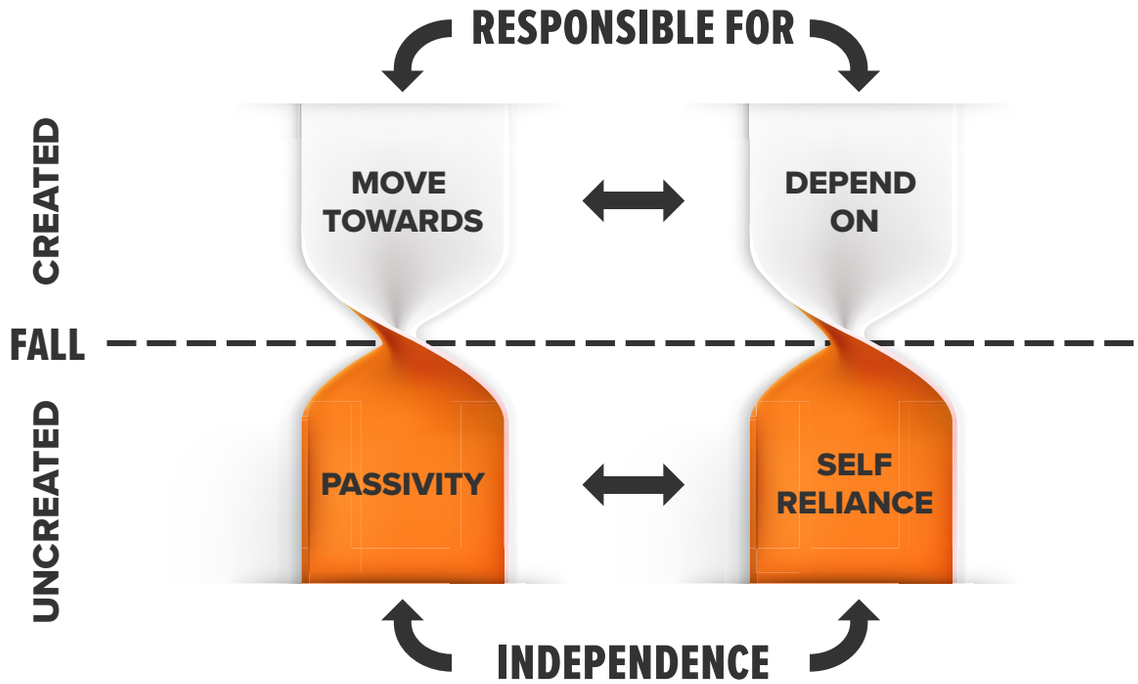
MEN'S
ROUNDTABLE

facilitator HANDBOOK

GRACE
CHURCH
GraceChurchSC.org

MRT GOALS

Our goal with every MRT study is to equip men to be responsible for the people and situations that God brings into their lives:



CREATED

As men, we were created and have a Creator. We have a God-given calling to be "Responsible For." This means we Move Towards the people and situations God places in our lives and Depend On God our Creator. This was God's perfect plan before the fall.

UNCREATED

After the fall, we no longer live as created beings. We do not position ourselves under our Maker but, instead, want to be like God. We live as though we are Independent, uncreated beings. This leads to Passivity and Self-Reliance in our lives, a complete perversion of the good thing God created.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2 Purpose

3 MRT Facilitator Job Responsibilities

4 Preparing for the Group

6 Facilitating Your Group

8 Encouraging Ownership

9 Troubleshooting

12 MRT Leadership/Recruiting Training Case Study

13 Question Killer Continuum

14 Replicating Leaders

16 MRT Leadership Placement Tool

17 Appendix A

18 Appendix B

19 Appendix C

20 Final Thoughts

PURPOSE

In a world that offers toxic and shallow definitions of manhood, we must examine the Scriptures to discover what it truly means to be a man. What does it look like for men to lead and care for the people God has entrusted to them? How can we become men of substance who bless those around us?

Men's Roundtable Table (MRT) equips men to pursue a scripture-centered view of masculinity and provides tools to help them take responsibility for the people and the situations God places in their life. MRT also serves an assimilation role by helping men plug into the church. MRT groups are formed by engaging guests, newcomers, and Grace church members. They are encouraged to attend Authentic Manhood (AM), a seven-week study focusing on God's design and purpose for men. During this study, participants are challenged to recognize their own misguided ideas about masculinity and better understand God's view of masculinity. They are provided with a working definition of manhood and are able to see how it can play a role in their everyday lives—with their wife, in their relationships, at work, and in parenting.

