

Hosting *The Great Adventure*™

Sample Host's Notes

Following are personal notes from Bill Smith, Little Rock's Men's Fraternity host from 1992-2004. It contains general ideas for announcements along with suggested video clips, etc.

The general plan for hosting *The Great Adventure* is simple:

- The first two or three sessions include “welcoming and introduction” items during the opening.
- The next twelve to fourteen sessions flow with the material in the sessions, with a variety of both serious and fun items for the opening.
- The last three or four sessions include “resources” the men can use to carry on and add emphasis to the parts they desire.

The weight given in the opening sessions to welcome/introductions and in the closing sessions to resources depends on the size of the crowd, the makeup of the crowd, and the direction the host and speaker desire to take the sessions.

For example, if new men keep showing up over the first three sessions in considerable numbers, include the welcoming, clarification and introductory information in the opening for all of them. Reassure visitors from the community, making the atmosphere feel “safe” and “non-churchy”. Likewise, a larger crowd will attract more “resource” ministries to have tables or booths in the lobby with materials and information on their services.

At Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock, we only include resources in announcements or allow booths if 1) they are proven within our own church experience, 2) they are specifically applicable to men and the issues men face as leaders at home and work, and 3) they will have general appeal to our specific audience.

For example, we did not include a booth on “guidance counseling” because it was not of general interest to our men's crowd. However, we did include one on managing money, budgeting, and giving.

Session 1:

We used a movie clip from *Apollo 13* that begins with the scene of the control center before blastoff. The “in charge guy” was smoking nervously at his post. The scene ends when the space ship went into the clouds.

The host is up front as the spaceship fades into the clouds and the video is turned off. A huge *Welcome to Men's Fraternity: The Great Adventure* is in order. Sound should be loud to match the high energy of the blastoff.

Host: *Are you guys ready to go?* Then ask those who have been in Men's Fraternity before to raise their hands. Ask those who do not attend your church to raise their hands and hold them for a moment. Especially welcome them and lead the guys in applause for them. Then make three promises to them: 1) we are not after your church membership; if you are from another church or no church at all, feel welcome as our guests; 2) we will not ask you for an offering; 3) there is no charge and this is not a church service. They will notice it is a men's gathering, a safe place to get together with buddies and talk about men's issues.

General format:

- The host opens the morning at 6:10 a.m. Explain and point out the "leadership" team which is on hand to serve the men at this point. Introduce the speaker. Although your own church men may be familiar with his background, men from the community will want to know about him.
- The speaker addresses the topic of the morning.
- The host makes a few announcements at 7:00 and dismisses the men to their teams (more on team formation later).
- When the music starts at 7:30, you are dismissed.

Session 2:

After upbeat, secular music fades, another movie clip from *Apollo 13*. Pick up when the blast off goes into the clouds, where it ended last week. End this clip when the space ship goes into orbit.

Host: *Good morning, gentlemen!* (Include the announcements, welcome and assurances common to the initial sessions as noted in Session 1 suggestions.) *After a great beginning, a "blast off" from last week, Robert takes us this week to "Questions Every Adventurer Must Face" for a continuation of The Great Adventure.*

Session 3:

After the music fades, show a video clip similar to "NFL Songs". There is one called "Working Man" that is particularly good since football season is underway. This is a light and humorous kind of clip that the men will enjoy. Every clip does not have to carry a message; some should just be fun to start the morning.

Host: *Good morning, gentlemen!* (If your group is large, include the announcements, welcome and assurances common to the initial few sessions.) *The Great Adventure is, like the football plays we just saw, a process, not an event. Persistence is very important, as is enjoyment and teamwork. Your small groups are the teams. Week by week, new challenges will lead toward success. This week Robert takes us through "Pausing to Process."*

Session 4:

After the music fades, show a clip similar to a John Wayne movie or other western "he man" type scene. We use a fight scene with John Wayne saying, "Take your hands off him." End when the bad guy is rubbing his jaw after battling it out with John Wayne and

Roy Rodgers. The name of this movie has been lost. If it cannot be located, then choose a movie similar in tone: real men in the real west, the central idea. This introductory clip has a strong element of humor; the men will get a kick out of it!

