
FREEDOM

SEE
GOD

EXPERIENCE
HEALING

DISCOVER
JOY

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again...”

Matthew 13:44 (NASB)

Jesus knows that each person is seeking a life in which they can experience the five treasures.

Ask yourself, do you want to:

 love God and be in a deep personal relationship with Him?

 have freedom from the bondage you have experienced in life?

 be in a relationship with Christ that grows and matures with time?

 experience healing from your wounds?

 discover joy and genuine satisfaction?

The Five Treasures aren't some get-the-life-you-want scheme or a formula to create the perfect Christian. Instead, the Five Treasures were laid out for us by Jesus Himself in Luke 4:18-19. In fact, this portion of scripture is so important it is referred to as “The Great Proclamation”. If it was good enough for Jesus it should be good enough for us.

The Great Proclamation

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor.
He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives,
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set free those who are oppressed,
To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”*

Luke 4:18-19 (NASB)



The Five Treasures are what Jesus wants to do in your life, and what God has always wanted to do in your life. These Five Treasures are the core values of Discovery Church. Everything at Discovery is ultimately defined by these treasures. During this study, we will take the time to explore and apply the Five Treasures. Sometimes they will be integrated into the assignments, other times they will be part of the discussion, yet other times they will be application questions. While thinking about the Five Treasures, consider how they impact your life and how you interact with them.

The Five Keys

Everyone is seeking the treasures in their lives. We all want to experience freedom, healing, joy, and a relationship with God. The problem is that the world doesn't know how to access these treasures. If you had five treasure chests you couldn't use random keys to open them. You would need the correct keys and then the treasure chest would open for you. Each of the Five Treasures has an associated key. In order to keep it simple, we call them The Five Keys.

The Great Commission

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

The Five Keys are **invitation, learning, prayer, service, and loving others**. By being intentional about promoting The Five Keys in our lives we will access The Five Treasures in our lives and we will promote them in the lives of those around us.

 When we **Invite** others to know God and we **Invite** God to know us we LOVE GOD.

 When we **Learn** about God we FIND FREEDOM from bondage.

 When we **Pray** consistently and sincerely we will SEE GOD in our lives.

 When we **Serve Others** we EXPERIENCE HEALING in ourselves.

 When we **Love Others** as we have been loved then we will truly DISCOVER JOY.



If it isn't perfectly clear to you, don't worry. We will go over this from several different angles so it will sink in deeper. The Five Treasures are a marathon, not a sprint. You will apply them every day for the rest of your life.

Treasure	Key
LOVE GOD	Invitation
FIND FREEDOM	Learning
SEE GOD	Prayer
EXPERIENCE HEALING	Service
DISCOVER JOY	Love Others

Discovery Resources

If you are interested in learning more at this time feel free to listen to previous sermons that were presented by Pastor Sharpe at Discovery Church.

The Five Treasures Series (8/14/2016 to 9/11/2016)

<http://www.discoverychurchhickory.com/listen-the-five-treasures.html>

The Five Keys Series (8/14/2017 to 9/10/2017)

<http://www.discoverychurchhickory.com/listen-5-keys-series.html>

Transformational Treasures Series (8/5/2018 to 9/2/2018)

<http://www.discoverychurchhickory.com/listen-transformational-treasure.html>





Word Challenges

- Several of the books that you read in this program will have an associated “Word Challenge”.
- The goal of the challenge is to help you to better focus on that month’s topic within the book.
 - As you read and you notice one of the words associated with that month’s challenge make sure you underline it in your book.
 - Ask yourself “Does this instance of the word connect to this month’s topic?”
 - Use the **Word Challenge Worksheet** provided with your study materials.
 - In the first column write in the word that you found.
 - In the second column write the page (or Kindle location) that you found the word at.
 - In the third column write yes or no depending on if you feel that this instance of the word was used in a way that can be related to that month’s topic.
 - In the fourth column write any comments you may have.
 - If you need more space you can always take notes on a separate piece of paper or write in the margins of your book.
 - Don’t hesitate to write down your own stories and experiences. You can share them with the group during your discussions.
- The instructions for that month will include:
 - The word for that month.
 - For example, if the word is “challenge” the words you are looking for would include challenge, challenges, challenged, challenging.
 - Any variants of that word that are excluded will be listed.
 - The pages within the scope of the challenge, that is to say, those pages that are in-bounds for the challenge.
 - Typically the first few pages, the notes, and any errata at the back of the book will be excluded from the challenge.



