

David's Mighty Men X Introduction 2009 - 2010

Vision and Purpose

The vision for DMM was born out of a desire to challenge the men of Loudonville Community Church to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. More specifically, the vision is to equip men to be spiritual leaders in their homes, their church, their community and their world.

Introduction and History

DMM is uniquely LCC! Since its beginning in 1999, we have developed our own identity and style. Through the years we have focused on different topics of study.

- **David's Mighty Men I (2000-2001)**
We examined various topics related to a man's spiritual development (spiritual disciplines, personal holiness, family, leadership, evangelism, etc.).
- **David's Mighty Men II (2001-2002)**
Our study this year focused on a systematic theology book by Dr. Wayne Grudem titled *Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith* (Zondervan. 1999).
- **David's Mighty Men III (2002-2003)**
The life of David as presented in the Scriptures was our focus.
- **David's Mighty Men IV (2003-2004)**
We examined a book on spiritual growth by Dr. Henry Cloud and John Townsend titled *How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals about Personal Growth* (Zondervan. 2001). We focused on the eight character qualities outlined in II Peter 1:5-7 at our monthly meetings.
- **David's Mighty Men V (2004-2005)**
We studied the Book of Romans by using a commentary by John Stott as supplemental material.
- **David's Mighty Men VI (2005 -2006)**
This year we focused on personal revival by studying a book with the entire church by Nancy Leigh DeMoss and Tim Grissom titled *Seeking Him* (Moody Publishers. 2004). Our monthly meetings examined the birth of the church by studying Acts 1-12.
- **David's Mighty Men VII (2006-2007)**
We examined the life of Moses, "the humblest man on earth!" Our Bible study focused on the Book of Exodus, Numbers (chapters 10-27) and Deuteronomy (chapters 29-34).
- **David's Mighty Men VIII (2007-2008)**
We studied the life of Paul and his "Serendipitous Journey." We examined Paul's surprising discoveries, as spelled out in some of his letters.

- **David's Mighty Men IX (2008-2009)**

Last year we focused on apologetics in a study seeking to find "Honest Answers to Honest Questions." Our monthly sessions were devoted to answering some of life's basic questions (Does God exist? Can we trust the Bible? Why pain? What about other religions? etc.) while our small groups examined Dinest D'Souza's book, *What's So Great About Christianity?* (Regnery Publishing, Inc. 2007).

The Original Version of David's Mighty Men

Three thousand years ago, King David organized the original group of *David's Mighty Men*. (II Samuel 23:8-39) To be included in this elite band of men, one had to:

1. Join the King's army

A decision was required. Will I choose to identify my interests with those of King David or not? Originally, those soldiers who signed on to fight with David were a group of "losers." *All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him (David), and he became their leader. (I Sam. 22:2).* Over time, however, these "losers" became "winners." The King was able to take "nobodies" and turn them in to "somebodies".... mighty men of God.

2. Imitate the King's character

David had a heart like God's heart (I Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22). To be one of his *mighty men* meant that you had a heart that beat for the same things his beat for: the glory of God, mercy, godliness, worship, justice, the Word of God.

3. Trust the King's resources

David trusted in God and God delivered him from all his enemies. *I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies (Psalm 18:2).* To be a mighty man of David meant that you too had to learn to trust in the resources of the king's King!

4. Do exploits!

Membership in the original band of *David's Mighty Men* had nothing to do with education, finances, family ties, popularity or talents. To be enrolled in this most elite group, one had to do exploits (heroic acts). One had to accomplish a God-sized mission for the sake of the kingdom. David was a giant-killer (I Sam. 17). To be a *mighty man*, you had to be a giant-killer, too! Look at some of the exploits of this original DMM:

- Josheb-Basshebeth (II Sam. 23:8). *...he raised his spear against 800 men, whom he killed in one encounter.*
- Eleazar (II Sam. 23:9-10). *...he was with David when they taunted the Philistines... The men of Israel retreated, but he stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword...*
- Shammah (II Sam. 23:11-12). *...he took his stand in the middle of the field (of lentils). He defended it and struck the Philistines down...*
- Abishai (II Sam. 23:18-19). *...he raised his spear against 300 men, whom he killed...*

- Benaiah (II Sam. 23:20-23). *...he struck down two of Moab's best men. He also went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion. And he struck down a huge Egyptian. Although the Egyptian had a spear in his hand, Benaiah went against him with a club. He snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear...*

The Profile of a "Mighty Man"

The success of our men's ministry at LCC should never be measured by mere attendance or whether or not men "like" what we do here. Success, rather, will be achieved when those involved excel in the following areas:

1. Knowledge (What he knows...)

A "mighty man" will be someone who has a sound working knowledge of:

- The Bible
- The Gospel
- Who God is
- Himself
- The will of God
- A Christian worldview

2. Character (Who he is....)

A "mighty man" will be someone who reflects the very image of God:

