

# The Wild Man

- Next Meeting  
May 6  
Time and place to  
be announced

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

## Sixth Meeting

After a longer-than-usual hiatus (caused by conflicting schedules), the Wild Men once again swung into action Sunday, April 22.

We gathered at Cliff's in the late afternoon.

After a quick course on navigating with map and compass, the guys headed out in pairs to find checkpoints scattered around the area.

Just navigating to the checkpoints wouldn't have been too difficult – but the terrain of canyon, woods and creek added to the adventure.



**Greg and Hiram find a checkpoint**

The course – just over a mile in length, with seven checkpoints – required the guys to shoot bearings and deal with obstacles to arrive at the checkpoints.

At each checkpoint, a bag containing some type of candy awaited as a

reward and as proof the guys had completed the quest.

James and Kevin were by far the quickest to complete the course, while a misplaced windmill led Peter and C.M. astray. The others feel somewhere in between, except for Craig and his multiple partners – who gave up!

After an extended firefighting experience (and a couple of burned fingers), we managed to cook the traditional "manly meal" of sausage and tortillas.

Conversation shifted to the topic of the week, "The Wound," and then we moved inside for a talk, movie clips and sharing of our experiences.



**Are you SURE the map says to go in there?**

**Black Knight**  
*'Tis but a scratch.*

**Arthur**  
*A scratch? Your arm's off!*

**Black Knight**  
*No, it isn't.*

**Arthur**  
*Well, what's that, then?*

**Black Knight**  
*I've had worse.*

-- from "Monty Python and the Holy Grail"



## We were set up!

The story of Adam's fall is every man's story. Every man comes into the world set up for a loss of heart.

Adam's story seems simple and straightforward. Our own, however, seems complex and detailed, with many more characters involved -- and the plot is sometimes hard to follow.

But every boy, in his journey to become a man, takes an arrow in the center of his heart, in the place of

his strength.

Because of the nature of men, the wound is rarely discussed and even more rarely healed.

But every man carries a wound.

The wound is often (but not always) given by the earthly father. And, it says, "You're not a man -- you don't have what it takes.

We can't get our hearts back until God heals the Wound that each of us

carries.

Even though it feels strange to do so (given our typical attitude of "It's just a flesh wound . . ."), going into the wound and inviting God to help heal it is necessary.

Only by doing so will we be able to live from a whole heart, to see God heal us and set us free.

And once we are freed, we can try to not pass our wound onto our sons.

## Understanding the masculine journey

To understand how a man receives a wound, you must understand the central truth of a boy's journey to manhood -- Masculinity is bestowed from other men.

A boy cannot learn it any other place. He cannot learn it from other boys. He cannot learn it from the world of women.

Masculinity is an ESSENCE that is hard to articulate but that a boy naturally craves just as he craves food and water. It is something passed between men.

Hopefully, at some point in your life, your father affirmed you (as Jesus' father affirmed Him) and said something like "I'm proud of you; you have what it takes."

If you are fortunate, your father or some key company of men "actively intervened" in your behalf to tell you that you are a man.

We all seek the affirmation -- and we may find it as youths in grades, or sports, good morals or good character. These are things that boys are typically rewarded for by an affirmation from men they look up to.

## The wound's effect

When we take a wound, it comes with a message, a lie about us and about the world and often about God, too.

The wound and lie then lead to a vow; a resolution to never, ever do again whatever it was that might have brought the wound.

From that vow we develop a false self.

Wound / Lie	Vow	False Self
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My father left / "You are on your own."	I will never trust anyone again	A very independent, driven man
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## The Father Wound

It is important to clarify two things when it comes to finding our “wound”:

- It is not necessarily one clear wound, given on an unforgettable day you remember in detail.
- Every man carries a wound. No matter how good a man your father was, and may still be, he is not perfect like God of the Bible.

There are two types of wounds or injuries that take place in our lives: Wounds or injuries to our bodies and Wounds or injuries to our Emotions, (psychological injuries).

In many instances, body wounds or injuries can be seen and treated to facilitate healing.

The passive wounds are not as obvious. Passive fathers give a blow that is harder to define, because it didn't come as a blow, it came as an absence.

The wound nearly always comes from the father (or lack of a father), and it strikes at our deepest question.

It's the question every boy and man is longing to ask: Do I have what it takes? Am I powerful?

The wound always says NO. Until a man *knows* he's a man, he will forever be trying to prove he is one, while at the same time he will shrink from anything that might reveal he is not.

Most men live their lives haunted by the question, or crippled by the answer they've been given.

Regardless of the type of wound, they can lead to some devastating destructive action on the part of all men -- things like addictions (both mental and physical), abuse, delusions, or total withdrawal from reality.

