**DAILY INVENTORY** lesson forty ty;o

**PRINCIPLE 7:**

Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and his will for my life and to gain the power to follow his will.

**SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS:**

"So, *1f you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" (1 Corinthians 10.12 NIV}*

**SCHEDULE**

**CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)

**WORSHIP** (15 minutes)

**TEACHING TIME** (40 minutes)

**SMALL GROUPS** (30 minutes)

**CLOSING** (5 minutes)

**CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)

**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

» CD player (optional)

» CD with worship music (optional)

» Pens or pencils

» Paper

» Word search game (available on the CD-ROM)

**PREPARATION**

» Pray for your teenagers and your meeting

» Review this lesson

» Make copies of the word search game (available on the CD-ROM)

» Select songs for the Worship Time

**CONNECT TIME**

Warmly welcome everyone to the group.

Here's one you've done be/ore. Gather teenagers in a circle for this O&A opener-the catch is they have to answer questions in the third person (meaning, they refer to themselves by name instead of using "I"). You can change the questions each time to make your opening activity fresh we'II use this idea a handful of times throughout the year.

Use fun questions such as:

» **What is your favorite song right now?**

» **What personality traits would your ultimate friend have?**

» **lf you could ask your ido! three questions, what would you ask?**

» **What would the "best day" of your life look like?**

Add your own questions to this list. lt's funny to hear people talk about themselves this way-but this opener has the added benefit of cementing kids' names in their memory, and learning some fun stories about each other.

**WORSHIPS**

**SAY: We worship God by consciously giving access** to him-by letting him see what we'd rather keep in the shadows. Remember what David said in Psalm 139: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Let's worship God right now by simply praying this prayer in an attitude of openness

and vulnerability.

Read aloud Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT), pausing after each line and asking your kids to repeat write you said:

*Search me,* O *God, and know my heart; test* me *and know my anxious thoughts.*

*Point out anything in* me *tha't offends you,*

*and lead me along the path of everlasting lite.*

Then wait in silence for two minutes, just listening for God's volee and leading.

Then lead kids in three familiar worship songs. lf you have a youth band, invite the group to lead your

teenagers in worship. Otherwise, play the songs from a CD and encourage kids to sing along-or simply play the music as everyone sits and thinks about the words of the songs.

Then have everyone read aloud, together, this week's scriptural truth: "So, *if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fa//!" (1 Corinthians 1O: 12 NIV).*

#### TEACHIng tlME.

**SUPPLIES:** Pens or pencils, paper, and copies of a word search game

**SAY:** live printed out some copies of a word search game. You've probably played these before, but I bet you've never been timed while you played. l'm going to pass these out, face down. When I say go, turn them over and find as many words as possible in 30 seconds. We'II tally up the scores and then play a second round.

Distribute the handouts, and pens or pencils (if necessary), and play the game. Then pass out the second round of word searches, but make them the exact same copies as the ones you ¡ust played.

**SAY: OK, here we go-round two. Go!**

**ASK:**

» **Which time was easier? Why?**

» **When you did the word search the second time, did** it **take you a second to realize it was the same?**

» **lf** I gave **you** the **same one** again, **how quickly do**

**you** think you could find all of the **words?**

**SAY:** As we've mentioned before, we're on this journey on the road to healthier, freer lives. The reason we call this gathering The Landing is that this journey is like coming home to a place where you are loved and where you can be who God created you

to be. This journey is far everyone who feels stuck in life-trapped by their hurts, hang-ups, and habits, or their circumstances, or their addictions. lt’s also a place for people who haven't faced those intense

battles but want greater wisdom on leading a healthy life filled with freedom. The principles that we talk about are based on the beatitudes, where Jesus

laid out principles for happiness in the sermon on the mount.

Today at The Landing we'II focus on the how-to's of Principle 7. lt's a good idea to keep track of the choices we're making in life and the things or behaviors God is asking us to give up. There are

several pages in your Student Journal that you can use to continue keeping track of your daily journey. lt's important to go back over your day by simply

writing about the good things and bad things that have happened-the successes and the times we blew it.

Here's why:

» You might notíce patterns of behavior or choices that need special attention-you may need help from Jesus and others to identify them and overcome them.

» You can deal with whatever you need to deal with right away-if there's someone whose forgiveness you need, you can do it quickly. And acting on your convictions right away is a key to going forward.

Just like in the word search games the more you do this the easier it will be to find the things in your life that need attention.

We're going to practice journaling right now, so open your Student Journal to page 175. lf you don't have a journal, we've pull some pieces of paper out for you to use.

lf you have a teenager in your group that doesn't have a journal, give him or her a sheet of paper Give your teenagers up to five minutes to write, Your group may

get done quickly, especially if this is a new or challenging activity **for** your kids.

