

Lutheran
Building
Men in
Men for
Mission
Christ

We have a challenge! One generous donor has stepped forward with a gift-a \$10,000 challenge toward our ministry. See page 3.

foundations

➡ Order your Master Builders Bible for Men on page 5.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR MEN: CONNECTING MEN

Like all people, men are desperate for connection. We are seeking meaning in our walk of faith. We seek connection in our church, in our homes, in our work, in our prayer, and in scripture. Connecting men to the wisdom and instruction as well as beauty in the Bible is a task that is simple, just not easy. As you prepare to shape a Bible study, especially a study for men, here are some simple goals you may want to consider in order to create a well rounded time in the Word.

GOAL: Your first goal is to connect guys to scripture. I have seen too many Bible studies that make the leader the king and the student the serf. In this paradigm, we are teaching our men that they need a leader to tell them what the scripture says. We are removing from them the imperative to read the Bible by making them feel inadequate to the task.

CONSIDER: Instead of doing a bunch of research and finding out special meaning and words in the text, come open to what the Bible may have to instruct us during the study. Teach the participants to look for the DNA footprints of covenant and kingdom as found in scripture. Covenant is the gospel, a word of comfort and identity; Kingdom is the conviction of the word. Here we read the possibilities God shows us in the text. Teach them to seek these two strands in the Word and you are teaching them to read the Bible for themselves.

GOAL: Your second goal is to connect guys to God. The study of scripture is not a scientific exploration of words and phrases but the seeking of



God's movement in our lives. This is more than talking about God, it's talking to God.

CONSIDER: Avoid prayer as a bookend to your study. Instead, make prayer a constant thread throughout your time. Take time during the study to invoke God's name, praying for what is happening in the moment. If someone brings up a tough situation, point of view or otherwise, pray for wisdom and direction. In this, we model prayer as a part of our walk.

GOAL: Your third goal is to connect men to what they think, not what you think. Your work is to listen more than talk, ask questions more than speak. Giving answers is easy. So is giving advice and trying to step in and solve the problem. Men are seeking connections, not answers. Men are seeking understanding, not advice. Men are seeking partners, not gurus.

CONSIDER: Use questions more than statements. By using probing questions we may go a little deeper into answers beyond even what perhaps you thought would be discussed. Avoid using questions that merely call for a yes or no response, or the regurgitation of memorized facts. Use questions to have participants gain clarity. Help connect your men to a thoughtful answer, don't just give it to them.

GOAL: Your fourth goal is to connect men to the use of scripture and their everyday life. Create plans and/or challenges as a part of the study. You want to see the study bear fruit outside the usual meeting time.

(continued on page 6)

This newsletter is sent to all who contribute to the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission.

Your contribution ensures that *foundations* will continue to be sent to you.

It is our desire that *foundations* will be a source of personal spiritual growth, as well as a source of information for those involved in congregational men's ministries.

Please drop us a line or e-mail us, and share your stories of men's ministry that we can use in this newsletter. We're also interested in knowing what topics and issues you'd like to see featured.

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*Were not our hearts burning within
us while he [Jesus] was talking to
us on the road, while he was
opening the scriptures to us?*

Luke 24:32 (NRSV)



What we are known for

There are few things that have encouraged, challenged and helped me to grow in faith more than the small group Bible studies I have been involved with. So I was very interested when the first pastor I worked with as a young youth director in 1976 invited me to what was to be the beginning of a life-long adventure. It was a workshop on small group ministry; I had no idea how it would change my life and ministry.

The organization sponsoring the event was Serendipity and the leader was Lyman Coleman. By the end of two days, my pastor and I experienced a sense of community like we never had before—with Methodists, Presbyterians, and Catholics. And for me, the adventure continued.

Serendipity is a style of small group study that allows for group members to get to know each other as they grow in relationship with God. As the years went by I continued to see the power of this kind of study not only in my own life but in my ministry with young people and adults. In the late 1980's, Lyman asked me to be a part of the team that was writing the study questions for the Serendipity Bible for Small Groups. It was one of the most exciting opportunities I've ever had.

