Into the Battle
12 Group Sessions

BAND OF BROTHERS
COURAGE • HUMILITY • UNITY

www.bandofbrothers.org
# Table of Contents

## Into the Battle - Group Sessions Introduction

### Courage for the Battle
- **Session 1** The Larger Story
- **Session 2** Created for More
- **Session 3** What is Going On?
- **Session 4** The “Huh’s” of Life

### Unity of the Brotherhood
- **Session 1** Relationships with No Secrets and No Condemnation
- **Session 2** A “Jonathan-Like” Lens for Your Friend
- **Session 3** A Brotherhood of Trust
- **Session 4** Our Legacy as Brothers in Christ

### Humility in the Mission
- **Session 1** The Larger Story - Now and Future
- **Session 2** The Source of Our Humility
- **Session 3** My Mission
- **Session 4** No Matter the Cost
“No Matter The Cost”
Into the Battle - Group Sessions Introduction
(All scripture references are from the New Living Translation NLT unless otherwise noted)

We’re so glad you’re part of a band of brothers. Whether or not you’ve been a part of a Band of Brothers Retreat, we know how quickly the life, encouragement and camaraderie of being with other men can be lost to the crazy demands of your world and to the quick whispers of the enemy. These materials are provided in part, as a way to hang on to what God has given you if you’ve been through a Band of Brothers Retreat. It is also intended as an ongoing resource for your journey as a man – a collection of sessions where you can consider your life honestly and in ways we don’t usually do on our own.

Basic Assumptions/Commitments

We hope you can approach this guided journal in the following spirit: “The thoughts and themes of this journey together are those that reflect a life long process – I will consider these things at my own pace, and not at a pace dictated for me. I will be patient with myself and will not use this material to harshly judge myself or berate myself. When/if I go through this material in the company of other men, I will respect their pace and their own journey with God.”

Where Am I Today?

An important question to ask is, “What level of honesty do I want with myself and God?” This journey is designed to help peel away the layers of deception that we as men can live under, so it is good to consider this question before beginning. These materials will be helpful only if you genuinely want more freedom and maturity and love in your own life, and are willing to look at your life honestly in order to get there.

How can I best utilize these session materials?

These materials will serve you best if you determine right now to not make it a “mandatory” exercise. Please do not utilize these materials if someone else is pressuring you to do so, or if you feel obligated. We know you do not need one more thing you must accomplish. Instead, if you can think of these materials as a resource as you face the demands of life, perhaps they can become a trusted companion to you as you think honestly about your life and calling.
Using these materials in a men’s group:

These materials are designed so that they can be used on your own – as a personal conversation between you and God – or as we would more strongly encourage, in a small group setting, a band of brothers. We believe, and have experienced in our own lives, that you can grow in significant and unique ways by discussing themes you uncover in these materials with other men committed to the journey with you. Assuming you are deciding to work through this material in a group setting, it would be good to determine some ground-rules such as:

- **Confidentiality** – determine the parameters that you as a group wish to observe.
- **Open or Closed Group** – Determine whether you want a closed group or will you be open to bringing other men in/out.
- **Confrontation** – Consider making a covenant allowing you freedom to speak into each other’s lives – this will make it easier if things arise that need to be addressed. Implicit in this is that any confrontation will be done with respect and in a spirit of fighting for the other man in humility and gentleness – not against him.

---

**KEY SCRIPTURES**

“We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, but we don’t give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are quite small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever!”

- 2 Corinthians 4:8-17

“We don’t go around preaching about ourselves; we preach Christ Jesus, the Lord. All we say about ourselves is that we are your servants because of what Jesus has done for us.”

- 2 Corinthians 4:5
“I will surrender my all to God - no matter the cost - so that I can become more like Jesus Christ - my brother and King. I will seek out a band of brothers, for whose lives and legacies I will fight, so that together we can fulfill our mission to know, love and glorify God our Father.”

- Covenant of Band of Brothers

“No Matter The Cost”
Courage for the Battle

“Get ready for war! Call out your best warriors!”
– Joel 3:9

“Christianity is a battle, not a dream.”
– Wendell Phillips

“We’re in spiritual combat — cosmic combat for the heart and soul of humankind.”
– Chuck Colson

www.bandofbrothers.org
“And the Saints overcame the accuser because of the blood of the Lamb...”
- Revelation 12:11

“If this life be not a real fight, in which something is eternally gained for the universe by success, it is no better than a game of private theatricals from which one may withdraw at will. But it feels like a real fight.”
- William James

“And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.”
- Revelation 12:7  NIV

Courage for the Battle – Session 1

Something very important is happening in these days.
You may not see it, but can you feel it?
A larger story is unfolding within and around you.
These times together will help you be prepared.

The Larger Story

There is a concealed universe where unseen forces hate us to our very core. “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” (Eph. 6:12) What is God up to? We are not completely sure, but “it’s what we trust in but don’t see that keeps us going.” (2 Corinthians 5, MSG) And as we are reminded by Gandalf in The Lord of the Rings, “There are forces at work in this world besides evil.”

Why do we men sometimes feel like we were born into the wrong generation when we watch mythical and heroic movies like Gladiator, Braveheart, and Lord of the Rings? The stirring in our hearts to be part of a good, right, and noble cause of epic proportions should not surprise us. We were created to be a part of a Larger Story such as this – to fight in a battle with other men for something much bigger than ourselves – something eternal.

The inner pull to be a part of this wonderful unfolding adventure has been embedded in us by our creator. C. S. Lewis once stated that the story of “Christ is a true myth, a myth that works on us the same way as the others, but a myth that has really happened.” And this “myth” is still unfolding! We don’t know the specifics of the ending of the Larger Story, but it has been written. And scripture promises it has a glorious and happy ending for the few who choose to engage.
The Lord of the Rings is a classic trilogy, but this Larger Story that we’re delving into here is the greatest trilogy of all time. The first part of the story involved the creation of God’s beloved, the fall of man, and the rise of bondage and evil in the world. The second part brought both sadness and hope. God’s people were sad that our King came into the world as a servant and slave and had to die to save us. We, however, have the great hope because of His resurrection and the power of the Spirit that was left with His followers. We also have the promise that one day our King will physically return to earth in His true glory. What will happen in the conclusion of this story? Will God’s beloved unite to conquer evil because of our love for Him? What is the part we all will play in this Larger Story that will be talked about by the heavenly community forever?

Our time on earth is short, and one day all will be “judged according to the things written in the books, according to what they had done.” (Rev. 20:12) The war will be relentless, but we will not be alone, and the scars will not be in vain.

To think about and respond:

1) What does the concept of a Larger Story for our lives mean to you?

2) Talk about the Larger Story you would like to believe God is calling you into right now.

3) What will be the cost for you to engage with this Larger Story of your life?

4) What will be the cost to live out your true identity in Christ?

Book/Music/Video Recommendations:

1) Read The Sacred Romance by Brent Curtis and John Eldredge – a key book to introduce and engage the concept of a Larger Story that we have been placed in.

2) Read Epic by John Eldredge – an amazing re-telling of the Gospel, the Larger Story of God and our invitation to understand and live out our role.

3) Watch The Lord of the Rings Trilogy – an incredible depiction of a “story within a story”, written by a C.S. Lewis contemporary, one of the inklings, J.R.R. Tolkien.