



GUIDE BOOK



This book belongs to: _____
Contact information: _____

The Everyman Challenge Guide Book © 2022, Everyman Challenge.
Previously published as Blood Brothers Guide Book © 2017, Blood Brothers.
All rights reserved. Authors: Ben Steiger, Keith Kuhnell, Mark Kuhnell, John McGuffey,
Chris Downing, & Hawken Lewis.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible,
New International Version, NIV. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used
by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com. The
“NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States
Patent and Trademarks Office by Biblica, Inc.

Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are taken from the English Standard Version
Copyright 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. All rights
reserved. ESV Text Edition 2011

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical
means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without permission
in writing from the author. The only exception is a reviewer, who may quote short
excerpts in a review.

Printed in the United States of America First Printing: First edition 2017, Second edition
2022

Learn more about the Everyman Challenge by visiting everymanchallenge.org.

Questions, comments, or inquires?

You can reach us at -

Everyman Challenge
P.O. Box 10
Morrow, OH 45152

- or -

www.everymanchallenge.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- INTRODUCTION	4
- CHALLENGE OVERVIEW	5
o VISION	5
o PURPOSE OF THE CHALLENGE	6
o THE PATH – The Events and Challenges That Lie Ahead	7
o YOUR TEAM – Understanding Who You Are Inviting And Leading	8
o NECESSARY ELEMENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CHALLENGE	9
o TERMS TO KNOW	11
o EVRYMAN CHALLENGE STANDARDS	13
- GETTING STARTED	14
o PRESEASON	14
o A FEW MORE THINGS THAT YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND	16
o GROUP EVENT AMENITIES	18
- FOCUS POINT 01.0 – HEART	20
- FOCUS POINT 02.0 – SOUL	28
- FOCUS POINT 03.0 – MIND	33
- FOCUS POINT 04.0 – STRENGTH	38
- FOCUS POINT 05.0 – LOVE OTHERS	43
- FOCUS POINT 06.0 – OWN IT	49

INTRODUCTION

"The thief comes only to destroy and kill; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" -Jesus (John 10:10 NIV)

"Most men lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with their song still in them" - Thoreau

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide, and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few" - Jesus (Matthew 7:13-14)

Only a blessed few make it through the narrow gate and discover nothing compares to a life with Jesus, living on purpose and for a purpose.

Deep within, men know there is more to life than what they see, but most never figure out what they are missing. As an Everyman Challenge Guide, you're entering a fight, a battle for the hearts of men. Many have heard the promises of Jesus, but most have settled for spiritual mediocrity and have only tasted partial freedom. You will be fighting for men who desire to surrender to the call of Christ but are often bound by pride, arrogance, and fear. The Everyman Challenge speaks their language – Action, Adventure, Challenge, and Brotherhood.

Awakened, Engaged, Equipped, and Surrendered is the battle cry of this brotherhood...

You've surrendered to the call to lead and take others through the challenge. You have a challenge at hand, and this book is designed to help you successfully guide others through it.

CHALLENGE OVERVIEW

VISION

Everyman Challenge Vision

Every man embracing the lifelong adventure of loving God completely - Heart, Mind, Soul, and Strength. Revolutionizing the Church from the inside out, one man at a time.

Each season of the Everyman Challenge is unique, but there are some common issues, challenges, and opportunities, which warrant preparation. Awareness and preparation go a long way when dealing with potential pitfalls.

Understanding the vision is vital:

Strong vision simplifies complexity

Clear vision makes priorities clear, and things seem to make sense intuitively. It makes seemingly small things important and seemingly important things small.

A strong vision is critical for strong leadership

Purposeful leaders know where and why they are leading.

Consider the Everyman Challenge Vision a 30,000-foot view of the challenge. A clear understanding of the vision and purpose at this level lifts the burden of the minute details, and adaptability becomes second nature when you understand where you are headed and why. You will need to plan, expect the unexpected, and be adaptable, but if you embrace the big vision and trust Jesus to fill in the gaps, you can be certain this will be a tremendously impactful adventure.

CHALLENGE OVERVIEW

PURPOSE OF THE CHALLENGE

Plain and simple, every man, including you, has a longing for more. Every man was created on purpose, for a purpose, and in the image of God, who created him. We were made for an intimate connection with God. That connection was broken by sin, and we now live in a fallen world. The longing we feel is a desire for the connection to be restored. Seemingly every desire traced back far enough proves this to be true.

A man who hasn't experienced the freedom and restoration Jesus brings has an unmet need for security and provision. As he attempts to secure it himself, he finds that the next purchase, relationship, or promotion, which he thinks may hold the key to unlocking contentment, does not satisfy him. The need remains unmet.

Men, who surrender to the call and follow Jesus, usually find freedom in some areas while continuing to struggle in others. We struggle because, at some level, we are still bound to selfish desires. The struggle reveals a fundamental and foundational truth: We all want More – More challenge, More freedom, and More purpose. Ultimately, we all want More Jesus. The more we know and submit our ways to the ways Jesus taught, the more we find what our souls long for. We begin to live, experiencing the richness and purpose in the way God intended.

If we truly understand who God is and what He has done, obedience to what He asks would not be an issue, and doubt would not exist. Yet, our lives and priorities often do not exemplify full faith and obedience. So, the problem must have been either in belief or perspective. Either we do not truly believe He is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do, or we don't believe that it applies to us. The challenge is to uncover the areas of doubt and wrong perspectives and surrender them for eternal truth. The Everyman Challenge exists to do just that in a way that engages the whole man down to the core of his identity. The challenges he will face uncover the contradictions between what he claims to believe and how he lives so that his life reflects the priorities that matter most, embracing the lifelong adventure of loving God completely - Heart, Mind, Soul, and Strength.

CHALLENGE OVERVIEW

THE PATH – The Events and Challenges That Lie Ahead

Jesus was brilliant in how he was able to simplify incredibly complex issues. His message, on what matters most, challenges every man, woman, and child who will ever hear the simple and incredibly deep First and Greatest Commandment. Love God with ALL. Complete compliance would mean perfection; therefore, we all have room to grow. Jesus took the full and complete person and broke him down into five areas – Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength – and how that person interacts with the world – Loving Others. He provided areas for us to explore and get to know. The satisfaction we long for is discovered in deep exploration of these areas, which are the Focus Points for the Challenge.

The Everyman Challenge is not in any way intended to explore each Focus Point fully. A lifetime is hardly long enough to explore its depth. The objective is to awaken a man's heart, engage his passion in the adventure of discovery, and equip him to continue a lifetime of exploration.

Focus Points:

Heart – The Desire for More - The motivation and source of longing.

Soul – Man's Purpose - To reveal the glory of God.

Mind – Presently Engaged – The ability to learn the truth and reject lies.

Strength – Power to Overcome – A man's ability to do or create. His will and how to fight well.

Love Others – We cannot love others when selfish interests exist.

Own It – Making Disciples, leading others in a relationship with God is a by-product of a man's personal relationship with Jesus. He simply cannot make disciples if he is not a growing and active Follower of Jesus himself.

In the end, a "successful" Challenge is described as a man who can say he knows and Loves God in a deeper way than when he started, and he desires to continue passionately exploring his relationship with God. Exploring and discovering leads a man to surrender his pride and selfishness, brings maturity in his love of God, and the beginnings of truly loving others - a love without selfish motives that cannot be contained and overflows into loving others, beautifully simple.

CHALLENGE OVERVIEW

YOUR TEAM - Understanding Who You Are Inviting and Leading

Getting guys to show up to a church event can be hard enough but getting them to stay engaged and involved over the course of time is a much greater problem. From the surface, it appears that men are just overcommitted and too busy. Most of a man's time is spent at work, leaving a few evening hours and the weekend to do everything else. Add household chores, kids' sports, and social commitments, and a man struggles to get personal time for a hobby or the downtime he really needs to rest and recover before he starts it all again next week. Busyness, however, is only part of the problem. Should a close friend in need call, a man will show up. He will make time for what is important to him. Therefore, he may have lots of guilt about the time he should be spending with his wife or kids. They are important, but he is too tired and stressed to invest in them the way he wishes he could. Add the guilt and shame for not delivering what he feels the church wants from him, and you have a guy ready to throw in the towel.

It is common for men to feel alone, even though they have people constantly surrounding them. Surrounded by others who seem to have it all together, he feels like he is the only one barely holding on. Much is expected of him, yet he is not allowed to be weak, and he is terrified to fail. Though many know who he is, he feels like no one truly knows him; even worse, he fears that if he were to be known, he would be rejected. So, culture continues to grind along with men smiling on the outside and rotting away within, wondering where they went wrong along the way. This is in the heads of the men around you. Men long for more, but most have lost hope. This is the battle for their hearts. Men need someone to speak their language – to put words to what they have silently suffered and the hope they can no longer describe. This is the unique ability of the Everyman Challenge; to reach the hearts of men. It's about relationships – with God and with others.

And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken. - Ecclesiastes 4:12

Your team will be known as a Braid. The name of which comes from Ecclesiastes 4:12. We are stronger as a community or team of men than we are as isolated individuals or lone wolves. Coming into the Challenge, some men may not have a group of men they regularly spend time with; or maybe they do, but often they are not the ideal men to walk alongside to grow into the man God created them to be.

CHALLENGE OVERVIEW

NECESSARY ELEMENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CHALLENGE

Though there is no magic formula, there are elements to a thriving Everyman Braid that help to build and sustain momentum effectively.

Outdoors: Just getting outside tends to put men at ease. God's creation reveals His glory and is refreshing to the soul. Bible studies at restaurants or coffee shops are good things, but something sterile about the environment makes it harder for a guy to let down his guard. Get outside and meet where it's raw, not where you would interview a potential job candidate. That may not work for everybody, but when possible. **Get outside!**

Adventure: When a man shares his favorite stories, they almost always involve his buddies and danger. Sadly, most stories are from the glory days long past, stories of road trips and adventures where he returned dirty and battered but ALIVE. Men who were teammates through sports share fond memories of the challenge endured together. What these men are fondly remembering is the deep connection forged through shared challenge and being known, the adventure that made him feel alive, and the unique bond it created with the few that shared in the adventure. Therefore each month begins with adventurous competition; it creates a bond upon which strong relationships are built.

Real: No guy likes a poser, yet every man feels like one at times. Men cannot stand being lied to or manipulated. Men have a unique radar that picks up on B.S. Yet, simultaneously he feels the need to BS others to avoid being seen as incompetent or as less of a man. The brave and confident are those who are willing to be vulnerable and put themselves out there and be known. When men experience a safe environment, open honesty spreads like wildfire. When a Guide leads with real, raw, and vulnerable honesty, the tone and atmosphere of the group is established, and the time spent together is life giving to the men.

Relationships: Humans are hardwired for connection. To be truly loved is to be known and connected with others. Because men desire connection, hate posers, and value real discussion, they are often shaped, guided, and encouraged by other men within their Braid. While boys are shaped by popular opinion and the norm, men value authentic relationships, and God uses those that they respect to mature them in Christ

Challenge: Without a solid relationship, a man will not receive a personal challenge from another. Only a trusted friend has earned the right to challenge motives, actions, or behavior. Trust is a result of knowing and being known. It is tested by selfish motives, pride, and heavy-handed judgment. It is proven true by mutually pushing through and learning from misunderstandings and assumptions. Trust matures both individuals.

CHALLENGE OVERVIEW

Growth: Men only do what they believe to be important. Bible study is great, but if it's a meaningless conversation that doesn't do him any good, he would rather be elsewhere. Engaging in a personal challenge that reaches the core of what a man believes and who he desires to be will spur growth. When a group of men grows together, the momentum is contagious.

Focus: Men are busy with a lot of demands. Change and growth can be hard and exhausting. When the fun disappears, it feels like work, and it doesn't take much to lose momentum. Repeating the core elements over six months allows the relationships to take root. Adventurous events outside, real raw conversation, personal challenge, digging into and exploring these challenges together, then more adventure to refresh the bonding and it continues. A group of men doing this together throughout the challenge creates the community of brothers they long for.

As the Guide, understanding how the components work together is essential. It is your job to set things up and lead from the front. Well-planned events are foundational in creating the right setting for these men to bond. Sharing your heart is guiding these men into real relationships. Regular communication is critical in the relationship process. If a guy never hears from you, it is clear he is unimportant to you. Simple calls or text messages go a long way. You cannot make a man grow, but you can be the spur he needs when he sees the growth in you. If you have ever physically trained with another man, you know you are more likely to lift more, run harder, and go further than when you are training alone. We are made to do this together.

CHALLENGE OVERVIEW

TERMS TO KNOW

Welcome Bundle: Once a man has completed the application and has registered to join your Braid, he will receive a Welcome Bundle, which will include a letter bringing him up to speed and letting him know what to expect, an Everyman's Field Guide, a book, an Everyman Challenge ink pen, bookmark, an Everyman Challenge sticker, and a sandbag.

Group Event: This is the backbone of the monthly Focus Point, including the Group Challenge Activity, Focus Lesson, and Guide's Story.

Group Event Activity: The adventurous activity portion of the Group Event. Beyond Focus Point 1 for Group Event Activities, please reference the Group Event Activity Guide. In this guide, you will find the intent of the Group Event Activity for each Focus Point, with examples of favorites that have proven to be fun and impactful and how they contribute to the lesson and group conversation. Depending on your braid's dynamics, geography, and opportunities, the suggested events may not work. The Group Event Activity Guide will help you construct an option that best caters to your braid.

Lesson Review: This is a place to watch the video before you meet with your braid and write down the information you find essential to engage them in discussion and draw out what they took away from the video. This Review is not information you must share or communicate with your Braid, as they will watch the Lesson itself. It is simply an aide and resource to give you a deeper understanding and more confidence in what you communicate.

Guide's Story: The video lesson for each Focus Point teaches a biblical principle that is core to the First and Greatest. You don't have to teach. The video intentionally takes that burden, allowing you to open up discussion about the lesson. Take this discussion deep. Lead by sharing your story and how the lesson is true in your life, and then use solid open questions for others to share. Don't forget that this is your story relating to the Video Lesson, not your sermon or restating the lesson itself. Your Guide Story is meant to help them relate to the video's message. It should help them apply it to their lives, not break down and dissect the lesson's content. Be a brother and a story teller, not a preacher or teacher.

Guidepost: These markers are set to identify critical components. Make sure you process and consider the information in the Guidepost. This can be the difference between a fun time and a life-changing awakening for a man.

Expectable Conditions: Been there, done that, and usually saw _____. If you enter the woods in late October, cold rain should not be a surprise. After a guy opens up and shares some of his deep and dark secrets with great transparency and vulnerability, he may feel as if he "overshared." He may then become withdrawn and distant in the weeks that follow.

Like these examples, an expectable condition should not be a surprise that creates trouble. Know it may be an issue, prepare, and don't let it derail the process.

CHALLENGE OVERVIEW

Tips from the Field: Handy tips that the Guides before you may have learned the hard way.

Field Guide Review: Similar to the Guide's Story, you will present a Solo Challenge to your braid with each lesson. Guys will often cast snap judgment on whether they feel like the Solo Challenge has anything to "offer them". As the Guide, you are the keeper of the overall vision, and, as the one with the understanding of your Braid and the Challenge, you have special insight into why the Solo Challenge is important. Set the stage for the personal challenge the Solo Challenge provides and call them into action. You are not their schoolteacher who will grade their progress. You are a brother who has also accepted the challenge and wants them to share in the experience.

Solo Challenge Review: During the Group Events, Solo Challenge Reviews are the opportunity to unpack the prior month's Solo Challenge and discuss as a Braid how God used it to impact the individual members.

Solo Challenge Assessment: Within the Field Guide, participants will answer a few questions after each Field Application section and evaluate their performance and engagement with the Solo Challenge. This section brings attention to their participation level, and any Spirit-driven takeaways encountered each month. They will be asked to grade their Solo Challenge engagement from 1 to 5. This grading system repeatedly calls attention to their need to engage in their relationship with the Lord daily and as criteria necessary to finish the Challenge in accordance with Everyman Challenge Standards.

EVERYMAN CHALLENGE Standards: The requirements or qualifications that any Participant must meet to complete the Everyman Challenge.

Map Check: Weekly discussions centered around a monthly focus point question. Map Check questions have been written to get to the lesson's core, push every man to dig deeply, help participants apply truths to their own lives, and invite the Spirit and others to speak wisdom from a Biblical perspective.

Map Check Recap: Within the Field Guide, after each Solo Challenge Assessment, Participants will find a "Map Check Recap" section that asks them to write the Map Check Question, their "Response" to it, and any "Takeaway/Action Item" that came out of that conversation/question. The intent is to prompt deeper and lingering thoughts relative to the Map Check discussions, help them apply the monthly lesson, and allow a Participant to look back on their personal journey through the Challenge in the future.

CHALLENGE OVERVIEW

Post-Event Follow-Up: Following Group Events, communications should go out to all Braid members that recap the event (for those that missed the event and those that attended). It would be best if you took advantage of these opportunities to encourage your Braid, remind them of future events and challenge them to stay focused and engaged.

EVERYMAN CHALLENGE STANDARDS:

In order to get the most out of the Everyman Challenge, a serious commitment is required. To be considered an official Blood Bother, the following Standards must be met:

- 1. One must attend 4 of the 6 Group Events. Please note that this does not give license to miss Group Events for sporting events or social outings. Everyman is to be a significant priority to you throughout the entire 6-month Challenge. "Acceptable" absences should only be in the case of pre-scheduled events (those important enough to be on your calendar prior to the start of the Everyman Challenge season) and/or emergency situations - these are the only valid reasons for missing.**
- 2. One must succeed at 4 of the 6 Solo Challenges assigned throughout the season. Success is defined by a Solo Challenge Assessment Rating of 2 or above. However, recognize that a 2 is a poor performance; the higher the rating, the more likely you will experience growth.**

GETTING STARTED

PRESEASON: “Failing to plan is planning to fail.”

Preparation: Preparing up front makes the season flow and helps remove obstacles. Guides are strongly encouraged to sit down with their church leadership as they plan the season and discuss how it fits into the annual church vision and calendar. A men’s event prior to the Everyman Challenge registration is a great funnel into the Challenge.

Leadership: Although you and your co-leader can do this independently, always keep your eyes open for guys you can plug in to help you along the way. Recruit recruiters and connectors. Look for guys who can make a call, and people flock to the invitation, those who have a gift of connecting with people. Find him and get him on your team if this is not you. Know your strengths. If you are a guy strong in planning and administrative details, you will likely need someone to bring the fun. If you are the fun, you will likely need someone to bring order to the chaos you tend to create. Work in your strengths and assemble a team to cover the bases.

Take Inventory of Your Assets: Explore properties you may have access to. Someone may have a family member with a farm nearby, and another may have access to a pond. State parks, camps, rivers, and other public lands provide great Group Events settings. Don’t meet in the church basement. Guys will have a harder time letting go of their church face there, and transparent discussion will be harder to come by within the walls of a church building. Get creative and work with what you have at your disposal.

Roster/Planner: The roster is more than just the lineup of men on your Challenge team. It is also the outline for the season. Use it to plan where you will meet, what you will do, and how much it will cost. Having this information before inviting guys is very helpful because one of the first questions is often, “How much?”. Make the calls, get reservations, and figure out how much the events will cost. Then, with your leadership team, start filling out the roster with the guys you want on this adventure with you. Fill in potential names, use it to track responses, and have a place to keep the who, where, and when information.

Invitations: Guys are busier than ever, but they are more likely to take on the challenge when they are personally invited. Grab lunch with a guy and tell him what you are getting ready to start. Prime the pump and let him know you care – you want him to be a part of this with you.

Tips from the field: *If each leadership team member gets a few guys to register and challenges those guys to invite another guy, you will have a full braid before you know it.*

GETTING STARTED

Announcements: Church leadership's complete buy-in is a tremendous asset, but it is not necessary as long as you have, at minimum, their approval to run a Braid on your own. Understand that if you have a lot of men in your church, the first season of the Everyman Challenge, you probably won't be able to accommodate all of the church's men, nor should it. You are seeking guys who are ready for the Challenge. Beginning with a smaller base of committed men will create deep and lasting roots. Know the number of men you can accommodate. Have a cut-off and an application process. Communicate with church leadership and ensure they understand how the Challenge works and the number and type of men you seek to guide. A waiting list often creates anticipation for men who may otherwise be non-committal. Most churches have announcements scheduled out a lot farther than you would think, so find out who manages them, what they need, and when they need it to make an announcement. Promotional videos are available for your church to use for these announcements and invitations.

GETTING STARTED

A FEW MORE THINGS YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND

Each Focus Point poses its own unique challenges, but there are a few general aspects that will remain the same or need attention frequently enough that we'll mention now.

- You are fighting for the hearts of men who are busy and distracted. We have more ways to communicate than ever before, which has created a white noise that can make it difficult to get your information across. There is no one way to reach everyone. For one person, it's a text message. For another, social media or email; for another, you may only be able to reach him through a phone call during a brief window of time on a particular evening. You must try and persist in all avenues. They have the dates, but remember, there is a battle over the hearts of the men in your braid, and the enemy does not want them to grow.
- Expect chaos and distraction to increase in the days leading to each Group Event for yourself and those you're guiding through this adventure. Don't forget that you have an enemy who wants to take you and your men out. Email your guys a couple of days out. Shoot them a text, call them and leave a voicemail – make it personal. Let him know you are looking forward to seeing him, etc. This may sound ridiculous, and bordering on babysitting grown men, however, some of these guys don't know the impact that is coming, and inevitably there are a couple of guys who were planning on staying home until they received a personal message.

