

GAME PLAN



MEN'S

GETTING STARTED

VISION: TO BE A COMMUNITY OF MEN WHO ARE FULLY ALIVE

Have you ever been on a road trip with friends and realized no one has directions? Ever been on a team tasked with an important project but no one has any idea how to make it happen. We've all been there and it's not a good experience. The reality is, for a group of people to have a good experience getting where they want to go or accomplishing the project in front of them they need a plan. We believe the same is true for your community group. We want to help you and your group have a great experience together. So, we created a Game Plan just for you.

This plan provides enough structure to help you navigate your group experience from GroupLink all the way to your last meeting.

But don't worry, its not complicated or rigid. The Game Plan consists of a suggestion for what to do with your group each week that you are together. As you'll notice, it's broken down into 4 Quarters (yearly quarters) that you go through while in a Men's group. In addition to the weekly guide you will find "wins" for each quarter that help you and your group connect relationally and grow spiritually. Each "win" is something we've discovered all great groups are sure to do together. We want to help you win as a group leader. We want to help you and your group have a great experience together. We believe running this Game Plan will help you get where you want to go and have a great timing getting there!

MEN'S GROUPS GAME PLAN

MEET YOUR NEW GROUP AT GROUPLINK

Use the app *GroupMe* to communicate with your group

1ST QUARTER (SEPT-DEC)

- Week #1** Re:Group (at Leader's Home)
- Week #2-5** Starter Guide, Group Agreement & Member Assessment
- Week #6-11** Authentic Manhood (33 Series)
- Week #12** Serve (Be Rich Partner)
- Week #13** Plan Your Groups Retreat
- Week #14** Celebrate

- WIN #1** Community Starter Guide
Sign Group Agreement
- WIN #2** Get together outside of
your normal group time
- WIN #3** Complete the "33 Series"

2ND QUARTER (JAN-MID-MARCH)

- Week #1** Retreat
- Week #2-7** Relationships & Purity Study
- Week #8** Plan Your Man Weekend
- Week #9** Vision for Men: Fully Alive

- WIN #4** Group Retreat
- WIN #5** Relationships/Purity Group Study

3RD QUARTER (MID-MARCH-MAY)

- Week #1** Man Weekend
- Week #2-6** Spiritual Growth Study
- Week #7** Ending Well #1: Apprentice
- Week #8** Communion
- Week #9** Celebrate & Plan or End Well Here
Celebrate and confirm summer plans or use
the Ending Well Guide #2 for your last group
meeting

- WIN #6** Man Weekend
- WIN #7** Choose Your Group Apprentice

4TH QUARTER (JUNE-AUGUST)

Choose one of these options:

1. Meet weekly and go through a group study everyone decides to do together. Then use the Ending Well #2 guide for your last group meeting
2. Decide to take the summer off. If you decide to do this please have one meeting and use the Ending Well #2 guide to celebrate all that God has done in your group over the past year.

*Make plans to restart your group in late August or return to GroupLink to join another group.

- WIN #8** Ending Well #2: Celebrate

BE A CHAMPION
Expand Your Group

BREAKING IT DOWN

PLAYS & WINS

PLAYS

Each quarter of the Men's Groups Game Plan contains weekly suggestions or plays you can run with your group. These are common activities that community groups engage in together. If you have been in a community group before you've likely done some of these plays but some of the plays will probably be new. Each play is referred to with a one-word name and below you will see the names of each play with a short explanation along with examples.

Play #1

RE:GROUP

To connect at the beginning of the semester

- Have Fun: Play a Game (Heads Up, Charades, Catch Phrase, etc.)
- Catch up: Share your Highs/Lows
- Look Ahead: Go Over Your Group's Semester Schedule & 'Wins'

Play #2

STUDY

To grow in our understanding and love of God, each other, and our community

- 1st Quarter Group Study
 - Authentic Manhood Study
 - [33 Series: Authentic Manhood](#)
 - [Quest for Authentic Manhood](#)
- 2nd Quarter Group Study
 - Relationships & Purity
 - [Quest for Purity](#)
 - [New Rules for Love, Sex & Dating](#)
- 3rd Quarter Group Study
 - Spiritual Growth Study
 - [Spiritual Growth NP Study](#)
 - "What is the Gospel?" by Greg Gilbert (Contact your Groups Director for this resource)
- 4th Quarter Group Study
 - If you decide to meet in the summer, you the leader, and you alone, decide on a group study and do that with your group

