

**As** a man, do you long for a couple of buddies with whom you can share your challenges and successes? A couple of guys who you can know are praying for you? A couple of hombres that will not judge you but will instead encourage you?

If the answer to any of these questions is "YES," then you need a:

# BAND OF BROTHERS

All men long for strong friendships that provide fun, community & a deeper sense of belonging than they can typically get in the local bar or among co-workers. They want something deeper than what they get through a church service or a "Men's Breakfast." They want a friendship with another man or two that has been earned & will stand the tests of time. For many men, this comes in combat or in college. So... what if you don't have a foxhole buddy or fraternity brother? How do you find those kinds of deep, solid & honor-bound friendships? The answer is in developing your Band of Brothers.

A Band of Brothers essentially means that you purposefully develop friendships with two or three other men. It starts as a superficial friendship & advances into much more.

A healthy BoB (Band of Brothers) refines into something that you look forward to having each week. It will help you to become a better employer, employee, husband & father. It will give you more than you can begin to imagine.

## EVALUATION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BAND OF BROTHERS

Since this is a voluntary gathering, it is always a good idea to periodically check the pulse of your team. This will confirm that each member is getting what he needs from the group & that the format is working.

- WHERE IS YOUR TEAM MEETING?  
If your team is still meeting in a public location, you may not be able to take the group to the deeper level of honesty.
- ARE YOUR PURPOSES BEING MET?  
Are you being encouraged? Are you developing relationships with these guys outside this weekly meeting? Do you have healthy disagreements? Are you being challenged? Do you like these guys? Are you getting prayed for regularly? Are you becoming a better & more joyful man, husband, father, employer, employee & man of God?
- HAS THERE BEEN TRANSPARENCY BY EACH MEMBER?  
All members must be sharing at an equal level of transparency for the group to grow strong & healthy relationships to develop. If any member is reticent to share his heart, the group will fail.
- ARE YOU MEETING FOR FUN?  
One of the ingredients to friendship is just hanging out. Watching a ball game, catching a movie, going to dinner/lunch with spouses, game night - all very good ideas to become closer friends.
- IS CONFIDENTIALITY BEING KEPT?  
The cornerstone to genuine trust is confidentiality. If a member in your team feels like a trust has been broken, it must be dealt with honestly in the group. This behavior can destroy a Band of Brothers.

## HOW TO EXIT A TEAM WHEN THERE IS NOT A GOOD FIT

There is nothing wrong with wanting to discontinue with your team. There are many legitimate reasons for a member to leave: change of job, change of living location, family challenges, major theological differences or the team is no longer the right fit. The exit should be communicated to the rest of the crew honestly & specifically. Having a group just "fade away" does not honor the other men, yourself or the God we serve.



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# BAND OF BROTHERS



RESTORING  
THE  
WILD  
HEART  
GOD  
GAVE TO  
MEN



CALEB'S HEART MINISTRIES

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## WHAT EXACTLY IS A BAND OF BROTHERS?

A group of 3 to 4 men who meet weekly to share a meal & their lives with each other. This is done through camaraderie, brotherhood, encouragement & good will. Good food also helps.

### FORMAT

1. Determine with the other men what day of the week & time of that day will work to be regular & faithful in attendance. Agree with one another to protect that time slot in your calendar as a guarded time. Each member must strive to make each meeting.
2. Begin on time & end on time. Be consistent so the guys can make plans for after each meeting.
3. It is recommended that you set your format & guidelines clearly in writing so all members can buy-off on the parameters up front. You may want each man to sign off on a shared document. Include a “test-drive” period clause in this document. It might offer that we will gather like this for two months & then determine whether we are prepared to continue on. By then, if each man has been faithful to attend, you should know whether you have a “fit” of guys or not.
4. After you’ve passed your “Test-Drive” phase & choose to keep going, you should start discussing where you might move the meeting so that you can have more privacy. Rotating between each man’s home is an excellent way to achieve this. There are significant benefits to this format, but the greatest is that you can actually start talking from a “heart” level. Discussing things that you would NEVER discuss in a public format. Great things happen in this time & this is where your Band of Brothers really begins to gel. An office or conference room will work as well. When weather is appropriate, meeting in a park with lawn chairs can work out nicely. Get creative with this one...but you must begin meeting where it can be private.
5. Allow 5 to 10 minutes of each meeting to pray for each man each week.

## WE’RE STARTING TO MEET. NOW WHAT?

1. Plan to meet for your first 2 to 6 months in a public restaurant.
2. Start in these months by learning all that you can about each man. You know a guy when you can name his kids & wife, their ages & what sports they prefer. You REALLY know a guy when you can name the town he grew up in & what year he graduated from high school.
3. Honor each other’s history. If you are a judgmental man or a man who has little compassion, you will have a very difficult time with a Band of Brothers. Each man must make allowances for another man’s history. Be compassionate. Offer empathy if you have it; if not, offer sympathy. Judgmental attitudes kill a Band of Brothers.
4. Once you’ve started meeting privately, you can begin asking more personal questions about the guys in your BoB. Specifically, how you can pray with greater effectiveness for the “booby traps” in another man’s life. Most of us are aware that the phrase “booby trap” is more appropriate to our struggles than most other phrases. This is the time to be honest & from the heart with these men. You’ve established that they are honorable, trustworthy & are willing to make a commitment to you. There are seven very specific questions that you can ask one another periodically to assist you in your warfare for one another. You do not need to ask these each week...but often enough to stay in touch with each man’s challenges. Again...no judgment. You are in a place of honor in another man’s life. Be very careful what you say. What one man struggles with may not be your struggle, but remember: empathy or sympathy. No judgment.

## WHAT A BAND OF BROTHERS IS NOT

BoB’s are not business networking groups, not breakfast groups, not therapy sessions, not prayer chains, not service organizations & not evangelistic outreaches. It is not a place to invite “any-old-body” to join you. It is not a place to argue theology or make a stand for your doctrine.

ECCLESIASTES 4:12 (MSG)

BY YOURSELF YOU’RE UNPROTECTED. WITH A FRIEND YOU CAN FACE THE WORST. CAN YOU ROUND UP A THIRD? A THREE-STRANDED ROPE ISN’T EASILY SNAPPED.

## HOW TO FORM A BAND OF BROTHERS

Find 2 or 3 guys that you have commonality with--hunting, fishing, automobiles, boating, computers, sports, gardening, books, skydiving, whatever. You can ask your pastor who you should contact if you’re not sure. Approach these guys, individually, when they have a few minutes to talk. Explain what your idea is and ask if he would be interested in grabbing a cup of coffee with you to discuss it.