There are a few types of participants to be expected:

- **The Silent One - You're not sure if he's even awake, and he takes tremendous effort to get as little as one-word responses.**
- **Loose Lips - This guy is finding the freedom to speak and share in a way he has never experienced before and will need to be coached on how to participate without dominating time and conversation.**
- **Mr. Church Guy - This guy has many years in the pews, and it's natural for him to believe his spiritual maturity is high enough that he has little to gain from this experience but believes that he is here for others. Be willing to ask this guy challenging questions.**
- **The Stallion - This guy gets it and is willing to be real. He is able to share concise, authentic, and valuable input. He is your ace in the hole for helping to break awkward silence and get the participation running smoothly.**

GETTING STARTED

- The audio volume needed for a group of 10-12 guys outside is at least two to three times what you think necessary when you are testing the AV system by yourself indoors. Not being able to see a tiny screen or clearly hear the video lesson or conversation is a huge pitfall. Using a laptop as the screen is not advisable, and the speakers are inadequate for a group your size. Though, if all else fails, it is better than nothing. Make sure you have the appropriate cables and extension cords for the TV/screen/projector you bring or have for your use at the facility where you will be meeting.
- Set the ground rules from the beginning. Often, the most challenging part of facilitating conversation is keeping from exceeding the expected time limit. Make it easy and comfortable by stating up front that time is valuable here and for our families waiting at home. Everyone is encouraged to share, but to stay on schedule, keep it short – say three minutes or less. Tell them it's not personal, but you will interject as needed. The phrase "land the plane" can be helpful to keep a talker to his point. Understand that this may be the first time many guys have felt the freedom to share, and they may need to be coached along on how to do so without monopolizing the allotted time. Facilitating good group discussion is an art, not a science. Being relaxed yourself goes a long way.

Tips from the field: *Don't try to polish your delivery like a sales presentation. Real and raw shows vulnerability and transparency, which connects better than a polished 'Sermon.'*

- Although we strongly recommend you use the suggested Group Event Activities listed in the Group Activity Event Guide if possible, you can plan the Group Event Activities to fit your abilities and resources best. Not all activities will work for all locations, climates, Braid demographic makeup, etc. Leaders are encouraged to be creative, using the natural resources of their areas and the talents of their Braid members and other contacts. If you choose to create your activity, remember the activities should be "challenging," group-oriented, relate to the Focus Point lesson and overall theme, and be FUN. During the Challenge, there will be the need for six such Group Event Activities, which happen at each Focus Point.

GETTING STARTED

GROUP EVENT AMENITIES

Following is a list of general recurring needs and suggestions that will likely apply to most, if not all, of your Group Event experiences.

Lawn chairs: If you don't already have seating for the men, let them know to plan on bringing a chair with them every month.

Food: Don't underestimate the power of good food. Hospitality is often centered on breaking bread for a reason. Serve something homemade. Invite the men to bring one of their favorites to share or cook something over the fire while you talk. There is a big difference between being a guest at a nice, well-planned dinner and an impromptu get-together where half-eaten bags of chips are tossed onto the counter. Remember to bring plates, napkins, utensils, etc.

Power: Whether an extension cord, an inverter in a vehicle, or some other quiet means of powering the Audio/Visual system, you will need a power source. Note: Generators seem like a good idea, but the noise typically is too much to hear over and a significant distraction.

Music: Good music, clear sound, not too loud and not too overbearing is a good idea. Together, good music and food create a comfortable atmosphere.

Table: Consider a folding table for snacks and other food items.

Firewood and Starter: Bring dry wood and tinder. Do not assume that you will find it once you arrive.

Tips from the Field: *Fires are generally a welcome addition to any event for a man. Get the fire going well before everyone shows up, even if it's warm out. This gets rid of the initial smoke and will provide good coals you can use to cook over. Your goal is for guys to sit down and feel at ease with as little distraction as possible.) Consider your need for water to put out the fire at night's end when planning.*

Printed Roster: Always have the contact information of all braid members and the dates, locations, and times for all future events at your fingertips. Although they have the Group Event dates written in their Field Guide, ensure you communicate them regularly. Don't assume that because they have it, they put the dates on their calendars. Have the guys verify that you have their preferred email and phone numbers.

GETTING STARTED

Tips from the Field: *Group emails and texts can get out of hand and cause a guy to not read anything because of annoyance. Communicate clearly that everyone is to respect the group and think twice before sending a group message or replying to all. Under no circumstances is the roster to be used to solicit or spam the group.*

Agenda: Get your timeline laid out. Start on time, or very close to it. Even if you know a couple of guys are hung up in traffic, don't wait too long to begin. Most of the Group Events can be completed in 2-1/2 – 3 hours. At the end of each Focus Point – Group Event in this book, you will find a suggested agenda to help you plan and write out any notes for the event.

FOCUS POINT - 01.0 HEART

Focus Point: HEART, Soul, Mind, Strength, Loving Others, Own It...

The Heart is the most vital, innermost, essential part of something. The heart is where emotions reside, desires are made known, and deep decisions are made. The condition of a man's heart describes and affects the quality of his life. It determines how he will react and respond to situations, challenges, and relationships. The heart is a major target for the enemy who is seeking to steal and destroy what God has created. The most effective means of taking the passion and purpose out of a man is a wound aimed at the center of his heart. The longing for more, the desires of the heart, emotions, and reactions are all solid indicators of what God wants to do in our hearts. God places desires in our hearts, and we have the ability to twist them into a selfish mutation.

Group Event Preparation: Watch the Opening Video and Lesson One at least once, preferably several times. Prepare your Guide's Story: What does this lesson mean to you? Particularly during this first event, you will be leading by example, so dig in here and pray over it. Don't shy away if the spirit prompts you to take it deep. This is night number one, and first impressions mean a lot. Pick a private venue where all the men can sit around and feel comfortable with their surroundings. Outside, around a campfire, usually works well.

Things Needed Besides Your Basic Amenities: 30 – 40 lbs of sand per participant. Name tags and Marker - even if everyone should know each other, forgetting a guy's name is embarrassing. Note cards and pens for the Manly Name Game - Note cards are better than paper as there is no need for a solid surface to write on.

Tips from the Field: *Don't be overwhelmed with the sand. While it may take some serious effort to get 30-40 lbs of sand per participant to your event location ahead of time, it's doable. If you have 12 guys, that's 500lbs of sand. You can buy it in bags, in bulk, or maybe there's a river, creek, or lake that you'll be near that your braid can get it from.*

Expectable Conditions: You've done the work. You've gathered the men. Now it's time to start the challenge. You have a braid gathering for the first time, and as some aspects of the Challenge are still unknown to these men, there will be anticipation and maybe even anxiety for some. Expect some guys to be excited and dive right in and others to hang back as they kick the tires. Good food and a friendly demeanor will go a long way.

GROUP EVENT 1

Welcome & Prayer: Introduce yourself and the other leaders and how you relate to the Braid, including who to contact with and what kind of questions. By this point, the registered participants have signed up and should have received their Welcome Box. Pray over the evening – eyes to see, ears to hear, safety, and fun.

FOCUS POINT - 01.0 HEART

Opening Video: Have the guys grab a drink and some food and pull in around the fire or video system. "Hey fellas, I'm going to pray over our time together" is a great settle-in request. Play the video.

Braid Introductions & Filling Sandbags: Before Braid Introductions, call attention to the Braid Roster towards the front of the Field Guide. The guys can make notes in this section anytime throughout the evening that might help them remember their Braid mates in the future. They can list the guy's names as they introduce themselves as well as a notable distinction as the discussion flows – Examples might be John Smith – huge knife fight scar, or Tim Jones – the guy who drank a gallon of maple syrup

Put your stallion or co-leader on the spot. "Starting with (his name), go around, tell your name and the one word that best describes you now, or would have in the past, and why." Example: "I'm Keith, and the one word that best describes me is daredevil because..."

Guidepost: Your name, along with your favorite scar and how you got it, is another option, but the power in the best describing word, is guys are revealing their image or perceived identity without realizing they are doing so. Later, this will work its way into the second half of the manly name game.

We suggest filling the sandbags as a group on this first outing (This will ensure that everyone does it). Guys will end up holding bags open for one another and working together to complete this task. This light physical activity will help break some nerves and tension that naturally come with introducing a new social group. Here are a few things your guys should know:

- They will be required to lift and carry their bag in a number of different ways throughout the challenge.
- They are to decide for themselves how much sand they can handle... overflowing or barely full; the choice is theirs. This is one of the reasons that group fill is good – a bit of peer pressure can (doesn't always but can) help them find a healthy balance.
- The closure should be tight. These are going to be tossed in and out of their vehicles and used in events for the next six months. No one wants to clean up a bunch of sand and then have to seek out more to refill their bag. Whether the bag's integrated string, some twine, zip ties, or a shoe string is used to close this bad boy off, it needs to be tied well and the bag bound securely.

FOCUS POINT - 01.0 HEART

Video: Lesson One – HEART

Lesson Review: Before you meet with your Braid, write down what you find essential in regards to this lesson to engage them in discussion and draw out what they took away from the video. This Review is not information you must share or communicate with your Braid, as they will watch the Lesson itself. It is simply an aide and resource to give you a deeper understanding and more confidence in your communication.

Here are a few thoughts to consider:

We all want more, and it is not a matter of identifying the desires of the heart. It is a matter of removing the dirt and filth that gets piled upon it, drowning and confusing its cry. When God breathed life into you, he implanted desire in you, but it's up to you to move beyond that desire and do something. The world needs you. The people in your life are desperate for you to step up and be the leader that God has given you the ability to be. Far too many of us run from the call because of the fear we associate with living by faith and allowing God into our personal space. It's time to start dumping the dirt, to uncover the desires God has placed in you, to start taking steps toward life, and to claim the freedom that can only be found through surrender to Christ.

This is an awakening for many men – the recognition of the source of their desire and the realization that they will never themselves satisfy the burning desire for more that exists deep within them. An awakening to pursuing a Christ-centered life is the first step to filling the void they have been trying to fill on their own for years. Awakened to the truth, they can begin to find fulfillment, purpose, and passion in following Christ. The next and natural step is action.

Guide's Story: How about you? Make it personal. When were you awakened to this truth (or maybe it is new for you as well), and what are you doing, or going to do, about it? Don't forget that this is your story relating to the Video Lesson, not your sermon or restating the lesson. Your Guide Story is meant to help them relate to the message that the video conveyed. It should help them apply it to their lives, not break down and dissect the content of the lesson itself. Be a Brother and a storyteller, not a preacher or teacher.

