

How to Start and Lead a Group

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Dear leader of *Every Man A Warrior*,

We all exchange our lives for something, and there is nothing more fulfilling than exchanging your life to help other men *become the men God wants them to be*.

In leading this course you will have the opportunity to take men through a series of studies that can change their



For every 10 men in the church...

--9 will have kids who leave the church
--8 will not find their jobs satisfying
--6 will pay monthly minimums on credit cards
--5 have a major problem with pornography
--4 will get divorced affecting 1,000,000 children each year
--All 10 will struggle to balance family & work
George Barna Research

lives forever. It could also potentially affect future generations as these men become better husbands to their wives and fathers to their children.

As you can see from the Barna Research the need to help men to succeed in life is huge.

Starting A Group

- If you are starting an *EVERY MAN A WARRIOR* in your church, contact your pastor and ask for his help in getting this series started. Ask the pastor to put an announcement in the Sunday bulletin.
- Pray for God to lead you to the men that he wants to go through *Every Man a Warrior* with you.
- Set up a table in the church foyer. Have copies of the *Every Man a Warrior* brochure from the website www.EveryManAWarrior.com for the men to take home.
- Show men a copy of the *EVERY MAN A WARRIOR* books and ask if they are interested. Tell them it will take some time but is well worth the effort. Ask them to begin to pray and think about joining this group.
- For a group to work best, recruit four to seven men including you.
- Go to the website www.EveryManAWarrior.com for more information.

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The Leader's Guide

The first page of every lesson is a Leader's Guide. ***It is important to follow the Leader's Guide even if you have led other Bible studies.*** It has come from 2 years of field testing and is designed to help your group succeed.

For example, some men find the disciplines of Quiet Times and Scripture memory especially hard and want to skip those parts of the course. Following the Leader's Guide will insure that these items are not left out and ***makes the Leaders Guide the course disciplinarian, not you!*** Not all groups survive and it is normal to have some men drop from the course. Using the Leader's Guide gives you the greatest potential to have a successful group.

Each lesson highlights specific questions that you need to ask. Each question is designated with a ✓. ***Whenever a ✓ is seen, it means the leader should ask the question or follow the instructions.***

The Leader Is Key

Following the Leader's Guide will insure that key items in the course are not left out and makes the Leaders Guide the course disciplinarian, not you!

As the leader of the group you have tremendous influence by your example. Discipleship fails in many churches because of the lack of standards and accountability. So most groups need to go through a paradigm shift in their thinking about what it means to be in a men's Bible study. If they have been in other studies where they did not prepare the lesson before meeting, this will need to change. ***But the change must happen if men are going to grow.***

This change in the beginning will start with your example. You need to set the pace in having Quiet Times to share, having the verses memorized, being well-prepared and having the lesson done.

If the key discipleship foundations of Quiet Time, memorizing and meditating on the Scripture, or having the lesson prepared are not carried out, it destroys the transforming power of discipleship to change men's lives.

In the first few lessons, some men will struggle and may fail to get their Quiet Times and verses done. ***This is normal. Do not be discouraged!*** Your job is to model and encourage them to succeed.

In Lesson 5 the ***Completion Record*** is introduced and each week there will be a reminder to check off on what can be checked in this record. This is designed to help keep standards high. Let the ***Completion Record*** work for you. All you have to do is set the example, praise those who are succeeding each week and point them to the ***Completion Record***. ***Most men want to know what is expected and want to measure up.***

During the sharing of Quiet Times in the lesson, give honest praise and words of encouragement. If a man discovers something new in his Quiet Time that the Lord showed

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him for the first time, ***you should go wild with excitement***. Even if you have known this revelation for 30 years, be excited for him. He is hearing new things from God. Within a few weeks, the men will begin to encourage each other when someone shares a new or significant thought from the Word. As the leader you can set the example of encouraging men in their walk with God.

When the men in your group become excited about what they are learning from the Scriptures in their Quiet times or from verses they are memorizing, you have laid a foundational stone of discipleship in passing on the Christian life to another man.

Every Man a Bulldog

Lesson 9 of Book 1, ***Every Man a Bulldog***, is designed to help in the paradigm shift I mentioned above. This lesson asks men to be honest with one another and if they are really committed to doing the work of the discipleship process. This lesson will take men back to the decision they made in signing the ***Commitment Pledge*** in the Lesson 1.