When the group meets that month each man will share the number of words he found. The group leader will reveal the actual number of words that were in the book. The man who is closest to the actual number, without going over, is declared the winner of that month’s challenge.



How to Memorize Scripture

Scripture memorization is an important tool for spiritual growth. The ministry has developed packets of verse cards to enable people to learn verses that will help them share their faith and become more like Christ. These cards are grouped by subject or "topic" and comprise what we call the Topical Memory System. The following article references these topics in its suggestions for effective memorization.

As you start to memorize a verse . . .

- Read in your Bible the context of each verse you memorize.
- Try to gain a clear understanding of what each verse actually means. You may want to read the verse in other Bible translations or paraphrases or perhaps consult a commentary-after you've done your personal study!
- Read the verse through several times thoughtfully, aloud or in a whisper. This will help you grasp the verse as a whole. Each time you read it, say the topic, reference, verse, and then the reference again.
- Discuss the verse with God in prayer, and continue to seek His help for success in Scripture memory.

While you are memorizing the verse . . .

- Work on saying the verse aloud as much as possible.
- Learn the topic and reference first.
- After learning the topic and reference, learn the first phrase of the verse. Once you have learned the topic, reference, and the first phrase and have repeated them several times, continue adding more phrases after you can quote correctly what you have already learned.
- Think about how the verse applies to you and your daily circumstances.
- Always include the topic and reference as part of the verse as you learn and review it.

After you can quote correctly the topic, reference, verse, and reference again . . .

- Writing the verse out can be helpful. This deepens the impression in your mind.
- Find a friend to check you on the verse. Better yet, memorize together!
- Review the verse immediately after learning it, and repeat it frequently in the next few days. This is crucial for fixing the verse firmly in your mind because of the tendency to forget something recently learned.
- Review! Review! Review! Repetition is the best way to engrave the verses on your memory.



Meditation ABC's

WHY meditate on Scripture?

We can read the Bible but still forget it. We can study it but misunderstand the meaning. We can even memorize Scripture but make incorrect applications. However, meditation enables us to accurately move God's Word from our heads to our hearts.

WHAT characterizes biblical meditation?

Chewing: Meditation is like a cow chewing her cud. She brings up previously digested food for renewed grinding. Similarly, meditation is "chewing" on biblical thoughts deliberately and thoroughly, mulling them over in our minds and hearts.

Analyzing: Meditation is the art of taking a good, long look at a portion of Scripture the way a craftsman gazes at a dazzling jewel. He turns the stone from angle to angle, polishing the diamond to reflect all its light and beauty.

Action: Meditation moves words into thoughts and then thoughts into action. It involves planning ahead with definite actions in mind regarding a decision, responsibility, or relationship in our lives.

HOW should I meditate?

Take a verse or short Scripture passage and meditate on it by using the following steps. Use each vowel of the English alphabet as a reminder for each step.

- A** Ask questions about the passage
- E** Emphasize various words
- I** In your own words (paraphrase)
- O** Other passages (cross-references)
- U** Use the passage (application)

ASK: You can sort through the information in a passage by asking who, what, when, where, why, and how questions about it. For example, Isaiah 26:3 reads, "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you." You could ask, "To whom does God give perfect peace?" "What attitude toward God do I need to have in my mind?" and, "Why does God provide this perfect peace?"

EMPHASIZE: To emphasize different words or phrases, fix your focus on small parts of the verse and how they relate to the verse as a whole.

For Isaiah 26:3 you could emphasize these words and think of their implications: "You will keep in perfect peace," "You will keep in perfect peace," and so on.

IN your own words: Exciting insights come from rewriting a verse or passage in your own words. You could paraphrase Isaiah 26:3 this way: "You promise freedom from worry to the person who trusts you completely without any doubts in her mind."



OTHER passages: Try to think of other passages that relate directly to the meaning of the verse you are meditating on. For Isaiah 26:3, you might think of 1 Peter 5:7: "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

USE the passage: Relate the verse to your own circumstances. Again considering Isaiah 26:3, ask, "What does it mean to have perfect peace? Am I experiencing perfect peace today?"

Read Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1 for additional insights into the benefits of meditation.



NOTES: