

**ORGANIZATIONAL
AND TRAINING
GUIDE**



**SONS OF
ABRAHAM**

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH OF GOD - JERUSALEM ACRES

Table of Contents

- Foreword
- Introduction
- Mission of the Sons of Abraham (SOA) Men's Fellowship
- Structure of the SOA Men's Fellowship
- Guidance for Local Leaders
- Developing a Vibrant Fellowship
- Promoting Unity Among Brethren
- Serving Families, Church, and Communities
- Building a Brotherhood of Integrity and Honor
- SOA Resolution of Commitment
- Conclusion



Sons of Abraham (SOA) Men's Fellowship – Organizational & Training Guide

Foreword

Behold, how wonderful it is to witness the men of The Church of God rising up as a unified brotherhood of spiritual leaders! As the International Sons of Abraham Leader, I am filled with excitement and hope for what God is doing among us. The Sons of Abraham (SOA) Men's Fellowship is more than just another church group – it is a movement of men dedicated to living out their faith with integrity, strength, and unity. In a time when the world desperately needs true godly role models, the men of The Church of God are stepping forward to answer the call. We stand shoulder to shoulder, much like the faithful men of the Bible, ready to serve our families, our church, and our communities with unwavering commitment.

Our fellowship takes its name from Abraham, the man of faith who believed God's promises. To be called "sons of Abraham" is to embrace the legacy of faith and obedience that Abraham demonstrated. We are men who trust God wholeheartedly and are determined to **"do the works of Abraham"**, showing our faith through action and obedience to God's Word. I am continually inspired to see men who were once strangers become brothers – supporting each other, praying together, and growing in the Lord. Truly, *"how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"*. This unity is not just for our own benefit; it is a witness to the world of God's transforming power in the lives of men.

This Organizational and Training Guide Manual has been prepared to help every local church develop a vibrant Sons of Abraham fellowship. It contains our mission, our structure, and practical guidance for local leaders. My earnest prayer is that as you read and implement these guidelines, you will catch the vision that God has for the men in this church. Together, we will build a brotherhood of integrity and honor that God can trust – men who lead by example in their homes, in the church, and in the community. A special thanks to Bishop Timothy Miller, one of the Twelve Apostles for his support and guidance in the development of this Manual. Let this manual ignite in you a passion to serve and lead. Remember, we are not just individual members in separate congregations; we are a worldwide band of brothers in Christ, united in purpose and love.

May the Lord bless each one of you as you step into your God-given role. I am excited to labor alongside you in this ministry. The world will be forever changed by men of faith who stand united for God's truth. We are the Sons of Abraham – men of courage, commitment, and compassion. Let's go forward together to inspire, lift up, and lead others to Christ.

– Jerrod Piper



International SOA Leader

Introduction

Overview of SOA and Its Purpose:

The Sons of Abraham (SOA) Men's Fellowship is the men's fellowship ministry of The Church of God (Jerusalem Acres) worldwide. It serves as an organized department devoted to uniting and equipping the men of the church to fulfill their God-given roles in family, church, and society. The name "Sons of Abraham" reflects a biblical heritage – just as Abraham was known for his faith and obedience, the men in this fellowship aspire to follow his example. Scripture reminds us that *"Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,"* and therefore **"those who have faith are sons of Abraham"**. By faith, we become spiritual sons of Abraham, called to walk in his footsteps of devotion to God. This fellowship provides a brotherhood where men can grow in faith and character together, encouraging one another to be faithful disciples of Christ.

Biblical Foundation:

The SOA Men's Fellowship is built on biblical principles of male spiritual leadership and brotherhood. Abraham, our namesake, was chosen by God to lead and instruct his household in the ways of the Lord (Genesis 18:19). In that verse, God says of Abraham, *"I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice"* – highlighting Abraham's role as a spiritual leader for his family. Similarly, today's Christian men are called to lead their families and communities in righteousness. The Bible consistently teaches that men have a responsibility to lead with love, integrity, and service. For example, husbands are charged to lead their homes in the spirit of Christ's love (Ephesians 5:23,25) and to bring up their children in the training of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). In the church, faithful men are to mentor and teach others (2 Timothy 2:2) and model godliness in all aspects of life. Thus, the SOA ministry's purpose is deeply rooted in Scripture: to raise up men of God who exemplify faith like Abraham and leadership like the apostles. The fellowship also draws inspiration from the early church, where believers met in unity, and men formed bonds of brotherhood while pursuing God's mission. Just as Jesus gathered twelve men and called them brothers, and as the early Christians "devoted themselves" to teaching, fellowship, and prayer (Acts 2:42-47), SOA meetings create a space for men to bond, learn, and pray together in that same spirit of unity.

Purpose and Vision:

The ultimate purpose of the Sons of Abraham fellowship is to inspire and develop men into strong spiritual leaders who positively impact their homes, their church, and their community. Many men in today's world struggle with isolation or lack of direction, but through fellowship and mutual support, men can sharpen one another "as iron sharpens iron" (Proverbs 27:17). A men's ministry like SOA provides a supportive environment for men to connect with other men who face similar life challenges and triumphs. It breaks down the barriers of isolation and encourages genuine friendships grounded in Christ. In this brotherhood, men are challenged and encouraged to become the husbands, fathers, and servant-leaders God has called them to be. By gathering together for study, prayer, service, and accountability, the men of SOA seek to **"become the men that God has called them to be"** – men who are Christlike in character and influential for the Kingdom of God. This ministry is also an outreach arm of the church; as men grow stronger in faith, they are better equipped to reach others. Strong men of faith can strengthen entire families and congregations, since winning the hearts of men often means a whole household will follow. In summary, the SOA Fellowship exists to build up godly men – *"men of integrity and honor whom God can trust"* – who will serve the Lord wholeheartedly and lead others to do the same.

Mission Statement



Mission of the SOA Men's Fellowship: The mission of Sons of Abraham can be summarized as empowering men to be devoted disciples of Christ and effective spiritual leaders in their homes, church, and community. The SOA is committed to **organizing and equipping faithful men** to live with integrity, courage, and

servant-leadership, following the example of biblical heroes of the faith. In practical terms, this means inspiring men to grow deeper in their relationship with God, to take responsibility for the spiritual well-being of their families, and to actively serve in the church and outreach ministries. We articulate this mission through several key goals and values that guide all SOA activities:

- **Building a Strong Brotherhood in Christ:** We strive to forge a united brotherhood of men who support and strengthen each other in faith. Through fellowship and accountability, men can develop authentic friendships, encourage one another, and model the love of Christ as true brothers. Unity among godly men creates an unshakable foundation for the church (Psalm 133:1) and provides a supportive network in times of need.
- **Equipping Godly Leaders:** SOA aims to **equip and train our men – young and old – to be godly** and to step into leadership roles that God has ordained for them. This includes teaching biblical principles of character, integrity, and service. We want every man to grow in knowledge of Scripture and in practical ministry skills so that he is prepared to lead by example in whatever context God places him. Men in SOA are encouraged to mentor one another, developing leadership qualities in the next generation of fathers, husbands, pastors, and community leaders.
- **Service to Church and Community:** A core part of our mission is to reach out beyond ourselves **through service and commitment to our church and community.** True spiritual leadership is demonstrated in humble service. SOA groups organize volunteer projects to help those in need, participate in church maintenance or charitable events, and seek ways to bless the community (such as helping the poor, visiting the sick, disaster relief, etc.). By serving together, men put their faith into action and let the light of Christ shine in the public square (Matthew 5:16).

- **Embracing God-Appointed Roles:** We encourage men to **take hold of our God-appointed leadership role** in every sphere of life. According to Scripture, men are called to be servant-leaders – whether as heads of families, mentors to youth, or elders in the church, this role is about responsibility and sacrificial love, not domineering power. SOA reinforces the biblical vision of men who lead their households in faith (as spiritual priests of their home) and who lead in the church by example and faithful service. By accepting this calling, the men of SOA seek to honor God’s order and be a blessing to those they lead.
- **Exemplifying Christ in Personal Life and Family:** Our fellowship challenges each man to **show forth Christ in his personal life, marriage, and home**. This means cultivating a Christ-like character – demonstrating honesty, purity, forgiveness, and love in all relationships. A true measure of spiritual leadership is how a man conducts himself with his wife and children. SOA inspires men to be loving husbands and fathers who guide their families in prayer, worship, and biblical living. We hold one another accountable to live above reproach, maintaining strong testimony both in private and public.
- **Restoring Biblical Manhood:** In a culture confused about moral values, SOA’s mission includes **defining and restoring the biblical characteristics of a godly man – in body, soul, and spirit**. We look to Jesus Christ as the ultimate example of manhood and strive to reflect His humility, courage, wisdom, and compassion. Through teaching and discipleship, the fellowship addresses topics such as moral purity, integrity in work, stewardship, healthful living, and spiritual discipline, so that men are wholly conformed to Christ’s image. We believe that as men return to a biblical model of manhood, their families and communities will also be strengthened and blessed.

In essence, the mission of Sons of Abraham is to produce men of strong **faith like Abraham** – men whom God can use mightily because they trust Him unconditionally and obey His voice. By fulfilling this mission, we fulfill Paul’s instruction: *“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong”* (1 Corinthians 16:13), and we ensure that **“the things [of the Gospel] entrusted to us are committed to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”** (2 Timothy 2:2). When the men of the church are inspired and equipped in this way, they become pillars in the house of God and lights in their communities, carrying forward the ministry of The Church of God with vigor and unity.