After I became Director of Lutheran Men in Mission in 1993, I noticed that if men weren't using the materials LMM produced, many were using Serendipity for their small groups. Lyman suggested that we consider adapting the Serendipity Bible as "our Bible", and that became the spark we needed as LMM leaders to form a vision for a resource that combined leadership material and Bible study. The big question was how to fund it.

Thankfully, we had some very generous donors that helped us invest in Bibles, and the Serendipity Bible became the *Master Builders Bible for Men*. That was just over ten years and 52,000 Bibles ago. In fact, we recently ran out of them and have produced 5,000 more! With the printing of more Bibles, we are renewing our LMM emphasis of: 1) training leaders, and 2) getting men into Bible study.

If you don't have the *Master Builders Bible for Men*, I invite you to get one and do 3 things:

1. Take a look at the Leaders Supplement to guide you on how to start an effective men's ministry in your congregation.
2. Use the questions in the *Master Builders Bible for Men* for your own daily reflection.
3. With a few other men, take a look at one of the many courses for men found in the middle section. Along with the practical tips for leading Bible study that Jay Gamelin has offered in the cover article of this issue of *foundations*, you'll also find a wealth of information about small group ministry in the Leader Supplement of the *Master Builders Bible for Men*.

If we are known for one thing, it's our Bible and how we get men into the scriptures. I can't think of anything better for LMM to be known for.

Doug Haugen, executive director
Lutheran Men in Mission
Doug.Haugen@elca.org

BE THE CHURCH: WORD & YOUNG MEN

Many voices in western faith formation are providing best practices on how to give Bible study a facelift; making it trendy and cool so younger generations will line up at the door. Other voices encourage applying subtle guilt to get young adults in the door. And then there are those that would have you lure younger people in with coffee, a few well-worn couches and a stealthy hip name, then quietly sneak Bible study and prayer in—gotcha! Well, not really. None of these practices is sustainable.

In conversations with young men from coast-to-coast, many indicate they are skeptical of marketing and guilt from the church. There is hunger for substance over style, overlaid with a desire to stop 'doing' church, and start 'being' the church.

Relationships

Younger guys may hesitate to attend a published event. Personally invite them to Bible study, but also to do life together. Doing life together allows for scripture to be lived out and applied as you serve together and experience life together. As Jay Gamelin mentions on the cover article, playing together is important.

Recommendations

Guys learn differently. Some are book junkies, some listen to several podcasts a day, while others need face-to-face discussion in a small group. One young man recently said, "I don't read for fun. But if a trusted buddy recommends something, I'll read it." There is no substitute for scripture itself, but if God uses something in



your life to draw your attention and enliven your faith, tell people about it!

Relevance

Many younger guys still have their student Bible from confirmation. Get guy-friendly Bibles into their hands that are easy to navigate, like the *Master Builders Bible for Men*. Guys are creatures of habit, and if they are able to easily use something in their daily life, it will stick and get used. Swap a deck

of cards on poker night with a deck of ManTalk Cards from www.vibrantfaith.org that will lead to kingdom conversations through nonthreatening yet relevant personal sharing.

Recognizable

Don't be a stealth Bible study. It may be called a Life Group, a Guys Night, or a Fish Fry, but make sure the Word and prayer has an unapologetic place in it. Be the church that is authentic, honest, and unafraid to be immersed in the everyday lives of young men.

Now go be the church... and take us young guys with you!

Kyle Pedersen

Kyle Pedersen is a brother, a son, and walk-along-sider who is journeying to the foot of the cross with an amazing crew! When not doing his day job in Des Moines, IA, he serves as a Young Men's Specialist with Lutheran Men in Mission.

We have a challenge! One generous donor has stepped forward with a gift- a \$10,000 challenge toward our ministry with the *Master Builders Bible for Men*. Every gift you share by July 15 will help us to meet that challenge!