- Christlike
- Holiness of heart and life
- Man of integrity
- Moral purity
- Practices spiritual disciplines
- Manifests the fruits of the Spirit
- Growing in grace

3. Service (What he does....)

A "mighty man" will be someone who manifests the authenticity of his faith by his actions at home, at work, at church, in the world:

- A family man
- A witness for Jesus Christ
- A servant
- Knows and uses his spiritual gift(s)
- Makes disciples
- Active member of Christ's body
- Obedient to the voice of God
- Involved in ministry

4. Community (Who he is in relationship with....)

A "mighty man" realizes he cannot live in isolation from other "mighty men." He seeks to build deep interpersonal relationships with others that reflect:

- Mutual accountability
- Unity
- Team ministry
- Corporate worship, Bible study, prayer
- Deep friendships

David's Mighty Men X

This year our focus will be on the development of a man's character; that inner core of his being that defines who he really is. Men often project an "image" of who they are: strong, fearless, honest, godly, a family man, etc. But, tragically, the reality is often very different. Studying the lives of Judah's eight

"good" kings will enable us to understand some of the dynamics of character development and some of the pitfalls that await those who embark on a life of godliness.

Our study will center on the book of II Chronicles where we find the lives of these eight kings portrayed. Passages from I and II Kings will be included to supplement our study. The monthly large-group meetings will introduce us to these kings, while our weekly small groups will give occasion to study their lives in much more detail. We will discover that each of these "good" kings had a moral flaw that was his undoing. Most importantly, we will discover how one root sin is the seedbed in which all moral failure develops: a divided heart.

The format of this year's program will be familiar to those who have participated before:

- monthly large group meetings on Saturday mornings.
- participation in a men's small group that meets weekly.
- daily quiet time that includes material we are studying.
- do "exploits" (mighty deeds).
- encouragement to be involved in other men's events:
 - in the church (prayer ministries, service opportunities, classes, conferences, etc.)
 - beyond the church (retreats, special outings, etc.)
 - in the region (area conferences, etc.)

Monthly meetings.

The basic schedule for our monthly Saturday meetings will be as follows:

7:00 – 7:45 AM	Prayer in the Prayer Garden (optional)
8:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30 – 8:50 AM	Worship and Praise
8:50 – 9:05 AM	Exploits/Testimonies/Ministry Reports/Announcements
9:05 – 10:30 AM	Bible Study and Table Discussions

Date	King	Scripture	Moral Flaw
September 12, 2009	Solomon	II Chronicles 1-9 I Kings 1-11	Lust
October 10, 2009	Asa	II Chronicles 14-16 I Kings 15:8-24	Unbelief
November 7, 2009	Jehoshaphat	II Chronicles 17-20 I Kings 22:41-50	Moral compromise
December 12, 2009	Joash	II Chronicles 22-24 II Kings 11:1 – 12:21	Fickle faith
January 16, 2010	Amaziah	II Chronicles 25 II Kings 14:1-20	Divided heart
February 27, 2010	Uzziah	II Chronicles 26 II Kings 15:1-7	Presumptuous pride
March 27, 2010	Hezekiah	II Chronicles 29-32 II Kings 18-20	Ungrateful pride
May 1, 2010	Josiah	II Chronicles 34-35 II Kings 22:1 – 23:30	Spiritual deafness
June 12, 2010 (?)	Manasseh (Bad)	II Chronicles 33 II Kings 21:1-18	Affliction leads him to repentance

Small Groups.

Each man is expected to be part of a small group that meets weekly. There are enough small group options so that most men will be able to find one that fits their schedule. See page 9 for a list of small groups available.

Each small group will be asked to name one person as the point man, or "leader". It is the responsibility of a small group leader to:

- Lead the meetings (or make sure that someone else does).
- Make sure that everyone in the group knows each other and feels welcomed.
- Follow up on those who are absent. If someone drops out, inform the small group coordinator.
- Make sure that the programmed material is covered.
- Implement any other initiatives and emphases that DMM may promote.
- Work to ensure that the group begins and ends on time.
- Appoint a leader when he is absent.

Though the order may vary, the following elements should be present, in roughly equal proportions, in every small group meeting:

1. Sharing.

During this part of your meeting, the men will gather and talk about their week. The leader will make sure that the sharing is meaningful. Are there prayer requests? Any difficult life situations? Any blessings or answers to prayer?

Part of sharing should focus on mutual accountability. Early in the year, each member of the group should be asked to share some of his spiritual goals for which he would like the group to hold him accountable. For example: daily quiet time, exercise, eating, temptations, tithing, witnessing, spiritual leadership in the home, etc. Once these have been shared, accountability questions should be natural. Consider using the questions John Wesley urged his small groups to use over 250 years ago:

- 1) What known sins have you committed since our last meeting?
- 2) What temptations have you met with?
- 3) How were you delivered?
- 4) What have you thought, said or done of which you doubt whether it be sin or not?

