



# THE POWER OF A GROUP

Paul Subritzky

Four friends discovered how their paralysed friend could get healed. They determined together to do whatever it took to make this happen. The first problem was getting him to the right place. They solved this by getting a stretcher to carry him on. However, when they arrived, there was such a great crowd surrounding the building that they could not get inside. They were not deterred. After a quick meeting, they decided to lift this man on the stretcher onto the roof of the building, then dig a hole through the roof and lower him down in exactly the right position so that he could be with Jesus and be healed. Jesus saw their faith and healed the man.

As we go through life, there will be times when we will be paralysed by our circumstances, the crises we face and the culture we live in. There may be difficulties at work or with our career, our finances or our family. This is where we need a group that we are connected to, and who are sufficiently concerned about us to bring us into the presence of Jesus. There is wisdom in a group.



I have been involved in a Men's Group for over 20 years and have seen many instances of this. Three years ago, a man joined the group for the first time and explained the difficulties he was having with his wife and children. His wife would not let him have anything Christian in the house. She and the children refused to attend church. We could see the problem immediately. It was his style of communication. He was bringing a corporate style of communication into the home. There was nobody else who could speak into his life.

Within two weeks of attending the Men's Group this man realised he was the problem. Over the next few months, through the wisdom of the men in the group, he learned how to communicate effectively with his wife and children. Today, his wife attends church with him and she is studying at Bible College. Both of his children are in leadership roles in the youth group at church.

He is transformed. His family is transformed. **That is the power of a group.**

Promise Keepers' nationwide surveys reveal that the top priority of NZ Christian men is to grow spiritually. Regular attendance at a Men's Group meets this goal, because men will grow up to 7 times faster in a Men's Group than by only attending Sunday church services.

The opposite of this is isolation. Proverbs 18:1 tells us, "*He who isolates himself seeks his own desires and rages against all wise judgment.*" Christianity is not designed to be lived alone, but together. In the New Testament, there are 51 mentions of "one another's". As we focus on the needs of others, we reduce the focus on ourselves. We become fruitful and productive Christian men, fulfilling the ministry and mission we have been called to.

A group develops into a team, focused on a goal. We know a TEAM means –

**T**ogether  
**E**veryone  
**A**chieves  
**M**ore



Jesus is our model and example. He spent three years with 12 ordinary guys, teaching, training and transforming these ordinary guys into extraordinary men. This example was given to us for a reason.

Let me personalise this. Right now you, or a man you know, may be in trouble and may not know it, let alone what the future holds. If you are not part of a group, don't leave it any longer. As iron sharpens iron, a Men's Group will shape you, strengthen you and grow you spiritually. As you strengthen and grow, so you will influence and impact others in the group and beyond.

We are called to live fruitful and productive lives together. Your life and your destiny may be determined by how you respond to this call.

***At Promise Keepers we are here to help. Contact us for advice or assistance on starting a Men's Group.***

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