



Top Five things to know to *Before Starting* an Outdoor Ministry. *By TJ Greaney*

We have seen it so many times. A guy wants to start an outdoor ministry; it keeps him awake at night thinking about it. It is a natural, he loves the outdoors, he knows he can give back there, he knows God speaks around the campfire, the fishing pond and in a deer stand. Maybe he has done some cool outdoor ministry things with some men or kids and it was powerful. Now he feels God calling him to do more but he doesn't know how to structure it. What about insurance? Will my church help me? Then he gets overwhelmed and does nothing at all or maybe he tries but it is hard to keep it consistent. What he really needs is a plan. What if he had curriculum, structure, answers to the questions his Pastor and the Elders are asking. That would make all the difference in the world.

Let's look at the top five things you need to do before you start an outdoor ministry in your church.

- 1) If you are stepping into ministry,** true ministry, you need to hear Jesus. Spend time listening to Him, for Him. If it is not truly where He wants you to be it will be in vain. We have a small window in our time on this earth to do a handful of great things. Many good things will be presented to you but if you have a calling, if Jesus is leading you then you are stepping into a great work. You will have to choose the great over a lot of good things you can be doing. Yes, you can help at every church event and ministry, you can lead groups and programs, set up chairs and teach a class. All good stuff. But you will have a handful of Kingdom opportunities to do something great. If you truly believe this is one of the great missions on your heart from God then some of the good things will need to go.
- 2) Understand how church works.** First and foremost, your pastor is busy. He is caring for the folks in the church, the Elders and Deacons, the hospital visits and the funerals. He has a lot on his plate and you do not want to ask him to add one more thing to his already demanding schedule. Not to mention the other five people in your church who have ministry ideas they want him to support and they are probably great ideas and needs. He is also getting a dozen emails a week with ministries wanting in your church. Don't expect time at the pulpit, banners in the foyer or a table with all your materials each week. You need to be willing to do all the work on this ministry to get it ready. You have to commit and know what you are committing too.

OUTDOOR MINISTRY

- 3) **Recruit a few solid men** who will commit to this ministry with you. These guys will be your Posse. They do not have to be experts in the outdoors, they can learn as you go, but they have to be committed to being there, doing their part. You never want to go this trail alone.
- 4) **Put together your plan.** What are you going to do? When will you meet? Where will you meet? What does insurance look like for an outdoor ministry? How much will it cost? This is not a Sunday school class or your regular men's ministry meeting. You need outdoor activities, archery, shooting sports, fishing skills and the list goes on and on. You won't be able to do a deer hunt every time or a fishing trip but you're an outdoor ministry, what will you do? Before you can approach your church leadership you have to have a plan. It needs to have some longevity to it as well, maybe a year.
- 5) **Where does this become ministry.** Many of the men's outdoor ministries are great for a few months or a year then they realize that they are just a good ole boys club. There is not a deep and heart felt effort that includes encounters with the Holy Spirit. It is when the outdoor ministry includes the element of the fatherless boys and father/sons that it begins to create a mission for Jesus. Men teaching outdoor skills and Jesus to fatherless boys around a campfire or a pond, big returns for the Kingdom brothers. Your support from the church will go way up if you are creating a mission based ministry. The men who participate will be changed for the good in ways few men are because of the incredible encounters with Jesus while with the boys. It is a win, win for the men, the boys, the single moms, the families of both and the Kingdom of Heaven.

Kids Outdoor Zone answers all the questions your pastor has. The curriculum is well written and easy to follow. The commitments are just once a month. The costs are minimum and the return high. Why wouldn't you start a KOZ Outdoor Adventure Ministry?

For more information email Training@KidsOutdoorZone.com - or call 512-292-1113 for more information.