MRT groups are led by facilitators. Their role is to provide direction and leadership by facilitating small group discussions pertaining to the material. Facilitators commit to disciple men in their groups and move towards leading in some capacity in the church. MRT is not only used to teach men the idea of redeemed masculinity, but it is also used as a leadership pipeline process. MRT offers six studies including:

- Authentic Manhood
- A Man and His Wife
- A Man and His Work
- Leadership Values
- A Quest For Purity
- Sons & Daughters

Campus MRT leads and facilitators use these studies to challenge men to get involved in each others' lives, meet one another's needs, and help men grow in their relationship with Christ. The results are men moving towards Christ and the Church through membership, serving in other ministries, giving, plugging into community groups, and leading their families.

MRT FACILITATOR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

Mission: Provide direction and leadership to MRT table participants by:

- Committing to lead two MRT studies
- Replicating discipleship
- Facilitating small group discussions pertaining to the material
- Communicating (phone call/text) with each group member every week throughout the study to ensure each member feels cared for and is connected to the group
- Working with MRT lead to handle any shepherding issues
- Seeking opportunities to deepen participants' understanding of the material and apply it to their lives

Must be a covenant member of Grace or moving toward membership

Ideal skills/qualities:

- Good communication skills
- Listens well
- Asks good questions
- Winsome in character
- Welcoming
- Committed to speaking the truth

I understand these responsibilities and will fulfill them as I facilitate my group.

Print _____

Sign _____ **Date**_____

**When agreed upon, please sign, take a picture, and text/email it to your MRT lead*

PREPARING

FOR THE GROUP

Expectations of MRT Facilitators

We expect each facilitator to:

- Lead himself spiritually by incorporating the Grace Church Core Values (Biblically Oriented, Relationally Connected, Prayerfully Dependent, Ministry Focused, Culturally Engaged, and Courageously Generous) into his daily life. You can find our core values at corevalues.GraceChurchSC.org/.
- Take a disciple-making approach with group members, (versus fellowship, counseling, or current-event focused), and help group members develop spiritually by focusing equal time and energy on each MRT session.
- Create a safe environment where group members can be vulnerable and life change can occur.
- Reach out to group members regularly.
- Pray for each group member weekly.
- Facilitate interdependence among group members by spending time with individuals outside of group meetings, and encourage them to do so as well.
- Begin and end meetings at advertised times (one to one and a half hours total).
- Identify potential leaders from the group and look for opportunities to develop them.
- Participate regularly in communication and other equipping opportunities provided by your MRT lead and campus pastor.
- Keep an open line of communication with your MRT lead and campus pastor, and notify them of any issues in a timely manner.

KNOW YOUR OWN STORY, WHERE THE LORD HAS REDEEMED AND CHANGED YOU THROUGH YOUR OWN STUDY OF THE MATERIAL.

Preparing for your MRT group

- Pray – before, during, and after the group meets. Pray for each person in your group.
- Use your my.gracechurchsc.org account to track attendance and share with your MRT lead after your MRT group is finished.
- Think intentionally about how you can be leading, shepherding, partnering with, and cultivating your group before you begin and throughout the MRT study.
- Familiarize yourself with the material. Remember that you are not teaching, but you do need to be prepared.
- Facilitate discussion, not a lecture.
- Know your own story, where the Lord has redeemed and changed you through your own study of the material, and be prepared to share appropriately. Plan to be vulnerable and transparent as you work through the study to encourage and model transparency to others.
- Consider what you will share and what is appropriate for the group. Be respectful of others in your story.
- Approach the group with a humble and eager spirit, ready to learn and grow along with your group members.
- Prepare your own heart for the work God will do in your life.
- Order an MRT Kit from your campus administrator for the study you are leading (i.e. A Man and HIs Work, Authentic Manhood, etc).
  - » An MRT kit will include the Facilitator Study Guide, Participant Guides, MRT business cards to promote the study, MRT prayer cards, and name tags.