Duties of a Local SOA Director

Each local Sons of Abraham chapter should have a Local Director (or coordinator) who provides leadership and organization for the men's fellowship in that congregation. The Local Director plays a crucial role in translating the SOA mission into action at the local level. This brother is effectively the "backbone" of the men's ministry in his church, working closely with the pastor and the international leadership to align the local activities with the broader mission and values of The Church of God. Below are the key responsibilities and expectations for an SOA Local Director:



- **Spiritual Leadership and Example:**

- The Local Director must first and foremost be a man of God who leads by example in his personal life.
- He should demonstrate integrity, prayerfulness, and a good knowledge of Scripture, serving as a role model to the other men.
- His life should reflect the qualities of a biblical leader (as listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 2:2), being "above reproach, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined."
- By maintaining a Christ-like character, he earns the respect and trust needed to effectively guide the fellowship.
- He should also have a genuine burden for the spiritual growth of the men – a passion to see his brothers thrive in their faith.
- This spiritual maturity and enthusiasm set the tone for the whole group.

- **Vision Casting and Alignment:**

- The Local Director ensures the fellowship remains focused on the SOA mission and the vision of the church.
- He regularly communicates the purpose of the group to prevent meetings from devolving into mere social gatherings or aimless activities.
- Aligns local activities with the mission, vision, and values of the denomination to promote the development of godly, faithful men.
- Acts as a liaison between the local group and International SOA leadership, staying informed about themes and initiatives.
- Shares international or national church materials, themes, or calls for events with the local fellowship.
- Motivates the local men's group to participate in broader initiatives, such as annual Men's Conferences or church-wide service projects.
- Supports unity between the local chapter and the worldwide SOA fellowship.

- **Organizing Meetings and Programs:**

- Plans and coordinates a variety of programs, meetings, and activities to address the spiritual and practical needs of men in the church.
- Develops diverse programs such as Bible study series, prayer meetings, discussion forums on men's issues, outreach projects, workshops, or fellowship events.

- Creates meetings that are meaningful and relevant by thinking outside traditional brotherhood formats.
 - Explores different formats like small groups, larger gatherings, or workshops, and schedules events at convenient times (e.g., Saturday breakfast or weeknight evenings).
 - Prepares agendas or programs for meetings, which may include:
 - Arranging for a speaker or teacher.
 - Choosing a discussion topic or theme.
 - Incorporating elements like worship, testimonies, or group prayer.
 - Ensures meetings are organized and run smoothly by opening the meeting (or assigning someone to), keeping things on schedule, and making attendees feel welcome.
 - Adds a spiritual emphasis to every gathering through scripture, prayer, or devotional thoughts, ensuring even social activities reinforce faith.
- **Facilitating Spiritual Growth:**
 - The director encourages and facilitates meaningful spiritual, mental, and emotional growth among the men.
 - Organizes group Bible studies and recommends devotional materials to support personal growth.
 - Initiates accountability partnerships or prayer partners to foster deeper connections and spiritual support.
 - Ensures time for spiritual discussions, personal sharing, and prayer ministry during meetings to address deeper needs.
 - Splits men into small prayer groups for focused prayer after teaching sessions.
 - Encourages open discussions about real-life challenges, such as marriage, parenting, work, purity, or faith struggles, to apply biblical principles and pray for one another.
 - Fosters an environment of openness and trust, helping men build each other up in the Lord.
 - Tracks progress by occasionally inviting personal testimonies or sharing progress/challenges during meetings.
 - Creates a fellowship environment that promotes growth and healing, producing loving husbands, involved fathers, and confident witnesses for Christ.
 - **Working with Church Leadership:**
 - The Local Director collaborates closely with the local Pastor and church leadership to ensure the men's fellowship is integrated into the church's ministry.
 - The director consults with the Pastor to gain approval and support for major plans, especially when starting the fellowship or launching new initiatives.
 - Regular communication with the Pastor ensures SOA activities align with the church's schedule and vision.
 - The director coordinates with other ministry heads when necessary, such as planning joint events with youth or women's ministries.
 - Reports on the men's ministry are shared with the church board or family ministry committee to provide updates and receive guidance.
 - The director may attend church leadership meetings to represent the needs and plans of the men's fellowship.
 - By working in unity with church leadership, the men's fellowship becomes a vital part of the congregation's life.

- The Pastor remains informed about the group's activities and can call on the men's group for support in wider church programs or special needs.
- **Administration and Communication:**
 - Maintain an updated contact list of all the men in the church, including their phone numbers and emails, to communicate meeting times, events, and announcements effectively.
 - Use communication tools such as emails, messaging groups, or bulletins to share news of interest to men from the church or denomination.
 - Distribute materials from the International SOA office, such as newsletters or devotional guides, and inform the group about upcoming regional or national men's retreats or conferences.
 - Keep basic records of the fellowship's activities, including minutes of planning meetings, event attendance, and any collected funds (e.g., dues or fundraising for projects).
 - Work with a treasurer if the group has a budget or collects offerings for projects, ensuring finances are handled responsibly and transparently, with regular reporting to the group and church treasurer as needed.
 - Document the details of each event, noting any follow-up actions required, such as hospital visits or prayer requests.
 - Stay organized to ensure the ministry's continuity and effectiveness, making it easier to welcome newcomers and share progress via reports.
 - Foster a sense of importance and professionalism within the group through good communication and administration, encouraging participation.
- **Team Building and Delegation:**
 - The Local Director should not handle all tasks alone; a healthy SOA chapter functions effectively as a team.
 - Collaborate with a small committee or core group of godly men to share responsibilities, including roles such as assistant leader, secretary, or event coordinator.
 - Delegate tasks to others, such as organizing refreshments, leading worship songs, or heading community service projects, to avoid burnout and encourage participation.
 - For larger churches or more active groups, create specific committees like a planning committee, prayer team, or service project team to distribute responsibilities effectively.
 - Call planning meetings with the committee or core team as needed to brainstorm ideas and coordinate the calendar of events.
 - Mentor and guide volunteers, ensuring they have support and resources to complete their assigned tasks successfully.
 - Empower men by involving them in leadership roles, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment to the ministry.
 - Promote shared ministry and discipleship by embodying the biblical model: "Follow me as I follow Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1) and encouraging others to lead as well (2 Timothy 2:2).

- **Mentoring and Succession:**

- Mentoring and succession are crucial responsibilities for the Local Director to ensure the ministry's continuity and future leadership.
- Identify one or two faithful men with leadership potential, such as younger members, and intentionally involve them in decision-making and responsibilities.
- Provide coaching and opportunities for these individuals, like letting them lead meetings or handle specific tasks, to develop their confidence and skills.
- Plan for leadership succession to maintain stability in the fellowship even if the current director steps down or moves away.
- Focus on raising up "future pillars" of the men's fellowship by mentoring faithful men who can, in turn, mentor others, ensuring a continuous cycle of discipleship and leadership development.
- Promote a cycle of discipleship where those mentored can mentor others, enabling continuous growth of the ministry's impact.
- Adopt the "Paul and Timothy" model by fostering mentoring relationships between experienced members and younger men, addressing specific needs such as pairing an older father with a younger father.
- Facilitate these mentorship relationships informally by recognizing needs within the group and recommending suitable pairings.

- **Planning Outreach and Special Events:**

- Organize outreach initiatives or special events to align with SOA's mission to reach the community, such as:
- Planning evangelistic men's breakfasts where church members invite neighbors or unsaved friends to hear a testimony.
- Coordinating service events, like workdays to assist elderly members or charity projects as part of fellowship activities.
- **Oversee these projects by:**
 - Choosing suitable activities and obtaining necessary approvals or resources.
 - Recruiting volunteers and ensuring the execution of the plan.
 - Assist in preparing for annual Men's Day events or retreats, including:
 - Booking venues and arranging speakers.
 - Promoting the event within the fellowship.
 - Encourage participation in district or international men's conferences or conventions, by:
 - Promoting the events and arranging group transportation if needed.
 - Inspiring men to attend for spiritual enrichment and connection with the wider body of Christ.

In summary, the Local Director of SOA wears many hats: spiritual leader, organizer, mentor, communicator, and servant. He **presides over meetings and activities** and is responsible for the overall health of the local men's fellowship. By fulfilling these duties diligently, the director helps create a thriving ministry where men are active, growing, and contributing. The effectiveness of a local SOA chapter often correlates with the dedication of its leader. Therefore, the person in this role should be prayerfully chosen (with pastoral approval) and should carry the vision for what God can do through a united group of men dedicated to Him. With strong local leadership, the Sons of Abraham fellowship in each church will flourish and bear much fruit.

