



Chapter One

WELCOME TO MEN@WORK!

“I couldn’t stand to go in that room any more! It was driving me crazy!”

“I’ve been trying to clean out that basement for three years. I just couldn’t make time for it!”

“I promised to build those shelves a month ago. It’s not that I don’t know how... I just have too many things on my plate right now!”

You’re a busy man. If you’re like most guys, your job fills at least 40 hours a week, probably more. With the weekly commute, overtime, and work-related travel, you might be on the job more than you are at home. Job stress is a major source of frayed nerves, lost patience, and broken plans.

When you finally get home, the real work starts. A list of home improvement jobs waits for every man. Pictures that need hanging. Holes that need patched. Firewood stacked. Walls painted. Grass mowed. Weeds hacked. Closets cleaned. Boxes stacked. With all the work to be done, it can seem like you’re always on the job and things seem to be quickly unraveling!

Men@WORK is about men teamed together to tackle home improvement. No matter what is on your list, this group’s purpose is to work as a team to relieve the stress. Jobs that have been promised will be finished. Stress will vanish. Friendships will form and grow. Along the way, you’ll be introduced to men’s ministry and mission. Men@WORK gives you a “test drive” of Baptist Men On Mission. BMEN is an organization that challenges you to be men on mission! This little, easy-to-use book will help you see God’s WORK for you. It may just help you see “home improvement” in a whole new light.

Whether your group is made up of guys with similar interests, or if it has men of different ages, Men@WORK is for you. A three-man team is a great group size for Men@WORK. Create or join a group that works for you, made up of men you can work with.

The Bible reminds us that a threefold cord is not easily broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Throughout the Scriptures, God shares accounts of men who He has

brought together for the purposes of finishing the work, building relationships, and strengthening the church. The men were better for it. Families were better for it. God's people were better for it. Men need to partner with other men to accomplish the work of life. It was true with Moses, who relied on Jethro's advice, Aaron's speech, and Joshua's vigor. It was true for Jesus, who led and labored with a band of brothers who would eventually change the world. The same thing is true for men today.

You'll never regret giving your time to help your friends, and sharing your life with one another. What a great goal to become a man after God's own heart! It's time to get to WORK!



Chapter Two

BRASS TACKS

Here are some ideas that will help maximize your Men@WORK experience:

Pray

Without prayer, even good things started for the right reasons can quickly fall apart. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom, courage, and an open heart as you take part in Men@WORK.

Share with your wife

If you are married, you'll want to talk with your wife before starting Men@WORK. She will likely be your biggest supporter as you join with other men in a project that may strengthen your marriage and family relationships. Ask her for prayer during your group's time together. Work out a schedule with her to determine the best time for you to meet with your team. If you are not married, ask someone you trust and respect to pray for you.

Tell your pastor

Your pastor can be a great source of ideas, prayer, and encouragement. In turn, you can return the blessing. Tell him about your group and ask how you can pray for him. If your church has a Baptist Men On Mission (BMEN) ministry, tell the leader you are using this book. He can help you be a part of the BMEN network and share ideas and support, too.

Make a plan

Men@WORK is flexible and can fit around your schedule. The eight sessions can be held at any time that works for your group. Once you've made the decision to start, pick a date, time and place where you can get together to plan. Get together with your team to decide details like:

- At whose house will you start?
- How often will you meet?
- How long will it take to finish the work?
- What's on each of your lists of work to be done?

- What tools are you going to need?

A good plan is to get together for at least two hours. The first half hour can be used to talk and share. The rest of the time can be used to tackle the day's project. Adjust this time to meet your needs and accomplish your goals. Whatever you decide, you've already made the most important choice, to WORK with other men.

There are two special sessions to plan for with your Men@WORK team. In session 4, you will meet in the home of someone in your church to provide ministry to them that would otherwise probably go undone. You might choose a widow or single parent, or you may want to choose to help your pastor, who likely has his own long home improvement list. As a team, choose that person before you start session 1, so you can plan to be ready by session 4.

On the 8th session, you will once again meet somewhere in the community to offer home improvement as a mission action. You might choose someone who isn't connected with the church, a recent guest at your church, or someone who just needs the love of Jesus shown by three guys giving a helping hand. Make your plans for sessions 4 and 8 now.

Work the Plan

Each session has four parts. **Get Ready** tells you the session's topic. **Get A Grip** is a brief encouragement to be read by one of the men on the team. During **Get to Work**, you'll think about and discuss the topic with your team. Choose one or more of the **Do Something About It** suggestions to do in between sessions for added benefit.

Stick To It!

As a part of a Men@WORK team, you have other men who are relying upon you. Make this group time a priority. The key to your group's success is each man taking an active part in making it work. Men@WORK is intended to be fun and productive. Allow it to be something you look forward to being a part of!

Link with other groups

The fourth and eighth sessions of Men@WORK are geared to provide ministry and mission action. Consider joining other Men@WORK teams that may be meeting in your church for these opportunities. This offers the chance to make new friends, to help someone in need, and to share the message of Christ.