

David's Mighty Men VIII Introduction 2007 - 2008

Vision and Purpose

The vision for DMM was born out of a desire to challenge the men of Loudonville Community Church to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. More specifically, the vision is to equip men to be spiritual leaders in their homes, their church, their community and their world.

Introduction and History

You are part of a men's program that began at LCC in the fall of 1999. About 25 men met together over a nine-month period with the purpose of developing their potential for spiritual leadership. This was the pilot program for what has become the heart of our men's ministry.

It was during the following year (2000-2001) that David's Mighty Men began to take its distinctive form. That year over 70 men were involved and various adjustments were made to the program. Since that time, DMM has continued to grow and develop its own unique identity and style. Each year the focus of study has been different.

- **David's Mighty Men I (2000-2001)**
Various subjects related to a man's spiritual development (spiritual disciplines, personal holiness, family, leadership, evangelism, etc.).
- **David's Mighty Men II (2001-2002)**
A systematic theology book by Dr. Wayne Grudem titled *Bible Doctrine*.
- **David's Mighty Men III (2002-2003)**
The life of David as presented in the Scriptures.
- **David's Mighty Men IV (2003-2004)**
A book on spiritual growth by Dr. Henry Cloud and John Townsend titled *How People Grow*. Also the eight character qualities outlined in II Peter 1:5-7.
- **David's Mighty Men V (2004-2005)**
The Book of Romans using John Stott's commentary as supplemental material.
- **David's Mighty Men VI (2005 -2006).**
The Book of Acts (chapters 1-12) and the follow-up study guide to the Life Action Revival Crusade titled *Seeking Him: Experiencing the Joy of Personal Revival* by Nancy Leigh DeMoss and Tim Grissom.
- **David's Mighty Men VII (2006-2007)**
Moses: The Humblest Man on Earth! Our Bible study focused on the Book of Exodus, Numbers (chapters 10-27) and Deuteronomy (chapters 29-34).

The Original Version of David's Mighty Men

Three thousand years ago King David organized the original group of *David's Mighty Men*. You can read about this in II Samuel 23:8-39. To be included in this elite band of select men, one had to:

1. Join the King's army.

A decision was required. Will I choose to identify my interests with those of King David... or not? Originally, those soldiers who signed on to fight with David were a group of "losers."

All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him (David), and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him (I Sam. 22:2).

Over time, however, these "losers" became "winners." The King was able to take "nobodies" and turn them in to "somebodies".... mighty men of God.

2. Imitate the King's character.

David had a heart like God's heart (I Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22). To be one of his *mighty men* meant that you had a heart that beat for the same things his beat for:

- the glory of God.
- godliness.
- justice.
- mercy.
- worship.
- the Word of God.

3. Trust the King's resources.

David trusted in God and God delivered him from all his enemies. *I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies (Psalm 18:2).*

To be a mighty man of David, you too had to learn to trust in the resources of the king's King!

4. Do exploits!

Membership in the original band of *David's Mighty Men* had nothing to do with education, finances, family ties, popularity or talents. To be enrolled in this most elite group, one had to simply (!) do an exploit (heroic act). One had to accomplish a God-sized mission for the sake of the kingdom. David was a giant-killer (I Sam. 17). To be a *mighty man*, you had to be a giant-killer, too!

That is not how we select leaders in the church today, is it? We go by resumes, seniority, image, education, and a half-dozen other human criteria. By contrast, David looked for bravery and boldness in the real world of battle (Jim Cymbala Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire. P. 181).

Look at some of the exploits of this original DMM:

- Josheb-Basshebeth (II Sam. 23:8).
...he raised his spear against 800 men, whom he killed in one encounter.
- Eleazar (II Sam. 23:9-10).
...he was with David when they taunted the Philistines... The men of Israel retreated, but he stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword...
- Shammah (II Sam. 23:11-12).
...he took his stand in the middle of the field (of lentils). He defended it and struck the Philistines down...
- Abishai (II Sam. 23:18-19).
...he raised his spear against 300 men, whom he killed...
- Benaiah (II Sam. 23:20-23).
...he struck down two of Moab's best men. He also went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion. And he struck down a huge Egyptian. Although the Egyptian had a spear in his hand, Benaiah went against him with a club. He snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear...

