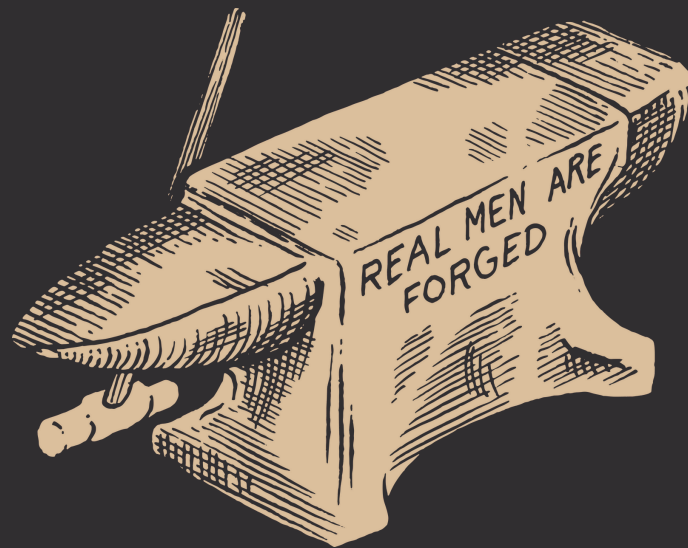


REAL MEN

ESTD **MMXVI** 2016



A Guide to Leading Your Own Real Men Group

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WHAT IS REAL MEN?

At Real Men, we believe that it all starts with the men. That's why our tagline is, "We build men up to bless women and children." If God's sons worship and obey Jesus Christ and live by the power of the Holy Spirit, the domino effect will see marriages, families, and entire cultures transformed by the power of the Gospel.

What that looks like practically is that we meet weekly for a men's small group that follows along with Pastor Mark Driscoll's manhood messages. As we meet, we open our Bibles to learn and open our lives to love. We believe that the Word of God isn't just for us to read, it's to be obeyed, and living in community with fellow believers is one of the ways God the Father allows us to learn and grow to become more like His Son Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

REAL MEN BRANDING

Real Men is a sub-brand of RealFaith™, the global ministry of Pastor Mark Driscoll and family dedicated to getting Bible teaching out to the nations.

The Real Men brand can be used to promote men's events around the world that embody the values and ethos of the brand, but we request that any Real Men gatherings adhere to the following principles:

- Any gatherings using the 'Real Men' moniker align with the ministry's core doctrine, as found here: RealFaith.com/beliefs.
- Pastor Mark Driscoll's sermons are used in their entirety and are not edited or altered in any way.
- RealFaith resources are not used for sale or profit.
- If the Real Men branding is used, the brand is visually represented artfully, following the brand standards.

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

Before launching a Real Men group, we strongly encourage your senior pastor and/or senior leader to champion the ministry and allocate resources to its success (including time, talent, and treasure). Without top-down support, any men's ministry has little chance of being successful. The reason Real Men is successful at The Trinity Church – where Pastor Mark is the Senior Founding Pastor – is because he makes men a top priority. If you are not the senior pastor and/or senior leader, we would encourage you to engage them and get them on board before launching.

HOW TO HOST A REAL MEN NIGHT

INVITE

Invite your friends, neighbors, family, coworkers, and enemies, because they all need Jesus whether they know Him or not! Explain that you'd like to start a weekly sermon-based small group based on Pastor Mark Driscoll's sermons, and then start planning.

GATHER

Whether at someone's house, a public place, or meeting virtually, meet weekly to discuss the sermon and what God taught you through it. The great thing about Real Men is that you don't all have to be in the same location. You can talk about sermon takeaways, what stood out to you in the study guide, or what God taught you in His Word that week. Focus on personal application as much as possible.

SERMON

You can host a viewing party to watch RealFaith Live and discuss it all at once, or you can watch it separately and gather to discuss it at another time that works for the group.

GET INTO GOD'S WORD

In addition to watching the sermon, make sure you and all group members have a study guide from [RealFaith.com](https://www.RealFaith.com) for the current sermon series. There are questions for personal reflection as well as for groups that can guide your devotional times throughout the week. You can also sign up for Daily Devos at [RealFaith.com/devotion-series](https://www.RealFaith.com/devotion-series).

PRAY

When you gather, share prayer requests, pray for each other on the spot, and continue praying throughout the week. Prayer is a great unifying force that God gives us to strengthen His family.

SHARE

Send us photos, videos, testimonies, and updates of how your group is doing to hello@realfaith.com. You might even be featured on our RealFaith Live show!

REAL MEN LEADERS MANUAL

1. YOUR ROLE AS A TABLE LEADER

At the table, you are primarily a friendly facilitator to help your men participate so they can build relationships, understand and apply God's Word, and move forward in their walk with the Lord.