Braid Discussion: Transition over with questions that cannot be answered with one-word answers. "Any takeaways?" "Did that impact anybody besides me? Yeah, how so?"

FOCUS POINT - 01.0 HEART

Group Event Activity: Manly Name Game

Purpose and Intent: Knock the walls down. This Challenge is, hands down, the most effective tool for getting guys to know one another. It starts with fun and lighthearted stories that will reveal who a guy really is and what he values. You will begin to see parts of his perceived identity. In the second half, wounds that have shaped him will often be revealed, tearing down some walls that have led them to be who they are today. Collectively the shared experience creates an atmosphere that many guys have never experienced.

Manly Name Game Activity Details – Part One:

- Every Guy gets a note card and a pen.
- Have them write on their card the manliest thing they've ever done. Don't define manly or explain what that means, as it will guide what they write down - No names on the cards.
- Collect the cards – do yourself a favor and read them silently to be sure you can read the handwriting.
- Explain that you will read the cards out loud twice, and then the cards will be set aside Remembering the cards is part of the game.
- Pick someone to repeat one of the manliest things written down and guess who it belongs to. If he correctly guesses, then the guy who performed the manly feat shares the story behind it in two minutes or less. If his guess is wrong, the next guy in line tries to match with either the same feat or a different one of his choosing.
- The group can chime in to help remember the feats that have not yet been guessed. You may have to read through them again mid-game to help jog everyone's memory.

Tips from the Field: *When you read through the cards, mention that if someone knows who a card belongs to, don't let the cat out of the bag too quickly.*

- Continue until all the cards have matched their owners. Occasionally the same one or two feats keep getting guessed, and the game drags a bit due to repeatedly guessing the wrong guy. If you know the men in your braid, chances are you already know a few matches. When it gets to you, reveal one you know to get things moving in the right direction.
- The game ends once all the names are guests and stories are told.

Manly Name Game Event Details - Part 2:

- Ok, now it's time to get real. You've talked about things that puff us up as men; now, ask them to reveal the least manly moment they are willing to

FOCUS POINT - 01.0 HEART

share, a time when they ultimately failed to be the man they know they should have been.

Guidepost: Authentic conversation and real men being vulnerable during the first Group Event is foundational and absolutely crucial for the Braid digging deep and impacting lives. As the Guide, leading from a raw and real place creates a culture for the Braid that will carry forward in meaningful ways.

- Restate rules of engagement. What is shared among you stays among you.
- Another man's story is not yours to share without his permission.
- Remind the guys why they joined the Everyman Challenge and that it is a challenge, which, by definition, will stretch them physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
- Explain that every man has fallen flat, having done things that he deeply regrets and has felt like a complete failure of a man. Lead by example; take them deep into your story. Encourage them to share their least manly story if they have the courage.

Guidepost: This is not about celebrating and reveling in our junk; instead, it is about bringing light to the darkness that shapes us whether we realize it or not. James 5:16 speaks of confessing sin to your brothers, not for forgiveness but for healing. Some guys have stuff in their past that haunts them and have never shared it with anyone. Thank the guys who share for having the guts to be honest and vulnerable. "Now that is manly, right there" kind of comments go a long way in these moments.

Remind the guys they are not the things they have done. They are not defined by their successes and failures, no matter how hard the enemy tries to convince them otherwise. Getting real, honest, and raw with themselves, with the Braid, and ultimately with God are the first steps to being known and loved. This month is about fighting to get your heart back.

Field Guide Review: With the book in your hands, ask the guys to grab their copy of the Field Guide. Open up to the Solo Challenge and deliver the personal challenge to take on in the weeks leading up to the next Group Event. After reviewing the Solo Challenge, have them look forward to the Solo Challenge Assessment section. Remind them to answer the questions relative to this month's Solo Challenge prior to the next Group Event. Additionally, explain the Solo Challenge Assessment Ratings and how they relate to Everyman Challenge Standards.

Remind them, The Everyman Challenge Standards are as follows:

- 1. One must attend 4 of the 6 Group Events.** Please note that this does not give license to miss Group Events for sporting events or social outings. Everyman is

FOCUS POINT - 01.0 HEART

to be a significant priority to you throughout the entire 6-month Challenge. "Acceptable" absences should only be in the case of pre-scheduled events (those important enough to be on your calendar prior to the start of the Everyman Challenge season) and/or emergency situations - these are the only valid reasons for missing.

2. One must succeed at 4 of the 6 Solo Challenges assigned throughout the season.

Success is defined by a Solo Challenge Assessment Rating of 2 or above. However, recognize that a 2 is a poor performance; the higher the rating, the more likely you will experience growth.

While they still have their Field Guide open, have your guys turn to the Challenge Map and fill in the dates for all of the future Group Events for your Braid.

Guidepost: (Connecting the manly name game with the Solo Challenge) The word that best describes you and the manliest feat you have ever done will form an image of who one believes himself to be or is trying to be. These can be things one is proud of or can be a mask that we present to others in hopes that they don't see through. The Manly Fail moments also play a role in how one sees himself. Take this time to share how "Wild at Heart" (your group may decide to read another suggested book) does a great job of taking a guy to the place that not only forms how he views himself but also how he interacts with God and those around him. Some guys don't like to read. This is where the challenge begins.

Things Your Men Need to Understand: The results of a challenge are directly proportional to the effort put forth. A half-hearted attempt will naturally yield half-hearted results. Your men came into the challenge because they wanted more and will have to put their shoulders into it when they feel like checking out. Don't let them go there. They're here because they want more and have much to offer the group.

Establishing Map Checks: While you have everyone together, work as a group to find the time when your Braid can gather each week between Group Challenge to explore the month's Focus Point through the provided Map Check questions. Let the guys know that their investment in these discussions will be worthwhile and help yield strong bonds and significant personal growth. Explain to them that Map Checks will take place only on the weeks there are no Group Events. Explore every option. All time frames and potential meeting days should be on the table (weekday early mornings, evenings after kids are in bed, Sunday afternoons, etc.). Continue the conversation until you settle on a time that works best for the majority of your Braid. It may help to introduce Map Checks to your Braid with something like the following:

"Tonight was great, and you can be sure we will have many more great nights like it to come. You can also be sure that you will be busy with your family and work

FOCUS POINT - 01.0 HEART

and constantly surrounded by distractions. Guys on an adventure will regroup around the map, sharing what they discovered and where. Map Checks give us a better understanding of what is out there and what we can learn from each other.”

Pray: For each man in your braid, his family at home, and the challenge at hand.

Dismiss: When possible, after you dismiss, it’s great to offer some time to hang out afterward and have some relaxed conversations for those who desire it.

Post-Event Follow-Up: A day or two later, send out a group email with a brief recap, link to the video, and reminder of the Solo Challenge. Clearly invite each guy to come to the Map Check. Keep it personal, fun, and challenging in the email – use your natural words to sound like you and not a script. It seems as if there is always a man or two who feels like he may have gotten a bit too far over his skis at this first event - meaning he opened up more than he is used to and feels stupid because he shared too much. A natural response is to go into hiding. Staying in touch with the guys and thanking those specifically for having the guts to share and how it impacted you goes a LONG WAY.

Map Check: Raw and real is the key. Questions are designed to get to the core of the lesson. You may need to push some guys to go deep – one or two-word answers are not acceptable and typically are a front, not an answer. Other guys may share too much information and monopolize the conversation – you may have to politely cut them off and remind them of your time constraints. Always lead with your own vulnerable and transparent answer first. Be ready to share stories that relate to their struggles but be empathetic, not preachy. They need a brother, not a life coach, in this setting. However, make sure that you do not monopolize the time – everyone should be sharing equally, not a few guys controlling the conversation week after week.

01.1 - Every man has a unique set of desires and passions – what is that one thing you are most passionate about, the thing that brings you to life? Are you currently moving beyond desire and pursuing it – why or why not?

01.2 - If we gathered everyone that has known you throughout your life and asked them to describe you, what words would you most fear they might use? There are thousands of words they could use. Why do you fear those specifically?

01.3 - We view ourselves in a certain way. We have thoughts about how others see us, but what about God? How do you think God sees you? Why do you think He sees you that way?

FOCUS POINT - 01.0 AGENDA

Welcome (5 Min):

Opening Video (7 Min):

Braid Introductions & Filling Sandbags (30 Min):

Video: Lesson One – Heart (12 Min):

Guide's Story (5 Min):

Discussion (20 Min):

Field Guide Review (5 Min):

Map Check Scheduling (5 Min):

Pray (1-2 Min):

Dismiss:

FOCUS POINT - 02.0 SOUL

Focus Point: Heart, SOUL, Mind, Strength, Loving Others, Own It...

This is probably the most difficult Focus Point to grasp. The soul is the divine breath of God that makes you uniquely created on purpose, for a purpose, and in God's image. The soul includes the heart, mind, and will. The Everyman Challenge focuses on the purpose of a man. Scripture is clear that God created you, completely unique and on purpose. Though many search for the answer as to why, few discover the truth that changes everything. Our one true purpose is to love God with everything we have. If we do this, all that we think, say, and do will bring Him glory. All too often, we attempt to find our purpose in the things we can influence, achieve, or purchase. Like a dog returning to his vomit, we repeat the cycle over and over again, only to end up right back where we were, still dissatisfied. We will never experience the freedom and fulfillment that Christ offers until we recognize and live out our purpose.

Group Event Preparation: Watch Lesson Two Video at least once, preferably a couple of times. Prepare your Guide's Story: What does this lesson mean to you? Again, you will be leading by example, so dig in here and pray over it.

Expectable Conditions: Often, you may lose a guy or two after the first event; although unfortunate, that's ok. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. Certainly, encourage them to come, but be willing and ready to let them go. Jesus never begged anyone to follow Him. With that said, don't give up on them. It's not unlikely that he'll try again next year and be in a better position to take on the challenge and receive the blessings that ensue.

Weather in the summer months means there's a chance that you could have some thunderstorms during the Group Event. Make a plan B in case of lightning or some seriously unsafe condition; otherwise, plan on getting wet. Everyone's calendars are full, so rescheduling an event is typically not an option. These are men, and this is the Everyman Challenge - don't be afraid to put that out there. We live in a culture that tends to postpone when conditions aren't perfect - move on!

Group Event 2

Welcome & Prayer: Welcome everyone once again, and take a minute to make sure everyone knows or remembers each other's names. Pray over the evening - eyes to see, ears to hear, safety, and fun.