Crew Chief (\$10,000+)

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Thanks to the donors listed who shared gifts of \$250 or more with Lutheran Men in Mission between February 1 and April 6, 2011. Please refer any additions or corrections to Kim Moseley at (800) 638-3522, Ex. 2595, or e-mail at Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org

Welcome Lutheran men to our on-line store!

Over 30 apparel and promotional items from which to choose at:

lmm.promoshop.com





Here is a sample of the Bible studies you'll find for men in the "60 Felt-Need Courses" (Beginner and Advanced) provided in LMM's Master Builder's Bible for Men. It's just one of many men's ministry resources you'll find in this great study Bible. Use it with your men's group and see what you think.

Masculinity: Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up? (Option 1: Beginner)

The Divine Jesus

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

Have you ever tried to imagine what it would be like to have been Mary or Joseph? It's important to realize that although a Jewish couple were forbidden to have sexual relations during engagement, they were referred to as "husband and wife"—and their relationship could be broken only by divorce.

Optional Ice-Breaker Questions:

- What do you know about your parents' courtship?
- Do you know how your parents picked your name? What does your name mean?

1. If you had been Mary when she found out she was pregnant, what would be the first thing to pop into your mind?

- ☐ No one will believe me, especially Joseph.
- ☐ What will people say?
- ☐ My parents will kick me out!
- ☐ Surely God must know what he's doing.

2. If you had been Joseph, her fiancé, what would be the first thing to come into your mind?

- ☐ There must be some other guy.
- ☐ That's it, we're through!
- ☐ She's never lied to me before—maybe she's telling the truth.
- ☐ Surely God must know what he's doing.

3. Did these incidents likely strain or strengthen Joseph and Mary's future marriage relationship?

4. When you were growing up, who was your most significant role model?

- ☐ my father
- ☐ my mother
- ☐ a relative or family friend
- ☐ a sports figure
- ☐ an entertainment celebrity
- ☐ a teacher or coach
- ☐ my pastor or church leader
- ☐ other: _____

5. Jesus was called Immanuel—"God with us." How do you feel about viewing Jesus as a role model?

- ☐ His divine nature makes him too different than me.
- ☐ His divine nature makes him the ultimate role model.
- ☐ He's the Savior, not a role model.

6. When did Jesus become a warm person to you—more than just a name?

- ☐ several years ago
- ☐ when I gave my life to him as a child or youth
- ☐ only recently
- ☐ I'm not at that point yet.

7. In all honesty, what difference does following Jesus make in your everyday life?

- ☐ a great deal
- ☐ quite a lot
- ☐ some
- ☐ not a whole lot
- ☐ none at all

8. How would you like the group to pray for you?

60 Course Outlines provided by Serendipity House. Copyright © 1988, 1996, 2008 by Serendipity House, Nashville, TN 37234-0175.

GOING BEYOND BIBLE STUDY

Nationwide studies conducted by Barna Group as part of the Maximum Faith Project between 2005 and 2010 indicate that there are several barriers to overcome before many people are likely to persevere and maximize their connection with God “long enough to become the mature Christ-followers and world changers that they are meant to be.”

An excerpt from the book *Maximum Faith*, by researcher George Barna, 2011:

Obstacle 3: Activity

“Mired in a culture that rewards hard work and busyness, it’s not surprising that tens of millions of self-identified Christians have confused religious activity with spiritual significance and depth. For instance, four out of ten self-identified Christian adults (39%) have participated in a combination of three ‘normal’ religious

activities in the past week (i.e., attending church services, praying, reading the Bible). But far fewer have engaged in another trio of deeper faith expressions: less than one out of ten have talked about their faith with a non-Christian, fasted for religious purposes, and had an extended time of spiritual reflection during the past week. Various spiritual disciplines—including solitude, sacrifice, acts of service, silence, and scriptural meditation—are also infrequently practiced.”

Maximum Faith, based on several decades of research, describes a ten-stop journey to work through barriers and obstacles to transformation, wholeness, and maturity as Christians.

www.maximumfaith.com

www.barna.org

BUILDING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Dubuque, IA, has used the *Master Builders Bible for Men* as a tool for our Men’s small group meeting since it was first published.