You are also a:

- Leader ("leadership is influence") who takes responsibility for your group
- Shepherd who welcomes your men, cares for them individually, prays for them, connects with them, and fosters an atmosphere that encourages men to connect with each other beyond their time at your table
- Organizer who comes prepared

At the table, you are not meant to be a Biblical scholar, counselor, parent, crisis preventer, boss, judge, or entertainer.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Here is a sample “order of business” for leading a table discussion; tailor it as you see fit:

- **Welcome any new men**
 - **Ask them to introduce themselves**
 - **Ask them for their contact information**
- **Pass along any relevant announcements and news items from the leader huddle**
- **Follow up on last week’s prayer requests**
- **Ask if, before you go any further, anyone needs prayer for something right now (laying on of hands when appropriate)**
- **Occasionally – especially when you have new men – remind your group of the confidential nature of the table discussion and prayer requests**
- **“What are your takeaways from tonight’s teaching?”**
 - **Table questions**
 - **Discussion**
 - **“How can tonight’s teaching help build up men to bless women and children?”**

- **Wrapping up: “How can we pray for you this week?”**
- **Prayer huddle: Encourage each man to pray for the man to their right. The leader or apprentice closes out the prayer. Having each man pray is an amazing way to activate the men. This is powerful for multiple reasons.**
 - **Prayer is powerful and needed**
 - **Prayer should be what we turn to first**
 - **Prayer should be done by every man**

3. CONFIDENTIALITY: WHAT IS SHARED HERE STAYS HERE

Every few weeks, at the start of your table time, take a minute to emphasize (and ask your men to affirm) the importance of confidentiality. Guys are more likely to join in the discussion if they believe that what they say won't leave the table.

4. BREAKING THE ICE

If it's early in the semester, or you have an influx of new guys, consider some icebreaking questions that might build familiarity and comfort. Icebreakers can run the gamut from the useful (e.g., “How long have you been coming to Real Men, and what brought you here?”) to the irrelevant (“What was the make, model and year of your first car, and what was one dumb thing that you did with it?”), with the objective of loosening up the group and encouraging guys to talk in a safe atmosphere.

5. BALANCED PARTICIPATION

It's natural for some men to engage more than others, but, as a leader, you can help balance your table talk.

If one of your men seems to be dominating the conversation try this:

- “Name, thanks for your good words. Let's see what some of the other guys have to say.”

For men who haven't joined in:

- “Name, I'd like to hear from you. What do you think about (or what's been your experience with) that?”

Don't be afraid to call on men and ask for their participation. Announce in the beginning that you will call on the men to share.

6. THE SILENT TREATMENT

Silence can be a powerful verbal tool, one that you might use in leading your group. If you pose a question to your men, and no one responds right away, don't give up. Be stubborn and wait them out - eventually someone will say something. If we find ourselves doing all the talking around the table as a leader, we have failed. Silence is sometimes necessary to move the ball down the field.

7. BAD DOCTRINE

It's not a common problem, but leaders should be ready to respond when a table member misstates a Bible verse, interprets it out of context, or draws a conclusion that conflicts with conservative Christian doctrine. In a RealFaith devotion, "Closed-Handed vs. Open-Handed Issues," [1] Pastor Mark distinguishes between (a) settled Christian doctrine that is not up for discussion (closed-handed) and (b) beliefs and interpretations about which Christians can disagree and that can be discussed (open-handed).

In contrast, if a member is on the wrong side of a closed-handed issue, you should be vigilant in responding, so that the misstatement doesn't gain traction and cause confusion at your table.

You don't have to be a Biblical scholar to recognize settled doctrine and statements that conflict with it. Quick answers are at your fingertips at another RealFaith resource, "What Do Christians Believe About ____?" [2]

[1] realfaith.com/daily-devotions/closed-handed-vs-open-handedissues/

[2] realfaith.com/what-christians-believe/

8. DEALING WITH PROBLEM GUYS

On rare occasions, you might have a guy at your table whose issues transcend talking too much or too little or not offering a prayer request. He might be overly negative, disrespectful of the speaker or a table member, or otherwise disruptive.

To quote Pastor Mark, “Connect before you correct.” Your first corrective words to him need to be patient and kind. In the presence of your group, explain to him how his words or actions are affecting the other guys and depriving them of a good experience.

If that doesn't work, ask him to accompany you from the table, and ask a pastor or leader to assist.

9. HELPING GUYS WHO HAVE PROBLEMS

A guy at your table might not be a problem, but he might have one. If you believe he needs immediate professional help, is in danger, or might be a threat to himself or others, send your apprentice or another man at the table – or go directly – to grab a pastor or director to assist.

10. CLOCK MANAGEMENT

Conversations can go in many different directions and for different lengths, and managing the time is an important function of leading a table. Set the expectations with your men at the beginning of a stopping point where you will start prayer. We must stay on time and on target. If you struggle with keeping an eye on the clock, appoint your apprentice or one of your men to let you know when wrap-up time rolls around.

11. PRAYER REQUESTS

As a leader, it is important to lead your men into prayer. This can be challenging at times if men are not accustomed to praying or being prayed for. Try to do these three things:

- Give a 45-minute head start at the beginning: “As we talk around the table, be thinking about how we can pray for you this week.”
- Ask that the prayer request “be for or about you” (or a member of your family) concerning something that “you really care about.”
- State our objective that every man would leave the table knowing he had been prayed for.

Stay intentional and persistent with prayer and leading men through prayer.