01.0 Solo Challenge Review: (Most braids will read Wild at Heart, but other books are optional depending on your group. If you choose to read something else, be sure to prepare some talking points) "Wild at Heart" is an impactful read for most. Even those who have read it before may be awakened to revelations and new understandings during the Solo Challenge. This book calls into question a man's worth, his purpose, and how wounds could affect who he is today.

FOCUS POINT 02.0 SOUL

A few of the guys may not have completed the book; encourage them not to give up and move on and finish. The Heart is critical because it is the source of emotions and influences decision-making. A wounded heart affects how a man interacts with the world and his relationship with God. All men seek to live fully, and we must have our hearts back to do so.

Lead-in Discussion: How did the Solo Challenge go? This is time for the guys to share how the Solo Challenge impacted their lives. How about your Solo Challenge Assessment – any answers you guys want to share? How about your self-assessment Rating?

Video: Lesson Two - SOUL

Lesson Review: Before you meet with your Braid, write down what you find essential in regards to this lesson to engage them in discussion and draw out what they took away from the video. This Review is not information you must share or communicate with your Braid, as they will watch the Lesson itself. It is simply an aide and resource to give you a deeper understanding and more confidence in your communication.

Here are a few thoughts to consider:

Everyman can relate to having a single-minded focus and consuming devotion towards their idols and trophies in their lives. Whether it be the job, the salary, the women, the car, or their bodies, the fortunate have a chance to pause, step back, and consider what is really important in their lives. Are the efforts, investments, and sacrifices worthy of what you are pursuing? Trophies don't enter our lives as idols; they begin as interests and desires that slowly take priority over nearly everything dear to us.

Guide's Story: How about you? Make it personal. When were you awakened to this truth (or maybe it is new for you as well), and what are you doing, or going to do, about it? Don't forget that this is your story relating to the Video Lesson, not your sermon or restating the lesson. Your Guide Story is meant to help them relate to the message that the video conveyed. It should help them apply it to their lives, not break down and dissect the content of the lesson itself. Be a Brother and a storyteller, not a preacher or teacher.

Braid Discussion: Transition over with questions that cannot be answered with One- word answers. "Any takeaways?" "Did that impact anybody else but me? Yeah, how so?"

Group Event Activity 2 - Refer to Event Activity Guide.

Field Guide Review: With the book in your hands, open up to the Solo Challenge, and deliver the personal challenge to take on in the weeks leading up to the next leading up to the next Focus Point Event.

FOCUS POINT 02.0 SOUL

After reading and delivering the Solo challenge, demonstrate a few sandbag get-ups. Then have the Braid join you for a set of 5 get-ups using their sandbags. This will really put the challenge ahead of them in perspective. It will motivate many and discourage others – be certain to address the value of everyone, regardless of their feelings about the task ahead, leaning into the challenge.

Guidepost: This solo challenge is a tough one. For some, the tough part will be the physical aspects of the sandbags, but for most, taking the time to be still and pray will prove even harder. In our busy lives, it's difficult to sit and be still with no distractions and just listen. It seems like we accomplish nothing, but that's the lie. A simple pause in your day can bring alignment between you and your Heavenly Father, exponentially increasing the value of the rest of your day.

Things Your Men Need to Understand: The results of a challenge are directly proportional to the effort put forth. A half-hearted effort will naturally yield half-hearted results. Your men came into the challenge because they wanted more and will have to put their shoulders into it when they feel like checking out. Don't let them go there. They're here because they want more and have much to offer the group.

Pray: For each man in your braid, his family at home, and the challenge at hand.

Dismiss: When possible, after you dismiss, it's great to offer some time to hang out afterward and have some relaxed conversations for those who desire it.

Post-Event Follow-Up: A day or two later, send out a group email with a brief recap, link to the video, and reminder of the Solo Challenge. Clearly invite each guy to come to the Map Check. Keep it personal, fun, and challenging in the email – use your natural words so it sounds like you and not a script.

Map Check: Raw and real is the key. Questions are designed to get to the core of the lesson. You may need to push some guys to go deep – one or two-word answers are not acceptable and typically are a front, not an answer. Other guys may share too much information and monopolize the conversation – you may have to politely cut them off and remind them of your time constraints. Always lead with your own vulnerable and transparent answer first. Be ready to share stories that relate to their struggles but be empathetic, not preachy. They need a brother, not a life coach in this setting. However, make sure that you as well, do not monopolize the time – everyone should be sharing equally, not a few guys controlling the conversation week after week.

02.1 - Life is busy, and almost everything seems important. If you were facing imminent death, would you identify areas where you wasted your time, talents, and other resources? Why were they wasted? Why did, or do, you continue to do it?

FOCUS POINT 02.0 SOUL

02.2 - You have heard, through the Challenge, that God created you on purpose, for a purpose, and in His Image. Do you believe that to be true? If you believe that to be true, how are you living out your purpose?

02.3 - You have a lot of mud on your boots. In spite of this, God wants your love. Does this dirt keep you from feeling worthy? What specifically weighs you down and separates you from Him the most? Why?

FOCUS POINT - 02.0 AGENDA

Welcome And Brief Introductions Once Again (5 Min):

01.0 Solo Challenge Review (15 Min):

Video: Lesson Two – Soul (13 Min)

Guide's Story (10 Min):

Braid Discussion (30 Min):

Group Event Activity (60-90 Min):

Field Guide Review (5 Min):

Map Check Reminder (5 Min):

Pray (1-2 Min):

Dismiss:

FOCUS POINT - 03.0 MIND

Focus Point: Heart, Soul, MIND, Strength, Loving Others, Own It...

A man feels and decides in his heart, but it's in his mind that ideas are processed. His mind will recognize the emotions and then connect them to further thoughts and behavior. The mind will reconcile situations by connecting the dots between memories, ideas, and situations. The mind will recognize false or untrue concepts when contrasted with the truth. For this to occur, a man must have truthful input. The adage of garbage in and garbage out certainly applies. Opinions may be firmly held, but simply believing something to be true doesn't make it true. Seeking truth requires a teachable attitude.

Vulnerability and humility to consider, contemplate and compare what you think you know with what is being presented is necessary. As a follower of Jesus, we believe that Scripture is truth. Scripture can and often does conflict with the culture of the world.

Feelings and beliefs are often so ingrained that we assume they are true, even though they contrast with the truth of the Kingdom Jesus reveals in Scripture. We are told to capture our thoughts and hold fast to what is true. Consider and contemplate truth and goodness. Spending time in Scripture and allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal its truth is the only truth we can fully trust. Just as the enemy used God's word with a twist to create doubt and confusion with Eve and attempted with Jesus; he continues to do the same with us. Did God really say that? Does he really mean that? Jesus knew the Scripture, which is exactly what He used to confront the assault of temptation the enemy brought against Him.

We naturally contemplate the shows we watch or books we read. Movies and music can change your mood for a significant period of time. Talk radio speaking of doom and gloom can have a man double-checking his bug-out bag in short order. What we see and hear can affect the way we think and behave. What we choose to contemplate will reveal itself in the way we respond to situations, similar to athletes listening to carefully chosen music that gets them fired up. John 15 speaks of the deep need to abide in Jesus. The time spent with Him, and in the Scripture, is the only appropriate response to these situations. Otherwise, we choose to follow our own fleshly desires and interests.

Group Event Preparation: Watch Lesson Three Video at least once, preferably a couple of times. Prepare your Guide's Story: What does this lesson mean to you? Again, you will be leading by example, so dig in here and pray over it.

FOCUS POINT - 03.0 MIND

Expectable Conditions: If you are running the during the summer months, inevitably, a guy or two won't make this event due to vacation or some other event. That's ok. Be prepared to work with the men that you have. By now, you have your core group, and these are the guys that you need to pour into.

Again, weather in the summer months means there's a chance that you will have some thunderstorms during the Group Event. Make a plan B in case of lightning or some seriously unsafe condition, but otherwise, plan on getting wet. These are men, and this is the Everyman Challenge - don't be afraid to put that out there. We live in a culture that tends to postpone when conditions aren't perfect - Move on!

Group Event 3 - Refer to Event Activity Guide.

Welcome & Prayer: By now you all know each other and your welcome doesn't have to be quite as deliberate, but nonetheless, be sure to grab everyone's attention and get started. Pray over the evening – eyes to see, ears to hear, safety, and fun.

02.0 Solo Challenge Review: Many guys fail with this challenge. Most will be somewhat successful with the physical element, but when it comes to listening and being still, it's a tough one. That's ok; the challenge is meant to awaken them to the reality of how busy and distracted they can become. The hope is that they find value and peace in seeking God's direction through a few minutes of calm and quiet every day. So many elements compete for our time, but the most important ones seem to be the easiest to put off. Why is that? Again, it seems like we accomplish nothing, but that's the lie. A simple pause in your day can bring alignment between you and your Father, exponentially increasing the value of the rest of your day. As with all things, there is a pattern. Listen for direction and do the work. Listen for direction, do the work...

Lead-in Discussion: How did the Solo Challenge go? This is time for the guys to share how the Solo Challenge impacted their lives. How about your Solo Challenge Assessment – any answers you guys want to share? How about your self-assessment Rating?

Video: Lesson Three - MIND

Lesson Review: Before you meet with your Braid, write down what you find essential in regards to this lesson to engage them in discussion and draw out what they took away from the video. This Review is not information you must share or communicate with your Braid, as they will watch the Lesson itself. It is simply an aide and resource to give you a deeper understanding and more confidence in your communication.

FOCUS POINT - 03.0 MIND

Here are a few thoughts to consider:

You have an enemy. He is real, and his goal is to deceive and devour you. He hates you because you are God's prized creation, made in God's very image. He could not defeat God, so he turned his sights on you. To walk in truth and purpose, the reality of an enemy who is like a roaring lion, cannot be taken lightly.

Guide's Story: How about you? Make it personal. When were you awakened to this truth (or maybe it is new for you as well), and what are you doing, or going to do, about it? Don't forget that this is your story relating to the Video Lesson, not your sermon or restating the lesson. Your Guide Story is meant to help them relate to the message that the video conveyed. It should help them apply it to their lives, not break down and dissect the content of the lesson itself. Be a Brother and a storyteller, not a preacher or teacher.

Braid Discussion: Transition over with questions that cannot be answered with One- word answers. "Any takeaways?" "Did that impact anybody else but me? Yeah, how so?"

Talking Point: It never fails that there will be multiple guys who had significant conflict at work or home and almost didn't come to the event during this event. Talk about that with the guys. For many, this is the first time that they have seen this as anything but mere coincidence.

Group Event Activity 3

Field Guide Review: With the book in your hands, open up to the Solo Challenge, and deliver the personal challenge to take on in the weeks leading up to the next Focus Point Event.