Pre-Meeting Logistics

Make a list of all members and contact information.

- Reference Appendix A for an example or create your own.
- Use your my.gracechurchsc.org account to send a welcome email introducing yourself and reminding everyone about the details: when and where you will meet, what to expect at the first meeting, and how to prepare. Share the group list so members can begin learning each other's names. Reference Appendix B for an example email or create your own.
- Consider calling each MRT participant as a follow up to welcome them to the group and answer any questions.

First Meeting Ideas

- Find a comfortable setting where private conversations can be held. Set up chairs in advance.
- Consider ways to make the space inviting.
- Provide something to drink. Coffee is a great start.
- Use nametags for the first couple of meetings until everyone knows each other's name.
- Hand out MRT Prayer Cards and ask group members to fill them out and share them with another member of the group. Having your group members fill out and share prayer cards is a great way to encourage life-on-life discipleship outside of group meeting time.
- Start with basic introductions and one easy icebreaker question. Reference Appendix C for example icebreaker ideas or create your own.
- Be the first to share to set the stage for how much detail you are looking for. Examples:
  - » Why did you sign up for a MRT group?
  - » What do you hope to learn?
  - » What do you like to do for fun?
  - » What is the best thing that happened to you this week?
  - » Consider sharing something a little deeper to show the group that you are willing to be transparent from the beginning.
- Take notes so you remember details about each person and then review the notes before each meeting.
- Give a brief overview of previous sessions.
- Remind the group that they will get out what they put in.
- Encourage them to do any necessary preparation before each meeting so that they can fully engage in the group.
- Set some ground rules:
  - » Everything shared in the group is handled respectfully; it is a safe environment.
  - » Everyone has something to share and something to learn. Be willing to share but also be intentional in listening to what others have to say.
  - » Be available to meet privately if someone needs to talk further or is not comfortable sharing something yet.
  - » Keep prayer requests personal.
  - » Commit to starting and ending on time, but leave the option open for group members to stay later if the discussion continues.

FACILITATING YOUR GROUP

Leading an MRT group can be a wonderful, enriching experience, but it also can present challenges, particularly if you can't communicate your expectations in advance. Below is a list of several ideas for facilitating your group. Please do not feel that you have to use all of them; use what works best for you and your group. Remember that you're a facilitator, not a teacher.

- Use the MRT Facilitator Guide (for your specific study) to help you keep track of your thoughts and to guide discussion in your group.
  - » Throughout the week, be thinking of questions that will facilitate discussion. Write these questions down as you go.
- Identify the main points that you want to get across each week and allow those to direct your discussion. Use examples and stories whenever possible.
- Be supportive and allow others to talk. Be ready to jump in if no one is talking. It typically does not work well if you talk the entire time.
- Ask members in advance to come prepared with something from the material that impacted them, what was challenging, what resonated, etc.
- In advance, choose the questions in each section that seem most important for your group to discuss. As you go through each section, ask participants to share what impacted them in that section.
  - » Don't be overly focused on going over every question if the conversation is flowing.
  - » Skip over questions that have already come up in your discussion.
  - » Summarize sections and review the main points or ask members to do this.
- Remember to ask open-ended questions. As you go through the material, write your own questions in the margins.
- Have others read key passages aloud and then discuss them. This is especially helpful to get your discussion back on target.
- Keep a list of go-to questions handy (such as those in the next section).
- Be comfortable with silence to allow people time to think and answer.
- If you don't feel the discussion went well, try a different technique next week. Mix it up to keep the group discussion interesting.
- Don't be afraid to end the meeting early if the discussion has dwindled.

Asking Good Questions

Asking good questions is a great strategy for not only getting people's attention, but also for helping your group members dig deep into the "why" of their struggles. It may be tempting to accept a surface answer and move on, but don't be afraid to ask follow-up questions and try to get to the heart of the matter. Doing this in a group context takes time and practice, but if you keep asking questions, you can help men discover what detracts from living out authentic manhood.

Go-to Questions:

- Turn to page ____. Did anything stand out to you on the topic of _____?
- What impacted you about _____?
- What does it mean to _____?
- What did this chapter or topic open your eyes to that you had not seen or thought of before?
- Did this chapter or topic cause you to think differently? If so, how?
- Is there anything in this section that you don't agree with? Why?
- What change will you make this week in response to this chapter?