Suggestions for Local Meetings

Local SOA meetings are the heartbeat of the men's fellowship – they are regular gatherings where the mission and brotherhood come alive. Meetings can take various forms (from informal get-togethers to structured services), and variety often keeps men engaged. Here we provide practical ideas and formats for organizing local SOA meetings that are effective, edifying, and enjoyable. A well-planned meeting will minister to men's spiritual



needs while also fostering friendship and involvement. Consider incorporating and rotating some of the following elements and formats in your local SOA meetings:

- **Begin with Brotherhood and Prayer:**

Each meeting should start by welcoming everyone in a warm, casual manner to put men at ease. Many groups open with a simple prayer or a blessing over a meal if food is involved. For instance, a popular format is a **Men's Prayer Breakfast** – meeting on a Saturday morning for breakfast and fellowship. Sharing a meal (whether it's a full breakfast or just coffee and donuts) creates a relaxed environment where men, including newcomers, feel comfortable. **“Both saint and sinner feel at home around a table,”** as some have observed. Over breakfast, men can chat and build friendships. After eating, transition to an opening prayer and maybe a round of brief introductions or an icebreaker, especially if new men are present. The director or host can then ask if anyone has urgent prayer requests. Taking a few minutes for group prayer (or praying in small circles) for personal needs and for God's guidance in the meeting invites the Holy Spirit's presence from the outset. This also teaches men to pray together, which builds spiritual unity.

- **Incorporate Worship and Music:**

Consider including a time of worship in your meetings. Many men's fellowships find that singing a couple of songs together opens hearts and sets a reverent tone. You might have someone who can play guitar or another instrument lead some simple praise choruses or traditional hymns that men likely know. Even playing a worship song video with lyrics on a screen can work. Worship through music helps men shift focus from daily stresses to God. It reminds everyone that the purpose of meeting is ultimately to honor Christ. As one guide notes, **using music that men connect with and encouraging participation** will enhance the meeting's impact. Don't worry if not everyone sings confidently; with time and a friendly atmosphere, men will become more comfortable joining in.

- **Share Testimonies:**

One of the most powerful parts of a men's gathering can be personal testimonies. Hearing a brother share how God is working in his life encourages others and often sparks meaningful conversations. You can invite one man each meeting to give a short testimony or "victory report." It could be about how he came to faith, how God helped him overcome a challenge, or what he's learning recently. Alternatively, have an **open-floor testimony time** where multiple men can speak briefly. The early Full Gospel Business Men's meetings credited testimonies of Christ's power as a key to their success. Real stories touch hearts. Make sure to keep it positive and centered on God (not just a platform to vent). If time permits, even a guided sharing session on a specific topic (for example, "Share one way God has answered a prayer for you this year") can involve many voices. Such sharing builds camaraderie and faith as men realize they are not alone in their struggles or doubts. It also trains men to articulate their faith journey – useful for witnessing outside. Always be ready to pray for anyone who shares a hardship during testimony time, demonstrating tangible support.

- **Bible Study and Teaching:** A core part of meetings should be time in the Word of God. Plan for a **devotional, Bible study, or relevant teaching** at each gathering. This could take several forms:

- **Lecture or Sermon:** The director or a guest speaker can present a prepared message on a topic relevant to men (such as fatherhood, integrity at work, prayer life, etc.). Keep it engaging and not too long (15-20 minutes is often ideal to maintain attention, unless it's more interactive).
- **Group Bible Study:** Some meetings can be structured as an interactive Bible study on a passage of Scripture. For example, you might delve into the life of Abraham or David, reading verses together and discussing questions. Encourage men to participate by sharing their thoughts or reading verses.
- **Video-based Study:** If you have access to quality men's ministry video series or online sermons, you can play a short video lesson. This ensures solid teaching even if local speakers are limited. Some churches use series like "Authentic Manhood" or studies by well-known Christian teachers. After the video, facilitate discussion.
- **Discussion-based Learning:** Pose a question or scenario for the group to discuss from a biblical perspective (e.g., "What does being the spiritual leader of your home look like day-to-day?"). Break into smaller groups if the overall group is large, so everyone has a chance to speak.

The key is to keep the content **relevant to men's lives and challenges**. As one church resource emphasizes, ask: "*Is it meeting their needs for fellowship, spiritual growth, and involvement?*". If the topic speaks to a real need (like being a better husband, dealing with stress, or growing in prayer), men will be more engaged. Allow time for **small group discussion or Q&A** after a teaching, as this helps men digest and personally apply the lesson. For instance, after a talk on faith, you might have men break into groups of 3-4 to discuss a couple of questions and then pray for one another. This interactive element turns passive listening into active learning and bonding.

- **Address Topics Relevant to Men:**

Plan some meetings around specific men's issues or skills, which can draw interest. For example, have a session on "*strong marriages*" where you discuss how men can love their wives biblically, maybe even invite the pastor or a seasoned husband to share wisdom. Other popular topics: parenting and leaving a godly legacy for children, maintaining integrity in the workplace, overcoming addictions or bad habits, managing finances with biblical principles, dealing with anger or stress in a godly way, and growing in personal prayer and Bible study habits. You can also incorporate practical workshops – e.g., a seminar on budgeting or a class on how to evangelize effectively. Men appreciate when the fellowship invests in their personal development. Bringing in occasional expert guest speakers (a Christian counselor, a missionary, etc.) can provide fresh perspectives. Always tie discussions back to Scripture, since our goal is not just self-improvement but Christ-like transformation.

- **Hands-On Service Activities:**

Not all gatherings have to be sit-down meetings. **Serving together** is a powerful form of fellowship. Organize occasional meeting times that are actually *service projects*. For instance, instead of a normal meeting one month, announce a Saturday for all the men to help an elderly church member with home repairs, or to do a church work day (painting, landscaping, cleaning the building). Begin the day with a prayer and perhaps a short devotional on service, then work as a team. Provide lunch or snacks and plenty of camaraderie during the project. These activities not only accomplish good deeds (being "*doers of the word,*" James 1:22) but also naturally build teamwork and friendship as men labor side by side. Similarly, consider outreach projects as part of meetings: making care packages for the needy, doing a community clean-up, volunteering at a local shelter, etc.. After such projects, gather to reflect on the experience, share any encounters, and close in prayer. Many men bond best through action – swinging hammers or packing boxes together can open up conversations that a formal meeting might not. It also gives men who aren't as comfortable talking in a circle a chance to participate through work. Aim to schedule a service-oriented meeting periodically (quarterly or bi-monthly) to keep the outward focus strong.

- **Fellowship and Fun Events:** To keep the community aspect lively, include purely fellowship-focused events as part of your meeting rotation. These can be great entry points for newcomers or unsaved friends. Ideas include:

- **Sports and Outdoor Activities:** Organize a friendly sports game (basketball, soccer, softball) or an outing like hiking, fishing, or camping. You might have a monthly pick-up game night or an annual father-son camping trip. Not only are these fun, but they let men connect in a relaxed setting and often lead to mentoring moments between older and younger men. You could start such events with a short prayer or devotional thought, but the main goal is relationship building. Recreation breaks down barriers and can attract men who wouldn't initially come to a prayer meeting.

- **Food-based Fellowships:** Activities centered on food are always a hit. Examples: a “**Meat & Greet**” **barbecue night** where everyone brings something to grill and you feast together; a chili cook-off contest for the men; a wild-game dinner where hunters bring their best dishes. These events can be standalone or tied into a meeting (“Wing Night with a Message” where after eating wings you have a testimony or short talk). Eating together creates a casual atmosphere where conversations flow. Encourage men to invite friends to these events – it’s an easy, non-threatening introduction to the fellowship.



- **Weekend Retreats or Conferences:** Once or twice a year, plan a larger event like a retreat. This could be an overnight camping trip or a weekend at a retreat center. During a retreat, you can have extended worship, multiple sessions on a theme, and recreation time. Being away from daily routine helps men open up and seek God deeply. If a full retreat is not feasible, consider attending a regional men’s conference or even hosting a one-day in-house mini conference at church. These special events can be powerful catalysts for spiritual renewal and forging deeper friendships.
- **Themed Discussions or Hobby Nights:** Sometimes, attract interest by tying a meeting to a particular interest. For example, if several men ride motorcycles, have a ride together and then a devotional at a scenic spot. Or a “tools and trades” night where a brother demonstrates a skill (car maintenance, carpentry tips) followed by a biblical tie-in about craftsmanship or provision. The possibilities are endless, but the core idea is to meet men where they are and show that living for Christ encompasses all areas of life.
- **Encourage Participation and Ownership:**
 Whatever format you choose, make the meetings participatory. Avoid a scenario where one person talks the whole time and everyone else stays passive. Ask different members to take part – one can open in prayer, another lead a song, another facilitate the discussion, etc. This not only shares the workload but gives men a sense of ownership. Invite input when planning meeting topics; you might even survey the men on what they’d like to discuss or do. Also, be mindful of the time. Aim to start and end on time, as “**a man’s time is precious – don’t waste it**”, and men will be more likely to commit if meetings respect their schedule. Keep business or announcements short; focus on the spiritual and relational components that add value to their lives. When men feel that each meeting is worthwhile, challenging, and uplifting, they will faithfully attend and even bring others.