Guidepost: This Solo Challenge is easy for guys to quit before they even start. Memorize, not 10 verses, 20 or 30, but memorize 48 verses! Say what!?!? Ask them about work, sports, or other areas where they've invested a lot of time. They won't have to think hard to tell you many exact details of a job they're working on or spout off some sports statistics. Use that to challenge them to invest in this Solo Challenge. Is God not more important than those other things?

Things Your Men Need To Understand: God wants us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, even when it's hard. When things start getting tough, do not grow weary and give up. "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season, we will reap if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9 ESV

Pray: For each man in your braid, his family at home, and the challenge at hand.

FOCUS POINT - 03.0 MIND

Dismiss: When possible, after you dismiss, it's great to offer some time to hang out afterward and have some relaxed conversations for those who desire it.

Post-Event Follow-Up: A day or two later, send out a group email with a brief recap, link to the video, and reminder of the Solo Challenge. Clearly invite each guy to come to the Map Check. Keep it personal, fun, and challenging in the email – use your natural words so it sounds like you and not a script.

Map Check: Raw and real is the key. Questions are designed to get to the core of the lesson. You may need to push some guys to go deep – one or two-word answers are not acceptable and typically are a front, not an answer. Other guys may share too much information and monopolize the conversation – you may have to politely cut them off and remind them of your time constraints. Always lead with your own vulnerable and transparent answer first. Be ready to share stories that relate to their struggles but be empathetic, not preachy. They need a brother, not a life coach in this setting. However, make sure that you as well, do not monopolize the time – everyone should be sharing equally, not a few guys controlling the conversation week after week.

03.1 - Do you recognize that you have an enemy who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy? In what specific areas do you let your guard down and allow him to slip in? Where are you prone to attack?

03.2 - It is easy to disengage from things that we may fail in or tasks where we feel inadequate. We don't want to show weakness or be identified as a poser. What have you disengaged from that you know you should be fighting through?

03.3 - Part of loving God with all your mind is giving your attention and focus over to Him. Most of us want to pray and read more, but then we don't. What is so important that it supersedes this desire in your daily routine? What is your personal strategy for turning that around?

FOCUS POINT - 03.0 AGENDA

Welcome (5 Min):

02.0 Solo Challenge Review (15 Min):

Video: Lesson Three – Mind (8 Min)

Guide's Story (10min):

Braid Discussion (30 Min):

Group Event Activity (60-90 Min): Paintball

Field Guide Review (5 Min):

Map Check Reminder (5min):

Pray (1-2 Min):

Dismiss:

FOCUS POINT 04.0 STRENGTH

Focus Point: Heart, Soul, Mind, STRENGTH, Loving Others, Own It...

There is physical strength, and then there is biblical strength, which is the power or ability to do, create, influence, or affect things around you. Like one's willpower or grit, strength is more than just muscle. All four components in the first and greatest overlap and are connected, but strength is intricately connected to the heart and mind.

The condition of our heart affects all aspects of life, what we choose to do and the effort we apply in doing it. An engaged mind puts spiritual truth into the mind and heart, allowing one to perceive threats that reveal the element of a spiritual enemy and the war at hand. A mind that knows the truth can discern friend and foe, real threat versus intentional distraction. Christians can then combine this with a source of strength beyond their capacity.

Jesus left us with a helper, the Holy Spirit, to dwell in us and equip us with a God awesome strength. Jesus repeatedly shared that He is the true source of life, truth, hope, and STRENGTH. Apart from Him, we can do nothing. Now, contrast that with the lone wolf image men feel they must adhere to, need no one, trust no one, get it done yourself, all without showing any weakness. This is very far from the truth.

Ephesians 6:10-12 says, "Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

There is more going on than what meets the eye. Strength can be broken down and discussed in many ways. This Focus Point focuses on our source of strength and how we are to use it well. This is the foundational beginning of Spiritual Warfare. The reality is there is a real enemy, and we have been given real weapons, but many of us are deceived and lulled into feeling like this invisible war is make-believe or it's not that dangerous. Recognizing the truth in the severity of the situation is the first stage of suiting up so we can fight well.

The Spirit will use an engaged mind investing in eternal truth, and a heart surrendered to living for Jesus on purpose and for a purpose to discern, convict and guide you in the daily battles. You will recognize the deception that is behind temptation and that it does not have control over you.

Group Event Preparation: Watch Lesson Four Video at least once, preferably a couple of times. Prepare your Guide's Story: What does this lesson mean to you? Again, you will be leading by example, so dig in here and pray over it. Don't shy away if the spirit prompts you to take it deep.

FOCUS POINT - 04.0 STRENGTH

Expectable Conditions: You are now past the halfway point. Your guys that are still tracking get it and are fully in. Typically, this event coincides with the start of the school year and youth sports. Don't be surprised if a guy or two can't make this event. You'll have to use discernment on how hard to press the guys to come.

Group Event 4

Welcome & Prayer: You got it. Let everyone know you're glad to see everyone and share with them some encouraging stories (that you've hopefully heard about or experienced) from the season thus far. Pray over the evening – eyes to see, ears to hear, safety, and fun.

03.0 Solo Challenge Review: Do we value God's word? Why memorize scripture, isn't that something kids do?

Deuteronomy 6:6-8 says, These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.

What does this mean? Mainly, it means being continually conscious of the Bible's teachings as you go through each day. For this to be true, you have to read it repeatedly, to the point where it's part of how we process the things that come in and go out of our lives. Memorizing scripture to the point where a word or phrase instantly brings God's directives to your life helps us focus on loving God with everything.

Don't be surprised if most of your braid struggled to memorize the first ten verses. The point of this challenge is to awaken them to how they should value God's word and engage them to take action in making it part of their life.

Lead-in Discussion: How did the Solo Challenge go? This is time for the guys to share how the Solo Challenge impacted their lives. How about your Solo Challenge Assessment – any answers you guys want to share? How about your self-assessment Rating?

Video: Lesson four - STRENGTH

Lesson Review: Before you meet with your Braid, write down what you find essential in regards to this lesson to engage them in discussion and draw out what they took away from the video. This Review is not information you must share or communicate with your Braid, as they will watch the Lesson itself. It is simply an aide and resource to give you a deeper understanding and more confidence in your communication.

FOCUS POINT - 04.0 STRENGTH

Here are a few thoughts to consider:

Ephesians 6:12 tells us, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

As men living in a world where everything is seemingly fighting for the hearts of those around us, the threat is real. It is everywhere and nowhere, all at the same time. We develop tactics to create space against a perceived threat; far too often, we misidentify the enemy and end up hurting those around us. The toll for us is rapid and devastating. Coming home from a stressful day and experiencing the threat of being attacked by our spouse produces an instinctual act of preservation. It feels natural to verbally open fire to create space and drive the threat back. Scripturally, we are told that the battle is not against flesh and blood but the dark powers that are the source of the conflict. Engaging against the individual and not with the individual creates immediate damage and ripples into other aspects of our life. Not only are we not effective in combating the true enemy, but we are also isolating ourselves from those we should be engaging.

Guide's Story: Get real with the guys here. Describe how this has played out in your life. Who has suffered from your perception of a threat and the need to create space? Don't forget that this is your story relating to the Video Lesson, not your sermon or restating the lesson. Your Guide Story is meant to help them relate to the message that the video conveyed. It should help them apply it to their lives, not break down and dissect the content of the lesson itself. Be a Brother and a storyteller, not a preacher or teacher.

Group Event Activity 4 - Refer to Event Activity Guide.

Braid Discussion: Transition over with questions that cannot be answered with One- word answers. "Any takeaways?" "Did that impact anybody else but me? Yeah, how so?"

Field Guide Review: With the book in your hands, open up to the Solo Challenge, and deliver the personal challenge to take on in the weeks leading up to the next Focus Point Event.

Guidepost: Some may wonder why there are so many physical challenges involved and how that relates to our pursuit of Christ. The fact is that most men don't have discipline over their flesh. Instead of telling their flesh what to do, they succumb to the lies of the flesh and take the path of ease, comfort, and satisfaction. Our entire being is tied together, Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength. When we engage each of these with discipline in the proper way, we are setting the stage for a God awesome transformation. Remind them of the Solo Challenge from 02.0, a physical/spiritual challenge as well, and encourage them to engage at a higher level this go round.

FOCUS POINT - 04.0 STRENGTH

Things Your Men Need To Understand: They are at war and it is real. Hopefully they are putting together the pieces and can now recognize where the enemy is wreaking havoc and can bring Christ into these battles that aren't against flesh and blood.

Pray: For each man in your braid, his family at home, and the challenge at hand.

Dismiss: When possible, after you dismiss, it's great to offer some time to hang out afterward and have some relaxed conversations for those who desire it.

Post-Event Follow-Up: A day or two later, send out a group email with a brief recap, link to the video, and reminder of the Solo Challenge. Clearly invite each guy to come to the Map Check. Next month is an opportunity for everyone to invite a friend. Not just any friend, but a friend who God has put on their heart and they believe would be interested in participating in the Everyman Challenge next year. Keep it personal, fun, and challenging in the email – use your natural words so it sounds like you and not a script.

Map Check: Raw and real is the key. Questions are designed to get to the core of the lesson. You may need to push some guys to go deep – one or two-word answers are not acceptable and typically are a front, not an answer. Other guys may share too much information and monopolize the conversation – you may have to politely cut them off and remind them of your time constraints. Always lead with your own vulnerable and transparent answer first. Be ready to share stories that relate to their struggles but be empathetic, not preachy. They need a brother, not a life coach in this setting. However, make sure that you do not monopolize the time – everyone should be sharing equally, not a few guys controlling the conversation week after week.

04.1 - The enemy wants you to think he's not even there. He blends in, and can cause you to wrongfully identify him. What harm have you caused yourself and others by holding them away from you – keeping them beyond the "safety buffer" described in this month's lesson?

04.2 - In which of your relationships are you not currently fighting well? How could you personally improve your recognition, reaction, and engagement in these battles?

04.3 - Sometimes fighting well means delivering a hard truth out of love. Do you know someone who needs to be shown a place where they misidentify the enemy or do not recognize they have created battles?

FOCUS POINT - 04.0 AGENDA

Welcome (5 Min):

03.0 Solo Challenge Review (15 Min):

Video: Lesson Four – Strength (10 Min)

Guide's Story (10min):

Braid Discussion (30 Min):

Group Event Activity (60-90 Min): Obstacle Course/Riverwalk

Field Guide Review (5 Min):

Map Check Reminder (2 Min):

Pray (1-2 Min):

Dismiss:

FOCUS POINT - 05.0 LOVING OTHERS

Focus Point: Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength, LOVING OTHERS, Own It...

