



EDITION ONE

Targeting the Truth

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LEADER'S GUIDE

Targeting the Truth

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INTRODUCTION

Leader's Guide

Edition One

I just want to commend you for taking on the task of leading your group. Remember you're not alone, God is with you. He loves when His children step out in faith and help lead His flock. You may feel intimidated and that's not a bad thing. Paul said, "when I am weak then I am strong." Weakness can bring trust. Put your trust in God and He will help you lead.

Whether you're leading for one evening, several weeks, or longer, here are some basics to keep in mind.

BASICS ABOUT LEADING

1. **Don't try and do it alone** – First, pray to God to fill you with His Spirit and speak through you and your group. Ask members of the group to help in different ways, food, reading passages, etc.
2. **Cultivate discussion** - Don't talk too much yourself. The meeting will be a success when the group is able to share their ideas and then relationships will begin to develop and the group will thrive.
3. **Prepare for your meeting ahead of time** - Review the video and answer the questions before the meeting. Pray for each member by name if possible.
4. **When you ask questions, be patient** - If you answer your own questions because it took too long to get a response, they will learn that they don't have to answer. It may feel awkward at first when

there is silence after a question is asked, but once they realize you're not going to answer, someone will step up and answer. Always affirm the response with a simple "thanks" or "good answer", then ask "how about someone else?" Be sensitive to newcomers or shy people. Let them feel safe, they will come around in time.

5. **Provide transition between questions** - Ask if anyone would like to read the verse or paragraph. Don't pick a certain person but ask for a volunteer. Sometimes you can hand out verses on post-it notes to a couple of people before the group starts. They should be people you know can handle it.
6. **Start with the icebreaker first** — This will get everyone's mind on the same page and help them focus on the theme of the Session.
7. **Always begin and end with prayer** - If you have time to share requests it will help to connect the people.

We hope you find these suggestions helpful and remember, do your best, pray that it's blessed, and let God take care of the rest!

SESSION ONE

“Runnin and Gunnin”:

Enjoying God's Plan

ICE BREAKER

Can anyone tell a story about how you planned something for the future but it worked out totally different than how you planned it?

INTRODUCTION

As we live our lives, we are making decisions and plans every day, for the day, the week, the month, the year and even years to come. And yet, we can't even see what the next two minutes will bring our way.

But our heavenly Father is outside of time. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He is outside of time itself.

Who would you rather trust, the one who only knows the past and the present or the One who knows the past, present, and the future?

WATCH VIDEO

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

NOTES/ANSWERS FOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Should we ever plan for our future? (Proverbs 6:6-8, Proverbs 20:18)
If the ant has to plan for the winter, how much more do we need to plan for our future? But our ultimate dependence is always on our Heavenly Father.
2. Read James 4:13 — 16. "If the Lord wills....." This phrase has often become a cliché. How can we truly have this attitude even if we don't say it?
Always being open to the Lord's leading, looking to Him for guidance and direction. We should always be saying, "If the Lord wills" under our breath whenever we are talking about our future.
3. Read Proverbs 3:5, 6. What does it mean to "lean not on your own understanding"? How do we acknowledge Him "in all our ways"?
To "lean" means to trust something is going to hold you up. No matter how confident you are in your plans, make sure it is in line with scripture and pray about it a lot. By starting our day out with God using prayer and devotions, we can give Him our bodies as living sacrifices (Rom. 12:1 & 2).
4. How can we commit our works to the Lord? What works is he talking about? (Proverbs 16:3)
Looking for the Lord's blessing on whatever we do — work, play, relationships, etc. Making sure as we do them we are honoring Him with our conduct.
5. What are some practical things you have done in your life to make sure your trust is in God's plan and not your own?
Praying for God's guidance every day, seeking wise counsel from other Godly people, and searching the scriptures.

We need to be renewing our minds with Scripture, each week there will be a passage given to you to memorize or carry with you to meditate on.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5, 6

SESSION TWO

Dottie's First Buck:

Being Ready for Christ's Return

ICE BREAKER

When you were in school, what did you think about a “pop quiz” and how did you usually do on it?

INTRODUCTION

As the bible says in Matt. 24:27, “Just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes into the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.

The thrill of harvesting a buck with a bow only lasts a few seconds like a lightning flash, but it took a lot of preparation to be ready so you could capitalize on that great moment. Your practice, your scouting, putting in stands, patterning the deer, putting in the time when you saw nothing, all this needed to be done before you were ready for that great moment.

The Lord is coming back, but how can we be ready when we don't know when He's coming back. What does it mean to repent? What is eternal life? We will talk about all of this and more in this Session of “Targeting the Truth”.