- **Sample Meeting Structure:** While flexibility is good, here is an example flow that many groups have found effective for a roughly 1½ hour meeting:
 1. **Welcome & Opening Prayer:** (5 minutes) – Greet everyone, maybe a quick personal welcome to any new attendees, then open in prayer asking God to guide the time.
 2. **Icebreaker or Praise Report:** (5 minutes) – A light question for each man to answer (e.g., share one highlight of your week), or a couple of volunteers share good news of something God has done.
 3. **Worship Chorus:** (5 minutes) – Sing one or two songs together, live or with a recording, to honor God.
 4. **Testimony Time:** (10 minutes) – One man gives a short testimony or several share brief testimonies. Alternatively, share a meaningful scripture and what it means personally.
 5. **Topic Introduction:** (20 minutes) – Main teaching or discussion starter. Could be a short sermon, a video, or group Bible reading. Focus on the theme of the day.
 6. **Group Discussion:** (20 minutes) – Break into smaller groups (3-5 men) to discuss 2-3 questions related to the topic. Ensure each group has a facilitator. If the group is small (under 6-7 men total), you can discuss as one group.
 7. **Sharing:** (10 minutes) – Bring everyone back together. Allow a few groups or individuals to share key insights or answers from their discussion. This helps unify what was learned.
 8. **Prayer Circles:** (10 minutes) – In the same small groups, have men share any prayer needs and pray for one another. Encourage targeted prayer for each other's spiritual growth and challenges.
 9. **Closing:** (5 minutes) – The director or leader thanks everyone for coming, may give a final exhortation or verse, reminds of any upcoming events, and closes in a brief prayer or a unison Lord's Prayer, etc. Sometimes closing with another upbeat song is a nice touch, or even a “battle cry” verse recited together.



This structure is just a template – it can be adjusted depending on the nature of the meeting. The key is balancing different components (fellowship, worship, Word, discussion, prayer) to keep the meeting dynamic and spiritually enriching. By varying activities and involving many people, meetings stay fresh.

- **Joint Meetings and Families:** Occasionally, you might have joint meetings with the Women’s Ministry or family-inclusive events. For example, a family picnic day where SOA and the Women of Ruth plan it together, or a couples’ workshop on marriage. **The Sons of Abraham at one church sometimes organize joint sessions with the ladies’ fellowship to discuss family issues.** This can promote unity and mutual understanding. It also shows that while we often meet separately as men for specific growth, we ultimately work hand-in-hand with our sisters in Christ for the well-being of the whole family of God. Plan these collaborations carefully so that both groups are involved and the topics are broad enough for everyone.

In implementing these meeting ideas, remember the purpose: every gathering should help men draw closer to God, to each other, and to their calling as Christ’s disciples. Strive for meetings that have substance (biblical teaching and heartfelt prayer) wrapped in a format of brotherly camaraderie and respect. Evaluate periodically what’s working or what interests the group. It can be helpful to solicit feedback: are the men wanting more Bible study? More activities? Different meeting times? Be flexible and responsive. Most of all, rely on God’s guidance through prayer when planning meetings. Ask Him to show what the men in your local church truly need each season. **“Pray for guidance, and that the Lord will help you select a few good men to plan and lead”** as one men’s ministry guide advises. When meetings are bathed in prayer and led by the Spirit, they will inevitably bear fruit. The local SOA meetings, whether large or small, formal or informal, are opportunities to fulfill Hebrews 10:24-25 – spurring one another on to love and good deeds, and encouraging one another as we see the Day approaching. Make each meeting count for God’s glory and for the strengthening of His sons.



**GIVE ALL
YOUR PLANS
TO GOD!**

Additional Guidance for Local SOA Development

Beyond the basics of mission, leadership duties, and meeting ideas, there are additional considerations that can help a local Sons of Abraham fellowship thrive. This section expands on various topics to provide a well-rounded guide for developing a powerful and engaging ministry. By attending to these areas, a local SOA group can deepen its impact and ensure long-term health and unity with the broader church. Below are several key areas of additional guidance:

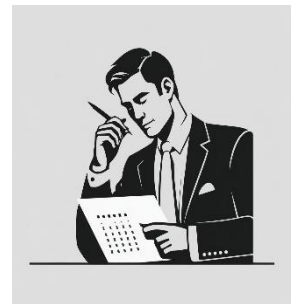
Starting and Organizing a Local Chapter

If you are establishing an SOA Men's Fellowship in a local church for the first time, a bit of initial groundwork will set you up for success. Organizing a men's ministry is relatively simple in concept, but certain steps can help build a strong foundation:

1. **Pastoral Approval and Support:** Begin by discussing plans with your Pastor and obtaining his enthusiastic support. It's vital that the church leadership is on board from day one. Share the vision of what a men's fellowship can do for the church. Most pastors will be delighted to see a men's group form, but gaining formal authorization ensures alignment and access to church resources (like use of the building, announcement time, etc.). Ask the Pastor if he has any specific goals or concerns for the men; this will help tailor your approach.
2. **Gather a Core Team of Men:** Don't try to start alone. Identify a handful of committed men in the congregation who are interested in men's fellowship. This might be informal at first – inviting a few brothers to coffee to share the vision and pray. **Outline and discuss the plan thoroughly** with this small group. Seek their input on what the needs are among the men of the church. Secure their willingness to help lead (even temporarily) and to reach out to others. In essence, before launching to the whole church, build a core leadership team who will carry the effort with you. This team can include men of different ages, to represent the diversity of your church's men.
3. **Set an Initial Meeting Date and Publicize:** With your core team and pastor's input, schedule the inaugural men's fellowship meeting. Give yourselves a few weeks to get the word out. Publicize the upcoming meeting in church announcements, bulletins, email newsletters, and personal invitations. Emphasize that *all men* in the church (and even friends outside the church) are welcome. Make the invite appealing – for example, “Join us for a Men's Breakfast Kickoff on [Date] – food, fellowship, and a discussion on launching our new Men's Ministry.” Personal invitations work best: have your core team each personally invite a few others. If possible, provide advance details: time, venue (perhaps a fellowship hall or a local diner), and what to expect (e.g., free breakfast, casual discussion, etc.). Ensure that **all men of the church are invited** – including teenagers who are of appropriate age (some groups include ages 13 or 16 and up, or you can target 18+). Remember, involving younger men early can help them benefit and feel part of the brotherhood.
4. **Plan the First Meeting:** The first gathering is crucial to set the tone. Work with your core team to plan it well (who will speak, who will handle food, etc.). A suggested format: start

with a meal or refreshments and icebreakers, share the vision of the SOA fellowship (mission statement), maybe have a short devotional or encouraging message about men of God, and allow time for open discussion. You might present some proposed ideas for activities and ask what interests the group. Also consider an exercise like brainstorming: “*What would you like to see in our men’s fellowship?*” so that attendees feel heard and involved from the start. Be sure to communicate that this is *their* fellowship – a joint endeavor. Before closing, if the group is agreeable, select or announce an interim leader(s) if not already clear, and **set a regular meeting schedule** (for example, “Every first Saturday morning” or “Wednesday nights monthly”). Having a consistent schedule will help momentum. If appropriate, take down contact info for everyone or have a sign-up sheet so you can follow up. Pray together dedicating the new ministry to the Lord.

5. **Formally Organize (If Required):** Depending on church polity or size, you might need to formalize the group by electing a director and any officers (secretary, etc.), especially if you plan to handle funds or do official communications. The church board may need to approve the appointed Director (often the Pastor’s recommendation) and any committee members. While The Church of God does not require a charter for new men’s fellowship groups, new chapters should report to The Church of God Headquarters and the International Office of the SOA. Reporting to Headquarters ensures alignment with the overarching vision and mission of the SOA, enables access to valuable resources and guidance, and fosters a sense of unity with the broader church community. It also allows for better coordination of events, sharing of best practices, and accountability in maintaining the integrity of the ministry. Administrative formality aside, ensure that roles are clear: who will keep records, who will manage communications, etc., as mentioned in the duties section above.



6. **Plan the Next Few Months:** Don’t let the energy die after the first meeting. Right away, plan out a tentative calendar of meetings and events for the next quarter. Determine when the **next regular meeting** will be and what its focus is, and maybe pencil in a service project or social event upcoming. Having a roadmap will prevent stagnation. Announce upcoming plans in church so men know this is ongoing. Also, consider a “charter celebration” or formal dedication service if it fits your context – perhaps inviting a state or regional men’s leader to speak and charge the men for their commitment. This can be done after a few meetings once the group is sure-footed, as a way of presenting the fellowship officially to the whole church (some do this on a Saturday morning to let the congregation know the men’s ministry is active).

By following these steps, a local SOA chapter can start strong with unity and clarity. Early organization and clear purpose prevent the group from fizzling out after a couple of meetings. Instead, you will have laid a foundation for a sustainable ministry. Always keep in mind that **involvement in ministry helps others but also is key to personal growth** – remind the men (and yourself) that launching this fellowship is not just another program, it is an avenue for God to mature and use each man. Start with prayer, continue in prayer, and trust God to build something enduring.

Suggested Start Up Meeting Agenda

Sons of Abraham (SOA) Core Team Meeting Outline

Objective: Establish a core group of committed men to lay the foundation for launching the Sons of Abraham (SOA) Men's Fellowship in our local church.

Meeting Details

Date: [Insert Date] Time: [Insert Time] Location: [Insert Location] Facilitator: [Your Name]

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer (5 min)

- Express gratitude for each brother's willingness to come together for this vision.
- Open with prayer, asking for God's wisdom, unity, and guidance as we build this ministry.

2. Introduction: What is SOA? (10 min)

- Briefly explain the mission of Sons of Abraham:
 - A fellowship dedicated to brotherhood, leadership, and service.
 - Equipping men to be godly examples in their homes, church, and community.
 - Strengthening relationships through accountability, mentorship, and outreach.
- Highlight biblical foundations (Genesis 18:19, Galatians 3:7, Proverbs 27:17).