- Look at page _____ (page with questions). Choose any question and share your answer.

Coming up with good questions takes practice. A good resource to listen to is Peter Hubbard's message—"5: Asking Great Questions with Peter Hubbard"—located on the EQUIP Podcast. This was recorded at the 2018 Community & Care Leader Retreat. Contact your responsible pastor for the podcast link or google "5: Asking Great Questions with Peter Hubbard Podcast."

Digging Deeper

- Be prepared to share your own struggles related to the material, where you are still struggling, and how God is redeeming some struggles.
- Ask if anyone would like to share how God is working on them through the material.
- Try to get to the gospel/heart issue of fear, control, despair, or guilt.
- When you say that, what are you afraid of?
- What is holding you back as we discuss _____?
- What is driving you?

IDENTIFY THE MAIN POINTS THAT YOU WANT TO GET ACROSS EACH WEEK AND ALLOW THOSE TO DIRECT YOUR DISCUSSION.

- Follow up as necessary with a personal email, phone call, or coffee. Be available.
- Consider meeting or talking one-on-one with each member of your group.
- Encourage them to reach out to each other outside of the group as well.
- When a topic comes up that is too complex for the group to carry, acknowledge that and ask to meet with the person outside of the group time.
- Connect them with your MRT lead or campus pastor. Don't ignore the challenging topic, but be aware that some issues, sins, and brokenness may need more attention and the professional care of a pastor or counselor.

ENCOURAGING OWNERSHIP

Encouraging Ownership of Group Dynamics

- Have someone show up 10-15 minutes early to help make coffee.
- Have someone email the group a record of ongoing prayer requests.
- Ask a different person to pray or lead an icebreaker each week.
- Ask someone to summarize different sections and review the main points as part of your discussion.
- Talk to each person outside of the group to hear how they think the group is going. If they express concerns about not connecting, challenge them to be part of the solution and let them identify ways they can facilitate growth.
- Invite members to participate in group communication (email, GroupMe, text) about the study throughout the week.

WE ALL NEED TO INTENTIONALLY APPLY WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW AND WHAT WE ARE NOW LEARNING.

Encourage Group Members to Own Their Own Spiritual Growth

- Remind people that just sitting in a group is not the answer. We all need to intentionally apply what we already know and what we are now learning.
- Challenge people to consider how God is calling them to use the material to transform them into the image of Jesus.
  - » What changes will you make? Whom will you tell that can hold you accountable?
  - » Where will you serve? How will you pursue that?
  - » Who is further down the road that you can pursue and get advice and wisdom? What might that look like?
- Help group members take steps to get involved. If they attend Grace, have they gone through Foundations? Are they serving?
- Know yourself: Identify your strengths and gifts using CliftonStrengths or another self-assessment tool.
- Look for the next place of growth: a study, a class, a mission trip, finding a mentor, inviting someone to church, encouraging a friend to attend a group or other Men's Roundtable study with you, etc.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Troubleshooting & Handling Common Problems
There are some common problems that leaders frequently face when facilitating discussions. Here are some suggestions on how you might handle these challenges.

Prepare yourself in advance and have some tools ready for a sticky situation. If your first attempt doesn't go well, don't beat yourself up. Acknowledge the struggle and try something different next time. See yourself as a facilitator—steering the conversation out of freedom—not fear.

Someone who never talks:
- Ask them to read a passage out loud.
- In advance, ask everyone to share something on a topic.
- Contact them during the week to say that a section made you think of him and ask if he would be willing to share more on the topic.
- Say, "Jon, we haven't heard from you. Would you be willing to share what you think about that idea?"

No one is talking:
- Ask an easy question and then ask everyone to share an answer.
- Show vulnerability; share something personal.
- Joke that you will start calling on them.