WATCH VIDEO

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

NOTES/ANSWERS FOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What's the one thing we can know for sure about Christ's second coming? Why is this important to know and how does it affect your daily life? (Matt. 24:42 —44)
We won't expect it, it comes like a thief in the night. This should motivate us to lead godly lives daily because we could meet Him face to face today! (1 John 3:2 & 3).
2. How can we be ready for Christ's second coming when scripture says He's going to come when we don't expect it? (Eph. 2:8— 10 & Matt. 24:45 — 51)
First get saved! Then start living for Him day by day through the power of the Holy Spirit. Always remembering, soon all things will pass, only what's done for Christ will last.
3. What did Mike say about what it means to repent? (Luke 15:7 & Mark 1:15)
"Repent" in Greek simply means to change your mind. Before you didn't care about your sin and Jesus but now you do. It is a real change of heart not just head knowledge.
4. When does your eternal life start? What do these verses say about your eternal life? (John 17:3, II Cor. 5:17 & Eph. 1:13 & 14)
Your eternal life starts the moment you believe in Christ. According to John 17:3, Jesus said that eternal life is knowing the only true God and Jesus. Eternal life is knowing the eternal God.
5. According to the first part of Phil. 2:13, how are we supposed to fulfill His good purpose?
God Himself, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, will not only do the works through us but actually give us the will to do them. All we have to do is surrender to Him by faith.

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“So, you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.” Matt. 24:44

SESSION THREE

Like Father, Like Son-In-Law: Discipleship

ICE BREAKER

How did you hear the Gospel and come to know Christ?

INTRODUCTION

Some of you may have heard of the “Four Talks” which is a way to help us remember four important aspects in the Christian life. They must be in our lives in order to be living a life obedient to Jesus Christ. They are as follows:

1. Me talking to God — Prayer
2. God talking to me — Bible reading
3. Me talking to other Christians — Fellowship
4. Me talking to un-believers — Sharing the Gospel in word & deed

We are going to be able to do many things in heaven. We can worship God in heaven, we can pray to God in heaven, we can listen to His Word in heaven, and even fellowship with other believers in heaven.

But there is one thing that God calls us to do and it can only be done while we are here on the earth and that is to share the Gospel and make disciples.

WATCH VIDEO

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

NOTES/ANSWERS FOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What did Mike mean when he said, "we are called to make disciples not converts", what's the difference? (Matt. 28:19)
We need to do more than just lead someone to Christ, we need to help them grow in their faith so they too can do the same.
2. How can we prepare ourselves to share the Gospel? (I Peter 3:15)
As we desire the milk of the Word (I Peter 2:2), so that we can grow, we are sanctifying the Lord God in our hearts, putting Him at the center of our lives. We should always prepare ourselves with some biblical answers for the pertinent questions of our day.
3. What does Peter mean when he says, "to share the Gospel with gentleness and respect"? (I Peter 3:15)
First of all, we need never forget that all lost people are valuable to God, Jesus showed us this in the parable of the lost coin, lost sheep, and lost boy. They need to be respected because they are made in the image of God. We need to be gentle in our presentation of the gospel of Christ not contentious or condemning.
4. Sharing "your story" of how you came to know Christ is one of the best ways of sharing the Gospel with others because it's your personal experience. They can't argue with that! How can you incorporate the message of the Gospel, (John 3:16 & Eph. 2:8 & 9) into "your story"?
The gospel is — We are all sinners, and the penalty of sin is death which ultimately is separation from God, but God loved us so much He sent His Son to pay our penalty for us so we could be with Him forever and therefore, we can only receive this great gift by putting our trust and faith in Jesus.

5. What is involved in keeping a clear conscience? (I Peter 3:16) Why is it important to recognize you could be the best Christian your friends know?

As a Christian, we are ambassadors for Christ (II Cor. 5:20). We need to be the best example of Christ's love to others. This means we must also be honest about our own sin and confess and ask for forgiveness to anyone we have offended. This is being real.

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“Then Jesus came to them and said, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matt. 28:18—20

SESSION FOUR

Hunt for the Eight of Diamonds:

The Abundant Life

ICE BREAKER

Are you a glass half empty person or a glass half full person, why?

INTRODUCTION

Our journey here on earth is so short, the Apostle James called it a vapor or a mist compared to eternity. Jesus promised us an abundant life that starts the moment you believe in Him, you don't have to wait to die. How do we experience this "Abundant Life"?

That will be our topic for today.

WATCH VIDEO

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

NOTES/ANSWERS FOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How can we be of "good cheer" while knowing we will experience trouble in this world? (John 16:33)
Because Jesus has overcome the world, remember Romans 8:28, even bad things, God is working for the good, we just need to trust Him and love Him.
2. Mike said Jesus can turn our failures into successes. How has Jesus turned some failures into successes in your life?
As the leader, think of your own testimony about a failure that Jesus used to teach you something. But only use your story after everyone else has shared their story if time allows.
3. How do we "look to Christ, the author and finisher of our faith"? (Heb. 12:2) The answer is found in the rest of the verse, explain.
Jesus as a man had to trust the Father who worked through the Holy Spirit. As Jesus thought of the joy of saving all mankind, He endured the cross. As we fix our eyes on Jesus, we are trusting Him to not only save us but to give us power through the Holy Spirit to handle whatever the world, the flesh, or the devil may throw at us.
4. How can we receive this abundant life Jesus is talking about in John 10:10? Look at John 3:3 and Matt. 6:33 & 34, explain your answers.
The abundant life can only be lived out one day at a time. God gives us enough grace for just one day, not enough for tomorrow. We need to learn to live in the grace of just one day. And then the abundant life will be experienced.
5. Even hardships can be looked at as something good. How does Heb. 12:7 explain this?
Notice Paul doesn't qualify the hardship; therefore, we assume that we should look at all hardships from the Lord to learn what God wants us to learn.

