



Bear Creek Bible Church
Philosophy of Ministry for
Ministry of Men

November 2016

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

“Brothers in Grace” (BIG) is the name of a mindset, not just a ministry. Society needs disciplined men.

All men

BIG Ministries is “standing as one” – not a ministry done BY some men, or TO men in the congregation, or only FOR men attendees, but a ministry OF men – Men working in whatever capacity to be more like Christ. Men can be involved in any ministry of the church as long as it continues to grow them as a disciple. There is no “Us vs. Them” in ministries – Almost every church ministry is a ministry of men.

Discipleship

BIG Ministry is a process of duties and actions that if a man follows, it helps him become a better disciple of Christ. That is what God wants from us, so that should be the purpose of the ministry of men – whatever men DO, whoever the event is FOR, or whoever the duty is TO. BIG Mission is to make men who walk courageously with Christ, live bravely like Christ, and work for Christ.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NIV)

How

We know men are made differently than women by God, and are also made for different methods of worshiping God. Men work best as members of a team, or as allies for a specific purpose – shoulder to shoulder.

Whatever action, duty, or service a BIG Brother takes on for God, it should also grow a brother as a disciple because that is what God wants for us.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

It is not just a series of events, but a way of connecting men to the next step of what would develop them. Men have many different areas to develop, so they could be learning discipleship in areas where men are not the focus: gaining knowledge, helping families,

teaching children, doing service, community building. They should be learning discipleship no matter where men are spiritually. They could be men who Need Christ, Cultural Christians, be Hurting, Biblical Christians, or they could have taken the step to participate and be Leaders. Leaders are not just the top person in a ministry! They are “servant leaders” and the volunteers making discipleship and ministry happening – from scheduling, cleaning, teaching, preparing things, or leading up front.

There is no special requirement to take part in the ministry – you just need to be a man and be involved. God took normal people doing their work and made them warriors, kings, priests, judges, teachers, evangelists, apostles, artisans, and workers. This is to further the Church’s mission statement, which comes under God’s mission statement: To know Christ, and Make Him Known.

“BIG” IN MOTION

FOR LEADERS OF MINISTRIES

Goal

The goal is change in the man’s heart, which is required for lasting changed behavior. We cannot gauge success just by changed behavior itself.

Organization

Every person who comes to church should have a place, regardless of where they are in their journey as a Christian. This doesn’t mean something the person is good at – but a place where they can take the next step. Attempts should be made to make the next step have purpose.

BIG must be able to look at current ministries, services, etc., and be able to point to how they are glorifying God by making men more like Christ. Make sure ministries serve as many of the four areas of the Christian life: Worship, service, learning, outreach.

Let BIG adopt other parts of other ministries.

Individually

Understand the pitch, motto, name, and mission statements of BIG. BIG discipleship should be like the Gospel – simple in premise, and as deep as someone wants to get in to it.

How

The basics of discipleship were outlined by how Jesus disciplined: reading scripture, prayer, and fellowship with other men. The Church should keep it simple. Get the men in groups, and get them in the Bible. Service, worship, and outreach will overflow from those two principles. But first, men need to be reading and studying the Bible and meeting with other men to make sure those studies are happening and in line with Christ’s truth. The men need to see the value— either to them personally or for God’s plan.

Invitations

Make other men allies, not just workers. Allies know the purpose and hope for the same goal by working towards it. Workers do what they’re asked. Building a relationship is key to this – personal invites, based on previous interactions that give each man the ability to ask for those things from another man. Every interaction is another opportunity to make relationships better, and then make the purpose better known.

Man Code

Be aware of the messages our church is sending to men. Make ministries, even children ministries and social events, appealing to men. Men are just as capable as women, even if they are not as inclined. Men have lots of individuality and differences, but all have common desires for respect, taking action, fulfilling work/vocation/service, and friendship.

Vision OR Events

If there are only events to entertain or fellowship, it will burn men out. Only service will get workers, but also burn men out. Retreats recharge, but they need something to use the charge! BIG is focused on the vision of making disciples, and events are one tool, not the purpose of BIG. To give the vision DURING events, or communicate the vision at all, remember the following: Elevator Speech – introduction of BIG, vision of BIG, a success story of a BIG brother, and a follow up action for BIG.

Follow up

Always have a next step after an event, duty, responsibility, or contact is made. Do not let a man have an excuse to regress or plateau in his spiritual development.

Events, duties, and ministry should be focused on groups of men as much as is practical to keep men in groups with other men that they can relate to and then be brought along together – like a team. Those teams should be able to follow up from duty/event/ministry to the next and see the connection. FOLLOW UP ON THE SPOT BY PERSONAL INVITATIONS TO REASONABLE SIZED COMMITMENTS.

Create (value/idea) ➡ Capture (nail it down w/specific action) ➡ Sustain (always a next step)

Timelines

This discipleship process is slow, but that is intentional. It usually takes 3 years from being a Seeker to becoming a contributor. The church needs time to see patterns or inconsistencies and for the man's character to show where someone he is spiritually.

Overflow

Things like Godly families, fellowship, service, missions, evangelism, stewardship, vocation, worship, and social justice (life, religious liberty, family) are results of discipleship, not the methods. Methods are preaching, teaching, mentoring, leadership training, Bible studies, seminars, small groups, Christian literature, private study, and informal discussions. Of those ten methods, three are solo activities. Of the overflow, all but one involve others. Discipleship does not happen alone.

All this overflow is the result of a changed heart, and just changing the methods will get different participants and workers – not disciples.

Planning

1. Include the Senior Pastor, who should be enthusiastic.
2. The BIG Group has a Coordinator – organizes planning and addresses the needs as they see them. Coordinator can be a point of contact for other ministries who need or want men.
3. The BIG Planning Team is a reflection of the men we wish to disciple – An elder, deacon, and pastor should be included, and should be a cross-section of leaders. Older, younger, unmarried, and childless men should be on the team. The leadership should become to each other what they want the men of the church to become.

Growth

Growth will happen if relationships are happening. Relationships will happen if leaders and Biblical Christians are overflowing. The “regular attendees” are not THE ministry, they’re PART OF the ministry. If some group or classification of men aren’t part of ministries, examine what the gap is in those ministries. Make men in those ministries part of BIG!

Sustain

Men need to eventually self-motivate. That only comes after opportunity, realization, time, development, spiritual input, and accountability. To sustain the growth of disciples, the Church can offer the opportunities, time, content for development and input, and should allow accountability.

The 4 Groups Ministry of Men Needs to Reach

	X	X	X	X
Awana	X	X	X	X
Leadership Development			X	X
Young Families		X	X	
Calibrate (Adult SS)			X	X
Kids Sunday School			X	X
Trail Life			X	X
Youth Sunday School	X		X	X
TNL			X	X
Flock		X	X	
Connect6		X		
GLOCAL Group				X
Evergreen				X
Hurst Plaza				X
Metroplex Hockey		X	X	
Tarrant County Jail			X	X
Mexico House		X	X	X
Worship Teams		X	X	
A/V	X	X	X	
SIA		X	X	X
Calibrate Coffee		X	X	
Ushers		X	X	
Worship Services		X	X	X
Communion			X	
Greeters		X	X	
Wednesday Men's		X	X	
Saturday Morning Men's		X	X	
Deacons				X
Elders				X
Pastors				X
Garden Project		X	X	
VBS	X	X	X	X
Care Ministry	X	X	X	
Prayer Chain			X	
Lawn Crew		X	X	
Big Summer Mexico Team		X	X	X
BIG Team				X
Building Committee				X

	Need Christ
	Cultural Christian
	Biblical Christian
	Leadership