12. PRAYER SPECIFICITY

An enduring objective of Real Men is that, every week, every man will leave the table knowing that he's been prayed for and will continue to be prayed for in the week to come.

As a leader, you can help make that happen by challenging your men to be specific in their prayers. Vague prayer requests:

- are hard for the other men to lift up with passion and confidence**
- make it difficult to track and recognize God's goodness and faithfulness**
- can be a sign of shame or guilt**
- can signal a lack of trust for the group**
- can be a cop-out for men who won't own up to their sins or needs**

Don't let your men off the hook. When a man offers up a bland request - e.g., "pray for my family" - you owe it to him and the rest of the group to ask him to be more specific, e.g., "How can we pray for your family?"

Jesus modeled that for us in Matthew 20:30-34, when two blind men shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" Jesus replied, "What do you want me to do for you?" Only when they got specific - "Lord, we want to see!" - did Jesus express His compassion for them and grant their prayer request.

13. CONTINUITY AND TRUST

In your absence, who would lead your group? The importance of selecting and developing an apprentice is magnified by this: A substitute leader who is not a part of your group cannot be expected to bring the connection, trust, and prayer history that bind your men as comrades.

If you do not have an apprentice who is equipped to lead if needed, making that a priority is good for you and good for your men.

14. THE ROLE OF YOUR APPRENTICE

After selecting and initially mentoring your apprentice, delegate to him an area of responsibility - e.g., taking attendance, following up with new guys, leading the closing prayer, or writing down the prayer requests. This adds value to the group and will help prepare him to lead.

While apprentices are encouraged to participate in any leader huddles or meetings before Real Men begins, they should also keep an eye on the clock. When men start to arrive on-site, apprentices should be out front to welcome first-timers and lead them to a table.

16. FOLLOWING UP WITH FIRST-TIME GUYS

How you follow up with a first-timer will determine your effectiveness as a table lead.

The next day, reconnect with him via text, email, or phone to thank him for coming, ask him about his experience at Real Men, and encourage him to return next week.

Bring up something he said in the discussion that you thought was impactful, or mention his prayer request and let him know that you are praying for him (better yet, pray for him while you have him on the phone).

If you sense any hesitance about coming back, point out that he's welcome to try another table, and that you would be happy to introduce him to another leader whose group might be a better fit.

17. LEADER RESOURCES

There are many ways to grow and improve in your leadership abilities and strengths. Remaining open and coachable is the first step to growth.

Here are some ways to continue improving:

- Prayer - Ask God to help you lead as He would like, and ask Him to reveal areas of opportunity with the men who are sitting with you.
- Ask your Leadership Team for ways to improve or how to get over obstacles you face.
- Ask a fellow leader whom you respect and who is leading well.
- Ask your Leadership Team for resources on leadership.
 - Books by John Maxwell (e.g., "Developing the Leader Within You" and "Developing the Leaders Around You")

18. THE LEADER'S ROLE AS INVITER

Everyone at Real Men should be alert to opportunities to invite men to join us, and that's especially true for table leaders. The qualities that help leaders be effective with the men at their table are also valuable in connecting with men who have never attended. At work ... in our daily lives ... be ready to tell men about Real Men, invite them to join us, and offer to help them connect with a group.

19. BEYOND THE MEETING

This is where your role expands from "friendly facilitator" to "disciple" and "leader of men." Being an effective Real Men table leader includes habits and skills honed away from the table and the gathering.

Here are a few:

- **Pray for every one of your men, every day.**
- **Keep a journal of your men's prayer requests: track their progress and how God is working in their lives.**
- **Call, email or text your men as appropriate to their situation, your relationship with them, or as the Holy Spirit calls you.**
- **Track your men's attendance and check in with guys who have missed a couple of weeks.**
- **Practice asking good, open-ended questions that start and sustain dialogue.**
- **Practice not saying anything or include a one-second pause before speaking.**
- **Practice refraining from banter.**
- **Attend a worship service every week.**
- **Be in the Word every day.**
- **Be in prayer throughout the day.**
- **Be in a spirit of worship throughout the day.**
- **Before you arrive for Real Men, ask God to bless your group, your discussion, and your leadership.**
- **Remember that God is in charge of your table; you simply lead the discussion.**

DIGITAL RESOURCES TO GET YOU STARTED

If you're looking to get started with a foundational Real Men sermon series, we'd recommend the following progression:

1. Real Men 101 - Act Like a Man:

<https://realfaith.com/series/act-like-a-man-real-men-101/>

2. Spiritual Disciplines For Regular Guys:

<https://realfaith.com/series/spiritual-disciplines-for-regular-guys/>

3. Real Men 201 - Dominion:

<https://realfaith.com/series/dominion/>

4. Spirit-filled Men: <https://realfaith.com/series/spirit-filled-men/>

PLANNING A TRIP TO TRINITY CHURCH

Quarterly, RealFaith and Trinity Church will plan a time when pastors and ministry leaders can visit, shadow the leaders at Real Men for the evening, and learn more about the inner workings of how the ministry operates. For more information on planning a trip to Scottsdale, AZ, email hello@realfaith.com.



For more resources, visit
RealFaith.com/real-men