**SAY: Many of us have no idea how to get started writing** in **our journals. Let's walk through a few easy suggestions that will get you going. First, start off by writing about just one thing that happened today that you're** thankful for. **Write as many as you can, but get** started by thinking **of just one thing.**

After a few minutes, **SAY:** From here on out at The Landing we'II check in every time we meet to see how our journaling is coming along-it's a way we can encourage each other and hold each other accountable.

Another way to start writing in our journals is to be on the lookout for the "fruit of the Spirit" showing up in our lives! Just so you know what you're looking for, let's quickly read Galatians 5:22-23: "The fruit

of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Wow, that's quite a list

Have kids each get write a partner (make sure they have at least one Bible between them) and read the passage. See if any of them can begin to remember any of Galatians 5:22-23 from memory.

After a few minutes, randomly ask a few teenagers to recite Galatians 5:22-23.

Then **SAY:** Asking ourselves a few questions every day will help us journal. Let's walk through these questions right now on your journal pages. First, answer the question: "Today, how did I show lave to others?"

Give kids a chance to write. Alter a couple o/ minutes or so, SAY**, Now** answers the question: "Today, how did l act in an unloving way toward anyone?"

Alter a couple o/ minutes or so, SAY: Now answer the

question: "Today, how did others see in me the joy of having a personal relationship with Jesus? lf they didn't, why not?"

Alter a couple of minutes or so, SAY, Now answer the question: "Today, how did I maintain my peace?

Alter a couple of minutes or so, SAY: Now answer the question: "Today, how was I patient? What caused me to lose my patience? Do I need to make amends with anyone?"

Alter a couple of minutes or so, SAY: Now answer the question: "Today, how did I act kindly or unkindly toward others?"

Alter a couple of minutes or so, SAY: Now answer the question: "Today, how have I been faithful?"

Alter a couple of minutes or so, **SAY:** Now answer the question: "Today, how did I do at keeping my word with others?"

Alter a couple of minutes or so, **SAY: Now answer the** question: "Today, how did I show gentleness and self-control? Did I lose my temper or speak a harsh or unkind word to someone? Did I go back into any of my hurts, hang-ups, and habits?"

Alter giving your students some time to write, **SAY:** This week, l'd like to encourage you to keep this journal going. lf you liked answering the questions we just went over, set aside some time each day to jot the answers down. lf you'd rather write freely and you have a good sense of how to do this, go ahead and do it your way. What's important is that you begin this process. Remember, your journal is far your eyes only. Keep it in a sale place. While none of us is going to read each other's journal, we are going to use them next week to build on what we started today.

**SMALL GROUPS**

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Break your larger group intó small groups ol three or more, with a conversation leader in each one. To prime the pump lor discussion, have the leaders begin the small group time by telling about their own experience

of the power of journaling in their life. Then have groups each discuss these questions (available on the CD-ROM).

**ASK:**

» What's something that surprised you or challenged you about this journaling experience?

» Why is it so important to our growth in Christ­ andourability to move through our hurts, hang­ ups, and habits-to follow this practice of a "daily inventory"?

» lf you have journaled in the past, how did it impact your everyday life?

» What are sorne of the things that could keep you from journaling, and what are ideas for overcoming those hurdles?

» Is there something you'd like to share from your journaling experience today?

CLOSING

Glose by reading the Serenity Prayer together (available on p. 3 of their Student Journal). Keep in mind, some teenagers may not want to read aloud with the rest of the group That's OK; encourage them to focus on the words being shared.

God, grant me the serenity

to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus did,

this sinful world as it is; Not as I would have it;

Trusting that you will make all things right lf I surrender to your will; So that I

may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next. AMEN.

* Reinhold Niebuhr

Don't forget to remind your students to spend time with their journals this week, reflecting on what God is teaching them during this journey.

••••• CONNECT TIME

Serve refreshments of some kind so kids and leaders can hang out and connect. Consider having some healthy options for those who may use food as a way of coping. A ping-pong table, foosball table, or even a few board games will give teenagers an excuse to connect.

**DAILY INVENTORY** lesson forty-three

**PRINCIPLE 7:**

Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and his will for my life and to gain the power to follow his will.

**SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS:**

*"So, if you think you* are *standing firm, be careful that you don 't fa//!" (1 Corinthians 1* O. *12 NIV).*

**SCHEDULE**

**CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)

WORSHIP (1O minutes)

TEACHING TIME (30 minutes)

VIDEO TIME (15 minutes)

SMALL GROUPS (30 minutes)

CLOSING (5 minutes)

CONNECT TIME (15 minutes)

**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

» CD player (optional)

» CD with worship music (optional)

» TV and DVD player

» The Landing DVD 4

» Copies of situation slips (available on the CD-ROM)

» A small object that can be hidden

» A prize (a candy bar or a food item might be best)

**PREPARATION**

» Pray for your teenagers and your meeting

» Review this lesson

» Gather supplies

» Select songs for the Worship Time

» Make copies of situation slips (available on **the**

CD-ROM)

» Hide the small object before kids arrive

**CONNECT TIME**

Warmly welcome everyone to the group.

Give your students some extra time to hang out and get to know one another.

**WORSHIP**

Then lead kids in three familiar worship songs. lf you have a youth band, invite the group to lead your

teenagers in worship. Otherwise, play the songs from a CD and encourage kids to sing along-or simply play the music as everyone sits and thinks about the words of the songs.

Then have everyone read aloud, together, this week's scriptural truth: "So, *if you think you* are *standing firm, be careful that you don't tall" (1 Corinthians* 1*O: 12 NIV).*

#### TEACHING TlME

**SUPPLIES:** copies of the situation slip.

**ASK:**

>> How did your journaling go this week?

» Did anyone write in their journals every day?

» Did anyone find it super hard to carve out time to journal?

**SAY:** lf you weren't able to journal every day, don't beat yourself up over it. We talk a lot about breaking bad habits here in The Landing; journaling is about starting a good habit. Have you ever noticed how hard it is to break a bad habit and how hard it is to start a good one?

lf you did journal this week, you may have seen some patterns or recurring items pop up. lt's one thing to notice them; it's another thing to act on them. A few weeks ago we looked at making amends and offering forgiveness. lt would be great to think that if you've done those actions you are done, you'II never have

to forgive anyone or apologize ever again, but that wouldn't be true. The truth is, since we are ali in relationships of one form or another, we are going to hurt people from time to time and we will be hurt by others. The key is to realize it quickly, and then do something about it.

Have your students get ir,to trias.

**SAY:** We are going to spend sorne time role-playing **tonight. We'II be passing out some slips of paper with situations on them. When you get your slip, act as if this situation was in your journal, either today or yesterday, and then act out either offering the forgiveness needed or making the amends.**

Sorne suggested scenarios:

» 1 told someone else something you asked me to keep secret.

» 1 joined in as others made fun of you.

» 1 lost my temper with you when you wouldn’t let me see your homework.

» You are my mom. You asked me to do something, and instead of listening yelled at you and stormed out of the room.

» 1 took all of the credit on a class assignment when we actually worked on it together.

» You are my dad. You told me i couldn’t go to the party, but i went anyway.

» You asked me out, and i didn't want to go, so I lied

and said i was busy.

» You sent me a text and I never replied said I didn't get it, but I did.

» 1 posted that picture of you from the party.

» l've been saying I haven't had a drink in weeks, but that's not true.

» l've owed five dollars for a week. i always say I don·t

have it, but I do.

» 1 told you the cigarette smoke you smelled on me was from my friends, when i was the one smoking.

» You are my mom. 1 told you i was passing ali of my classes. but i actually have two Os and an F.

» You borrowed something from me that I love and you broke it.

» You said you would call me about hanging out: you

didn't and i heard you and the rest of tl1e group went out.

» You are my dad. You said I could borrow the car this

weekend and then changed your mind.

» You said something untrue about me.

» You were supposed to pick me up and you never showed.

» You flirted with my crush.

» You broke my confidence. 1 told you something llve never told anyone else and you told someone.

» You are my parent. You didn't come to my game and you said you would. You hade good reason, but it still hurt.

**ASK:**

» How did it feel to role-play some of those issues?

» How do you think your journal could help you?

» lf you saw something like this in your daily inventory, could you act on it?

**SAY:** Remember, it's important to write in your journal every day, even if it's only for a few minutes. When something surfaces in your journaling that you know you need to do something about, do

it promptly.

**VIDE TlME**

Set up a DVD player and TV in your meeting area. Ahead of time, cue up the video "Psalm 139' from OVO 4 in the kit. Play the video--this one is 13:25 minutes long.