3. Why We Need a Men's Fellowship (10 min)

- Discuss challenges men face today (spiritual growth, family leadership, connection with others).
- Ask: *"What are the greatest needs among the men of our church?"*
- Gather input on mentorship, outreach, discipleship, and fellowship needs.

4. Defining Leadership Roles (10 min)

- Identify key roles for the initial structure:
 - Director – Oversees fellowship vision and coordination.
 - Assistant Director – Supports leadership efforts and continuity.
 - Treasurer – Handles financial oversight for events and service projects.
 - Secretary – Keeps records and organizes communication.
- Ask for volunteers or nominations to fill these positions.

5. Planning the First Fellowship Event (15 min)

- Brainstorm ideas for a kickoff gathering (prayer breakfast, family event, community service).
- Discuss potential meeting schedules (monthly, bi-weekly, special events).
- Select a first date and assign action steps for preparation.

6. Commitment & Next Steps (10 min)

- Establish individual and team responsibilities moving forward.
- Plan outreach to invite more men into the group.
- Close in prayer of commitment, asking God to bless and sustain the SOA fellowship.

Fostering Brotherhood and Accountability

One of the greatest strengths of a men's fellowship is the brotherhood that develops among its members. Building genuine relationships where men trust each other and hold each other accountable is a goal that requires intentional effort. Here are some ways to foster a strong sense of brotherhood in the local SOA group:

- **Create a Safe and Trusting Environment:** From the beginning, set a tone of confidentiality and mutual respect. Men need to know that what they share in the group will not be gossiped about or met with judgment. Emphasize that SOA is a *safe space* where we all admit we're imperfect and are seeking to grow. Encourage openness by being open as a leader – appropriate vulnerability can encourage others to share. As relationships deepen, men will be more comfortable discussing real issues (temptations, fears, failures). This depth of sharing is where true brotherhood and accountability are forged. It can be helpful to occasionally split into even smaller groups (2 or 3) for deeper accountability partnerships, where men can ask each other hard questions and pray intimately. Remind everyone that **“as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”** (Proverbs 27:17) – sometimes sharpening involves uncomfortable friction, but it's ultimately for our betterment.
- **Encourage One-on-One Connections:** While group meetings are important, encourage the men to connect outside of meetings too. Perhaps suggest a **“brother buddy” system** where men pair up or form triads to check in on each other during the week. These smaller units can meet for coffee, talk on the phone, or do activities together. The goal is that every man has at least one brother in the Lord he can call when in need. Titus 2:2 calls for older men to be temperate and sound in faith, and similarly Titus 2:6 urges younger men to be self-controlled – such virtues can be passed on through life-on-life mentorship. An older, mature Christian man can take a newer believer under his wing, for example. The Local Director can quietly facilitate these pairings based on personalities or needs (for instance, a new convert with a seasoned prayer warrior). Over time, these bonds often become like David and Jonathan – **deep friendships grounded in faith.**
- **Accountability in Specific Areas:** If there are common struggles among your men (and there usually are, such as pornography, anger, substance use, etc.), consider forming accountability groups around those. For example, a confidential purity accountability group where men commit to weekly honesty and prayer regarding sexual temptation. Or a recovery support subgroup if some are overcoming addictions. These can meet separately or as breakouts after the main meeting. The idea is to directly address areas where men might otherwise struggle in isolation. Ensure these are led by trustworthy, grace-filled individuals and stress that it's about supporting each other, not shaming. When men see their brothers overcoming sin and growing, it spurs them on to do the same. An atmosphere of “we're in this together” will strengthen the entire fellowship. As one Christian men's blog noted, *“a brotherhood of Christian men provides a safe and supportive space for men to be vulnerable, share their struggles, and receive spiritual guidance and support”*.

- **Shared Experiences and Traditions:** Develop some group traditions that solidify identity and camaraderie. This could be simple things like an annual retreat, a group slogan or verse, or even matching T-shirts for service projects. Maybe the group adopts a name or motto aside from SOA (some chapters create a tagline like “Men of Promise” or “Band of Brothers in Christ”). These little touches can give a sense of belonging. Performing service together, as mentioned earlier, also bonds men – the memories of jointly accomplishing a task or navigating a tough hike in the rain will give them stories and laughter for years. The more experiences the men share, the stronger the brotherhood. Consider also teaming up with neighboring Church of God congregations’ men’s groups if possible for combined events. Meeting other Sons of Abraham from different cities or cultures widens perspectives and creates a larger sense of fraternity under the international ministry.
- **Brotherly Love in Action:** Encourage the men to actively care for one another. This means noticing when a brother is absent or struggling and reaching out. The Local Director or care coordinator can keep track of attendance and follow up with any man who’s been missing for a while – a quick call to say “We missed you, how are you?” can make a big difference. Organize support for those in crisis: if someone loses a job, perhaps the group can collect a love offering or help with networking; if someone is ill or in the hospital, ensure visits are made and practical help (meals for his family, etc.) is given. James 2:15-17 reminds us that brotherly love is not just in words but in deeds. Some SOA chapters establish a small emergency fund or service team precisely to support members in need. **“We rally support for our brethren when needed”**, as one church’s Sons of Abraham group describes their objective. This kind of care cements the idea that the fellowship is a band of brothers who will “have each other’s backs” no matter what.
- **Celebrate Milestones Together:** Part of fellowship is rejoicing with those who rejoice (Romans 12:15). Acknowledge and celebrate important moments in the lives of your men. For example, if a brother gets married or welcomes a new baby, celebrate it (perhaps with a group gift or a special prayer of blessing). If someone gets a promotion, achieves a personal goal, or completes a Bible reading plan, congratulate them. The group might also organize events like a father-son blessing ceremony when a man’s son transitions to adulthood, or pray over a brother who is about to embark on a mission trip. These moments of affirmation and celebration reinforce each man’s sense of worth and belonging. It shows that the fellowship isn’t just about meetings – it’s about doing life together as a family in Christ.

By cultivating such an environment of love, honesty, and support, the local SOA fellowship becomes more than a meeting – it becomes a **brotherhood** in the truest Christian sense. Jesus said, *“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another”* (John 13:35), and this love among the men will not only transform them, but also be a testimony to others. New men will want to join when they see the genuine bond and the way these “Sons of Abraham” care for each other. Ultimately, the brotherhood and accountability help each man stay strong in the Lord. As Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 teaches, two are better than one – if either falls, one can help the other up. In SOA, no man should fight his battles alone.

Mentorship and Developing Future Leaders



For a ministry to be truly transformative and enduring, it should incorporate mentorship and leadership development. In the context of SOA, this means older or more mature men investing in younger men, and experienced leaders grooming new leaders for the future. This concept is modeled in Scripture by relationships like Moses and Joshua, Paul and Timothy, and of course Jesus and His disciples. Here's how a local SOA fellowship can emphasize mentorship and growth of future leaders:

- **Encourage Generational Integration:** Strive to involve men of all ages – from late teens and young adults to middle-aged and senior men – in the fellowship. Each age bracket has something to offer the others. Younger men bring energy, new ideas, and often need guidance; older men bring wisdom, experience, and often need encouragement to share their knowledge. Create settings where these interactions happen naturally. For example, in small group discussions, mix the ages rather than having all young guys in one group and older in another. In service projects, pair an older craftsman with a younger man to work together. In planning teams, include a younger man alongside veterans. This integration breaks down the generation gap and builds mutual respect. As one church's SOA vision states, *"to equip and train our men (young and old) to be godly"* – it takes the whole community of men learning from each other.
- **One-on-One Mentorship:** Formalize or at least strongly encourage mentorship pairings. A simple approach is the "Paul-Timothy" model: find men willing to be a "Paul" (mentor) and those willing to be a "Timothy" (mentee). Match them based on interest or compatibility. Provide some guidance to mentors on how to mentor – perhaps a booklet or a short training on listening, advising, and maintaining confidentiality. These pairs might meet monthly outside of regular meetings to talk about life, study scripture, or work on personal goals. For instance, a mentor can help a younger man establish a prayer routine, or advise him through a work decision or family issue, sharing how biblical principles apply. The mentor benefits too – many older men find renewed purpose and learn from the younger in the process. Over time, this creates a culture where "each one teach one" is normal. If every mature brother is mentoring someone and every growing brother has someone to learn from, the whole group continually rises in spiritual maturity.
- **Leadership Opportunities for Younger Men:** In order to develop future leaders, give younger or newer members real responsibilities (with support). If a 18-year-old or 20-something is in the group, maybe let him coordinate a volunteer event or lead the opening prayer. If a man in his 30s shows gifting in teaching, invite him to lead a Bible study series under guidance. Don't worry if they're inexperienced – it's part of learning. Afterwards, mentors or the director can provide feedback and encouragement. The blueprint for men's ministry leaders urged to **"mentor someone else in this ministry"**, preparing them to also lead. That can start by co-leading; for example, a seasoned leader co-leads a session with a novice, gradually handing over more reins. Additionally, consider

sending promising individuals to leadership training: maybe a regional men's leadership workshop or an online course in discipleship. The Church of God might have its own training programs – take advantage of those for your rising leaders.