The Profile of a "Mighty Man"

The success of our men's ministry at LCC should never be measured by mere human standards. The fact that our programs may be well attended and that the men who attend "like" what we do, does not necessarily mean that this ministry is "successful." Success will be measured by God's standards. We believe we will have accomplished our mission when a man is mature in the following areas:

1. Knowledge (What he knows...).

A "mighty man" will be someone who has a sound working knowledge of:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| - The Bible. | - Himself. |
| - The Gospel. | - The will of God. |
| - Who God is. | - A Christian worldview. |

2. Character (Who he is...).

A "mighty man" will be someone who reflects the very image of God:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| - Christlike. | - Practices spiritual disciplines. |
| - Holiness of heart and life. | - Manifests the fruits of the Spirit. |
| - Man of integrity. | - Growing in grace. |
| - Moral purity. | |

3. Service (What he does....).

A "mighty man" will be someone who manifests the authenticity of his faith by his actions at home, at work, at church, in the world:

- A family man.
- A witness for Jesus Christ.
- A servant.
- Knows and uses his spiritual gift(s).
- Makes disciples.
- Active member of the body of Christ.
- Obedient to the voice of God.
- Involved in ministry.

4. Community (Who he is in relationship with....).

A "mighty man" realizes he cannot live in isolation from other "mighty men." He seeks to build deep interpersonal relationships with others that reflect:

- Mutual accountability.
- Unity.
- Team ministry.
- Corporate worship, Bible study, prayer.
- Deep friendships.

Table Talk

Look again at the profile of a Mighty Man:

- Knowledge... What he knows.
- Character... Who he is.
- Service... What he does.
- Community... Who he is in relationship with.

1. Which of these areas do you think men today struggle with the most?
2. How could a small group address this need?
3. If you were in a small group last year, was it a good experience? Did it help you to fit the profile?
4. What can be done in your small group this year to ensure that men are growing in all four areas?

David's Mighty Men VIII

The structure and format of this year's program will be familiar to those who have participated before:

- monthly large group meetings on Saturday mornings.
- participation in a men's small group that meets weekly.
- daily quiet time that includes material we are studying.
- do "exploits" (mighty deeds).

- encouragement to be involved in other men's events:
 - in the church (prayer ministries, service opportunities, classes, conferences, etc.)
 - beyond the church (retreats, special outings, etc.)
 - in the region (area conferences, etc.)

This year we intend to focus on three priorities:

- I. The Life of Paul.
- II. Getting more men involved in small groups.
- III. Doing exploits.

I. The Life of Paul.

Our focus this year will be on the life of Paul. Because Paul was known for his journeys, we will endeavor to join with him and become his travel companions. However, our journey will not be geographical. Rather, it will be a spiritual journey. Our text will be the Bible itself, particularly the letters of Paul. Because of the limits of time, our study will be selective.

A. Monthly Meetings.

Each monthly meeting will focus on one of the serendipitous discoveries that Paul made as he pursued his journey toward its goal. Each discovery will be examined by surveying one of Paul's letters.

- September 15, 2007. Setting the Compass. Philippians 3:4-21
- October 13, 2007. The Glory of the Cross. Galatians
- November 3, 2007. The Victory of Defeat. II Corinthians 1-7
- December 8, 2007. The Riches of Poverty. II Corinthians 8-9
- January 5, 2008. The Power of Weakness. II Corinthians 10-13
- February 16, 2008. The Joy of Suffering. Philippians
- March 15, 2008. The Freedom of Bondage. Ephesians
- May 10, 2008. The Presence of the Future. I & II Thessalonians

B. Small Groups.

A Weekly Scripture Guide has been prepared to help the Small Groups stay on track (see page 13). Each week a new passage will be presented for study, discussion and application. In this way, we hope to get a broad survey of Paul's spiritual pilgrimage... and join with him in the joy of discovery.

