

BAND OF BROTHERS OMAHA



www.bandofbrothersomaha.com

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Biblical Foundations

“And things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

2 Timothy 2:2

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

Proverbs 27:17

*“...Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...
But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*

Joshua 24:15

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Vision and Purpose

Vision: ***Band of Brothers Omaha*** envisions a revival of men in the Omaha area, connected to the noble calling that God has for their lives. We envision the proliferation of bands and platoons of men across the city, ***all seeking to follow Christ... no matter the cost.***

Purpose:

We exist to raise up a Godly generation of men who are fully equipped through prayer, small groups, study of the Word, fellowship, and worship to champion the families God has blessed us with and to assist in carrying out the vision of our church. ***The Bands of Brothers will be men who will be seekers of truth, honor and righteousness. They will be warriors as they take their places on the front-line in the battlefields for the hearts of those they love. (1 Timothy 6: 11-12)***

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Areas of Ministry

“Base Camps”: We seek an expansion of the existing small group gatherings into more times and dates that will work into men’s schedules. A lunch Base Camp and a Evening Base Camp at a local pub are examples. We use Base Camps to develop and mentor disciplined leaders and spiritual fathers

“Excursions”: We focus on doing the four to five group events a year that we do well. Father/Daughter Dance, Father/Son Canoe Trip, Peak Challenge, PromiseKeepers, Motorcycle Rides and a Fall excursion/retreat. We use Excursions to invite friends and newcomers into a masculine, non-threatening environment. We use Excursions to allow men to be men, experience brotherhood and encounter God

“Fireteam”: A focus on spiritual fathering and mentoring. We provide mentoring and spiritual fathering opportunities to new followers of Christ as well as men that have been followers for years. One on one or in triad groups.

“GPS”: A focus on defining men’s skills and abilities, showing value towards them and then creating ministry opportunities (inside and out of the church) to use them

“Teams”: A development of a monthly or bi-monthly off site cluster gathering of all Base Camps in order to recast the vision, to encourage and strengthen men and to be an invitation point for new men.

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Significance of Terms

“Base Camps”:

In climbing terminology, a “**base camp**” may be set up to provide the starting point for a multiple day or week assault on climbing a mountain. Climbers come back to “**base camp**” to get supplies and re-energize.

So it is with men in their trek with Jesus. We use “**base camp**” small group gatherings to provide a starting point for the weekly assault against the mountains in life (self-doubt, greed, desire .. i.e “sin”) that we must battle. We seek to have men come back weekly to receive support, encouragement and the Word (Ephesians 6) and to get filled up and be equipped to do battle.

We seek to use metaphors like this that have a male oriented, adventure meaning to them in order to connect Biblical truths with imagery and language that will appeal to men, both church and unchurched.

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Significance of Terms

“Excursion”:

An **“excursion”** is a trip, usually made for leisure or educational purposes. It is often an adjunct to a longer journey or visit to a place, sometimes for other purposes. The thought of an **“excursion”** invites imagery of challenge and adventure.

So it is with men in their trek with Jesus. We use **“excursions”** - special events and adventures, for pleasure and leisure, but also for the purpose of releasing men from their normal everyday trappings and allowing them to bond with other men and experience God. **“Excursions”** are adjunct to a longer journey, a journey with other men in following Jesus in all aspects of life. Each **“excursion”** has a deeper significance beyond the event itself and seeks to connect men with simple Biblical truths.

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Significance of Terms

“Fireteam”:

Fireteam is a small military unit of infantry. **Fireteams** generally consist of four or fewer soldiers and are grouped into squads or sections. Successful **fireteam** employment relies on quality small unit training for soldiers and the experience of **fireteam** members operating together.

So it is with mentoring and spiritual fathering. We seek to come along side men who desire a mentoring experience and a chance to learn and grow from a man that can impart some spiritual fathering. As that “Timothy” mentors and provides spiritual fathering, we pray that the person receiving it will seek to mentor another, calling it a privilege to pass on what he learned through a **fireteam** experience.