Someone who dominates:
- When trying to redirect the conversation, first regain control in a kind, intentional way. Respond to something that the person has said.
- Look away toward another person in the group.
- Ask a question specifically addressing another person.
- Say, "thank you Jon, let's hear from someone else" or "what does everyone else think?"
- Talk to that person outside of the group, thank them for sharing, and ask them to help draw others out who may not be as comfortable sharing. Say, "I need you to help me with something. We have a few in our group who are very quiet, and I need your help to draw them into the conversation."
- Outside of the group, say "I've noticed you frequently answer first. Are you uncomfortable with silence? Next time, I want to challenge you to hold back and not be the first to fill the silence. We want to hear from you, but let's try this to see if others who don't speak up as much will share."
- At the beginning of each meeting, remind the group that we want to hear from everyone because everyone has something to share and we all have something we need to hear.

Someone who shares unbiblical thinking:
- Handle this situation with humility and grace, but don't be afraid to steer the person in the right direction.
- Redirect with biblical truth.
- Ask others what they think.
- Ask "Does everyone agree?"
- Clarify what he is saying and regain control.

You don't know the answer:
- Admit that you don't know but will find out for next time. Follow through.
- Ask if someone else in the group has insight.

Getting back on track after a rabbit trail:
- Remember you are steering the conversation. Sometimes a tangent is well worth the time. It may involve a personal situation that needs to be heard. You decide, with grace and wisdom, when to guide the discussion back to the study.
- Have someone else read an important section, quote, or verse to get back on track.

TROUBLESHOOTING

- Refocusing the discussion:
  - » "That's a good point, but let's see what else others have to say."
  - » "I'd love to talk about that more another time, but we have so much good stuff to cover here."
  - » "Are you saying _____? And let's see how that relates to the session."

No one is prepared:

- Be prepared to summarize the sections and main points.
- Have some key sections underlined that you can ask others to read aloud.
- As you review each section, ask people to share what they think about the ideas presented therein.
- Give people a few extra minutes to think about the questions and then ask them to share their answers.
- Address any underlying issues and challenge men appropriately. There is a reason no one is prepared.
- Send a quick email/text during the week to point out interesting topics and encourage your group to dig into the material.
- Send a brief email/text during the week and mention a topic from the upcoming session. Ask people to think on a certain question as they prepare for the group.

Someone who is difficult or argumentative:

- Theological debate is not the purpose of these studies. Don't engage.
- If they disagree fundamentally, offer to meet with them outside the group or suggest they contact a staff member at Grace to continue the conversation.
- For someone who is clearly a problem, confront them privately and do it in love.

The group discussion stays shallow:

- Be willing to show vulnerability. Be intentional about sharing something personal. Show that you don't have it all together.
- Choose increasingly revealing icebreakers, and ask everyone to share.

The group dwindles to a few:

- Reach out to members who are not attending with a call, text, or email. Encourage them to come back.
- Look at this as an opportunity to have a more in-depth conversation with those who are coming. Some of the best groups are small.
- In some situations, the group may need to disband and restart in another group.

The group is just not clicking:

- God knew exactly who would be in your group, and he did not make a mistake.
- Try adding some social time at the beginning of the meeting.
- Try a fun icebreaker that gets everyone laughing, like a funny clip on YouTube. Have everyone share what makes them laugh out loud.
- Not every group will end up as best friends. Accept that, but also remember that God is at work in every group.

SEE YOURSELF AS A FACILITATOR, STEERING THE CONVERSATION OUT OF FREEDOM, NOT FEAR.

Where to go for/how to handle problems beyond the scope of the group:

- Connect with your MRT lead and/or campus pastor
- Pray for wisdom.
- Acknowledge the problem and show compassion.
- If you feel led, stop and pray about the situation right away.
- Thank them for being transparent and sharing. Tell them that you want to further discuss the situation outside of the group.
- Ask him if he has shared this information with others. Where are they seeking help now? Are they seeing a counselor?
- Connect him to the campus pastor or other Grace staff for further assessment. Grace has resources to direct him to appropriate care for help and healing.

MRT LEADERSHIP/RECRUITING TRAINING CASE STUDY

With your MRT lead or coach, review the case studies below.

You are preparing for your new Men's Roundtable group to lead the study for the first time. You have eight other men in your group. Three of them are Grace Church members, three of them are brand new to Grace (have started attending services within the past four weeks), and one of them does not attend Grace but heard about Men's Roundtable through a friend.

QUESTION: What are some practical things you can do beforehand to start off well? What about at the first meeting together?

