

## J2Manhood: Kickoff Event

Theme for the Journey: *God's Crazy Love*

Character/Fruit of the Spirit: *Abundant Joy*

The Foundational verse: *Malachi 3:10 and Psalms 37:4-6*

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." (Malachi 3:10)

"Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday." (Psalms 37:4-6)

Event: *River Canoe Trip and Execute Contracts*

Life Application: *Commit to finishing the race*

Symbol: *Paddles signed with Scripture commemorating the journey*

Facilitators notes:

- **Preparatory**
  1. Send boys written, formal invitation to the Journey to Manhood (in the mail)
  2. Invitation to include elements of challenge, calling and commitment
- **Lesson**
  1. Explain the journey
    - God chose you. (2 Thessalonians 2:13 "But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God **chose** you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.")
    - God is now calling you. (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 "To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.")
    - God loves you perfectly. (Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the

Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.")

2. Set expectations for Biblical Manhood.
    - Passionate pursuit of knowing, loving, trusting and obeying God
    - Commitment to walking (engaging with hearts and minds) and finishing the journey strong.
  3. Share how God captured our hearts (each father to share his testimony).
  4. Show God's crazy love through Scripture and experience.
    - John 3:16
    - John 10:10
    - Malachi 3:10
    - Psalms 37:4-6
  5. Pray for the Spirit to reveal His perfect love in a heart-changing way.
- Personal response
    - Execute contracts - commit to running the race to win and finishing strong.
    - Meditate on the four verses for the four weeks after the event (teach how to meditate by changing inflection word).
  - Prayer to close: Thanking God for His crazy love, His daily mercy, and for Jesus carrying our sin to rescue us.
    - Father, thank you for being the one true God, almighty, sovereign, holy and yet merciful, gracious and loving. I pray we will meditate on your awesomeness into the days/weeks/years to come! When I think of your perfect, crazy love for us, my desire to express that love back to you, whether through praise, worship, prayer, Scripture, obedience, service, is an overwhelming desire. Change our hearts from the inside out to know, love, trust and obey you with vigor!
  - Agenda
    - Friday
      - Pick-up boys from school; snack; road trip to San Saba
      - Arrival: Unpack, set-up camp, start fire, begin fishing for dinner
      - Two dads to drive/park truck at destination point
      - Fireside chat:
        - Explain the journey
        - Set expectations for Biblical Manhood
        - Share how God captured our hearts (each father's testimony)
        - Show God's crazy love through Scripture and experience
        - Pray for the Spirit to reveal His perfect love in a heart-changing way
    - Saturday
      - Awaken to dawn with morning devotional
      - Eat breakfast
      - Launch canoes for the journey down the river
      - Planned stops (swings, mudslides, swimming, fishing, lunch, capsize the boats)
      - Portage to truck for drive back to camp
      - Dinner
      - Fireside chat: share funny stories and memories from the day

- Sunday
  - Awaken to devotional
  - Eat breakfast
  - Break camp
  - Depart for home