Our text will be the Bible. However, some men may find it helpful to consult other works that have examined the life of Paul. The books below are offered only as suggestions:

- *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free.* F. F. Bruce. Eerdmans. 1977.
- *Paul: A Servant of Jesus Christ.* F. B. Meyer. Adamant Media Corp. 2001.
- *To Live Is Christ: Embracing the Passion of Paul.* Beth Moore. Broadman & Holman Publishers. 2001.
- *The Apostle: A Life of Paul.* John Pollock. Victor. 1972.
- *Paul: A Man of Grace and Grit.* Charles R. Swindoll. Thomas Nelson. 2002.

As each Small Group examines individual passages and letters of Paul in the New Testament, they may choose to consult commentaries and Bible study aids. A good single volume commentary of the New Testament is the *Zondervan NIV Bible Commentary* (Vol. 2: New Testament) by Kenneth L. Barker and John Kohlenberger III.

II. Getting more men involved in small groups.

Last year we sought to encourage our small groups to go deeper. This year we want to encourage them to go broader. Many men at LCC are not currently in a small group. This year we hope to encourage more men to get involved. We recognize that there are other small group opportunities at LCC, most notably couples groups and ministry groups. However, as men, we recognize the importance of men relating to other men... long-term in a small group environment. We want to see more men experience small groups this year.

III. Doing Exploits.

We intend to make our name (David's **Mighty Men**) express reality. We pray this year that every man in DMM will do "exploits" for the King. We pray that many small groups will take on God-sized heroic acts as a group. Our monthly meetings this year will feature testimonies and reports of men who are doing great things for the kingdom. We pray their stories will inspire us all to do greater exploits than ever before. Examples of exploits (either individual or group) include:

- Start a new ministry.
- Go on a missions trip.
- Begin tithing.
- Accept a leadership position.
- Take your family on a missions trip.
- Be intentional about witness.
- Go back to school.
- Run for public office.

Small Groups

Every participant in the DMM program will be encouraged to become involved in a weekly Small Group. There are enough Small Group options so that most men are able to find one that fits their schedule (see page 11). The small group coordinator works hard to make sure that Small Group leaders have enough orientation to the year's program so that all our groups are moving in the same direction. It is the responsibility of a Small Group leader to:

- Call and lead the meetings.
- Make sure that everyone in the group knows each other and feels welcomed.
- Follow up on those who are absent. If someone drops out, inform the small group coordinator.
- Make sure that the programmed material is covered.
- Implement any other initiatives and emphases that the DMM leadership may promote.
- Lead group discussions.
- Provide general leadership for the group.
- Make sure that DMM materials (notebook, books, etc.) are available to all the members of his group.
- Work to ensure that the group begins and ends on time.
- Appoint a leader when he is absent.

Weekly Plan for Small Groups

The coming year is divided into 44 weeks. Small Groups are encouraged to use the Weekly Scripture Guide on page 13 as a guide to help them complete the material in the time allotted. Each participant should keep this guide handy so that he can prepare at home the material being studied that week in his small group.

Each small group will determine its own approach to how each lesson is taught. Some groups may have a designated "teacher." However, most groups will want to share the teaching responsibility with various members of the group. It is important that all members come prepared and freely enter in to the group discussion.

The basic format for a small group meeting should aim to divide the time together into three (roughly) equal portions. The order of these parts of a meeting may vary. But all three elements should normally be present every time the group meets.

1. Sharing.

During this part of your meeting, the men will gather, talk about their week, shoot the bull... but the leader will soon make sure that the sharing becomes more meaningful.

- Are there prayer requests?
- Any difficult life situations?
- Any blessings, answers to prayer?

During this time, the group should ask accountability questions. Make sure that each member of the group has had an opportunity to share life goals for which he wants the group to hold him accountable. For example:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| - Daily quiet time. | - Exercise. |
| - Tithing. | - Eating. |
| - Personal purity. | - Family responsibilities. |
| - Temptations. | - Witnessing. |

Once these have been shared, accountability questions should be natural. Consider using the questions John Wesley urged his small groups to use over 250 years ago:

- 1) What known sins have you committed since our last meeting?
- 2) What temptations have you met with?
- 3) How were you delivered?
- 4) What have you thought, said or done of which you doubt whether it be sin or not?

