

Before Beginning *The Quest for Authentic Manhood*TM

Men's Fraternity requires strong leadership. As the leader, your job is to ensure a quality environment and presentation of this DVD series. You can do that for your men by closely following the recommended guidelines and session-to-session leader's notes.

- First and foremost, you should **VIEW THE ENTIRE SERIES IN ADVANCE**. By doing so, your understanding and excitement for hosting this series will be greatly enhanced. This is a critical step to making *The Quest for Authentic Manhood*TM successful!
- Your **CREATIVITY** around each session will make the entire series more engaging and more relevant to your men. By viewing the entire DVD series in advance and thinking about the content wholistically you will be better equipped. The following are a few ideas:
 - Start a session with a recent movie clip that goes along with the day's topic (never let these clips run longer than 3 minutes ... shorter is always better).
 - Start or end a session with upbeat music or a music video.
 - Tell a personal story that illustrates the upcoming session.
 - Have one of the men in your group briefly share what he is learning or how his life is changing.
 - Have a drawing for a book giveaway
- The more your **SETTING** has a predictable and consistent quality week-to-week, the more men will enjoy the series and the more likely they will be to bring their friends to share the experience. Below is a checklist of elements you should have in place for each session:
 - Make sure the room you meet in is bright, clean, and warm with comfortable seating and easy access.
 - A good video screen is vital.
 - We recommend making refreshments available (as simple as coffee and donuts or just beverages) with upbeat contemporary music playing in the background before each session.
 - Good secular music is more inviting to men and the guests they bring, especially at the beginning. The intent is to create a generic, non-threatening atmosphere without a strong "church" feel.
- There is one application project in this series and you, as leader, are critical to its success. In Session 3, you will direct every man to the "**YOUR MANHOOD PLAN**" in the workbook on pages 92-95. From Session 3 onward, you should be consistently encouraging your men to develop their personal Manhood Plan. Give the men periodic directions and illustrations on

HOW TO DEVELOP A GOOD PLAN. Robert Lewis will do the same during the DVD sessions. Sample Manhood Plans are included on the Leadership CD-ROM and can be printed and handed out to the men as guidelines. Every man must turn in a typed copy of his personal Manhood Plan to you at Session 23 and should share his plan with his small group. **ONLY** the men who turn in their personal Manhood Plan can participate in the manhood “graduation” ceremony that we recommend you have on Week 24.

- *The Quest for Authentic Manhood*TM series was filmed in a two-semester format. The first semester is 13 sessions and the second semester is 11 sessions (including the manhood graduation ceremony at the end). The most successful groups have followed this two-semester pattern, starting the first half of the series in early fall and ending before Christmas, and then starting the second half after the first of the year. Make sure you read the “Timing is Everything” document on the CD-ROM.
- *The Quest for Authentic Manhood*TM works best for men 18 years and older. If dads want to bring their sons, we **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that they be at least 16- years-old and that they attend **ONLY** Sessions 14-24. Teenage sons get bogged down in the manhood wounds of Sessions 1-13, but sons who start at Session 14 and complete the second semester find the material highly engaging and should be encouraged to come for that portion of the series.
- During the final session, Session 24, of *The Quest for Authentic Manhood*TM series we strongly encourage you to celebrate the year and honor the men who turned in their personal Manhood Plan. You can make this celebration as creative and original as you would like. We’ll expand on this subject in the Leader’s Notes that follow, but a celebration at the conclusion is a wonderful “spike” to this curriculum and a wonderful opportunity to welcome men into authentic manhood. We give every man who completes the year a special gift to commemorate not only the conclusion of the series but their entrance into real manhood!