



## **Advice on Planning a Powerful Warrior Weekend**

We offer this to give you and your church leaders some ideas on how to set up an inspiring and effective time for your men. (*Note:* There is also another download available, a Warrior Weekend sample program we used in the Palm Beach Church, which you may want to use as a source for ideas as you plan a Warrior Weekend.)

We began by creating a Planning Team from among the men of our congregation. Here is what made it so effective:

- After those meetings, we had a firm grasp of the real needs of our men that we needed to address during the Weekend.
- Our planning team was composed of different age groups - from men in their twenties all the way into their sixties. *Why?* The needs of various age groups may be different, and if we are to discover and effectively address them, it will require insightful discussion. If we limit the age groups involved, the program we produce may be reduced in effectiveness.
- *Note:* When you create a team of leaders from among the non-staff men in the church to plan a Warrior Weekend, be sure to draw every man in the room into the discussion.
- When men from within the congregation help to plan an event, they get fired up from the outset, and will spread that fire and commitment into the men of the church before the retreat even begins.
- We had the planning team (not just church staff) make many of the announcements promoting the Weekend in front of the church. They did an inspiring, effective job in informing and motivating our men.

Obviously, it is effective to have messages by presented by guest speakers, evangelists, elders and staff. It is good to combine that with testimonies and stories from warriors within the church who are out there fighting the good fight at school, on campus, on the job, and in building their own families and marriages. When strong, faithful warriors speak from their own convictions, hearts and experiences, it is powerful!

We gave each man a copy of the “Warrior Partners in Battle, Warrior Decisions, Commitments and Dreams” sheet early on Saturday morning during the War Councils. *(This is available as the download entitled Warrior Decisions Handout.)* We asked every man to come to the last War Council with that sheet filled out, and share it with the group.

Also, at the end of our Warrior Weekend - at our last meeting on Saturday - we hung a Warrior Dog Tag on every man’s neck in front of the entire assembly. As each brother received his chain, he publicly shared one Warrior Commitment, Dream or Decision in front of the group. It was a powerful and inspiring time. *(Note: If your Warrior Weekend has a large attendance, this event may need to be carried out in front of a series of smaller assemblies.)*

Warrior Dog Tags are available for purchase online in our Gear store.