2. Studying.

One member of the group will have been designated "teacher" for the Bible study that day. He should have prepared the designated Scripture (see the Weekly Scripture Guide on page 13) so that he can guide the group in a study of the passage. See pages 14-15 for an outline of how to prepare a Bible study.

3. Praying.

Make sure that a good portion of time is reserved each week for prayer. Prayer should not be forced, and no one should be made to feel uncomfortable by the form of prayer used, but opportunity should be given to each man to pray. Sometimes pray as a group. Other times consider praying in pairs, or threesomes. Things to include in your prayer time:

- The needs of the men in your group.
- Help in applying the Bible passage you have been studying.
- Other concerns on your hearts.

Materials and Costs

We believe that our Men's Ministry should not be a drain on the budget of the church. Most of us are well able to cover the costs of the materials we use.

* Notebook (binder, dividers, paper)	\$15.00
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For those who so desire, customized clothing (shirts, vests and jackets) are available on Saturdays after DMM meetings. Prices will be available at the table.

Other costs that may be involved include:

- Freewill donation for the cost of breakfast once a month.
- Men's Retreat (or Couples Retreat).
- Iron Sharpens Iron.
- Deep Sea Fishing Trip.

Each month, at our large group meetings, you will have the opportunity to turn in money for these items at a special table.

Can Others Attend?

Yes! The DMM large group monthly meeting is meant to be an "entry point" for any man who wants connection with other men in the Body of Christ. Though the study of the life of Paul will continue from month to month, each lesson given by Pastor Stan will be a unit that can be understood alone.

Those who attend a large group meeting will be urged to join a Small Group. It is hoped that the connection with others will encourage them to get involved and become an active participant in the broader ministries at LCC. Please feel free to invite another man to come with you at any point during the year.

Monthly Meetings

The basic schedule for our monthly Saturday meetings will be as follows:

7:00 – 7:45 AM	Prayer in the Prayer Garden (optional)
8:00 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30 – 8:50 AM	Worship and Praise
8:50 – 9:05 AM	Exploits/Testimonies
9:05 – 10:30 AM	Bible Study and Table Discussions

Each month a Study Guide will be prepared and made available to each participant. These pages can be added to your DMM notebook.

Special Events Schedule 2007 - 2008

Beyond the monthly large group meetings on Saturday, other special events have been planned for the coming year. Mark your calendars now for these special activities.

- **Couples Retreat. October 5-7, 2007.**
Rather than sponsoring a retreat for men only, this year DMM is helping to sponsor a church-wide Couples Retreat. It will be held at Camp-of-the-Woods in Speculator, New York. Our speakers will be Dr. and Mrs. Brian Fast.
- **Iron Sharpens Iron. April 5, 2008.**
For the fourth year in a row, LCC will host a regional men's conference. Last year about 900 men attended. Plenary speakers this year will be Stu Weber and Crawford Loritts. Numerous excellent workshops will be offered.
- **Deep Sea Fishing Trip. May 24, 2008.**
Plan on inviting your son, daughter or bring a friend. The fellowship is terrific!

The costs of these events will be communicated as they become available.

Who's Who?

The following names will be a helpful resource if you need information about various aspects of the DMM program.

