

Getting Men In Mixed Community Groups Better Connected

- A. Realize that men do not get very vulnerable about their spiritual battles in mixed groups. I interviewed some attending both a mixed study with their wives and a men's study, asking, "Tell me what the difference is in the two groups?" John answered, ***Whew, there is no comparison. I can't get vulnerable in our couples' study: What if my biggest battle is with lust or with getting mad at my wife?*** The others agreed wholeheartedly.
- B. Realize, however, that there are enormous benefits to being in a mixed community group with your wife and family. **This does NOT have to be sacrificed in order to attend an all-guys community group.** We need to think outside the "Bible study/community group" box for getting men connected as brothers.
- C. Many churches are succeeding at getting their men better connected **through their mixed community groups by tweaking the groups.** Four strategic decisions enable this to happen.
- Splitting into men and women for prayer time at least part of the time
 - Focusing the prayer time on a spiritual battle each guy wants to share
 - Making a commitment to following up the prayer requests with each other
 - Planning time outside the community group meeting for the guys to play together, (along with giving the women a chance to play, another night, while the guys take care of the kids.) A ways this has worked: one of the off weeks would be the monthly socialize week, the guys playing one month, the women playing the next month, the whole group or family all playing the next month. The remaining week of the month is off.
- D. Over 5,000 men around the world (including men in the Pentagon), mostly from the PCA, are using the materials from ***Got Your Back*** to get together at breakfast, lunch or another convenient one-hour time block to meet. Their agenda is these questions:

Check 6 Questions

Check #1: What encouragements or successes have you had this past week?

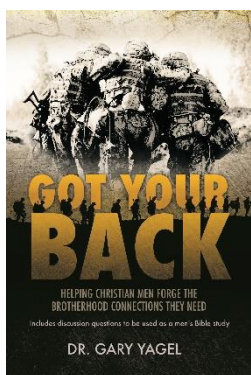
Check #2: What Biblical insight or verse from your quiet time has stood out to you recently?

Check #3: What has been the most difficult part of being the spiritual leader at home lately?

Check #4: Personal Accountability: Choose what you want your brother(s) to ask you about.

Check #5: Who are the non-believers are you building relationships with and how can I pray for your strategy to share Christ with them?

Check #6: What other spiritual battles can I help you fight through my prayer for you?



Got Your Back: Helping Christian Men Forge the Brotherhood Bonds They Need

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