Host: *Great Adventurers do battle! It comes with the territory. If we understand our abilities, we stand a better chance of taking on challenges we can win. This week Robert takes us into the important, although unseen world of "The Adventurer's Wiring".*

Session 5:

After the music fades, show the movie clip from *On Golden Pond*. Norman has collapsed on the porch; Ethyl, in a panic, is trying to get the phone to work to call the hospital; finally Norman, having taken a pill, says to Ethyl, "You want to dance?"... The clip ends with them dancing.

Host: *Good morning and welcome, men! This week Robert takes us a step further on The Great Adventure with the Adventurer's view of the end of life, of death and eternity-a point briefly contemplated by Norman and Ethyl. Robert calls the resulting resolution "The Adventurer's Sacred Oath."*

Session 6:

After the music fades, the movie clip from *Contact* comes on starting at the party scene near the beginning of the movie. There is a discussion between older, scientific Ellie and the young theologian. The clip ends with the theologian admitting to the pretty girl, "I'm a man of the cloth without the cloth." (Note: this is the second of the messages on the metaphysical side of life, on heaven.)

Host: *Last week Robert gave us the Adventurer's sacred oath: "I will fervently live my life according to my design with the end in mind." This week, he carries us further, "Taking the Great Adventure Out of This World."*

Session 7: (This is an outreach, or evangelistic, session.) After the music fades, a clip from the movie *Gladiator* sets the stage. Start with Maximus and the Emperor locked in combat in the Coliseum, near the end of the movie. Maximus wins, and then dies on the ground from blood loss. A vision of "heaven" appears, with his deceased wife and son beaoning him home. End with the Emperor's sister saying, "It's alright ... You're going home."

Host: *Robert has carried us into the metaphysical these past two weeks, into the next life, into heaven. The tension each man feels about life after death is depicted even in this film about ancient Rome. Today, Robert takes us through "Every Man's Adventure with Eternity."*

Session 8:

There are a number of important announcements and emphases today, so there is no movie clip. At 6:10 am, the host simply goes to the podium with an enthusiastic.

Host: *Welcome Men to Session 8 of The Great Adventure! Today there is one important opportunity called for on your part: If you are signing up for the special “Exploring the Christian Life” study, this is the last opportunity.*

The holidays are looming with a break in Men’s Fraternity. During the break, the speaker teaches a special four-part, evangelistic study of the Christian faith conducted on Sunday nights. These are strictly elective sessions for those men desiring a closer look at the faith.

This week Robert begins to lead us toward the holiday break by “Refocusing My Life For Adventure,” followed by three more sessions in this semester. You guys are doing great!!!

Session 9:

After the music fades, a clip from the movie *A Knight’s Tale* comes on. The scene is of three peasants leaving their cart. The leader challenges the other two to change their “stars”, to dream, to go for it. At the end of the brief clip, he is ready to battle his two buddies hand to hand for the privilege.

Host: *Welcome, men! There are, in life, “Adventure Busters”. They come in guises of many descriptions. This week and next, Robert talks to us about these spoilers: “Being Advised of Adventure Busters (Part I).”*

(Remember, from time to time, you may want to give a “door prize” book to a man. We simply write on one of the outlines the phrase “You’re the Man!” and ask that man to come forward. The host asks him about his family, work, where he goes to church, if this is his first Men’s Fraternity, etc., then presents the book and leads in a warm round of applause. Give a good book away several times during the series.)

Session 10:

There is no movie clip for this session; one of several where the host simply jumps up to the podium when the music ends and shouts “Welcome, Men!” and gets underway. The host might remind the men where we are in the grand scheme of things: generally, what have been some of the topics, this week’s topic, and then where we are going. Then move right to the speaker. (Not a bad place for a door prize book.)

This is the Part II message on “Being Advised of Adventure Busters.”

Session 11:

This is a very pivotal message in *The Great Adventure*: “One of History’s Best, Great Adventurers!” This is also our last meeting of the first semester, and the last before the holiday break. We call this one “The Caleb Message.” Near the end of *The Great*

Adventure, a “yell” and the graduation medal will be drawn from or based upon this message. This is the core of *The Great Adventure*.