Coordinator			
Ministry	Contact	Phone	E-mail
Men's Ministries	Gordon Tucker	356-0364	gtucker1@nycap.rr.com
David's Mighty Men	Don Ossenfort	378-4751	dono-ministry@nycap.rr.com
Small Groups	Jeff Kline	456-3323	jdkline@juno.com
Worship & Praise	Joel Crimmins	283-6334	jcrimmins@capitalbank.com
Men's Retreat	Doug Petersen	784-2500	dougpetersen@skiltons.org
Regional Men's Conference	Gordon Tucker	356-0364	gtucker1@nycap.rr.com
Prayer Ministries	Don Ossenfort	446-1267	wsarnold@verizon.net
Helps Ministries	Steve Brickman	463-2606	sbrickman@nycap.rr.com
Hospitality	Gene Wang	785-7263	wangbade@msn.com
DMM Shirts	George Johnson	449-8434	
Information	Tim Gerardi	446-9494	tgerardi@localnet.com
DMM Web Site	Erich Rupprecht	286-2575	erichr@lcchurch.org
DMM Bears Fruit Food Pantry Liaison	Jeff Dugrenier	283-0879	jdugreni@nycap.rr.com
Common Ground	Joe Lynskey	275-1438	joel@lcchurch.org
Good Fight of Faith	Steve Hayford	482-3029	stephenhayford@juno.com
DMM Audio Taping	Chuck Stuber	785-0577	crstuber@yahoo.com
DMM Clean-up	Frank Conroy	782-7282	fconroy@nycap.rr.com
Disaster Assistance Team	Dick Tyrrell	461-9021	rtyrrell@nycap.rr.com
Pastor	Stan Key	426-0751	lcc@lcchurch.org
Pastor	Mike Conley	426-0751	lcc@lcchurch.org

My Commitment

To better enable me to be a Mighty Man of God, I commit myself for the following ten months to the following:

1. To attend the monthly meetings and the meetings of my Small Group.
2. To complete the assigned readings.
3. To establish and keep a daily personal quiet time where I can be alone with God to pray and to read His Word.
4. To keep confidential any sensitive information that others in my Small Group may share.
5. To ask God to take me out of my comfort zone this year and to truly experience growth in some specific area of my spiritual life.
6. To commit myself to action and get involved in one ministry area so I can impact my world for Christ.

Signature

Date

Weekly Scripture Guide

September 2007 – July 2008

The Week of:	Scripture:	Topic:
1. September 16	Galatians 1:1-10	No Other Gospel
2. September 23	Galatians 1:11-24	Paul Called by God
3. September 30	Galatians 2:1-10	Paul Accepted by the Apostles
4. October 7	Galatians 2:11-21	Paul Opposes Peter
5. October 14	Galatians 3:1-14	Faith or Observance of the Law
6. October 21	Galatians 3:15-26	The Law and the Promise
7. October 28	Galatians 3:26-4:7	Sons of God
8. November 4	Galatians 4:8-20.	Paul's Concern for the Galatians
9. November 11	Galatians 4:21-31	Hagar and Sarah
10. November 18	Galatians 5:1-15.	Freedom in Christ
11. November 25	Galatians 5:16-26	Life by the Spirit
12. December 2	Galatians 6:1-18	Doing Good to All
13. December 9	Philippians 1:1-11	Thanksgiving and Prayer
14. December 16	Philippians 1:12-30	Paul's Chains Advance the Gospel
15. January 6	Philippians 2:1-11	Imitating Christ's Humility
16. January 13	Philippians 2:12-18	Shining as Stars
17. January 20	Philippians 2:19-30	Timothy and Epaphroditus
18. January 27	Philippians 3:1-11	No Confidence in the Flesh
19. February 3	Philippians 3:12-4:1	Pressing on Toward the Goal
20. February 10	Philippians 4:2-9	Exhortations
21. February 17	Philippians 4:10-23	Thanks for Their Gifts
22. February 24	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith
23. March 2	1 Thessalonians 2:1-16	Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica
24. March 9	1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5	Paul's Longing to See the Thessalonians
25. March 16	1 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Timothy's Encouraging Report
26. March 23	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	Living to Please God
27. March 30	1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11	The Coming of the Lord
28. April 6	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28	Final Instructions
29. April 13	2 Thessalonians 1:1-12	Thanksgiving and Prayer
30. April 20	2 Thessalonians 2:1-12	The Man of Lawlessness
31. April 27	2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5	Stand Firm... Request for Prayer
32. May 4	2 Thessalonians 3:16-18	Warning Against Idleness
33. May 11	2 Timothy 1:1-18	Encouragement to Be Faithful
34. May 18	2 Timothy 2:1-13	Be Strong in Grace
35. May 25	2 Timothy 2:14-26	A Workman Approved by God
36. June 1	2 Timothy 3:1-9	Godlessness in the Last Days
37. June 8	2 Timothy 3:10-17	Continue in What You Have Learned
38. June 15	2 Timothy 4:1-8	Paul's Charge to Timothy
39. June 22	2 Timothy 4:9-22	Personal Remarks
40. June 29	Titus 1:1-16	Titus' Task on Crete
41. July 6	Titus 2:1-15	What Must Be Taught to Various Groups
42. July 13	Titus 3:1-15	Doing What Is Good.
43. July 20	Philemon 1:1-7	Thanksgiving and Prayer
44. July 27	Philemon 1:8-28	Paul's Plea for Onesimus