**SMALL GROUPS**

Prior lobegi0ning\_your sma11. grou ,-.rea('.J t,hro gh, the followingSmall Gtou\_p Gui\_d\_.\_elin\_ es withyo*:.--* ur,'..tee'• n.a' gers,

1. **Focus on your own. thoughts and feéHngs when sharing with the group.**
2. **Please avoid ALL crosstalk.**
3. **We are here for. support one another,**
4. **Value and prefect anonymity and confidentiality. ·**
5. **Avoid offensive language; .it has no place in a Christ centered group.**

8emernber, as a leader you are to model these· guidelines for your group you lead the discussion

After the whole group has watched the video, split into your small groups, with a conversation leader in each one. Have your conversation leaders ask these questions (available on the CD-ROM) about the video,

**with** the intent to draw out personal stories from the kids in the group.

Remember. as the leader, you may want to modal some of these answers for your group by sharing from your own experience.

**ASK:**

» **As you watched the video, what impacted you the most? Explain.**

» What's risky about praying David's prayer in Psalm 139?

,, What's freeing about praying the prayer?

» There's a strength we can find in our weakness when we're brutally honest about our life-the good and the bad. Why does this kind of "weakness" produce strength in our life?

» What's something you'd like to share with the group that you learned by looking back over your journal entries from this week?

At the end of this discussion, the leader should close in prayer, thanking God for bringing us strength in our weakness.

**CLOSING**

**SUPPLIES:** a small object (already hidden), and a prize.

Tell your teenagers that you've hidden a small object somewhere in your meeting room -be sure to tell them what the object is-and promise a treat for whoever can find it first. lf no one finds it within two minutes. no one receives the prize.

Award the prize to the winner. Or stop the search if no one has found the object after two minutes, and reveal where the item was.

**ASK:**

» **How is this experience like the daily inventory we've been learning about?**

» **What "treasure" have you found by pursuing and**

**finding what has been hidden in you?**

Glose by reading the Serenity Prayer together (available on p. 3 of their Student Journal). Keep in mind, some teenagers may not want to read aloud with the rest of the group. That's OK; encourage them to focus on the words being shared.

God, grant me the serenity

to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus did,

this sinful world as it is; Not as I would have it;

Trusting that you will make all things right lf I surrender to your will; So that 1

may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next. AMEN.

- Reinhoid Niebuhr

**Don't forget to remind your students to spend time with their journals this week, reflecting on what God is teaching them during this journey.**

**CONNECT TIME**

Serve refreshments of some kind so kids and leaders can hang out and connect. Consider having some healthy options for those who may use food as a way of coping. A ping-pong table, foosball table, or even a few board games will give teenagers an excuse to connect.

**RELAPSE** lesson forty-four

**PRINCIPLE 7:**

Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and his will for my life and to gain the power to follow his will.

**SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS:**

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3.16 NIV).*

**SCHEDULE**

**CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)

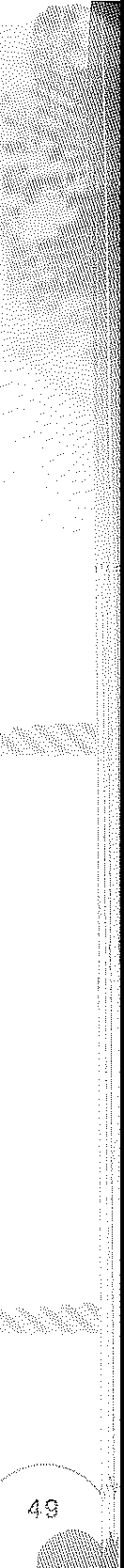
**WORSHIP** (15 minutes)

**TEACHING TIME** (40 minutes)

**SMALL GROUPS** (30 minutes)

**CLOSING** (5 minutes)

**CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)



**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

» CD player (optional)

» CD with worship music (optional)

» Bibles

» Paper

» Pens or pencils

» A few blindfolds-you can use old T-shirts, bandanas, or other material

>> A large flip pad or large sheet of butcher paper or newsprint (you also could use a whiteboard, with dry-erase markers)

» Markers

**PREPARATION**

» Pray **for** your teenagers and your meeting

» Review this lesson

» Gather supplies

» Select songs for the Worship Time

**CONNECT TIME**

**SUPPLIES:** A few blindfolds-you can use old T-shirts, bandanas, or other material.

Warmly welcome everyone to the group.

**SAY:** 1 hope you're ready to have some fun. Today we are going to have a good old-fashioned three­ legged race.

Have everyone pair up; if you have an odd number of teenagers get some adult leaders involved. Do three rounds. First do a traditional race with the partners' legs tied together. Alter the first round, have one of each pair put on a blindfold. For the last round tell the students they are not allowed to talk.

**ASK:**

» How did that go? Did anyone have a really hard time? Why?

» Did any pair do really well? Why?

» What did you learn from the second and third rounds?