2. Studying

A *Weekly Schedule Guide* (in the front pocket of this notebook) has been provided to help each small group work its way through the entire contents of II Chronicles during the next 9-10 months. No commentary or study guide is offered this year. The sole text is the Bible. Therefore, the one facilitating the study of a passage for a given week is encouraged to:

- Study the passage in advance by consulting commentaries and other references as needed.
- Prepare questions that will help the group to discover the meaning of the passage.

- Guide the group in taking the truths of that Scripture and making them applicable to their lives today.

Each small group will determine its own approach to how each lesson is taught. Some groups may have a designated "teacher." Other groups will want to share the teaching responsibility with various members of the group. It is important that all members come prepared and freely enter into the group discussion.

3. Praying

Make sure that a good portion of time is reserved each week for prayer. Prayer should not be forced, and no one should be made to feel uncomfortable by the form of prayer used, but opportunity should be given to each man to pray. Sometimes pray as a group. Other times consider praying in pairs, or threesomes.

Materials and Costs

We believe that our Men's Ministry should basically cover its own expenses. Most of us are able to cover the costs of the materials we use. This year we have no textbook (other than the Bible). However, **the notebook** we use costs the office **about \$15.00**. For each of our monthly meetings a basket will be passed to cover the cost of breakfast. For those who so desire, customized clothing (shirts, vests and jackets) are available. Other activities during the year may also involve additional costs: Men's Retreat, Iron Sharpens Iron, Deep Sea Fishing Trip, etc. To make a payment towards the notebooks, just mark your payment "DMM" and place it in the offering plate.

Can Others Attend?

Yes! The DMM large group monthly meeting is meant to be an "entry point" for any man who wants connection with other men in the Body of Christ. Although there is an overall plan to what is being taught this year, Stan's monthly teachings are individual units that can be understood alone. Therefore, visitors are always welcome. Those who attend a large group meeting will be urged to join a small group.

Special Events Schedule 2009 - 2010

Beyond the monthly large group meetings on Saturday, other special events have been planned for the coming year. Mark your calendars now for these special activities. The costs of these events will be communicated as they become available.

- **Men's Retreat. October 23-24 (Camp-of-the-Woods).**
This year's speaker will be Kent Humphreys. Kent has been a business leader and author for over 30 years and has spoken in both national and international business forums and seminars. In 2002, Kent became CEO of Fellowship of Companies for Christ (Christ@Work) and has spoken at numerous international Christian gatherings including Amsterdam (1986, 2000), Lausanne II in Manila (1989), and Asian Church Leaders Conference in Singapore (2006). He has served on the board of the Navigators for 20 years, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Integris Hospital and other charitable organizations.

- **Iron Sharpens Iron. April 10, 2010.**
For the sixth year in a row, LCC will host the ISI regional men's conference. Last year about 900 men attended. Numerous excellent workshops will be offered as well as inspiring plenary speakers and great worship.

My Commitment

To better enable me to be a Mighty Man of God, I commit myself for the following ten months:

1. To attend the monthly meetings and the meetings of my Small Group.
2. To complete the assigned readings.
3. To establish and keep a daily personal quiet time where I can be alone with God to pray and to read His Word.
4. To keep confidential any sensitive information that others in my Small Group may share.
5. To ask God to take me out of my comfort zone and to truly experience growth in some specific area of my spiritual life.
6. To commit myself to action & get involved in one ministry so I can impact my world for Christ.

Signature

Date

Who's Who?

The following names will be a helpful resource if you need information about various aspects of the DMM program.

Coordinator			
Ministry	Contact	Phone	E-mail
Men's Ministries	Gordon Tucker	356-0364	gtucker1@nycap.rr.com
David's Mighty Men	Tim Gerardi	446-9494	Tgerardi001@nycap.rr.com
Small Groups	Rob Duguid	626-0231	rduguid@nycap.rr.com
Worship & Praise	Joel Crimmins	283-6334	jcrimmins@capitalbank.com
Men's Retreat	Doug Petersen	784-2500	dougpetersen@skiltons.org
Regional Men's Conference	Gordon Tucker	356-0364	gtucker1@nycap.rr.com
Prayer Partners	Mark Sullivan	785-4904	mark46er@nycap.rr.com
Helps Ministries	Steve Brickman	463-2606	sbrickman@nycap.rr.com
Hospitality	Gene Wang	785-7263	wangbade@msn.com
DMM Shirts	George Johnson	449-8434	agapegsj@juno.com
Information	Tim Gerardi	446-9494	tgerardi@localnet.com
DMM Web Site	Erich Rupprecht	286-2575	erichr@lcchurch.org
DMM Bears Fruit Food Pantry Liaison	Jeff Dugrenier	283-0879	jdugreni@nycap.rr.com
Common Ground	Sung Do	275-2279	Sungdo78@yahoo.com
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