How to Study the Bible

Each week your Small Group will have the opportunity to examine one passage of Scripture from the writings of Paul. See the weekly Scripture Guide for the schedule (page 13). Ideally, each man should prepare each passage individually. The study leader for a given passage, should prepare the designated passage of Scripture by following the steps outlined below.

Before opening the Bible **PRAY**. Ask God that the very same Spirit who inspired the original author to write would enable you, the reader, to interpret what is written. An example of this kind of prayer is found in Psalm 119:18. *Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.*

Remember, there are three indispensable steps required for good Bible study. If any step is omitted, the desired result will be unattained.

- **OBSERVATION:** What does it say?
- **INTERPRETATION:** What does it mean?
- **APPLICATION:** How do I apply this to my life?

OBSERVATION: What does it say?

Observation is the art of seeing what is there! Approach the text like a detective looking for facts and clues. At this stage, no piece of data should be considered insignificant. Don't make assumptions yet about what is important and what is not. Every detail of the text has potential for helping to unlock the meaning of the text.

1. Read the passage through at least twice and then answer the following questions:
 - a. Are there names, places, ceremonies mentioned in this text that I need help understanding? (A Bible dictionary may be helpful.)
 - b. Are there English terms I don't understand? (An English dictionary may be helpful.)
 - c. What is the main idea that the author is trying to get across? What is the primary theme(s)?
2. Look for how the author structured (organized) his thoughts.

What a skeleton is to a human body, structure is to a text. Seek to determine the inner framework of the passage you are studying. Discovering this skeletal structure will greatly help in interpreting the passage. In analyzing a text, watch for possible uses of the following:

- a. **Contrast** - The association of opposites. Key word: "but."
- b. **Comparison** - The association of similar things, one of which is known, the other is less known. Key words: "like" or "as."
- c. **Cause and Effect** - The author wants the reader to know why certain things happen. Key words: "therefore," "because," "so that," "for."

- d. **Climax** – A movement that demonstrates a progression of ideas, events or details toward a final destination. Like a crescendo in music.
- e. **Repetition** - The repeated use of the same (or similar) word, phrase or idea.
- f. **Question and answer** - A movement from the problem to the solution, from the question to the answer.

INTERPRETATION: What does it mean?

The goal of interpretation is to seek to determine what the author actually meant by what he wrote. Do not impose *your* interpretation of the text until you are sure you understand the author's meaning. Let the text speak for itself!

At this stage it can be very helpful to:

- Determine the main theme of the passage.
- Use a chart or outline to summarize the structure and content of the passage.
- Answer questions such as the following:
 - What does this passage teach me about God?
 - What does it teach me about myself?
 - What does it teach me about sin?
 - What does it teach about true godliness?
 - What does it teach about the ways of God?
 - Etc.

This is a good time to consult the commentaries. Seeing how others have interpreted this passage can be helpful in several ways:

- Correct errors.
- Expand knowledge.
- See the text in new ways.
- Think with greater discernment.

APPLICATION: How do I apply this to my life?

Without application Bible study can easily become an act of self-deception (James 1:22)! In this step, the reader asks the question "So what?" God's Word is given not just to inform our lives, but to transform them!

1. Is there an example to imitate? To avoid?
2. Is there a command to obey?
3. Is there a sin to forsake?
4. Is there a promise to claim?
5. Is there a truth to learn?
6. Is there is a principle to be applied?
7. Is there a warning to be heeded?