- **Rotating Leadership Roles:** Within the local group, rotate certain roles periodically so that multiple people gain experience. Perhaps the role of meeting facilitator can switch each quarter among 2-3 men. Or the responsibility for organizing the quarterly service project can be assigned to a different person each time. This way, no one man (besides the director) is always doing the same job, and multiple men learn how to handle various aspects of ministry. It also prevents burnout and keeps the group from being seen as a one-man show. When men see their peers leading successfully, it inspires them that “maybe I can do that too.” It breeds a healthy expectation that *any* of the men could step up when needed.
- **Apprentice the Next Director:** As mentioned in the duties section, it's wise for the current Local Director to have an assistant or deputy who could fill in when he's away and potentially succeed him. This might be an officially titled “Assistant Director” or just an informal understanding. In either case, involve that brother in decision-making and in representing the group in church functions. Give him some autonomy to run things occasionally. If there are multiple capable men, you might even involve them in a small executive committee. Such distribution of leadership ensures continuity. When the time comes for leadership transition (due to relocation, health, or simply wanting to pass the baton), the church and group won't be left scrambling, because an *equipped* successor is ready. This models 2 Timothy 2:2 in action – entrusting the work to reliable men who can teach others, forming a chain of leadership passing down what was learned.
- **Utilize External Mentoring Resources:** There are many Christian men's mentoring and discipleship materials available (from books like “The Measure of a Man” by Gene Getz or “Every Man a Warrior” curriculum to programs from groups like Promise Keepers or Navigators). Consider incorporating these into your mentorship efforts. For example, a mentoring pair could go through a book study together. Or as a group, you go through a series that pairs homework for older-younger pairs. The structure can help those who are new to mentoring have a path to follow. The SDA men's ministries or Baptist men's ministries often have structured guides – you can adapt those to your context. The specific resource is less important than the commitment to journey together in growth.

The benefits of prioritizing mentorship are tremendous. It accelerates personal growth – men learn not only in meetings but in life application with a guide. It also solidifies commitment – a man who is being mentored or mentoring someone else is far more likely to stay engaged, because there's a relationship investment. And it guarantees that as older men “graduate” to heaven or retire from active roles, younger men are ready to carry on. This keeps the Sons of Abraham fellowship perennially youthful and dynamic, always raising new leaders who can even take the vision beyond the current generation. Remember that Abraham himself mentored his son Isaac in faith, and Isaac to Jacob – our spiritual lineage continues by faithful transmission. In the same way, SOA should be about leaving a legacy: each man leaving a deposit in another man's life that outlasts himself.

Community Outreach and Service Projects

The Sons of Abraham fellowship should not turn inward on itself; rather, it's meant to be a launching pad for service and evangelism in the community. When men unite for a cause greater than themselves, their fellowship strengthens and the love of God is demonstrated to others. Here are considerations for making outreach and service a vibrant part of your local SOA:

- **Identify Needs in the Community:** Begin by looking around your immediate surroundings – what are some pressing needs or opportunities? Are there people in your church or neighborhood who could use help (single mothers needing home repairs, elderly shut-ins who need visits, unemployed individuals needing support)? Are there community organizations you can partner with (food banks, homeless shelters, orphanages, etc.)? Perhaps the church has outreach ministries that could use more manpower. Engage the men in discussing this: you might be surprised that some already have a burden for certain needs. Also consider the talents present among your men – do you have tradesmen who could offer free services, or teachers who could tutor underprivileged kids, etc. The goal is to channel the diverse skills of the group into meaningful acts of service as “**the hands and feet**” of Jesus.
- **Regular Service Initiatives:** Plan regular service projects – for example, one every quarter or several smaller ones throughout the year. They can range from manual labor to community events:
 - Conduct a **yard clean-up or minor repair day** for elderly or disabled members (raking leaves, fixing leaky faucets, mowing lawns). This is very practical and relational.
 - Volunteer monthly at a soup kitchen or food pantry as a group.
 - Organize a **community outreach event**, like a free car wash or car maintenance workshop, where while providing the service, you also hand out church literature or engage in friendly conversations about faith as opportunities arise.
 - Launch a mentoring program for fatherless boys or at-risk youth in your area – men can adopt a mentee to spend time with (this can be done in partnership with local schools or youth centers).
 - Participate in church evangelism campaigns – e.g., the men can take charge of a tent revival, open-air preaching in the park, or literature distribution in the city (somewhat akin to the “Highway Gospel Caravan” that the church does). Men often respond well to mission-like challenges.
 - Engage in *disaster relief or emergency help*: if someone in the church or community faces a crisis (house fire, flood, etc.), mobilize the men to provide aid whether physical cleanup, raising funds for the family, or other assistance.

Make these activities visible (not for personal glory, but to shine the light of Christ). Wear ministry shirts or have the church name on display so people know it's the church serving them – this connects good works with the gospel witness. And encourage the men to invite friends to join in service; sometimes a man who hesitates to come to a Bible study might gladly come swing a hammer for a good cause, and through that experience his heart can be touched.

- **Evangelistic Mindset:** While “service” is meeting practical needs, keep the ultimate aim of outreach in view: to lead others to Christ. Train the men to be ready to share their faith through these acts of service. Perhaps host a quick workshop on personal evangelism – how to share your testimony or pray with someone – so that when out serving, if the moment opens, a member can confidently talk about Jesus. You can also incorporate short gospel presentations in events. For example, if you host a community BBQ (food outreach) under the SOA banner, have a time where one of the men shares a brief message or testimony with the crowd and invites them to consider the Lord. The idea is to **demonstrate the love of God in deed and word**. As men, doing projects can be easier than talking, but encourage them that both are important. The service earns a listening ear for the gospel.
- **Outreach to Other Men:** A special focus can be reaching unsaved or unchurched men. The fellowship can become missional by targeting men in the community. For instance, running a sports league or a **men's community sports night** can attract men who wouldn't come to a church service. Use that as a bridge – build friendships and gradually invite them into more spiritual conversations or events. Another idea: hold an annual “Men's Day” outreach at church where the service and activities are tailored to men, encouraging members to bring their male friends, neighbors, or relatives who need Christ. Plan an inspiring service (maybe a guest speaker, and testimonies geared for men, plus a lunch or sports after). The SOA can sponsor this and greet newcomers, etc. When unsaved men see the genuine camaraderie and purpose among Christian men, it can be very attractive compared to what the world offers.
- **Service as Discipleship:** Emphasize to your members that serving others is a key part of being a disciple. Jesus said that the greatest among us must be the servant of all (Mark 10:43-45). So when the men engage in humble tasks, remind them they are walking in Jesus' footsteps. Discuss experiences after service projects: have a debrief where men share how they saw God work or what it meant to them. This reflection can solidify the spiritual lesson of serving. Many times, men will say they felt more blessed than those they helped – because God does reward us with joy when we serve sincerely. Over time, the fellowship will gain a reputation as a group that gets things done for God's glory. As noted previously, one of the stated goals of SOA is “*to reach out through service and commitment to our church and community*” – thus, by actively doing this, the local chapter truly fulfills its purpose.



- **Collaborate with Women and Youth on Outreach:** Sometimes combining forces multiplies impact. You can do family-wide service events or partner with the women's or youth departments for larger projects. For example, a church-wide day of service could be organized where the men take lead on heavy work, the women perhaps cook or visit nursing homes, and the youth wash cars – everyone contributing. Or for an evangelistic crusade, the men might handle setup, security, and invitation drives, while other groups handle other aspects. Working together across ministries also exemplifies unity to the community (John 13:35 again – our love and unity testify to Christ).

In all, making outreach a pillar of the SOA fellowship ensures it does not become ingrown. It keeps the men outwardly focused, which is healthy spiritually and emotionally. Many men find great fulfillment in tangible accomplishments; channeling that inclination into kingdom work can give them a sense of purpose and joy in the Lord they might not find elsewhere. Moreover, as souls are touched or even saved through these efforts, the men will directly see God using them, boosting their faith. It also enhances the church's witness at large – a strong men's ministry often correlates with a church that positively influences its community. By reaching men, you often reach whole families and communities. In fact, studies in church growth have noted that when a father comes to faith, the family follows a high percentage of the time. Therefore, SOA's outreach isn't just service – it's strategic spiritual investment that can lead to growth of the church and the Kingdom.

“As Sons of Abraham, we rise with faith, lead with integrity, and serve with courage—building strong families, strengthening the church, and transforming our communities for the glory of God.”



Integrating with the Church and Family Life

The Sons of Abraham fellowship does not exist in a vacuum; it is one part of the greater body of Christ. Its effectiveness will be magnified when it works in harmony with the wider church and when it positively influences family life. Here are some considerations for integration:

- **Support the Pastor's Vision:** As mentioned, alignment with church leadership is crucial. The men's group should ask, *"How can we help fulfill the church's mission?"* This might mean volunteering as a group for church-wide events (like being ushers at revival services, or helping in VBS security, etc.), or it could mean praying regularly for the pastor and initiatives of the church. If the church theme for the year is, say, *"Revival in Our Community,"* the SOA might adopt that into their plans by doing outreach or study on revival. Showing unity with the pastor's goals will gain his appreciation and strengthen the church overall. Additionally, the men can offer to take on certain projects the pastor needs done – as simple as maintenance or as significant as starting a new ministry that fits their skillset. **"Men are the key to strength in the local church. Without the man, you do not have the family,"** an old church growth adage states. So by stepping up in the church, the SOA can truly become a backbone for the whole congregation's vitality.

