

- Pastors
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## How to rev up men's discipleship process

**THERE ARE MANY FRUSTRATIONS** that come with being a pastor, but there are also lots of opportunities. You can accomplish things laypersons can only dream about—and so much more quickly. With the blessing of his senior pastor, Tom start-

ed a small-group ministry in his very busy 1,000-member church in Atlanta. Over seven years, his ministry grew to ten groups with a combined total of about 120 people.

Then a new senior pastor came on board. He shared

Tom's vision for small groups. He convinced the leadership that the congregation should stop coming to the church building on Wednesday evenings. Instead, he wanted small groups to meet in homes on Wednesdays.

In the spring he announced that they would start the new small-group ministry in the fall. Over the summer he taught on the importance and value of community. On the first night in the fall, 817 people met in small groups.

It took seven years for Tom, a talented and committed layperson (he's in top management of a Fortune-500 company) to recruit 120 people into small groups—even with his pastor's support. With the

new pastor's *personal involvement*, it took only seven months to recruit 817 people into small groups—an increase of nearly 700 percent.

Many churches suffer a dearth of laymen who are meaningfully involved in serious spiritual growth and church leadership. Thus, one of the key strategic roles of a pastor is take an active role in the church's men's discipleship process. Make an investment now in the men who will be investing in others for years to come.

### BEST PRACTICE

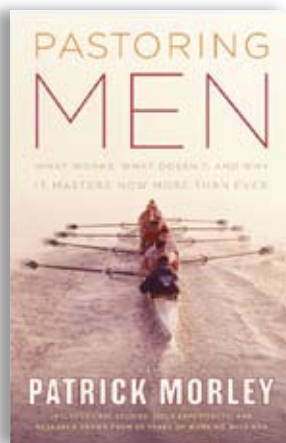
Do you need more lay leaders? Most churches are in need of more leaders, and many are in desperate need of them. One of the most effective ways you can raise up more leaders is men's discipleship—and one of the best ways to disciple men is through small groups.

With his pastor's blessing, a layman started a small group with seven men in his church in Birmingham, Alabama. During the next few years, his ministry grew to seven groups totaling 128 men.

At that time the church needed about 150 leaders to function properly. One hundred of those leaders came through small groups. But what's especially intriguing is that approximately 75 of men started in small groups as nominal Christians who would (probably) not have otherwise stepped up to become church leaders.

### RESOURCE

In *Pastoring Men* (Moody), Patrick Morley, a self-described "one trick pony" (men's discipleship is his trick), teaches pastors how to disciple men. You will learn what works, what doesn't work, and why it matters now more than ever. Morley says, "No man fails on purpose but, for the most part, their capabilities are not equal to their intentions." In *Pastoring Men* you will learn how men are doing, what men want, what keeps men from getting what they want, what men need (to become disciples of Jesus), research and case studies, and a proven model to build men into disciples and leaders. Download a free 50-page excerpt at [pastoringmen.com](http://pastoringmen.com).



**PATRICK MORLEY** is founder of, and **DAVID DELK** is president of, *Man in the Mirror* ([maninthemirror.org](http://maninthemirror.org)), a ministry that trains and resources church leaders to reach men more effectively. Morley's newest book is *How to Survive the Economic Meltdown*, a free download at [survivethemeltdown.org](http://survivethemeltdown.org).