As men, getting us to identify the wound or to admit that we have a wound is not easy for us.

We don't often think in these terms.

Some of us never had a father who did something hurtful, mean, cruel, or abusive.

However, some of us may well have had a father who left a wound because of his absence, or the lack of ever saying, “I love You,” never affirming us or showing any interest in our life

### If you have no clue

If you have no clue as to

### To identify this area in your life:

Let's say that your father has died, and you are cleaning out his belongings, going through all his effects. In a desk drawer of his you discover an envelope, with your name on it, written in your father's handwriting. As you think about opening that letter, what would you long for it to say? Is there an apology? An affirmation?

Write that letter -- not as the one he might have written, but as the one you would have given anything for him to have written. What do you long for it to say from him to you?



what your wound might be, go to the effect of the wound and work backward. Do you live each day with a deep inner strength that comes from knowing you are a real man, that you have what it takes? Or are you a driven or passive man? When did that feeling of drivenness or passivity set in? Did it originate from a certain period in your life?

Another way of getting the wound is by asking yourself what you are currently working hard at not being discovered as. What arenas are you staying comfortable way from? Why—where did it originate?

*“Becoming a Christian doesn't necessarily fix things. As Christians we tend to become masters of disguise in hiding our wounds. Out of our fear of someone discovering our wounds we become posers.”*

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*“... We are not alone in our struggles to overcome these wounds.”*

## There is an answer

Understand we are not alone in our struggles to overcome these wounds. We are in the company of some great people from God's word. People like David, Moses, and yes even Christ himself.

In I Samuel 16 we have the story of David being anointed as king. There is not a lot of detail given, but it seems that David was almost forgotten out in the fields with the sheep when Samuel was looking to

anoint a king. How could Jesse forget to call one of his sons in -- he was even asked, “Are these all your sons?” The word does not elaborate on this, but maybe David carried a wound of his own from his father.

How about Moses? Not much is mentioned about his father. Could it be that absence of his father (his true father) produced a wound of its own. Maybe -- because at the burning bush Moses told God that he did

not even know how to talk or how to lead -- and those are things a Father teaches his son.

Maybe even Christ -- as He hung on the cross, He received a wound from His Father which we all have received when He said, “My God, My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?”

Jesus experienced all, even the wounds that we suffer now. In so doing He can and will help us to heal these wounds if we will let Him.

## Play your own game

In the film *The Legend of Bagger Vance*, Junuh is playing an exhibition match there between Bobby Jones and Walter Hagen, the best golfers of the era, for \$10,000.

On the final day, late in the round, Junuh disregards his mysterious caddy Bagger's advice at a crucial point and plays poorly, hitting into the forest. In the forest, he has a flashback to his World War I trauma, but Bagger's words help him to deal with the trauma.

*Imagine, if you will, you playing the part of Junuh and facing your wound, with God playing the part of Bagger.*

**Junuh:** I can't do this.

**Bagger:** Just loose your grip up a smidge. A man's grip is like a...

**Junuh:** That's not what I'm talking about.

**Bagger:** I know.

**Junuh:** No, you don't.

**Bagger:** What I'm talking about is a game...a game that can't be won...only played.

**Junuh:** You don't understand.

**Bagger:** I don't need to understand. Ain't a soul who ain't got a burden to carry he don't understand. You ain't alone in that. But you've been carrying this one long enough. Time to go on, lay it down.

**Junuh:** I don't know how.

**Bagger:** You got a choice. You can stop...or you could start.

**Junuh:** Start?

**Bagger:** Walking.

**Junuh:** Where?

**Bagger:** Back to where you've been and then stand there. Still. Real still, and remember.

**Junuh:** It was too long ago.

**Bagger:** No, sir, it was just a

moment ago. Time to come on out the shadows, Junuh. Time for you to choose.

**Junuh:** - I can't.

**Bagger:** You can. You ain't alone. I'm right here with you. I've been here all along. Now play the game. Your game. The one that only you was meant to play. The one given to you when you was born. You ready? Come on, take your stance. Strike that ball, Junuh. Don't hold nothing back. Now's the time. Let yourself remember. Remember your swing. That's right, Junuh. Settle yourself, that's good. Now is the time, Junuh.

**Here, Junuh makes an impossible shot**

**Bagger:** Let's go, Hardy.

**Junuh:** Hey, Bagger. You are one hell of a caddy.

**Bagger:** I do the best with what I got. We ain't done yet.




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*“Ain't a soul who ain't got a burden to carry he don't understand. You ain't alone in that. But you've been carrying this one long enough. Time to go on, lay it down.”*