We use a video from *The NBA Superstars*, a song by Billy Joel (“This is the Time”) with accompanying superstar action to open the session with enthusiasm and excitement.

Session 12:

This is the beginning of the “Knowing Your Design” part of *The Great Adventure*. A video is not necessary. If you are using the DVD series, Bill Wellons, a teaching pastor at Fellowship Bible Church, will present this material for six sessions. The host introduces the “new speaker” idea by a “two quarterback” analogy.

Session 13:

It might be a good idea to use a video or recording of some historic figure that found their “design”. We use a CD of a Churchill speech during WWII on the bombing of London with a picture of Churchill on the screen. The point is that he found his design during times of great national stress. Each of us is different, and the point of the design segments is to help us discover our unique design.

Session 14:

Use the movie clip from *Saving Private Ryan* that opens with the men on patrol beginning their mission and talking among themselves; ending when the men go into a small depression with bushes.

Comments from the host might refer to the reluctance of the men on that mission...that reluctance isn’t necessarily bad...but that reluctance in terms of following Jesus Christ must eventually be relinquished if life and freedom are to come. Our host removes a white handkerchief from his pocket and waves it as in surrender to illustrate the point.

Session 15:

There is no need for a movie clip. We used this session to give away a couple of great books as “door prizes” with the men coming to the podium and answering a few questions.

Session 16:

We used a video of a dog team race in Alaska because we had been snowed out the previous Wednesday. This was a fun way to show that some hardy men had gone to great lengths to make it to Men’s Fraternity anyway! Of course, a video on design theme would work well.

Session 17:

There is no need for a movie clip. The host reviews where we have been throughout this Great Adventure by recalling some of the titles and themes. You are nearing the end of the series so build a sense of excitement over what has been covered and what is coming!

Session 18:

Video clip from *Mission: Impossible*: Use the theme leading into the movie and end when the music reaches crescendo. This is the last of the “Knowing Your Design” messages, and the men should be reassured that being the man we were created to be is not a mission impossible but a mission possible.

Session 19:

After the music fades, a clip from the movie from *Rudy* starts at the point near the end of the film when the crowd is shouting for Rudy to be sent into the game. It ends when Rudy is carried off the field and under the stadium with the notation on the screen that no one has been carried off the field at Notre Dame since.

The “Adventure Yell” works well here.

Host: *Repeat after Me! Raw Faith...Take the Land; Fresh Faith...Take the High Ground.* (with the men on their feet)

This is a good time for the host to make the point that life is a team adventure and other men are required in our lives. Rudy suited up and paid the price as we must, and Jesus Christ wants to lift every man to His shoulders and carry him out of the arena of life to acclaim.

Host: *Now, today, we have an opportunity to lift up and say thank you to Jesus Christ, the Man of History...like men do at sporting events. Men, rise, applaud, shout, whistle, high-five, whatever you want to show enthusiastic gratitude to the living Christ.* (The men will love this show of gratitude, in a man’s way.)

The message is a great review of the core ideas of the entire series. After the message, the host reminds the men to: *Be thinking of one major benefit to you of this year’s Men’s Fraternity. What in your life has changed or improved by the material we’ve covered? Be prepared to share this at graduation next week. Don’t miss finishing next week!*

Session 20: (Graduation/Celebration)

At Fellowship, each graduation is different and planned to fit the sessions we have just completed. Sometimes the host gets the men to their feet clapping to the music, “Celebration,” and then recognizing the leadership (servant) team members. We have had a “sharing” service from the floor with open mics so the men can tell what God has done in their lives through this Men’s Fraternity. Normally the host makes a presentation of a plaque or some memento from the men to the speaker(s).

Sometime during the graduation, the host leads in the “yell” by saying, *Repeat after me! Raw Faith....Take the Land; Fresh Faith...Take the High Ground!*

The speaker (in our case Robert Lewis) ends the session with a “charge” using a sword. We ask all the men who have completed *The Great Adventure* series to come to the podium and pick up a “Caleb Medal”. That is followed by a group photo with the men raising their arms in victory.