The meetings are held twice a month on the first and third Wednesday at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque. There are currently six individuals that meet on a regular basis, with additions and subtractions from time to time. The six regulars have been together for the last five years or more and have benefited from the Christian community that they have formed. It has been a community that has supported each



other as well as others in need. Small groups are an important answer to developing Christian communities that provide growth and support.

The men’s Bible study group currently has several denominations represented and it has never been exclusively a Lutheran men’s group. All of the members of the group are leaders in their respective congregations and the community.

For information about Lord of Life’s men’s ministry, contact Larry Croghan at croghanlarry@mchsi.com.



The Perfect Study Bible for Men of All Ages

The *Master Builders Bible for Men*, Second Edition, is a special New International Version Bible that provides you with:

- 20,000 study questions.
- Bible stories with study questions.
- Ready to use Bible studies for men.
- And more!

It’s an invaluable tool for helping men of all ages connect God’s Word with their lives and faith. Order enough for your group, as gifts for young men, and to use as an outreach tool for visitors and men in your community.

Price: \$20.00/Bible (plus handling/shipping) Item No: 1574941526 or \$15/Bible (plus handling/shipping) if 10 or more are ordered.

Order at 800-638-3522, ext.2580 or online at www.elca.org/resources.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR MEN: CONNECTING MEN

(continued from cover)

CONSIDER: At the end of each study, make a plan or challenge for each member of the study to seek in the week. Perhaps it is something that has come up from the study or perhaps it is simply to be in the Word that week. Make these plans and follow up at your next meeting holding them accountable to their plan. Connecting their everyday walk with the study and group is key to building commitment.

GOAL: Your fifth goal is to have fun. Bible study can be an intense time so perhaps build in times of enjoyment and fun. Something does not always have to be serious in order for it to be fulfilling and meaningful.

CONSIDER: Plan for every 4th gathering to do something just to hang out together. Meet outside the usual space, perhaps invite people



over for a barbecue, go for a hike in the woods, or take one another hunting or fishing. A great suggestion is to have the guys meet where one of them works. Connecting to a guy on their own turf can help bring the spiritual into their everyday.

Helping connect men with scripture through Bible study is a mix of art, skill, practice, risk, and personal humility. It involves connecting with a group as a leader by being a careful listener, respecting their questions and life situations, and, perhaps most important of all, seeing yourself as both a leader and learner at the same time. After all, God is speaking to you through scripture, too!

Jay Gamelin is a husband and dad. He also serves as pastor to Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Lexington, SC. His passion is learning and teaching a discipling culture in churches. He loves movies, chopping wood, ketchup, and running. Questions can be sent to jay@jaygamelin.com.

DO YOU NEED A WILL?

In talking with a number of friends of Lutheran Men in Mission, we have discovered many do not have a will, or their will has not been updated for a number of years and, therefore, does not reflect their present wishes and circumstances.

Do you need a will? Is it important that it is current? The answer is a definite “Yes!” if you wish all the funds, belongings, and assets you have accumulated distributed as you desire and not as someone else, usually the state, determines. The answer is also a definite “Yes!” if you wish to avoid problems for your heirs and to save on costs.

And the answer is a definite “Yes!” if you wish to include a bequest, which we hope you do, to Lutheran Men in Mission, your church, or favorite charity. A bequest has been rightly called “the

last act of stewardship”. It is a final opportunity to express thanks to a good and loving God for God’s many gifts in our lives.

Because we feel it is important for everyone to have a current will, whether a bequest is included for LMM or not, we are making available, without cost or obligation, an excellent brochure on wills. This very readable folder will answer many of the questions you may have about wills. It also offers guidance on how to go about the process of having a will written—a process that needn’t be difficult or costly.

You can obtain your free copy of this helpful folder on wills by calling our LMM office at (773) 380-2566 or (800) 638-3522, ext. 2566. Request your free copy today—you’ll be glad you did!