Prayerfully, the first four months are full of self-discovery where every man can recognize his selfishness, pride, false beliefs, and wrong perspectives. During this time, a man surrenders selfish interests and desires and can begin to love others truly. How we love others can be a helpful gauge, reflecting the health and maturity of our relationship with God. Emotional reactions observed, reflected on, and prayed through, are signs and paths for the Spirit to help us uncover root issues that we need to surrender. Pride and selfishness are the greatest barriers to loving others and are easily accepted because of how we justify them. Feeling entitled is little more than believing you deserve something; it is your right to do so. The life of Jesus stands in stark contrast to any sense of rights or entitlement. Through the ultimate expression of love, the creator of the universe was willing to leave all His glory and take on the humblest form of man. He lived without sin yet took the punishment on Himself for all of mankind's sin. Loving others may feel selfless, but when a person you have been loving is disrespectful and unappreciative, you will quickly see whether or not you have underlying motives. The goal is to love others regardless of how they receive it, and for you to have no expectations of return.

Group Event Preparation: Watch Lesson Two Video at least once, preferably a couple of times. Prepare your Guide's Story: What does this lesson mean to you? Again, you will be leading by example, so dig in here and pray over it.

Expectable Conditions: The turnout at this event greatly affects how well you encourage your guys to bring others. Expect the guests to be ready to have some fun but with a similar mentality that your braid members had the first evening at Focus Point 01.0. They may know a little about what they're getting into but not fully, so there's a lot of anticipation. Expect some guys to be excited and others to hang back as they kick the tires. Good food and a friendly demeanor will go a long way.

Group Event 5

Welcome & Prayer: Welcome everyone and introduce yourself and your co-leader. Take a few minutes to share about the evening and the story of the Everyman Challenge. Tell the guests what the Everyman Challenge participants have been into for the past few months and why they were invited to this Group Event. Pray over the evening – eyes to see, ears to hear, safety, and fun.

Guidepost: Some of your guests would never enter a church building. This is a great event to help them see that Christian men are real men who can have fun and are willing to admit they are not perfect. Be careful not to bring a 'Religious' persona into the evening. As a segway into the Solo Challenge Review, share how you guys challenge yourself each month to become better husbands, fathers, friends, and all-around better men.

FOCUS POINT - 05.0 LOVING OTHERS

04.0 Solo Challenge Review: It will probably prove difficult to dig too deep with your guests present but do dig in just a bit. Much like the 02.0 Solo Challenge, this Challenge had a physical and a spiritual element to it as well. Hopefully, at this point, your men are awakened and engaged in their pursuit of Christ in regard to the reality of how busy and distracted they can become. How did the push-up challenge go? Did they elect comfort and ease, or did they accept the challenge and tell their flesh what to do instead of it telling them what to do. How did the scripture and the push-ups complement each other? Did God reveal a 'task' that you did not previously have the strength to face or resolve? Ask a guy or two to share.

Group Event Activity 5 - Refer to Event Activity Guide.

Video: Lesson Five – Loving Others

Lesson Review: Before you meet with your Braid, write down what you find essential in regards to this lesson to engage them in discussion and draw out what they took away from the video. This Review is not information you must share or communicate with your Braid, as they will watch the Lesson itself. It is simply an aide and resource to give you a deeper understanding and more confidence in your communication.

Here are a few thoughts to consider:

Your life on Earth is an expedition, an adventure with purpose, and you are lugging a pack overflowing with the things you think you need and the things you aren't willing to leave behind. You are no different than any other man. Your pack is full, and it is heavy. You are sagging under the weight, and Jesus' words, "my burden is light, and my yoke is easy," mean nothing to you. Not only are you missing the beauty and joy of this Expedition, you are barely making it day to day.

Jesus came on a rescue mission. He came to ransom you—to set you free. His call was two simple words: Follow Me. To the fishermen, He told them to leave their nets, the symbol of their identity, their tools of the trade, and their means to provide for their families. You won't need them. Leave what you think is important and Follow Me. And when you do, you will find life.

Guide's Story: How about you? Make it personal. When were you awakened to this truth (or maybe it is new for you as well), and what are you doing, or going to do, about it? Don't forget that this is your story relating to the Video Lesson, not your sermon or restating the lesson. Your Guide Story is meant to help them relate to the message that the video conveyed. It should help them apply it to their lives, not break down and dissect the content of the lesson itself. Be a Brother and a storyteller, not a preacher or teacher.

FOCUS POINT - 05.0 LOVING OTHERS

Talking Point: *Brother, a lot of the stuff you are carrying around is dead weight. It is keeping you from loving God and loving others. The extra weight is slowing you down and sucking the life out of you. The question you must ask Jesus is what should be in there? What should I shed? Some of it is obvious. I'm pretty sure Jesus doesn't want us carrying the weight of, for instance, a hidden addiction, such as internet porn. Some of it is not so obvious. Maybe you are working so hard in a role that is for you and not Him. What selfish motivations and desires are in there? What is Jesus calling you to surrender in order to find the freedom and purpose He is calling you to?*

Guidepost: Keep this conversational, real, raw, and full of hope. You should strive for this to be the kind of event a guy shows up to and leaves thinking "if those guys are Christian, I can and want to do that!" This talking point is a great opportunity to pull some other guys up front to help facilitate a deeper conversation. Ask them in advance if they'd be willing to and prep them with the following questions to consider.

Talking Point: *Transition into the question, what does the world say a real man is? Ask and dig to get answers from the crowd. Have the panel of speakers contribute as needed and appropriate. These are some great questions to consider:*

- What does the world say a man is? (Independent, Strong, Provider, Shows no weakness, etc.)
- What does the church say a man is? (Dutiful, Polite, Conforming, Soft Spoken, etc.)
- What about Jesus – the manliest man who ever walked the earth. What was He like?(Protector of the weak, Bold in the face of adversity, Ate, Laughed, Cried, and Lived with common men)
- What about you? Every man has a desire to be a real man, but few can define what that actually means – what is a real man?(Courageous, Bold, Humble, Vulnerable, Authentic, Surrendered)

Transition to close: The guys that invited you have been working through this process of stripping away the things that keep them from experiencing life, freedom, and fulfillment to the max. One of the ways we do this each month is through something we call a Solo Challenge...

Field Guide Review: With the book in your hands, open up to the Solo Challenge, and deliver the personal challenge to take on in the weeks leading up to the next Focus Point Event.

Guidepost: The challenge this month is where the rubber meets the road. Previous months have awakened and uncovered issues hindering a man experiencing life in Jesus. Reflective and prayerful time in this challenge can be an enormous catalyst in the spiritual growth of a man. A personal story of surrender and growth can really help make this challenge understandable and tie up loose ends for the men in your Braid.

FOCUS POINT 05.0 LOVING OTHERS

This Challenge is less about carrying their bag and much more about reflecting on their burdens, the way that they use their resources, identifying and living their purpose, and the way they love others... reflection, evaluation and listening. It should be deep and meaningful. Months of lessons, introspection, and listening for God's voice lead up to this point of serious unpacking. Encourage them to put forth the effort. Once again (as this section has stated month after month), half-hearted effort will naturally yield half-hearted results!

Things Your Men Need To Understand: Spiritual ownership is required for anyone to experience the freedom and fulfillment that Christ offers. No one else can do it for them. It's up to them to give Christ the platform to work. This being the last Solo Challenge, it's time for them to step it up in a big way if they've been dragging their feet.

Pray: For each man in your braid, his family at home, and the challenge at hand.

Dismiss: Thank the guests for coming. Invite them to take part in future Everyman Challenge events and to consider unpacking the things in their bag that just shouldn't be there.

Post-Event Follow-Up: A day or two later, send out a group email with a brief recap, link to the video, and reminder of the Solo Challenge. Clearly invite each guy to come to the Map Check. Keep it personal, fun, and challenging in the email – use your natural words so it sounds like you and not a script.

Map Check: Raw and real is the key. Questions are designed to get to the core of the lesson. You may need to push some guys to go deep – one or two-word answers are not acceptable and typically are a front, not an answer. Other guys may share too much information and monopolize the conversation – you may have to politely cut them off and remind them of your time constraints. Always lead with your own vulnerable and transparent answer first. Be ready to share stories that relate to their struggles but be empathetic, not preachy. They need a brother, not a life coach in this setting. However, make sure that you as well, do not monopolize the time – everyone should be sharing equally, not a few guys controlling the conversation week after week.

05.1 - What specific steps do you need to take to lighten your pack? What needs tossed? Now that you have "extra" capacity, which of the things still in your pack are going to get more of your focus?

FOCUS POINT 05.0 LOVING OTHERS

05.2 - In this month's lesson, the difference between the worldly definition of love and true biblical/godly love was discussed. Where do you claim true love, but actually have selfish desires and motives?

05.3 - Scripture says we love because He first loved us. So how do you become "more loving"? Could it be that you need to experience more of His love? Have you seen this in yourself or others, a time when such abundant grace and mercy was given that it spilled over into how others were treated?

FOCUS POINT 05.0 AGENDA

Welcome (10 Min):

Group Event Activity (60-90 Min): Triple G

Dinner Time:

Video: Lesson Five – Loving Others (9 Min)

Lesson Review/Discussion – (30 Min):

Field Guide Review – (5 Min):

Map Check Reminder (5 Min):

Pray (1-2 Min):

Dismiss:

FOCUS POINT 06.0 OWN IT

Focus Point: Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength, Loving Others, OWN IT...

The first five Focus Points are areas of focus coming from the First and Greatest Commandment. Focus Point 06.0, rather than being defined as an area of focus, would better be defined as a launching pad. An area where we recognize all the ways God has awakened us to our purpose over the last five months. An area where we launch into a lifetime of walking in surrender by acknowledging God's continual work in our lives and embracing the adventure well beyond the Everyman Challenge. Personal growth and transformation is not someone else's responsibility. God calls each of us to new levels of challenge, intimacy, and love. He calls often and repeatedly. Our answer and surrender to His call can only be owned by each of us as an individual, not by our wives, Pastor, or Brothers. Only you can embrace this challenge for a lifetime.

Group Event Preparation: Watch Lesson Six Video at least once, preferably a couple times. Prepare your Guide's Story: What does this lesson mean to you? Again, you will be leading by example, so dig in here and pray over it.

As this Group Event is an overnight campout, there is significantly more to plan and prepare for than there has been for your other Group Challenge Outings. You will need to begin your preparations well ahead of time with considerations for:

- Your venue/campsite – secure the location – identify needs regarding water, power (video lesson), firewood, designated camping area, adventure race course, and elements (more info follows) – bathroom vs. “rustic” camping – and additional considerations based on your location and Braid size
- Menu – food prep location and methods - related supplies and shopping
- Adventure race elements with lots of brainstorming and strong consideration/evaluation of each element for feasibility, estimated duration/completion times, any necessary rules, or detailed instruction needed

Things Needed Besides Your Basic Amenities: The items needed for this Group Event will vary significantly based upon the campsite selected and the scheduled adventure race elements. You are an intelligent guy who plans most of your days, vacations, and maybe even an occasional social gathering or two... figure it out - it's only one night!