“How We Grow as Christians” in Lesson 9, acknowledges the struggles of being spiritually disciplined. Lesson 9 is a time to rededicate ourselves to ***becoming the man God wants us to be*** and do the necessary work in this course. It is important to have a prayer time after the lesson. Having men pray together over their struggles and asking God for the grace to change is a good thing.

This Is War

Get into the habit of praying for these men every day. As we will learn in Lesson 3, ***Why Men Fail***, we are in a war and the enemy will try to keep every man in your group from succeeding in walking with Christ. If you have prayer groups in your church, ask them to pray for your study. Many prayer groups are led by women who deeply want the men in the church to become mature, lead in their families, and give leadership to the church. They will be glad to pray.

Make it your goal to start and end each session on time. Men appreciate this. If someone is constantly late and misses the sharing of Quiet Times and verses, ask him to stay after and share his Quiet Time and verses with you. It is an act of love and courage to help men do what they know they need to do by holding them accountable.

After Book 1, if someone is consistently unable to get his lesson done, do the Quiet Time or memorize the verses, you should meet with him privately and ask him to drop out and rejoin the next time a new study is started. ***Sometimes there are special circumstances such as a job or family situation that are too overwhelming***.

Proficiency Evaluations - Why Test?

The end of each book introduces the concept of a ***Proficiency Evaluation*** or test. Research shows for a person to grasp and understand a new concept, he has to be exposed to that concept at least seven times before it takes root. In this series men will be exposed to major

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truths that have the ability to drastically change the way they think and live. The *Proficiency Evaluation* and discussion lets the men be exposed to these truths two more times. Remember the objective is ***not to get men through the lesson but to get the truth of the lesson into the men.*** How deeply the truth of Scripture gets into a man will determine the amount of transformation that takes place.

Book Two and Three

The objective is ***not to get men through the lesson but to get the truth of the lesson into the men.***

Book two and three should bring about some lively discussions. Many men have never been exposed to biblical principles on the areas of marriage, raising children, money, hard times and the other areas we will address. For many men, our society, education and families have given us a secular understanding that is sometimes in direct conflict with the Scripture. ***It is not your job to convince them they are wrong and need to change.*** Let the lesson, the Scripture and the Holy Spirit do the work.

How To Use This Study

Every Man A Warrior is designed to disciple men in small groups or to be used “one on one.” It can also be used in a Men’s Sunday school class. However, this setting has some challenges if the class is less than an hour and has more than four men. Most groups that meet with less than an hour, pair off to review verses and then share quiet times in groups of three or four in order to save time. You may discuss the lesson in this group of four or the whole group can come together to read the stories and discuss the lesson. Depending on time, some lessons will take two weeks to complete. ***Make sure to keep reviewing verses and sharing Quiet Times each week.*** These two disciplines are essential and for many men become the most life changing and fulfilling aspects of the *Every Man a Warrior* series.

May God bless you as you start on this journey of fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20 to ***“Go and make disciples”—and to become the warrior that God intended you to be!***

Lonnie Berger

Read the following: *Successful Study Guidelines* and use these criteria to evaluate how to make your group a success.

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Successful Study Guidelines for an Every Man A Warrior Group

A successful group study normally includes the following:

- Start on Time: Usually there is a time of catching up at the beginning, but try to start within 5 minutes from the stated time.
- Review verses each week together. In some groups the men just pair off as they arrive to start reviewing their verses. If someone arrives late have him review verses with the leader after the study. See Ecclesiastes 4:9-10.
- Shares Quiet Times each week. Follow the format, “How to Share Your Quiet Times with the Group” from Lesson 2.
- As a group try to have your verses reviewed, **Completion Record** updated and your Quiet Times shared within 30 minutes of starting.
- Everyone has the lesson done and is prepared to share.
- The leader helps everyone to participate by asking those that are quieter to share their answers or thoughts.
- The leader keeps watch on the time so that the group does not need to rush through the last part of the study in order to end on time.
- Keep the group on track. When the group has gone off on a tangent, the leader says, **“Ok let’s go back to the study.”**
- As the course progresses the lessons get longer. Each of you will invest considerable time to study and prepare for these lessons. As a group, hold each other accountable to keep the discussion on the lesson.
- End on time. If you started the study at 7:10 then end by 8:40. (90 minutes) Then men can stick around and talk as long as they want.
- If the interest and discussion on a lesson is especially long it is OK to take a second week on that lesson. Sometimes this can help members get caught up.
- Pray together as a group each week using the **W A R** method of prayer.
- Give grace to people that are experiencing unusual circumstances at work or at home.
- The group is a safe place to share your struggles. Personal issues shared in the group are kept in confidence.