Play #3

SERVE

To go out together and "do good" to others

- Check out our 'Be Rich' partners and volunteer at one of them

Play #4

REST

To intentionally not meet as a group

- Take a break and allow group members to have this time for themselves

Play #5

PLAN

To discuss and DECIDE what you are doing for your retreat & Man Weekend and what each man is responsible for doing for these events

Play #6

CELEBRATE

To end each semester by having fun and highlighting the ways you all have connected relationally and grown spiritually

- Enjoy a fun dinner together (not at a restaurant but at someone's house)
- Use the following questions to help your group remember and enjoy God's work in their lives
 - What have you seen or heard in this group that has encouraged you to grow spiritually?
 - What are some ways that we have connected relationally?
 - What are some ways we have cared for each other?
 - What are some steps, relationally or spiritually, you have seen people take in this group?
- Also, be sure to acknowledge birthdays and anniversaries of group members that happened during the semester
- End the night with a prayer of thanks for what God has done and the steps group members have taken over the past 3-4 months.

Play #7

COMMUNION

Experience communion together among your group

- [Learn More](#)

WINS

“What are the common things that help groups have a great experience?” This is a great question and one we often get asked. The good news is we have an answer. Specifically, we have 8 answers or “wins” that we have included as part of the Game Plan. Do these with your group to win as a group leader and to help your group have a great experience!

Win #1

START WELL

GO THROUGH THE “COMMUNITY” STARTER GUIDE & SIGNING THE COMMUNITY GROUP AGREEMENT

Win #2

GET TOGETHER

OUTSIDE OF YOUR NORMAL GROUP MEETING TIME

- Go to dinner, grab coffee, or have a game night, etc.

Win #3

COMPLETE THE 33 SERIES

OR ONE VERY SIMILAR TO IT

- This series is an in-depth look at what the Scriptures teach us about “Authentic Manhood”

Win #4

GROUP RETREAT

- Weekend trip, an overnight trip or do a “stay-cation” by getting together for dinner on Friday night and then spend most of Saturday together

Win #5

RELATIONSHIPS/PURITY STUDY

(3-4 SESSIONS)

- Something that equips and encourages your group to pursue God’s way of relating to women and sex

Win #6

MAN WEEKEND

- This is a designated weekend in March for all of the Men’s Groups to connect and have fun together

Win #7

CHOOSE YOUR GROUP’S APPRENTICE(S)

- Use the “Ending Well Guide #1” to help your group select an apprentice
- acgroupleaders.com/endingwell

Win #8

CELEBRATE

- Celebrate Change: Ending Well Guide #2 (Last group meeting)

Be a Champion

EXPAND YOUR GROUP

- Your one group is ready and willing to multiply and become two new groups!
- Leaders who win the championship will be invited to the very special “Champions Dinner” held once a year!

GETTING THERE

COMMUNICATION & GOALS

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR GROUP

Communication is a key element for your group to have a great group experience. To help your group stay connected and informed we encourage you to use the following guide:

1. Use the app “GroupMe” to send weekly reminders
2. Use a Google doc to share your semester schedule
3. During each Re:Group session review the Men’s Group Game Plan

GOALS FOR MEN’S GROUPS

When my group finishes the game plan, what are some signs that I’ve lead well and we’ve had a successful group experience?

1. Collectively – the group has cared for each other
2. Collectively – the group has had fun together
3. Individually – each person has grow in their relationship with Jesus
4. Relationally – each person has experienced authentic friendships
5. Future Group Leaders: One man besides the group leader is planning to lead a Men’s Group starting at the next GroupLink.

POSTURES OF A LEADER

1. Humble
2. Teachable
3. Authentic
4. Intentional

3 TO THRIVE

1. Pray

- Regularly pray for your group members, 3x/week

2. Care

- Consistently communicate with your group (use communications guide above)
- Reach out/help out when something happens to your group

3. Follow

- The Game Plan we give you & where God leads you