

# CURRICULUM

## Getting the Most Out of This Curriculum

We all know discipleship is important. But maybe you aren't sure exactly how to communicate God's life-giving message in a way that will speak to men's hearts. How do you make it relevant and personal?

This study on *Personalizing the Great Commission* will help you identify and meet the challenges of discipling men here at the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. You'll learn how to get beyond just treating symptoms of sin in men's lives. We've provided systemic solutions that God can use to ignite a passionate commitment to Christ for the long haul:

- Thought-provoking discussion questions and interactive exercises will make your job as a facilitator easy, as men in your small group grow in relationship with each other and in their desire to share their faith.
- Additional readings and exercises will help to cement each week's lesson and provide and lead to further thought and discussion.
- Our "Reach 3" wallet cards will serve as a handy reference guide for how to reach men with a credible offer of Jesus Christ.
- "Weekly One-Hour Accountability" wallet cards serve as a convenient reminder of how men can stay spiritually on-track in every aspect of their lives.
- Our "Three-Minute Testimony" exercise will help your men become confident in sharing their own faith story with other men.

### **Helping You Gather and Motivate Men: Make the Case for Discipleship**

When discussing this curriculum with men you'd like to see get involved, be sure to focus on the vision and not the activity. This is not about a 12 session study to keep men busy – it's about seeing men become an active part in God's plan to transform the world for his glory.

We've provided a one-minute preview "commercial" on the DVD that you can use in group sessions to help motivate men to be involved. In addition, the following information should be helpful in the one-on-one conversations that you and other members of your leadership team have with men.

### **The Problem**

There are 108 million men in America age 15 and older. 66 million of these men make no profession of faith in Jesus Christ. This means that 42 million do, but of these 42 million only 6

million men are involved in any kind of discipleship or spiritual formation beyond simply attending church. That's only 1 out of every 18 men.

Can you imagine taking 18 random men to a baseball field and giving them bats, balls, gloves, and helmets but only having one man who has ever even seen a baseball game? It would be chaos. That's what we have in our culture today because only 1 out of every 18 men is learning anything about what it means to be a Godly man.

### **The Need**

The church desperately needs what disciplined men have to offer. Men who love and follow Jesus become leaders, build strong marriages, and invest in their children. They donate more money, volunteer for more service, make a bigger kingdom impact in the community, and they invite more visitors to the church. In short, reaching our men is a battle plan for success.

### **Communicating a Vision**

Men are tired of doing things "just because they should" or for no apparent reason. Men want to be involved in something bigger than themselves. We have cheated men by hiding the incredible adventure of changing the world through Christ behind boring bulletin announcements.

Men do what they want to do, and they will want to do things they see as valuable, worthwhile, or bringing happiness. If you want to recruit and hold onto disciples, start with a powerful vision and a big challenge. Imagine what it was like for rural fishermen to hear Jesus' call to "make disciples of all nations!"

Now it's your turn to present the vision in such a way that the Holy Spirit can call men to passionate commitment. Invite them to join a cause that literally means the difference between eternal life and death for hundreds and thousands of men and their families.

Think of imagery that appeals to men and that will inspire them to action. You might choose a name or slogan that challenges men. If you do, make it action-oriented rather than descriptive:

"Training Men for the Battle"

"Brothers in the Great Adventure"

"Men of Faith"

"Iron Men"

"Band of Brothers"

OBJECTIVE

**OBJECTIVE**

By the end of this lesson, your men will be able to . . .

- Name the problem and the solution to the moral problems of our time.
- Name other ways, besides teaching, that men can disciple others.
- Understand why the Great Commission is important.
- Understand that discipling is for everyone.



Show the DVD message on Disc 1 entitled “*The Great Omission*”



Ask your group, “What is the ‘big idea’ of this lesson?”

**THE BIG IDEA** 108/66/42/36/6



Ask your group, “What do these numbers represent?”



Use the discussion questions provided in the “Action Plan” booklet to help your men discuss and apply what they have heard.



Distribute the “Reach 3” cards included with your curriculum and ask your men to write down their three names. Tell your men to read the article “An Engaging Offer of Christ for Every Man in America” and to hang on to the cards for next week’s session.


**NOTE:** Many of the sessions include Supplemental Reading and Application for participants who want to go deeper with a particular topic. Feel free to use these sections in a way that fits the maturity and commitment of the members of your group.

## OBJECTIVE

**OBJECTIVE**

By the end of this lesson, your men will . . .

- Understand the *Reach 3* strategy.
- Be prepared to pray and reach out to three men in the weeks ahead.

 The first section of this session is called “Digging In.” Read the scripture passages aloud with your men and discuss the questions. Then explore the “Reach 3 Challenge” and discuss the questions provided.