Consider the following possible scenarios that may occur at your group's first meeting:

- One of your group members doesn't show up without letting anyone know beforehand.
- One of your group members doesn't say anything the entire time.
- One of your group members dominates the discussion with long answers about things he sees in other people he knows.
- One of your group members came but was unprepared (e.g. he didn't listen to the teaching or read the assigned material beforehand).

QUESTION: How would you best handle the above situations? As your group continues to meet together (you are now 4-5 weeks in), the following things happen.

Consider the following possible scenarios that may occur as your group continues to meet together:

- One of your group members who attended the first few meetings doesn't show up for two weeks in a row.
- One of your group members seems to be in despair about his past wounds and is struggling with moving forward.
- One of your group members appears to have it all together and has yet to share anything vulnerable about himself.
- One of your group members shares about being stuck in some significant sin.

QUESTION: How would you best handle the above situations?

Your group has made it to your final meeting together.

QUESTION: What are some practical things you can do to end the group well? How can you encourage your guys to continue "to move"?

QUESTION KILLER CONTINUUM

With your MRT lead or coach, review Peter Hubbard's message, "5: Asking Great Questions with Peter Hubbard" located on the EQUIP Podcast. This was recorded at the 2018 Community & Care Leader Retreat.

Challenge yourself by evaluating which Question Killer you most identify with. Then create a next step that will help you least identify with each one. When finished, share with your group.

Least Identify - no evidence of this in my life

Most Identify - I am killing it

LEAST IDENTIFY 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 MOST IDENTIFY

QUESTION KILLERS

Finishing - Failing to listen long enough for someone to speak

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Firing - Multiplying questions too rapidly

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Fixing - Launching too quickly with responses

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Faking - Listening without listening

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Funneling - Channeling conversation back to you

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

BIGGEST INSIGHT AND NEXT STEP

STRATEGIES FOR GROWTH.

REPLICATING LEADERS

How do you help others carry the weight of leading and move the mission of Grace Church forward? With your MRT lead or coach, review the framework below to help create forward movement in others and set them up for success to lead with effectiveness.

STAGE ONE: I DO / YOU WATCH

In this stage, you are asking someone to help you lead. You are simply asking them to join you and watch you do _____ at the same time giving them a picture of what it would look like for them to lead _____ well. What is important about this stage is that you go first—you show them what leading looks like.

STAGE TWO: I DO / YOU HELP

After you show them, you give them a chance to help you lead a function of _____. What is important about this stage is that they need to carry enough of the weight without feeling all of the responsibility.

STAGE THREE: YOU DO / I HELP

In this stage, you are asking someone to commit to a date when they could lead the majority of _____ and you offer to help them during that time as needed. Be okay with the fact that individuals in this stage may fail. They may make mistakes and that's okay. That is why you are there to help them carry the weight of responsibility. What is important about this stage is that they are owning most of the responsibility.

STAGE FOUR: YOU DO / I CELEBRATE

At this stage, you are celebrating with them how they accomplished _____. What is important about this stage is that you are encouraging them and challenging them to replicate the previous stages with someone else, on their own.

Evaluate your progress and adjust where you've fallen short. Then, go repeat the four stages with someone else. The four stages help an individual move from awareness of an idea to leading effectively and on to furthering their own leadership journey with someone else.

STAGE ONE: I DO / YOU HELP

In this stage, you're

1. Making them aware of the problem you are solving. (People don't care about your solution until they are emotionally connected to the problem it solves.)
2. Asking someone to join you.
3. Casting vision for what leadership looks like. (Focus on competency and character.)
4. Providing them with resources and showing them you care.

- When David learned that his son, Solomon, was the one God had chosen to build the temple, instead of fighting God's plan, he did everything he could to equip his son to carry out the work. In 1 Chronicles 28-29, we see David go above and beyond by giving Solomon his resources, vision, leaders, and his blessing. All Solomon had to do was the work.

STAGE TWO: I DO / YOU HELP

In this stage, you're:

1. Asking them what they learned after watching you go first (listen and adjust).
2. Challenging them to choose a time to help you carry some of the weight.
3. Helping them experience a win. (The goal here is to let them carry enough of the weight without feeling all of the responsibility.)
4. Giving them the big ask to carry more weight.

