

# The Wild Man

*Members of the First United Methodist Church of DeLeon's "Wild at Heart" Study Group.*

## Next Meeting

Feb. 25

### Topics

- **Leftover from Chapter One** – If you had three months paid vacation or sabbatical coming, and money was no object, what would you do?
- **Chapter Two of Wild at Heart.** Read Chapter Two, "The Wild One Whose Image We Bear." We'll be talking about our fathers – both earthly and heavenly. Have you ever thought of God, or Jesus, as a "wild, untamed one," or does your image of Jesus look more like Mr. Rogers than William Wallace? To know who we are, we have to know who we came from.

- **If you have ideas** (either for ministry or for fun activities), please email me or bring them up at a meeting. It's YOUR group, not mine, so we want to do what YOU want to do.

-- Cliff  
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## Second Meeting

The FUMC men's group studying John Eldredge's Wild at Heart met for its second session at Cliff Coan's place Feb. 11. Fifteen men showed up, and this time, no one missed the turnout.

Of course, no one asked directions – we're MEN!!!

Once again, because of the cool wind, we had a campfire going, and as men arrived, entertainment chairman Greg set up a washer-pitching tournament. After heated competition among the random partners, Greg and his partner Paul took the championship of a tournament that ended



**Howard lets fly with a well-aimed washer.**

with the second-place team of Mike and Bodie bowing out in a round lit by flashlights in the cups. Paul and Bobby provided refreshments and food, and Howard provided a

grill. Most went the basic route of hot dogs skewered on coat hangers and a Coke to wash it down, followed by cookies or brownies.

## Chapter One – "Wild at Heart"

This time, Diving into the reading from chapter one, we discussed what society and "church" seem to want from men – "good boys," who "behave," and are "nice." We contrasted that with what Eldredge sees as the three core desires of men – a battle to fight, an adventure to live, and a beauty to rescue.

We also talked about how the movies we'd watched as part of our

assignment included those themes, and what they stirred in us.

When we talk about a "battle to fight," we don't necessarily mean fisticuffs or gunshots, but men want to be powerful, "dangerous," and a force to be reckoned with; instead of weak, timid and a pushover. We recalled the games of our youth, which involved playing "cowboys and Indians" or playing "army," and the

hordes of enemies we slew and the dozens of maidens we rescued, and a few BB gun fights and rock or clod wars.

The "Adventure to Live," needs to involve danger and uncertainty, exploration and new experiences, and sometimes, even destruction and change.

The adventures of our pasts included "explorations" of the

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**Washer Champions  
Paul and Greg**

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*"Which would you rather be  
– a "real sweet guy," or  
"dangerous, in a really good  
way?"*



**Campfire Gazing**

## Wild at Heart

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countryside as kids, and many things which our parents didn't know about (and probably still don't want to know).

We agreed that we all want competition or a challenge – if it's sports, or the outdoors, or in our career, but we want to be good at something difficult. It seems, often, if a man has lost these desires, or says he has, it's because he doesn't know if he has what it takes and believes he will fail the test.

We talked about how we, as men, want a beauty to rescue, and agreed that nothing is as inspiring as a beautiful woman – we want to be a hero to someone in particular, not just a hero in general. And we discussed Eldredge's theory that women may or may not want a battle to fight, but they want to be fought for, wanted a pursued – to be a priority to someone. He also says

they want an adventure to share – to be strong and caught up in something greater than themselves – but too often, men make the mistake of believing that the woman is the adventure. In addition, he says, women want to be a beauty to unveil – not a conjured, or created, beauty, but to reveal themselves and be captivating to a man.

Of course, he says, society has done women a disservice by telling them they need to be tough, efficient, and independent, but without providing them a grand adventure to be swept up into. A "good Christian woman" too often is a tired committee member, he says, with no one fighting for her heart, and doubting that she has any beauty to unveil.

When you ask the question, "Which would you rather be – a "real sweet guy," or "dangerous, in a really good way?" of men, or "Which would you rather

be – a "tireless worker," or a "captivating woman?" or women, the answers tell us what God has put into our hearts.

These deep desires are telling us the lives we were meant to live. A man must know he is powerful and has what it takes, and a woman must know she is beautiful and worth fighting for.

The invitation, and the goal of this study, is to help us come out and live as God meant us to be. He meant something when He meant each one of us, and we hope to recover or release our man's heart, passion and true nature given by God.

"Don't ask, 'What do we need?'" Eldredge says, "Ask 'What makes you come alive? What stirs your heart?' If you are going to know who you are as a man, if you're going to find a life worth living, if you're going to love a woman deeply and not pass confusion on to your kids, then you must get your heart back."

## Upcoming Events and Plans

**An afternoon** in the next couple of weeks to help the local Boy Scout Troop assemble playground equipment for the new festival grounds.

The church is the charter partner for the local pack, troop and Venturing Crew, but most in the church and most of the Scouts aren't aware of the connection. We'll be helping and supervising, and providing

a little mentoring for the Scouts.

**Fellowship.** At the moment, we're planning on meeting Feb. 25. Craig's going to work on getting the fieldhouse for us (what's more manly than the lingering smell of old jockstraps?) so that we can watch a couple of video clips; Bobby's going to bring a portable grill (we're probably going to

need another one, so if anybody else can supply one . . . ); Bodie's going to supply sausages and tortillas; and I'm sure somebody will bring a football.

**In the not-too-distant future.** Several expressed interest in a hike, and places mentioned included along the Sabanna River (from Vampire Bridge to

Morton Chapel) and out at Copperas Narrows (done on a cold day, to avoid the rattlesnakes).

Anybody who's got an "in" with the property owners, how about contacting me so we can coordinate this? It might also be a way to re-connect our church and the Scout group.