

Wild Men

Next Meeting
Feb. 11

Read Chapter One of *Wild at Heart* and watch one of the movies that stirs you as a man. Think about why it stirs you as a man.

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

First Meeting

The weather was perfect; cool enough that the campfire wasn't just for show, clear and quiet. We gathered at one of the reservoirs on Cliff's place, out in the country west of DeLeon, with the only other man-made lights visible the ones from Gorman on the northern horizon.

Twelve guys showed up – even with incomplete directions. He didn't mention that you had to come around the house and down to the reservoir, but, as somebody said while we watched the pickups drive through the pasture, "that's part of the adventure!"

While everyone cooked hot dogs over the campfire, Cliff talked about "Why we're here," pointing out traditional "church" isn't something that resonates with most men for a number of reasons – all the way from having to get dressed up on the weekend to the effeminate nature of places that are decorated in a nurturing, comforting manner.

Everyone got their copy of John Eldredge's *Wild at Heart*, while we talked a little about the premise of the group. In brief:

- Men find themselves bored, insecure, frightened and fragile.
- But God has put the longing for three things in the heart of every man: Risk, Revolution and Romance.
- And, finally, what we're



You'd never guess he trusts us, would you?

going to try to do is help each other get from where we find ourselves to the things we desire through passionate living.

While this was going on, everyone was making fires with flint and steel – a spark creating a flame. The idea was that the spark of desire was put into our souls by God, and we can fan the flame into fire.

The last "official" activity was a set of "Trust Falls," where guys leaped or fell from a rock into the arms of other guys, trusting them to prevent face plantings in the dirt.

But one of the best things was the fellowship that ran throughout the program, as we talked of all sorts of things from stupid stuff we'd

done as kids, to sports, to what we want from the gatherings, to authors and movies we like, to the seeming lack of off-beat "characters" nowadays (Thank you very much, whoever pointed out that "That's because WE'RE the characters, now!").

As we adjourned, a motion was made to put out the fire in the traditional "Manly Way" (by all of us urinating on it), but the motion died due to lack of interest – along with other concerns that don't need to be described here.

We plan to "officially" meet every two weeks to go over something from the book, with in-between weeks for impromptu gatherings or activities.

Activity Ideas

We've started a list of activities we'd like to take part in. Things suggested included:

- indoor rock climbing
 - shooting
 - paintball
 - fishing
 - a campout
 - archery
 - musical "jam sessions"
- barbecuing/tail gating
 - more campfires
 - hiking
 - and at least one thing I couldn't read (I know the light wasn't good, guys, but the best I can make out, it

says something like, "Consult the Caehins" If you know what that was, please tell me!!).



"There seem to be fewer off-beat "characters" nowadays."

"That's because WE'RE the characters, now!"

-- overheard Sunday

Ministry Possibilities

Living the adventure with God doesn't just mean focusing on yourself – the men we look up to, invariably, gave of themselves to others. This doesn't mean child care, teaching, singing, cooking, social gatherings, ushering or committee work. If that's not "you," you aren't giving of yourself, are you?

So what can **you** give?

For example, some of us like music, so we give that – maybe you could sing or play a "special" for the church – we'll back you up, if you want. (And it doesn't have to be "Contemporary Christian").

Some of us are good with cars – one suggestion has been to have a "car maintenance day" for the ladies (especially the single mothers and elderly ladies), where we would perform routine maintenance on their cars. For the car guys, another possibility is an "automotive ministry," where we would take donated vehicles, fix them up, and then turn around and give

them to single moms and the working poor.

Some of us hunt – if you don't want the meat, or have more than you can use, we could package and distribute it to families who could use it.

Another possibility is to minister to the community by going out and spending a day for the single mom's, the elderly widows, the elderly gentlemen by doing whatever she needs done: helping wash the car, watch kids, fix a broken light fixture, etc.

Get the idea? Think of the areas where we have abilities or talents, and then find a way for us to use them for others.

- Mentoring young men



- a "car maintenance day" for those in the community who don't know how or are unable
- an "automotive ministry" that could take donated cars, fix them up and provide them to those who needed them
- the hunters among us donating meat to those who need it
- a "home maintenance ministry" that would help single moms or the elderly by performing routine home maintenance
- performing music