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Significance of Terms

“GPS”:

The Global Positioning System is the only fully functional satellite navigation system. It has become a vital global utility, indispensable for modern navigation on land, sea and air around the world. GPS is used by people around the world as a navigation aid in cars, airplanes, and ships. The system can also be used by computer controlled harvesters, mine trucks and other vehicles. Hand-held GPS receivers can be used by mountain climbers and hikers. Glider pilots use the logged signal to verify their arrival at turnpoints in competitions.

GPS is also "God's Positioning System", a navigation system using the Holy Spirit to raise up, challenge and place men in positions and places of impact, to be warriors in their workplace, in their neighborhoods, in their homes and in their churches. Men are bottom line people and want bottom line navigation in life. God provides that through his Word and we seek to engage men to use that GPS in their lives.

"Who are we?" ----- "What is true manliness?" ----- "What is true success?" ----- "What is the bottom line in life?"

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Significance of Terms

“GPS” cont’d:

These are questions asked by all men. We want to assist in helping you navigate these life questions.

Through hands on experiences: Band of Brothers Omaha wants to engage you where you are at, to develop friendships and camaraderie, in settings where men feel comfortable. Through externally focused experiences (servant events), men will come together to create, build or produce for someone in need and at the same time will learn more about each other and the answers to these questions.

Through adventure: Band of Brothers Omaha will create several opportunities throughout the year to engage men in adventure.... outside their offices, homes and other normal trappings of life. That may be a hunting or fishing trip. It also could look like a hiking trip to Colorado or a motorcycle rally. When men encounter adventure like this, God uses that time to free men's hearts and let them dream big.

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Significance of Terms

“GPS” cont’d:

Through a shared mission: Band of Brothers wants to challenge men to be followers of Christ, all on mission as foot soldiers that will help transform the world for Christ. Every man must see himself as valuable warrior for the Church, whether he is a parking lot attendant, usher, teacher, team leader, media producer, van driver or worship leader at his local church. But it goes beyond that simple list. We want to help men find their specific calling and hone their skills that can touch lives in their workplaces and in their neighborhoods.

Through mentoring and spiritual fathering: More than teaching, effective mentoring is spiritual fathering – the mentoring, growing, and maturing of followers for Jesus. It requires good modeling. (1 Thessalonians 2:10, 1 Corinthians 11:1). We cannot pass on what we do not possess. It requires spiritual leadership (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12). It requires time and commitment to a “band of brothers”.

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Significance of Terms

“Teams”: A **“team”** comprises any group of people linked in a common purpose. Just like a football team, **“team”** in the Band of Brothers context is an **interdependent team**: no significant task can be accomplished without the help of essentially all team members, team members typically specialize in different tasks (carrying the ball, kicking the ball, blocking opposing players), and the success of every individual is inextricably bound to the success of the whole team. No quarterback, no matter how talented, has ever won a season by playing alone.

So it is with the Band of Brothers **“team”** We seek to develop a monthly or bimonthly **“team”** night, where *base camps* can come together to be encouraged, leaders of *base camps* and *excursions* can hone leadership skills in a larger group setting and new men can find an easy entry point into Band of Brothers. A **“team”** night would be off campus, would be fun and informal and could consist of hang time, an object lesson and a battle plan.

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Basic Values

Value #1

Band of Brothers will be an all inclusive and intergenerational ministry.

Value #2

Band of Brothers will be about friendships, brotherhood, mentoring and discipleship and not about programs

Value #3

Band of Brothers will seek to cultivate within men a recognition of their masculine identity in Christ and help foster a healthy masculine spirit within the church.

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Values and Strategies

Value #4

Band of Brothers will challenge lay and pastoral leadership to model what we are trying to create.

Value #5

Repetition is Reputation. Band of Brothers must recast the vision every month or so to the men of the Church.

Value #6

Manage the expectations of the Band of Brothers leadership team. Discipling men takes time.

Value #7

Develop disciples and followers of Christ. Band of Brothers will seek to develop a culture that seeks man to man challenge that will lead to deeper discipleship. We will be in the Word.