



## Fishers of Men of Memphis, TN

*"What about you?"* - Pope Francis

"Fishers of Men is a Catholic men's ministry which calls, equips and encourages men through an experience of authentic friendship to become active disciples of Jesus Christ".

We are:

- Authentically Catholic, open to all men including clergy
- A lay organization supported by the local Bishop
- Fishers of Men is intentional about creating and supporting Discipleship initiatives
- Fishers of Men is governed by a Board of Directors and is a 501 (c) (3) organization
- Parish based Fishers of Men groups:
  - Committed to the mission of our ministry and guidance of the Fishers of Men Board of Directors (willing to support our mission by following meeting guidelines and aligning with Fishers of Men priorities)
  - Oriented towards "Catholic men" (create spiritual leaders in their families)
  - Committed to the teachings of the Catholic faith in all studies and presentations
  - Men witnessing to each other each week, in small faith sharing groups
  - Groups are expected to grow through personal invitation

We do:

- Meet each week, same time and day
- Meeting elements:
  - Must be a warm, genuine, safe environment where first timers or old timers alike feel comfortable and welcome
  - Prayer (at least opening and closing with petitions)
  - Song (one person should be responsible for music)
  - Theologically sound curriculum to explore issues relating to creating disciples of men (Crossing the Goal material is preferred (see [crossingthegoal.com](http://crossingthegoal.com) ))
  - Small group sharing 3 or 4 men focused on witnessing and discussing the relevance of the curriculum studied (everyone participates)
  - Discretion (must create an environment of trust and confidentiality)
  - A minimum of two trained leaders for each group (training is provided by the Fishers of Men)
  - One or two people responsible for retention and follow up
- Fishers of Men members:
  - Attend and participate in weekly Fishers of Men group meetings
  - Commit to authentic friendship (open-accept, invite-initiate, selfless-humble and giving)
  - Aspire to become a spiritual leader in their family and wider community
  - Seek to be active in activities of one's parish
  - Regularly visit [fishersofmengroups.com](http://fishersofmengroups.com) to stay connected and updated

- Discipleship:
  - Actively recruit men to join the weekly meetings. Our responsibility is to continually invite new men.
  - Work within the Diocese to support the Bishop, Priests, and collaborate with other ministries that encourage discipleship (e.g. Cursillo, Christ Renews His Parish, St. Leo's Lunch, Men's Morning of Spirituality)
  - Provide access to wider resources and opportunities for personal faith formation (Lumen Civitatis, DeepC, Institute for Liturgical Study)
  - Social media presenting a professional "face" for FOM (Web site, Facebook, Twitter managed by a dedicated paid professional)
  - Produce yearly men's conferences (Men's Morning of Spirituality)
  - Focus on inclusion of all with an emphasis on younger men
  
- For More Information about Fishers of Men or joining a group, or starting a group in your Parish please visit [fishersofmengroups.com](http://fishersofmengroups.com) or call Bill Platten (901) 491-8151, or Steve West (901) 848-8135.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Who are Fishers of Men and what do you do?** Fishers of Men is a Catholic Men's Ministry which Calls, Equips, and Encourages men through an experience of authentic friendship to become active disciples of Jesus Christ. We accomplish this through small faith sharing men's groups that meet weekly.

**What is "Authentic Friendship"?** In today's secular world, authentic friendships are rare. Authentic friendships are those where men who are on a journey to find Jesus can minister to and be ministered by other men. Authentic friendship allows men to trust each other and hold each other accountable. It implies "solidarity" and "subsidiarity" as taught by our Church. It also implies that we will be fully present to each other. Authentic friendships find their common ground in living a sacramental life. As Jesus said, "Come and see."

**When and where do you meet?** Fishers of Men groups meet as Parish based small faith sharing groups mostly once per week. To find groups in the Memphis, TN area go to [fisherofmengroups.com](http://fisherofmengroups.com).

**What do you do at a Fishers of Men meeting?** Most meetings consist of an opening song, group prayer, a group study (we favor using Crossing the Goal videos as a study guide but some groups study next Sundays readings), small group (4 or 5 men) sharing and discussion, and a closing prayer. Our meetings are designed to last one hour. Many groups offer an opportunity to attend Mass either before or after the meeting.

**Are you just another "Bible Study" or "Prayer Group"?** We fill a unique niche in most Parishes. We are a men's ministry who motivate and challenge each other to encounter Christ and to become a spiritual leader in their household. We offer a safe atmosphere where men can truly be themselves as they grow together. Most other men's ministries offer service opportunities and fellowship but lack the chance to embark on a sincere spiritual journey with other men. Although we study true Catholic theology and do use the Bible, we are not a Bible study.

**Do you have to be a parent to be a Fisher of Men?** No, not at all. Fishers of Men is made up of men in all stages of life, single, married, widowed, and divorced. It is a great place for younger men to find mentors who can help them in the early stages of fatherhood, married life, and even a business career.

**Do you have to be a Catholic to be a Fisher of Men?** Men of all faith traditions are welcome. Anyone attending a Fishers of Men meeting needs to be aware that we are a Catholic Men's Ministry, sharing and learning what it means to be Catholic in today's world.

**Are you a service or fund raising group?** No, the Fishers of Men is not a civic group or a service organization. We are a spiritually oriented group of men supporting each other in our spiritual journey.

**We believe we all deserve and want to know the truth.**

We believe:

1. God loves everyone
2. We are all sinners by nature
3. God became man as Jesus Christ who died for us in reparation for all sins so that we may have eternal life.
4. We must accept His gift, repent, believe, and invite Jesus to come into our lives.
5. We must abide in Jesus and His Church by obeying his teachings and living a Sacramental life.