We need to be renewing our minds with Scripture, each week there will be a passage given to you to memorize or carry with you to meditate on.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

SESSION FIVE

Redemption Buck:

A "Do Over"

ICE BREAKER

What does it mean to take a mulligan in golf? Have you ever taken one? Why or why not?

INTRODUCTION

I don't play golf a lot, maybe once or twice a year so "mulligans" are very important to me. It's so nice to know I can use it when my drive goes into the pond!

The greatest "mulligan" or "do over" we can receive is from Jesus Christ, which will be our discussion topic today.

WATCH VIDEO

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

NOTES/ANSWERS FOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. According to Romans 3:23 & 24, how many of us need a redeemer? Why is this important to understand? (Rev. 21:8)
We have all sinned no matter how religious we may be. That's why the law was given, to show us our sin (Gal. 3:24). Just read the Ten Commandments and it won't take long to realize that we fall way short.
2. What is the penalty or wages of sin? (Romans 6:23) What is not the penalty of sin? (Eph. 2:8 & 9)
The penalty for sin is death, it's not doing good works or sacrifices. Give illustration of the greatest broad jumper trying to jump the Grand Canyon. He might get further than anybody else, but the end result is the same for all, death!
3. Explain why only Jesus could be our redeemer and not just another human being? (II Cor. 5:21 & I Peter 3:18)
You might find another human that might want to die for your sins, he would qualify to take your place because he was human, but he would be disqualified because he has his own sin and penalty to pay for. Jesus was and is the only human without sin and our only Redeemer.
4. According to John 3:17 & 18, what's the problem when a person says he's in the middle of believing and not believing in Christ?
Jesus said, "I didn't come into the world to condemn the world", why? Because the world was already condemned, (John 3:18). People are living under a state of condemnation until they believe in Jesus Christ and then the condemnation is lifted.

5. What do I need to do when I sin after I become a Christian? (I John 1:9)
What does John mean when he says, "He is faithful and just"?

We need to confess our sins, which means see them as God sees them — something He hates, something that hurts our relationship, but something that has been washed away by the blood of Christ. He is faithful and just to what Christ did on the cross, redeemed us! Sin will never separate us from God again. His arms are still open wide, that's what we need to see — the truth — that will motivate us not to sin anymore. It is the love of Christ that constrains us (II Cor. 5:14).

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*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast."
Eph. 2:8 & 9*

SESSION SIX

Not So Lucky Seven:

Confidence in Our Heavenly Father

ICE BREAKER

Can anyone share about a time in your life where confidence or the lack thereof played a big role in whether or not you were successful?

INTRODUCTION

In any area of life, including sports, work, relationships, etc., confidence plays a major role in our success or failure.

This is true not only in a sport like archery but also in our relationship with our Heavenly Father. In the same way we learn about our bows, how to hold them, how to tune them, how to shoot them correctly, we need to learn about our Heavenly Father and get in tune with Him. This will be the focus of our discussion.

WATCH VIDEO

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

NOTES/ANSWERS FOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Read Matt. 10:29— 31, how does this passage give you more confidence in your Heavenly Father?

God is so intimate with us and knows us so well and yet still loves us. He will be with us through it all. And if He is with us, who can be against us? (Rom. 8:31)

2. Read Heb. 10:32 — 36, the writer of Hebrews was writing to Jewish believers who had been persecuted for their faith. He was trying to encourage them not to throw away their confidence, (vs 35). How does this passage encourage you?

This passage talks about how we will be richly rewarded for persevering and putting our confidence in God even in the midst of trials.

3. What are some ways we can bolster our confidence and strengthen our faith? (Romans 10:17 & Heb. 10:24—25)

We need to stay in God's Word with daily devotions and prayer. We need to gather with fellow believers for encouragement.

4. According to Jer. 17:7— 8, what are the benefits of putting our confidence in the Lord?

You can list them right from this passage, I think they are both physical and spiritual in nature.

5. In Heb. 11:1, the word for "assurance" (NIV) can also be translated "evidence", why is this important when it comes to our confidence in our Heavenly Father?

Many believe "Christian faith" is a leap of faith based on no evidence. God's Word clearly teaches that there is evidence to assure our faith, not only in His creation all around us but even in the Scripture and our personal experience with Him. As we grow in our confidence with our Heavenly Father the assurance becomes more sure!

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“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1