- **Family-Friendly Approach:** Emphasize that a man's first ministry is to his home. SOA should equip men to be better family men, not pull them away excessively. Balance the schedule so that it's not too demanding on men's time away from their families – perhaps a couple of activities a month, not every other night. Also, occasionally include families in events to reinforce the connection. For example, have a "family night" where the men host their families at church for a dinner or game night, and maybe the men serve the food to show servant leadership at home. Another idea is a ceremony like a **Father's Blessing**

event: fathers (or father figures) speak blessings over their children publicly, showing their commitment to lead spiritually at home. This was something Abraham did in essence as he instructed Isaac; our men can do likewise. By integrating family, you demonstrate that SOA isn't a "boys club" separate from home life, but rather it enriches home life. The Fountain of Love parish's Sons of Abraham highlighted that *"every family man will be a priest in his home"* – that's the kind of man we want to produce. When wives and children see their men growing kinder, more patient, more responsible through SOA, they'll be thankful for the ministry.



- **Coordinate with Women’s Fellowship:** The Church of God also has the Women of Ruth International (WORI) for the ladies. The local SOA director should have a good relationship with the local WORI (or women’s ministry) leader. Occasionally meet to discuss how the two auxiliaries can support each other. Perhaps the men can volunteer to babysit children during a women’s conference, allowing more women to attend. Or as noted before, hold combined meetings on topics like marriage or parenting. Some churches do annual couple’s retreats or family seminars jointly between men’s and women’s groups. **Joint service projects** like church clean-ups or charity drives can also foster unity (sometimes a little friendly competition between men and women on fundraising can be fun and motivating). By supporting each other, both ministries thrive. It also prevents any sense of competition for time or resources; instead, each understands the other as complementary. As partners, SOA and WORI can address the needs of the whole church more completely.
- **Youth Inclusion and Transition:** Keep an eye on the young males in the church – the older teens and college-age. At a suitable age (often late teens), welcome them into the men’s fellowship so they transition smoothly from youth group to adult participation. You might even have a special “rite of passage” event for graduating seniors, where the men’s fellowship formally invites them in and perhaps mentors are assigned. This can be powerful: it shows the young men that they have many “spiritual uncles” or big brothers in the church who care about them. The continuity from youth ministry to men’s ministry often determines whether churches retain young men in that critical age. If they find camaraderie and purpose among the men, they are less likely to drift away after high school. Also, younger men bring fresh perspectives and energy to SOA activities, which can benefit the group. Plan some activities that especially appeal to them (like sports or modern worship styles), while also exposing them to wisdom from the older men.
- **Church Functions and Visibility:** Make sure the congregation at large knows about the SOA fellowship and sees its fruits. You can do this by periodically participating in Sabbath services – for example:
 - Have an **SOA Saturday** periodically at the pastor’s discretion where the men’s fellowship leads parts of the service (ushers, maybe the SOA choir or a men’s ensemble sings a special, someone shares a testimony, and perhaps the SOA director or a guest speaks on a topic relevant to all). This both celebrates the ministry and challenges all men in the pews to get involved.
 - Give reports or presentations at church annual meetings: share how many service hours were done, projects completed, lives touched. Not for bragging, but to glorify God and thank the church for its support.
 - Invite the whole church to events you sponsor that are open (like a seminar or movie night).
 - If the church has a newsletter or website, ensure that SOA updates and success stories (with photos of men in action) are included. It inspires others and could even draw in men from outside who hear about it.

- Engage in church traditions: for instance, many congregations have Mother’s Day and Father’s Day appreciations – the SOA could take charge of arranging a special recognition for mothers in May (serving them breakfast or giving gifts), and similarly the women might honor fathers in June. These gestures strengthen the bond between ministries and uplift the whole body.

Integration also means being sensitive to the church’s overall schedule. Avoid planning SOA events that clash with major church events or that overload families. Work in harmony with the calendar set by the pastor or board. For example, if the church has a big revival week, don’t schedule the men’s retreat on the same weekend.



“As Sons of Abraham, we stand together in faith, sharpen one another in truth, and labor side by side in service—united as brothers, building the Kingdom of God with strength, love, and unwavering commitment.”

Maintaining Unity with the International SOA Vision

Finally, it's important to remember that each local SOA chapter is part of an international brotherhood under The Church of God. This connection to the larger body provides encouragement, accountability, and shared purpose. Here's how to maintain that unity and benefit from it:



- **Stay Informed:** The International SOA leadership may send out communications – whether letters, emails, social media updates, or resources. Make sure someone (likely the local director) is on the mailing list or communication channel for these. When you receive news (for example, an international theme for the year, or a call for prayer, or a report of what other groups are doing), share it with your men. This fosters a sense that “we are part of something global.” It can be inspiring for a small group in one location to hear that men in another country are meeting and doing similar things. Sometimes international leaders provide teaching materials or challenges; use those so there's synchronization. For instance, if a quarterly newsletter suggests all groups study a certain biblical man's life that quarter, incorporate that suggestion.
- **Participate in International/National Events:** If The Church of God holds national or international gatherings (like a General Assembly, regional conventions, or an International Men's Retreat), try to have representation from your local fellowship attend. This might mean budgeting funds to help send a delegate or organizing travel as a group. These big events can be life-changing, as men see the broader movement and catch a bigger vision. It also allows networking – your men can meet others, exchange ideas, and build friendships beyond your locale. When they return, have them share testimonies of the experience to those who couldn't go. Even virtual participation (if events are streamed online) can be arranged as a group – e.g., watch a conference session together and discuss.
- **Adopt International Projects:** Sometimes the international church might promote a project, like raising funds for missions or mobilizing prayer for a certain cause. The SOA can take lead in your local church for that. For example, if the church is building a clinic overseas, the men's fellowship could hold a fundraiser event (like a charity car wash or BBQ) to contribute – engaging the whole congregation. Or if an international prayer chain is called, the men could commit to cover a particular time slot or host a special prayer meeting. By responding to these calls, the local group aligns with the worldwide mission and feels the pulse of the larger church.
- **Share Your Stories:** Unity is a two-way street. Not only receive from international, but also share out what God is doing in your local fellowship. Send reports or testimonies to the International SOA office or relevant church publications. For instance, if your fellowship

had a highly successful community outreach where many came to Christ, write that up and send it along – it could encourage brethren in another city or country. They might publish it in a newsletter or on a website. Sometimes international leaders like to highlight local chapters to inspire others; be willing to share and give God glory publicly. This also affirms your local men – they see that their efforts are part of the bigger picture and are valued by the church at large.

- **Prayer for One Another:** Make it a point to pray not just for your own group but for the Sons of Abraham everywhere. Occasionally include in your prayer times requests like: pray for the International leader (e.g., Bro. Piper) that God gives him wisdom; pray for SOA groups in other regions, especially where men might face persecution or hardships; pray for revival among the men globally. This intercession knits hearts. If possible, perhaps even directly partner with a SOA group in another country – like adopting a mission church’s men’s fellowship to pray for and maybe support with materials (if they are less resourced, you could send Bibles or funds). Such a partnership can be enriching, like a sister-church relationship, but at the men’s ministry level.

By maintaining these connections, the local and international reinforce each other. The international vision (to raise up a world of godly men of integrity) is advanced as each local unit does its part; and each local unit is strengthened knowing they are backed by a larger community. It fulfills the idea that we are one body with many members (1 Corinthians 12:12) – even within the sphere of men’s ministry. Unity was one of Abraham’s strengths (he led a large household with many servants effectively) and it was certainly a strength of the early church. We want no lone rangers; we are **“a strong and united brotherhood in Christ”** across all borders.

In closing, this Organizational and Training Guide Manual is meant to equip you, whether you are a local SOA director, a committee member, or a passionate participant, with both the vision and the practical tools to build a thriving men’s fellowship. The Sons of Abraham Men’s Fellowship stands upon a great spiritual heritage and a compelling mission for today. By grounding everything in prayer, Scripture, and love, and by actively engaging in discipleship and service, your local SOA group can become a powerhouse for God’s kingdom.

Always remember the biblical foundations of this ministry: the faith of Abraham, the servant leadership of Christ, and the unity of the brethren. As you implement these guidelines, depend on the Holy Spirit’s guidance for your specific context. Every group will have its own flavor, but all should reflect the core purpose of inspiring men to become **faithful, trustworthy men of God** who lead courageously in every arena of life. Carry forward the same excitement and hope that this mission inspires. The efforts invested in organizing and training will yield lasting spiritual rewards, as men are transformed, families are uplifted, and communities are impacted by the Gospel through the work of the Sons of Abraham.

May the Lord Jesus Christ empower each of you as you rise up to be men of integrity, “mighty men of valor” in His service, and loving brothers to one another. Together, as the Sons of Abraham, we will continue advancing the ministry of The Church of God and shining God’s light in a world that needs righteous men. The journey ahead is exciting – and with God’s help, the best is yet to come. **“Stand firm in the faith, be brave, be strong”** (1 Cor. 16:13) and let all that you do be done in love. Amen.

Sons of Abraham Resolution of Commitment

We, as members of Sons of Abraham—the God-ordained fellowship of The Church of God, Jerusalem Acres—stand united in our calling to pursue holiness, leadership, and purpose in every sphere of life. Inspired by the legacy of Abraham, we affirm our solemn commitment to being men of integrity, faith, and service.

