

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) WHAT IS MEN'S FRATERNITY?

Men's Fraternity is a men's ministry curriculum developed by Robert Lewis, a pastor at Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. It was created in response to a request from the men of his church who wanted more than a Bible study. They felt they needed some practical insight in how to live as biblical men and they needed a safe place each week where they could process these truths with other men. They said, "We want an environment of openness and brotherhood, like we had back at the fraternity in college only more helpful and spiritually constructive."

The Men's Fraternity meeting that began in Little Rock is now attended by nearly 1,400 men weekly and the curriculum that developed out of it is being used by thousands of churches around the world.

Men's Fraternity is not "an event"; it is "a process" that enables men to experience real life-change together with other men over the weeks they are together.

2) HOW DO I GET STARTED?

- Order the first year of the three year curriculum, *The Quest for Authentic Manhood*, on DVD. The DVD Kit includes a **two hour Men's Fraternity training workshop** DVD presented by Robert Lewis that will help you better understand how to prepare for and present Men's Fraternity. You can also purchase the training DVD as a separate product if you are using the CD pack or just want some preliminary information before ordering the curriculum.
- View helpful documents, listen to streaming audio, and watch streaming video at www.mensfraternity.com and www.lifeway.com/mensfraternity.
- Attend a Men's Fraternity training workshop. The workshops are free, and there is no purchase necessary to attend. Visit www.mensfraternity.com and www.lifeway.com/events for a schedule of upcoming workshops.

3) HOW IS THE CURRICULUM ORGANIZED?

Men's Fraternity consists of three years of curriculum that can be taught in any sequence.

- *The Quest for Authentic Manhood* (24 weeks)
- *Authentic Manhood: Winning at Work and Home* (16 weeks)
- *The Great Adventure* (20 weeks)

4) CAN I DO MEN'S FRATERNITY WITH A LARGE GROUP OR A SMALL GROUP?

Yes. Following are suggestions for each:

Large groups:

Men's Fraternity is typically presented using a DVD of the teaching with a live host. It has also been successful using a live presenter who has mastered the material. Following each presentation the men break into small groups to discuss and process the material.

Small groups:

In a small-group setting the group watches each session on DVD, then follows with group discussion.

5) IS MEN'S FRATERNITY STRICTLY FOR A CHURCH SETTING? CAN IT BE USED IN OTHER SETTINGS?

Men's Fraternity is being used in a variety of settings, both inside and outside churches. Many churches are hosting city-wide Men's Fraternity gatherings. Others are using it for small-group meetings in homes, in college dorms, in corporate board rooms, in local coffee shops, and even in prison ministries.

6) WHAT RESOURCES DO I NEED TO GET STARTED?

You will need the DVD Set for the chosen study and a Viewer Guide (workbook) for each man who participates. While the studies do not need to be done in any order, we recommend beginning with *The Quest for Authentic Manhood*. Most churches ask men to pay for their own Viewer Guides. The DVD Set for each study includes a two hour training workshop that the leader needs to watch long before presenting the material to the group.

The audio portion of the DVD Sets is available on audio CD, but these Audio CD Packs do not include the training workshop and other leadership resources. The Audio CD Packs are popular with men who just want to personally go through the material or to use to review when a session is missed.

7) IS THERE A "BEST TIME" TO LAUNCH YOUR MEN'S FRATERNITY?

YES! After years of doing Men's Fraternity and receiving feedback from hundreds of churches all over the world, we have found **the most successful Men's Fraternities begin in the early fall and conclude in the early spring**. The first half of the fall series is timed to end in early December, followed by a four or five week holiday break. The men return from the break to finish the second half of the series strong.

By far the best attended meeting time is on a weekday from 6:00 a.m. until 7:30 a.m. It is necessary to block out 1 ½ hours to allow for at least 30 minutes of small group time. The small group time is so important that some men who cannot stay until 7:30 a.m. arrange to have lunch or breakfast later in the week for their small group time.

Churches that follow this format seem to have more momentum, better attendance, and more positive feedback from their men than those who begin at any other time in the year. These are the churches that experience and enjoy growth year after year in Men's Fraternity.

8) I JUST PURCHASED THIS MATERIAL, WHAT DO I DO UNTIL OUR FALL LAUNCH?

You can **begin to prepare for Men's Fraternity immediately**, but it is critical to wait until the fall to launch your group. Even if you bought this material in November, it is far better to wait a year to ensure a successful Men's Fraternity. The good news is the longer you have before your launch, the more thoroughly you will be able to prepare for a quality experience with your men!

Use your time to:

- Personally watch all the DVD sessions and decide if you want to do a DVD presentation or master the material and teach it live to your men. (Go to www.mensfraternity.com for information on transcripts.)
- Share several sessions and/or the workshop DVD with a small group of your men to give them a vision for Men's Fraternity. From the group, develop a leadership team that will be the lifeline of your group.
- Begin a gradual promotion effort for your fall launch through church bulletins, handouts, newspaper ads, and even testimonials in your church service from the core leaders who have watched some of the sessions. (Promotional materials may be downloaded from www.mensfraternity.com and www.lifeway.com/mensfraternity.)
- Have a late summer/early fall overnight retreat or luncheon with your men one month prior to your launch. Show a few "teasers" from one or two sessions in the Men's Fraternity series at the event to get your men excited.

9) HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PREPARE?

Allow at least three months to prepare for presenting this material to your men even if you are doing a DVD presentation. (If you have more than three months to prepare that is even better.) You will want to watch all the sessions yourself and may even want to watch some sessions with key men in your church who are going to help you present this material to the larger group.

If you plan to present the material with a live teacher it is very important that **the presenter watch and fully master ALL the sessions** before he attempts to teach session one. If you are planning to do a live presentation, you may want to contact Men's Fraternity Resource Director Rick Caldwell at 501.975.5050 or rcaldwell@fellowshipassociates.com. He will be delighted to assist you at no charge in preparing for a live presentation.

You may also want to visit www.mensfraternity.com/leaders for additional resources, tips, and "don't miss materials" that will help you lead and host your group.

10) DOES EACH MAN NEED A VIEWER GUIDE (WORKBOOK)?

Definitely...he will be lost without it. We have found it not only helps men to better grasp the content of the sessions, and it also gives them a great tool for review and for sharing the material with other men.

11) WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I MISS A SESSION?

If you have to miss a week of your Men's Fraternity study for whatever reason, you do not

have to miss that session's presentation. Visit www.mensfraternity.com and click on "Missed a Session?" to listen to the session you missed for a small fee.

12) CAN I HAVE YOUR ARTWORK AND / OR LOGOS?

We can give you the Men's Fraternity logo for promotional purposes. Visit www.mensfraternity.com or www.lifeway.com/mensfraternity to find a downloadable logo as well as other downloadable items such as a bulletin insert, postcard, and poster for promoting the study.

13) WHEN IS THE BEST TIME OF THE WEEK TO HAVE MEN'S FRATERNITY?

By far the best attended meeting time is on a weekday from 6:00 a.m. until 7:30 a.m. It is necessary to block out 1 ½ hours to allow for at least 30 minutes of small group time. The small group time is so important that some men who cannot stay until 7:30 a.m. arrange to have lunch or breakfast later in the week for their small group time.

14) IS MEN'S FRATERNITY APPROPRIATE FOR THOSE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH?

Yes. In fact, it is a great way to introduce those outside the church to the gospel in a safe non-threatening environment. **We advise you to make your event feel more like a men's gathering rather than a worship service or Bible study.** (The workshop DVD explains this in more detail.) We have found this material is excellent for the most mature believers because of its practicality and focus on application, but it is also enjoyed by those outside the church for the very same reasons.

15) IS MEN'S FRATERNITY ALIGNED WITH A DENOMINATION?

Although developed originally at a nondenominational Bible church, Men's Fraternity has gained a huge following by Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians, as well as churches of most all denominations. It has been applauded by the leaders of Promise Keepers, and The National Coalition of Men's Ministries.

16) WHO IS ROBERT LEWIS?

Robert Lewis is Pastor-at-Large for Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he served as Directional Leader for over 20 years. He is also Chairman of the Board of Fellowship Associates, a church consulting and leadership training organization, and Executive Director of Global Reach, a research and resource organization.

Graduating from the University of Arkansas in 1971 with a degree in Management, Robert went on to obtain both an M.A. in New Testament Greek and M.Div. degree from Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon in 1977, and the Doctor of Ministry degree from Talbot Theological Seminary in LaMirada, California in 1985.

Robert is passionate about helping men discover the biblical principles of authentic manhood. He founded and developed *Men's Fraternity* in 1990, and today this significant area of ministry is reaching men worldwide in churches, on college campuses, in corporate boardrooms, and in prison cellblocks via his 3 year video curriculum, *Quest for Authentic Manhood*, *Winning at Work and Home*, and *The Great Adventure*, published by LifeWay. In response to great demand, Robert developed the feminine counterpart to Men's Fraternity in 2003, *The New Eve: 5 Guiding Lights to Authentic Womanhood in the 21st Century*. Robert

was awarded *Pastor of the Year* in 2001 by the National Coalition of Men's Ministry headed by Patrick Morley.

He has authored a number of publications including *Raising a Modern-Day Knight* (Focus on the Family), the *Raising a Modern-Day Knight Video Training Series* with Dennis Rainey (SonLight Productions), *Rocking the Roles: Building a Win-Win Marriage* (NavPress), *Real Family Values* (Multnomah Press) and *The Church of Irresistible Influence* (Zondervan). Robert's most recent book is *Culture Shift: Transforming Your Church From the Inside Out* published by Jossey-Bass. He is also a contributing author to *Building Strong Families* edited by Dennis Rainey and *Faith Factor in Fatherhood* edited by Don Eberly. Robert has been featured on radio programs such as *FamilyLife Today* and *Focus on the Family*, and in a number of magazines including *Leadership*, *Real Man*, and *Stand Firm*.

Married since 1971, Robert and Sherard Lewis reside in Little Rock and have four children.

17) DO YOU HAVE TRAINING OR WORKSHOPS?

Yes, the best training is available on the DVD training workshop that comes with the purchase of any DVD Kit. Other training opportunities can be found at www.mensfraternity.com and www.lifeway.com/events.