

Growing Your Ministry: 3.1 Early Growth

Early Stage Growth

We have stressed the importance of growing slowly and striving for meaningful discussions instead of trying to attract large numbers in the early stages of your ministry.

Once you've worked with the model as a Core Team and feel your discussions are staying grounded in the men's faith experience and on track with the questions, it is time to start expanding the ministry. We've found the best way to do this is to begin extending personal invitations to men you know or meet at Mass. The key in the early stage of growth is to invite men you believe would be attracted to and grasp the model.

People will accept invitations from acquaintances more easily than from strangers. If you start inviting people you know even causally and they do the same, the ripple effect kicks in and growth picks up.

As a core team, when you are ready, here are some starter questions to ask:

- Ask the team for suggestions of men they know who may be interested in attending.
- Whom might your Pastor or Deacons suggest you invite?
- If you have other complimentary ministries that involve men, for example; the Knights of Columbus, or a traditional Bible Study, ask them if they might be interested in attending a meeting.
- Set a goal that each core team member will try to invite one person to your next meeting.

If you work at this one-on-one invitation process you will often see your group double in size within a few months.

Think broadly about these invitations. In addition to the low hanging fruit of men in the parish, we've had men invite their neighbors or men they know might be struggling to get more involved in a faith journey.

We've had non-Catholics who started attending meetings and eventually went through the RCIA program and joined the Church. Some have become leaders of their Men's Ministry.

Also, it's important to keep track of any new men that begin to attend and then stop coming. Following up with them to learn about their experience and their reasons for not staying with it can sometimes provide helpful feedback for the team.