STAGE THREE: YOU DO / I HELP

In this stage, you're

1. Giving them a chance to lead and getting out of their way. (Loosen your grip on things so they can receive more responsibility.)
2. Offering your support (this is the difference between throwing someone into the deep end and walking with them.)

STAGE FOUR: YOU DO / I CELEBRATE

In this stage, you're

1. Challenging them to replicate the previous stages with someone else, on their own.
2. Thank them for leading and celebrate with them.
3. Finding someone else to lead (replicate again).

MRT LEADERSHIP PLACEMENT TOOL

With your MRT lead or coach, review the case MRT Facilitator Placement Tool to start onboarding new MRT facilitators.

Name: _____

Email & Phone #: _____

Type of group:

☐ Men's Roundtable, Authentic Manhood

☐ Men's Roundtable:

Other_____

Day of the week:

☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday

Starting time:

☐ Morning:_____

☐ Lunchtime:_____

☐ Evening:_____

Where do you want to meet:

☐ Location:_____

☐ TBD

Are you willing to lead a Men's Roundtable, Authentic Manhood group:

☐ Lead (I'm willing to lead a group by myself)

☐ Co-lead (I'm willing to co-lead a group with this person):_____

☐ Co-lead (I'm willing to co-lead a group; please pair me up with another leader)

How soon are you willing to lead?

☐ Beginning the week of:_____

Comments:

APPENDIX A

Name	Email	Cell

APPENDIX B

Review the sample email template or create your own. Edit the yellow highlighted sections to make them personal to you.

EMAIL ONE

WHEN: Before your first meeting as a group

TO: Attendees in the group

FROM: Leader of Men's Roundtable leading the group

SUBJECT: Session One Authentic Manhood Info | Thursday, September 20

Gentleman,

I'm looking forward to meeting each of you to kick off Authentic Manhood this Thursday, September 20 at 6:15am at our Powdersville Campus. We will spend about an hour together for our first session.

The plan is to introduce ourselves, go over expectations, curriculum, and future meeting dates. I'll have a pot of coffee ready for us and *Authentic Manhood* books in the event you did not get one yet. I'm excited, fellas! This will be a lot of fun, and I look forward to working through this material with you!

Also, here is a list of those who are signed up for this group:

Name	Email	Phone Number
Name	Email	Phone Number
Name	Email	Phone Number
Name	Email	Phone Number
Name	Email	Phone Number

My cell is (706) 495-2572. Will each of you please send me a text before our meeting? Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you this Thursday.

Chris

APPENDIX C

Icebreakers are a great way to help the group get to know each other and feel more comfortable with one another. They also give an opportunity for everyone to participate by answering an easy, non-threatening question. Consider using a short icebreaker every week. Start with easy questions and progress each week to more challenging questions that reveal the heart.

- What was your first job?
- What is your favorite comfort food?
- Tell an interesting fact about the place where you grew up.
- Tell about your worst haircut/hairstyle.
- Ask in advance so everyone has time to prepare: Bring a photograph of yourself from a different season of life.
- What are your top three go-to internet sites? Why?
- What is your dream vacation? Dream job?
- Share an adjective that describes your personality and also starts with the first letter of your name.
- What is one interesting thing about you that no one else in the room knows?
- Describe an ideal Friday night or your perfect Saturday.
- Name one accomplishment and one regret from this week.
- What was the worst thing that happened this week?
- What was the biggest challenge you faced this week?
- For you, is the glass-half-empty or half-full? Why?
- What was your proudest moment?
- What is one thing about your current circumstances you wish you could change?
- Ask in advance so everyone has time to prepare: Share a verse that is significant to you and why you chose it.
- How do you want to be remembered? If you died today, would you be remembered that way?
- What is one of your best/worst attributes?
- Ask others in your group to come up with icebreaker questions, especially someone who has shown leadership potential.

You can find many more using an online search or asking other leaders. For more ideas, download and reference QuestionsInABox.com.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I've had a lot of fun building and implementing the above ideas and tools at Grace Church. I've helped churches on a professional level and as a volunteer. Don't hesitate to contact me directly via email, cell, or text if you need help with implementation or know other churches that have additional questions about this. I'm looking forward to helping make MRT Equipping/ Training work for them and I'm excited about what God has in store.

Contact:
Chris Rivers
(706) 495-2572
crivers@gracechurchsc.org