Clip, Complete, and Mail to:

Please send me, without cost or obligation, a copy of the helpful folder on creating a will.

Doug Haugen,
Executive Director
Lutheran Men in Mission
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago IL 60631

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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A number of years ago while at the top of his career, NBA Hall of Fame member Charles Barkley was asked, “What is it like to be a role model?” Charles answered in his normal Barkley-esque fashion, “I am not a role model. Just because I dunk a basketball does not mean that I should raise your kids.” Sir Charles, as he was called, was trying to shirk his responsibility as a public celebrity and an NBA superstar, who people, and especially kids, looked to as a role model—as a way to live their life.

I think of this quote often because we are all role models every minute of every day, whether we want to be or not. Obviously, we are a role model to our kids and our grandkids, but we are also a role model to our friends, neighbors, people at work, people at church, drivers we share the road with, strangers, etc. In fact, we are a role model to each and every person we interact with—knowingly and unknowingly—each and every day. We cannot shirk that role and responsibility as much as we might want to by simply saying, “I am not a role model”.

Being a Christian calls us to live to a higher standard and to be an exemplary role model in life. Have you’ve seen t-shirts emblazoned with WWJD or bracelets with the same four letters? The message there is “What Would Jesus Do?” But should we not ask the more important question, WDJWMTD or “What Does Jesus Want Me To Do?” This is the kind of role model we should strive to be in the present.

As we grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, we must keep asking ourselves each and every day, WDJWMTD? What kind of role model does Jesus call me to be as his disciple? This isn’t an easy standard to live up to, but we are prepared through our study of the Bible, regular worship and prayer, and the encouragement and inspiration we find in small ministry groups. And when we don’t feel up to the task or standard, we have the assurance that God has surrounded us with grace and forgiveness to keep us going and moving forward.

Remember that whether or not someone is watching you at any given moment, your life and actions are a model of what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

With you in Christ,
Rich White, President
Lutheran Men in Mission
rwhite743@aol.com

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LSPS GRADUATES RECEIVE MEN'S MINISTRY KITS



TEEM student graduation 2012: (left to right) Henry Howe representing LMM, Bishop Ray Tiemann of the Southwestern Texas Synod, Lin Stein of LSPS Development, graduate Gary Conklin, graduate Tammy Sharp, Rev. Jim Fowler representing LSTC, graduate Genaro Duenez, LSPS Executive Director Rev. Javier (Jay) Alanis, and LSPS TEEM Coordinator Rev. Eliseo Perez-Alarez.

Austin, TX -- Three graduates from the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest (LSPS) received Men's Ministry Kits consisting of the *Master Builders Bible for Men*, the *El Nuevo Testamento* (Spanish language New Testament), the Spanish language *Plan de Accion para el Ministerio de Caballeros*™ (The Action Plan for Men's Ministry), and additional information about the training and retreat programs offered by Lutheran Men in Mission.

Graduates from the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) certificate program were, Gary Conklin, Genaro Duenez, and Tammy Sharp. These graduates will return to the congregations that they have been serving equipped to further develop ministry that will be fully inclusive of men and where the leadership of these men can be further developed. The Men's Ministry Kits were presented on behalf of Lutheran Men in Mission by former Region 4 Director Henry Howe at the graduation ceremonies in Austin, Texas, on May 8, 2012.

- Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest
www.lsp.edu
- Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM)
www2.elca.org/leadership/liderazgo/english/teem

2012 One Year to Live Retreats

Register for an upcoming
LMM One Year to Live Retreat for men at
lutheranmeninmission.org/events/oytl

Rodgers, Ohio

Camp Frederick
August 24-26, 2012

Toulumne, California

Silver Spur Christian Camp
September 7-9, 2012

New London, Minnesota

Shores of St. Andrews Bible Camp
September 14-16, 2012

Arden, North Carolina

Lutheridge
September 14-16, 2012

Poynette, Wisconsin

MacKenzie Center
November 9-11, 2012

Lutheran Men in Mission online!

www.lutheranmeninmission.org

Follow and join the conversations on these
Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) channels:



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