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# How to Begin Dirtbags in Your City



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## I. Introduction

*Dirtbags* is a men's discipleship ministry sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ. The purpose is to build relationship with men as we all follow Jesus Christ. Men attend a weekly fellowship which focuses on helping them live for Jesus every day. Men may also be invited to become involved in a weekly discipleship group.

The vision is *to equip Christ-centered leaders to build spiritual movements of multiplication*, beginning here at home and extending around the world.

## II. Laying the Foundation

A. The discipleship training is field based and designed to develop the person as a leader. With a strong emphasis on weekly mentoring and field training, it builds your personal walk with God, godly relationships, and character development. The training content (evangelism, discipleship, small groups, communication, missions and leadership) walks you into a personal ministry, and God will make you fruitful.

B. The foundational teaching content for the open weekly meeting is posted online and the local leader may use this for a evangelism, initial discipleship, and ongoing Bible training. To train local leaders in deeper discipleship there is a similar web-based training.

C. Ministry Readiness Goals: Each man is trained so that he. . .

Has the ministry skills to be able to function effectively using his spiritual gifts in the context in which God leads him to serve.

Has the perspective and skills necessary to launch and sustain a spiritual movement of multiplication.

These discipleship lessons are taught in an integrated way, using adult discussion and other related methods. As you take the classes you will be personally equipped in the ministry skills and in character growth. The classes provide the content and a personal trainer walks you through the process. The goal is to equip you to become a leader of a multiplying movement for Jesus Christ.

### Field Mentoring

Field ministry is at the heart of the training. The ongoing Bible study creates the background of the particular form of ministry you develop, and a mentor will lead you in performance of the field or "live" phase of ministry. It is the goal of the training that the ministry experience you get will be cumulative, so that the people you lead to Christ are disciplined by you, and then they get involved in the weekly group, and later they can be involved in discipleship themselves. Eventually a target area of a city is effectively reached for Christ.

## Oversight and Authority

Dirtbags is a ministry of, and closely affiliated with, Campus Crusade for Christ, and classes are taught from a variety of evangelical, biblical perspectives. John Craemer is the national director.

## Statement of Faith

The statement of faith of Dirtbags is the same as Campus Crusade for Christ. All administrators and teachers are required to subscribe annually to the statement of faith.

## **III. Building Teamwork**

Men who desire to equip the body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission will love this program. Dirtbags will supply a fellowship of spiritual men and a process of training which will lead to multiplication.

### Heart for God

At the heart of a leader is the conviction that he must be about the business of serving God. A heart fully dedicated to Jesus Christ and a will surrendered to serving Him are the foundation for ministry. A leader must walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and live a holy life. Further, success in ministry and in life comes through faithful obedience to God.

### Field Training

Men are equipped for ministry through active, supervised involvement with a mentor in a neighborhood or mission setting. There is personal training in evangelism, discipleship, leading groups, communication, and reaching neighborhoods for Christ.

These aspects are developed in the context of a team which helps build relational skills and a unified spirit. Men will also be challenged by opportunities in cross-cultural ministry and world missions. Ministry involvement not only allows you to apply your learning, but will result in discussions from a real life perspective.

We have the lesson plans for the Biblical lessons and all the field ministry lessons. Each man must be individually trained and experienced on the ministry lessons. The specific topics are as follows:

- 1). Leadership Training Classes 30 lessons (one hour and 15 minutes each) and 60 hours of assignments and 90 hours ministry, focused on evangelism and discipleship.
- 2). Great Commission Training Classes 30 additional lessons and 60 hours of assignments and 90 hours of ministry, focused on leading and multiplying groups and reaching neighborhoods for Christ.

For the basic Bible lessons and the discipleship lessons, the site director can: teach them himself, get a local teacher/discipler to teach them, or have one of our leaders serve as a mentor for the person who does teach them. We can coach you through the first two years.

#### **IV. Getting Inspections**

Dirtbags will help you 1) begin a weekly Bible Study group; 2) learn how to become a discipler; 3) be equipped to lead a ministry of discipleship; and 4) reach a city for Christ. A coach will help you get started and a mentor will walk through the process with you.

Annually you will be invited to a national conference of Dirtbags leaders for ongoing equipping to lead men and reach your city.

#### **V. Finishing Well**

Hopefully you have been part of a Dirtbags group and have been led by God to begin a group in your city. Responding to God's call to discipleship is a big forward step and the rest of your life will be fruitful as you remain faithful.

#### **Resources:**

[www.toi.edu/dirtbags](http://www.toi.edu/dirtbags)

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