Expectable Conditions: The end of the season is near, in fact, this is it! You may have lost a few guys through the first couple of months. It's not unheard of to lose a guy or two here as well. It is unfortunate so close to the end, but it is possible. If you sense a guy is slipping, fight for him. Let him know what a great time this will be and how it will be an unexpectedly strong finish to a long journey. “Would you bust your butt to earn a college degree and then not show up to the graduation and related parties?”

FOCUS POINT 06.0 OWN IT

“Umm... NO.” This is the graduation. This is the PARTY! Ultimately, you may be forced to accept that a couple of guys will not see this event as a priority the same way that you and others do. That’s okay. Don’t let it eat you up. Pray for those guys and move on. You have lots of work to do. Focus on the guys who are still invested.

Tips from the Field: *If your men are bringing their own camping gear, you can have them set up camp before or after the challenge but be certain to have everyone ready to start the challenge on time.*

Group Event 6

Day 1 - Welcome & Prayer: You’ve made it! The six month Challenge is just about over. You may be beaten and battered, but more than likely, and hopefully, you’re better as well. Pray over the evening – eyes to see, ears to hear, safety, and fun.

Group Event: Camp Out/Adventure Race

Purpose and Intent: The intent is to have fun but also to challenge the men mentally, physically, and spiritually in one last, give-it-all-you-got attempt to help facilitate a vulnerable spirit for the Lord to speak into.

Adventure Race and Overnight Event Details: This event has grown into a significant production at Everyman Challenge HQ, while it didn’t start that way, it has been tremendously impactful from the very first one. If your braid can’t join us for our corporate event, no sweat, you got this!

The race should take at least an hour, but 1.5 to 2, is even better. The race should have multiple elements or tasks. The specific details of the elements/tasks you include are best determined by where this event takes place and what you have available. Try to make the race revolve around a point system and not just the first team to finish. This will help teams that may not be physically fit to have fun and be able to compete as well.

Optional Elements/Tasks (These have worked well for groups in the past. Don’t feel tied to them, be creative!):

Note: Sandbags should be included in this challenge. It’s up to you to work them in. The number of sandbags should be decided in consideration of your men and the elements at play.

FOCUS POINT 06.0 OWN IT

- Fire Starting: Great lead-off. Teams get a faro-rod or a somewhat primitive fire-starting method. They must gather materials to build a fire that burns through a rope, thus dropping a bag that contains the items or clues for their next task.
- Orienteering: A topographical map which they must use to navigate a designated area to defined waypoints.
- Search and Rescue: Standalone or combined in the Orienteering. Hidden objects like antler sheds/scavenger hunt.
- Move It: Teams are given certain items like a small piece of rope, small piece of tarp and a hatchet. They must create a method of moving a substantially heavy object (like a 300lb log) over a significant distance. This could be a distance competition to see which team can go the farthest.

Tips from the Field: *It is fun to see how teams use different strategies to tackle the task. Use restrictions similar to: the log cannot be lashed down, but must be supported and cannot touch the ground to increase the difficulty.*

- Trek: Travel a significant distance with multiple tasks to accomplish along the way. Examples: Determining distance travelled by counting their paces, memorizing a passage or tongue twister, or solving a riddle. Multi-tasking is part of what makes this an interesting task.
- River crossing: When teams arrive at the riverbank, they have a canoe on the far bank. They must figure out how to get the entire team across while adhering to restrictions. Example: Five guys on a team, and they are only allowed three crossings, but they cannot have more than three men in the boat, and only one person is allowed to get wet.

Tips from the Field: *Creativity is key. Try to link the tasks in a way that are physically challenging, but not impossible. Alternating tasks that require great strength and endurance with those that are mentally taxing helps maintain momentum. Sometimes it's fun to consider setting a scenario and making the elements and tasks revolve around it. For instance, an elk hunt or a backpacking adventure where someone is injured and all that each would entail.*

Post-Race Feast: As the teams return to the campsite exhausted, you should have a feast ready for them. Tradition at HQ is an entire deer that has been cooking in a pit for the past 15 hours. Potatoes wrapped in foil and baked in the fire. Use what you have available and make it unique to the experience. It's hard to go wrong with meat and potatoes when you have a bunch of men involved but be creative in what you have and how it's cooked.

05.0 Solo Challenge Review/ Campfire Conversations: Starting with the funniest story or most impressive feat you witnessed during the adventure race is a great conversation starter. Allow time for sharing and laughter then transition to the Solo Challenge Review.

FOCUS POINT 06.0 OWN IT

Lead-in Discussion: How did the Solo Challenge Go? Who hates their Sandbag? Most of your men will hate it by this point and rightfully so. Who likes carrying around a sandbag that has little to no value at times. Are your men connecting the dots yet? What in your life is like that sandbag, weighing you down and slowly killing you?

The review of last month's Sandbag Ruck is a natural fit into your post Adventure Race discussion. For many of the guys, this Sandbag Ruck unpacking was likely significant and meaningful. Ask guys to take a few minutes to share what the Spirit has prompted or is prompting them to unload. Ask them how the past 5 months of the Challenge have worked to bring them to this point – what has God been doing in their lives, not just through the Ruck or the Adventure Race, but throughout this entire season. Remind them of the significant burden these sandbags have been over the 5 months. Have them think about how good it will feel to surrender the weight that these sand bags represent and how much better life could be as they follow the prompting of the Spirit to a load that is light and a yolk that is easy.

Alright, what needs to go? What steps are they going to take to see this come to fruition? Now give them a chance to physically dump the weight. Pre-determine a spot for them to empty their sandbags. For those that feel strongly that they have direction from the Lord and know what that sand represents, have them, one at a time, step forward with their sandbag. Now, have them claim freedom from that burden as they dump the contents of their bag.

"Father, I surrender the burden(s) of _____. I claim freedom from its grip on my life and surrender all the efforts put towards it, laying them at the foot of the cross." One by one, proclaiming, surrendering, and dumping the sand until everyone who is ready has been given an opportunity. For those who are not ready to make this proclamation, that's okay. Direct them to continue praying through it and to lose the weight when they are truly ready to identify the burden and take the steps to follow through.

Guidepost: This is the top of the mountain for the Everyman Challenge. For many, this night will represent a significant life change and turning point. Don't take this moment lightly. Bathe it in prayer as you prepare for it. Having a constructed cross for your men to dump their sand, or represented burdens, at the base of is highly recommended.

Day 2 - Breakfast: Coffee, bacon, sausage and eggs cooked on the fire or by toting a grill to the site.

Video: Lesson Six – OWN IT

FOCUS POINT 06.0 OWN IT

Lesson Review: Before you meet with your Braid, write down what you find essential in regards to this lesson to engage them in discussion and draw out what they took away from the video. This Review is not information you must share or communicate with your Braid, as they will watch the Lesson itself. It is simply an aide and resource to give you a deeper understanding and more confidence in your communication.

Here are a few thoughts to consider:

Surrendered to the Call

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire (2 Peter 1).

At this point many men will come to terms with their relationship with Jesus, to have everything and nothing all at once.

Mark Kuhnell, with the original Everyman Challenge Lesson 6 video is a great example:

It depicts Marks personal story of being Awakened that even though he knew Jesus, and the truth He presented, it made no impact on his life and revealed the need for some serious change. Mark found the courage to take this head on. Fully vulnerable to Jesus, he Engaged and surrendered by inviting Him into every corner of his life. Nothing was worth holding back. His house was an idol, so he sold it. His career was in the way of his ability to impact a greater number of people, so he quit. Ruthless in his pursuit of rooting out everything that hindered his purpose of loving God and loving others, he literally left everything and found everything. He found a purpose to live for. He found work that fulfills the longing of his soul. He found that whatever he gave up paled in comparison to what was returned. Mark found the joy, passion, purpose, and goodness that can only be found in surrender. Every man has his own story, the adventure unique in its challenges. Every man struggles to release his grip on something. Few men find the courage to leave it all behind.

Matthew 7:13-14 says, "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."

FOCUS POINT 06.0 OWN IT

The few that make it through are the ones to listen to. They are the men who have given “everything” and would gladly do it again, for in surrender they found the only life that satisfies. Easy? No. Worth it? You bet. The courage you must find is in confronting your fear and doubt; the courage to question that which you are certain of for a truth greater than you can understand. To encounter the living God—who created the heavens and the Earth; who created you on purpose, for a purpose, and in His image— and remain unchanged, is to not know Him at all.

Guide’s Story: Your turn to briefly make the lesson personal. What is something significant that Jesus has called, or is calling, you to and it’s time for you to step up and Own It. Don’t forget that this is your story relating to the Video Lesson, not your sermon or your restating of the lesson of itself. Your Guide Story is meant to help them relate to the message that the video conveyed. It should help them apply it to their lives, not break down and dissect the content of the lesson itself. Be a Brother and a story teller, not a preacher or teacher.

Braid Discussion: Transition over with questions that cannot be answered with One- word answers. “Any takeaways?” “Did that impact anybody else but me? Yeah, how so?” One question remains. What is keeping you from walking in your purpose?

Solo Time: Have the guys head out for some time alone with Jesus – 30 minutes or so is a good time frame. Encourage them to take their Field Guide with them, and to contemplate Focus Point 06.0.

Final Conversations: Call them back in. Encourage them to share about their experience.

Field Guide Review: With the book in your hands, open up to Packing Out segment and talk about potential next steps.

Guidepost: What is Jesus calling them into and what are they going to do with it? Reference the Packing Out segment at the end of the Field Guide. Cast vision for what you would like to have happen with your Everyman Challenge ministry and how they can be involved.

Things Your Men Need To Understand: The Adventure that is the Everyman Challenge is complete, but the Challenge for most of you is far from over. From this day to your last, you have a choice. You can choose to live as a victim of circumstance, taking each moment as it comes, or you can choose to live on purpose and for a purpose.

FOCUS POINT 06.0 AGENDA

Following Is A Previously Used Agenda/Outline (adjust accordingly for your event)

5:30 pm Arrive

6:15 pm Teams assembled

6:30 pm Welcome, prayer, race explanation

8:00 pm Dinner – Burgers, Brats, Potatoes – stuff to make them loaded, Salad, Cookies/Brownies

8:45 pm Solo Challenge Review/Campfire Conversation (get campfire started when guys leave the first race station)

10:00 pm Fire time

Free time around the fire, card games, and a movie if you want to.

Saturday Morning

7:00 am Start Breakfast

7:30 am Breakfast - Eggs, sausage, leftover potatoes, coffee,

8:30 am Fun Morning Event

9:45 am Group Time

10:45 am Personal Time

11:00 am Closing Talk