I. Commitment to God

- **I resolve to honor God above all else.** I will pursue daily prayer, study of scripture, and acts of faithful service, acknowledging that every step I take is only possible through His grace. My life is a living testimony of His love, and I will actively strive to reflect His character in all that I do.

II. Commitment to Family

- **I resolve to be a spiritual leader in my household.** I pledge to lead my family with wisdom, integrity, and unwavering love. I will provide guidance to my spouse and children by building our home on the solid foundation of God's Word, ensuring that every decision is rooted in biblical truth.

III. Commitment to Brotherhood

- **I resolve to cultivate a vibrant, supportive fellowship with my brothers in Christ.** I will actively participate in our local gatherings, offering encouragement, accountability, and mutual support. In the spirit of unity, I will foster trust and open communication, knowing that our collective strength empowers us to fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

IV. Commitment to Leadership and Service

- **I resolve to boldly assume my God-appointed role as a leader and servant.** I will embrace opportunities to mentor, guide, and inspire others—within my family, our church, and the wider community. Recognizing that leadership is a sacred call, I will persist in growth and learning as I endeavor to be the man God calls me to be.

V. Commitment to Community Transformation

- **I resolve to actively impact my community through compassion and service.** I will reach out to those in need, support initiatives that uplift the vulnerable, and share the life-changing message of Jesus Christ with clarity and courage. My actions, fueled by faith, will serve as a beacon of hope and a catalyst for transformation in our community.

By accepting this resolution, I affirm that I am committed to living as a true Son of Abraham—steadfast in faith, relentless in service, and unyielding in my dedication to God, my family, and my community. With God's strength, I step forward as a courageous leader and a constant witness to His transforming power.

In the name of Jesus Christ, [Signature] _____ Date: _____

Sons of Abraham Resolution Integration Program

1. Program Overview and Purpose

Vision: We believe that as soon as a man commits to God through our resolution, he embarks on a transformative journey. Like Abraham, whose story is one of faith and obedience, we are called to be courageous leaders, loyal brothers, and devoted servants. This program is structured to launch a covenantal relationship among our fellowship, enabling each man to pursue spiritual growth and take bold action in every sphere of life.

Goals:

- **Spiritual Renewal:** Encourage continual growth in prayer, scripture study, and accountability.
- **Family and Church Leadership:** Equip men to lead their households and be pillars within The Church of God, Jerusalem Acres.
- **Community Impact:** Inspire collaborative service projects and outreach initiatives that reflect the light of Christ.

2. Pre-Meeting Preparations

A. Invitation and Communication:

- Send personal invitations via email or in-person announcements, explaining the significance of the resolution and its role in forging a unified brotherhood.
- Provide an overview of the event agenda and share a brief history of the Sons of Abraham, reinforcing our biblical mandate and calling.

B. Resource Preparation:

- Prepare enough printed copies of the resolution for signing.
- Arrange a secure space that promotes both introspection and community (a meeting room that's both functional and symbolic—think warm lighting, comfortable seating, and ministry banners that reflect The Church of God, Jerusalem Acres).
- Prepare any additional materials (Bibles, notepads, pens) needed for the follow-up small group discussion sessions.

3. Launch Event: The Covenant Kickoff

A. Opening Worship and Prayer:

Begin with a dedicated time of worship. Set a reverent and fervent tone to prepare participants spiritually for the event's significance.

- Have the local director or a designated leader open the meeting with prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to move among the men and prepare their hearts for commitment.

B. Inspirational Message:

- Presentation by a seasoned leader or coach who can speak into the mission of the Sons of Abraham. Reference both the legacy of Abraham and the modern-day call to courageous Christian manhood.
- Incorporate the foreword from our International SOA Leader, Jerrod Piper, emphasizing his excitement and vision for a unified group of spiritual leaders in our communities.

C. Reading of the Resolution:

- Gather together in a circle to allow each man to listen attentively as the resolution is read aloud.
- Encourage a moment of silence after the reading for personal reflection and prayer.

D. Covenant Affirmation and Signing:

- Provide each man with a copy of the resolution. Invite them to sign the covenant as a personal act of commitment.
- Consider having a moment of public declaration where, after signing, men may share a brief word about what the covenant means to them. This creates momentum and fosters accountability.

4. Integration into Ongoing Fellowship

A. Regular Meeting Format:

- **Warm-Up and Worship (10 minutes):** Start each meeting with prayer and a short worship session.
- **Accountability Check-In (15 minutes):** Offer a time for small groups to share wins, struggles, and prayer requests related to living out the covenant.
- **Focused Bible Study/Message (20 minutes):** Devote time to exploring Scripture through the lens of our resolution commitments—topics may include leadership, integrity, service, and community.
- **Planning and Strategic Session (15 minutes):** Discuss upcoming projects, community service events, or discipleship initiatives.
- **Fellowship and Refreshment (20-30 minutes):** Enable informal discussions, bonding, and opportunities to build deeper relationships.

B. Training and Leadership Development:

- Organize quarterly workshops or seminars focused on Christian leadership, mentorship, and community outreach.
- Encourage experienced men (appointed leaders and elders) to mentor new members, ensuring that the vision is passed on and refined continuously.
- Develop specialized breakout sessions where practical topics—like family stewardship, conflict resolution, and effective ministry—can be discussed.

C. Accountability Groups:

- Create small accountability teams that meet between larger monthly gatherings. These groups can be led by trained mentors from within the fellowship.
- Introduce a brief “status report” segment during meetings where each small group shares how they are living out the covenant. This reinforces our mutual commitment and provides encouragement.

5. Community Engagement and Outreach

A. Service Projects:

- Encourage each fellowship meeting to plan or adopt a community project quarterly. Examples include helping local shelters, food drives, or community clean-ups.
- Use these projects as practical opportunities to live out the covenant and provide a consistent, visible impact in the community.

B. Networking and Civic Engagement:

- Collect and maintain contact information for local community leaders and politicians.
- Arrange periodic events or forums where fellowship members can discuss issues relevant to the community and explore ways to serve effectively.

6. Follow-Up and Celebration

A. Celebration of Milestones:

- As the covenant is lived out, celebrate key milestones. This may include testimonies during meetings, a special service celebrating the work done, or recognition of individuals and teams who have taken bold steps.
- Host an annual retreat or dinner to reflect on the progress, realign the vision, and commit for the coming year.

B. Continual Vision Casting:

- Regularly revisit the resolution during meetings, re-read the covenant, and discuss what it means to be a covenant-bound man in today's world.
- Encourage dialogue on how each man may refine, take ownership of, and share the resolution's principles within his own spheres of influence.

7. Conclusion: A Call to Bold Action

The Sons of Abraham Resolution is more than a document—it's a living commitment to pursue excellence, integrity, and godly leadership. By integrating this resolution into our meetings and daily lives, we embark on a journey of transformation that unites our family of believers. As we sign this covenant, may every man feel empowered to lead boldly, love deeply, and serve selflessly, knowing that he is part of a greater, eternal plan designed to bring light into every corner of our homes, church, and community.

"I am Abraham's seed, and in my strength, I will lead, serve, and conquer for the Kingdom of God."

Let this be our foundation, our bond, and the catalyst for a new era of brotherhood and impact among the Sons of Abraham.



**"Fueled by His fire, empowered by His strength,
blazing a path to transform the world!"**

The Footsteps of Christ

Jesus walked this earth—a man unlike any other, The perfect Son of Abraham, the perfect example for all. He led with wisdom, yet knelt to serve, He spoke with power yet loved with gentleness.

As men of God, we are called to follow, To walk in His footsteps with unwavering faith. To lead our families with strength and grace, To lift our brothers, standing side by side.

With hands that build and hearts that heal, With voices that speak truth in love, With courage that does not waver, And humility that kneels before the Lord.

Let us be men of Christ, Men of integrity, of honor, of sacrifice. Let us rise, let us serve, Let us stand as Sons of Abraham. For in Him, we have our calling. And through Him, we will fulfill it.

**Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!”
(John 8:58 NLT)!**

A Publication of

THE CHURCH OF GOD

-Jerusalem Acres-

Post Office Box 1207

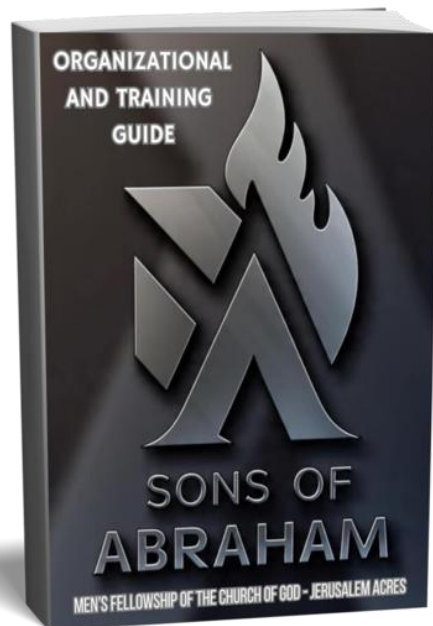
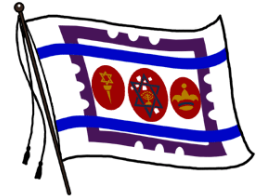
1826 Dalton Pike, SE

Cleveland, Tennessee 37364-1207. USA

Phone: 423/813-0299

Website: thechurchofgodntj.org

Email: thechurchofgodntj.com



2025 Edition