

# DAVID'S MEN

SEEKING THE HEART OF GOD



## David's Men 2020 - 2021

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

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## Introduction

David's Men (DM) is a discipleship experience designed to deepen our walk with Jesus Christ and strengthen our relationships with other Christian men. Over the years, we've seen God impact men's lives in powerful ways thru DM. Men who had never prayed aloud are now prayer warriors...marriages saved...men now openly speaking about what God is doing in their lives...grace experienced...men passionately pursuing Jesus like never before...and many more.

The best testimonies come from the wives of these men, who say their husbands are gentler, patient, and loving than ever before...and taking the spiritual lead in their homes.

DM is not a Bible study or fellowship group. It is a process that challenges and stretches each man in areas such as prayer, worship, sexual purity, leadership, family, and intimacy with God.

It's not a collection of materials or information that makes DM impactful. The success of DM comes from gathering a small group of 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.*

### David's Men Fundamentals:

- **Vision:** Impact men to impact families to impact churches to impact communities to impact the world for God's glory.
- **Mission:** Challenging men to seek God's heart through spiritual disciplines in authentic community and connection to the local church.
- **Core Values:**
  - The Vault (authenticity and confidentiality)
  - Spur one another on (challenge each other; no isolation!)
  - Emphasize spiritual disciplines (scripture memorization, prayer, fasting, evangelism, and others)
  - Read spiritual books
  - One 3-hr. meeting/month
- **Timeline:** Each DM year starts in September and ends the following June. A DM group can only be joined at the beginning of the DM year.

- **Format:** DM focuses on one key topic each month (e.g., leadership, prayer, marriage, stewardship, holiness, etc.). There are assignments designed to stretch each man and take him out of his comfort zone. Every month each DM group meets for approximately three hours to discuss the current month's book and assignment(s). Here is a typical meeting agenda:
  - Fellowship with food
  - Corporate prayer
  - Review scripture memorization
  - Book discussion
  - Discuss assignments
  - Accountability
  - Preview upcoming month's focus and assignment(s)
- **Cost:** Only cost for 2020-2021 is the cost of books. *If cost is a concern, notify your DM group leader to discuss payment plan and/or scholarship.*

DM is a significant commitment that should not be made lightly. Your DM experience (and that of other men in your group) will depend greatly on what you put into it. It is very challenging, but it is very rewarding. It will impact your life, your marriage, and your family because it will impact your relationship with God.

At the beginning of the year, each DM signs a covenant which states he will commit for nine months to attend all group meetings, read all the material, complete all the assignments, and pray for each man and the success of the group. It is essential each man fulfills this commitment to maintain the dynamics of the group. It is a closed group for the year...no one enters, no one leaves. This allows the men to develop a comfort level and establish an environment for authentic community. It typically takes a few months to start showing signs of real bonding and openness, and then the growth of the men begins to skyrocket.

King David was a man who struggled with lust, adultery, deceit and murder. Like us, he was a man with many weaknesses. Yet even though he 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.* Our goal this year is to come to the end of ourselves, submit to the Lordship of Christ, and, like David, to be "a man after God's own heart."

Go to [biltmorechurch.com/davidsmen](http://biltmorechurch.com/davidsmen) to download each month's materials.

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## 2020-2021 Topics and Reading List

Month	Topic	Books
October	Kickoff Dinner	1 <sup>st</sup> Book Given Out
November	Manhood	<i>Manhood Restored: How the Gospel Makes Men Whole</i> (Mason)
December	Prayer	<i>A Praying Life</i> (Miller) OR <i>Too Busy Not to Pray</i> (Hybels) OR <i>How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People</i> (Greig)
January	Sabbath	<i>The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry</i> (Comer)
February	Marriage/ Sexual Purity	<i>The Mingling of Souls: God's Design for Love, Marriage, Redemption</i> (Chandler)
March	Church	<i>Radical</i> (Platt)
April	Worship	<i>True Worshipers</i> (Kauflin)
May	Leadership	<i>Lead Like Jesus</i> (Blanchard)
June	Holiness	<i>The Pursuit of Holiness</i> (Bridges) OR <i>The Saving Life of Christ</i> (Thomas)
July	Choose Your Topic (Optional)	Racial Reconciliation – <i>Under Our Skin</i> (Watson) Anger – <i>Untangling Emotions</i> (Alasdair) Apologetics – <i>Making Sense of God</i> (Keller) Stewardship/Generosity – <i>How to be Rich</i> (Stanley) Evangelism – <i>Just Walk Across the Room</i> (Hybels)

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## Kickoff Dinner

David's Men focuses on discipleship. A disciple is a follower of someone or a set of beliefs.

**Matthew 4:19** *And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

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

**John 10:27** *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

**Mark 10:21** *And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."*

It's been said, "*All men are one bad decision from stupid.*" As Christ followers, we continue to battle our old sinful nature, and while we have the power of God's spirit within us, we can still make bad decisions yielding destructive consequences. Yet through it all, God loves us and forgives us. He also doesn't ask us to fight out battles alone. We have the Holy Spirit living within us, and we should have Biblical community living around us. In order to maximize our time with our Biblical Community we need to develop a safe place where we can openly share together. Hearing others' stories is a great way to deepen our connection and will be a primary emphasis this first meeting.

On the next page we have provided sample ice-breaker questions to aid you with kicking off your first meeting. Because this kickoff dinner is replacing the kickoff retreat, we ask for you to make it as meaningful and intentional as you can. You could get your met outside around an open fire or fire up the grill and enjoy hamburgers or steaks. It doesn't matter what you do, as long as you do something to create an atmosphere that shows the men in your group that you care about them.

Lastly, don't forget during your meeting to provide everyone with a copy of the first month's book: [Manhood Restored](#). Please reach out to one of the David's Men Vision Team Members or have a member of your DM group stop by the Arden Campus receptionist to pick your groups books.

## Kickoff Dinner Sample Questions:

### FUN Questions:

1. What are your favorite games to play?
2. Favorite TV show growing up?
3. What hobby would you like to try?
4. Favorite sports memory of a team you cheered for?
5. Favorite Scene in a movie?
6. Which winter Olympics sport would you like to participate?
7. What do you wish someone had taught you many years ago?
8. What is the perfect breakfast for you?
9. What tells you the most about a person?
10. What book has had the most impact on you other than the Bible?
11. How did you get that scar?
12. What is your favorite music to listen to?
13. What motivates you?
14. What question would you like to ask to the person seated to your right?

*Shift gears after taking a few minutes break and ask some deeper questions. You take the first one.*

### Spiritual Questions:

1. What is your strongest Spiritual Discipline?
2. What Discipline needs the most work?
3. Which discipline do you wish came natural for you?
4. Where is your favorite place to have a quiet time?
5. Where is your favorite place to worship?
6. Do you worship better corporately or alone? Why do you think this is?
7. What person has had the greatest effect on your spiritual journey and why?
8. What is the biggest spiritual challenge you are facing these days?
9. Describe the time in the last 12 months when you felt closest to God.
10. What circumstances describe your "dark night of the soul," the time you felt abandoned by God and left in the desert?
11. Describe your greatest spiritual high--a moment or season where you felt the presence of God.