**WORSHIPS**

Lead kids in three familiar worship songs. lf you have a youth band, invite the group to lead your teenagers in worship. Otherwise, play tl1e songs from a CD and encourage kids **to** sing along-or simply play the music as everyone sits and thinks about the words of the songs.

Then have everyone read aloud, together, this week's scriptural truth: *"Let the word of Christ dwell in* you *richly" (Colossians* 3.16 *NIV)*

#### TEACHING TIME

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles; paper; pens or pencils; markers; and a large flip pad, or large sheet of butcher paper or newsprint.

Get your teenagers into trios, give each group a piece of paper and a pen or pencil, and **SAY:** You have two minutes to come up with as many songs that deal with loneliness or hard times as you can. You don't have to write the lyrics-just the name of the song.

Let's see how many you can come up with in your trio. Go!

Alter two minutes, lend out which trio has the longest list. Have a person from that trio stand and read the list.

Then **ASK** trios to discuss:

» When have you gone through a time of feeling isolated or lonely?

Alter five mi11utes or so. **SAY:** Loneliness is a common theme in songs because it's a common human experience. Ali of us feel loneliness in our life, even when we're surrounded by people. lt’s easy to feel like we're all alone when facing our challenges and struggles. And when we feel alone, it's easy to slip back into our old hurts, hang-ups, and habits. That's called "relapse."

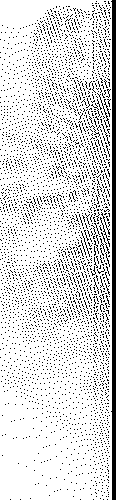
Gather everyone together in a circle, with the butcher paper, newsprint, or flip pad in the middle; if your group is large form more trail one circle. As teenagers answer the next question, begin writing their responses.

**ASK:**

» What are the most common causes of loneliness and isolation among teenagers?

After several minutes of discussion, **SAY:** When we go through times of loneliness and isolation, we're tempted to abandon everything we've worked for and slip back into old struggles. We need strength and encouragement to stay on our journey and not become trapped again by our hurts, hang-ups, and habits. A great place to get encouragement is right here. You're surrounded by people who are in this journey with you. You can hold each other up and encourage each other when things get tough.

Ecclesiastes 4 says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: lf one falls down, his friend can help him up. But



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pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Though one may be overpowered, two can delend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

That is called accountability. When we find safe people to go through life with and people who can help us when we fall, we realize we aren't alone in our struggle against loneliness and isolation.

**ASK:**

» Do you know someone, either here at The Landing or anywhere else, that you feel would make a good accountability partner for you? You don't have to say that person's name.

» Can you think of a way you can encourage someone around you?

Then quietly read aloud Deuteronomy 31:6: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Then **SAY:** The Bible says you are never alone. lf you're a follower of Christ, the Holy Spirit is always with you to provide help and comfort. You can turn to him fer help whenever you want, wherever you are. You need his strength and the strength of your community here at The Landing to make it through the tough times, when you feel lonely and isolated.

**SMALL GROUPS**

Prior to beginnir)g your small group, Jéad throughJhe following Small Group Guidelines with your teenagers.

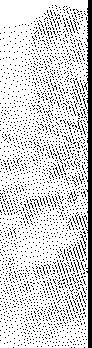
1. **Focus on your ow.n thoughts and feélings when sharing.with the group,**
2. **Please avoid ALL crosstalk.**

**3...We are here.to .support eme ane>th r.** .··. ·.

1. **Value and protect anonymity and confidéntiaHty.**
2. **Avoid .offensive language;. it has no place in a Christ•centered.group.**

Remember,. as a leader you are to.modeí these guidelines for your group .eis you lead the discussion.

Break your larger group into small groups of three or more, with a conversation leader in each one. To prime the pump for discussion, have the leaders begin the small group time by telling about a time (using their discretion) when they felt lonely and isolated in their life. Then have groups each discuss these questions (available on the CD-ROM).

**ASK:**

» **What typically makes you feel lonely or isolated?**

» **What do you typically do to cope when you feel lonely or isolated?**

» **How has God been a help to you during past times of loneliness?**

» **Do you have someone in mind to keep you accountable?**

» **How have you been doing with your journal?**

The leader of the group should close this time with a prayer that offers God thanks that he is always wi1h us.

**CLOSING**

Glose by reading the Serenity Prayer together (available on p. 3 of their Student Journal). Keep in rnind, sorne teenagers may not want to read aloud with the rest of the group. That's OK; encourage them to focus on the words being shared.

God, grant me the serenity

to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus did,

this sinful world as it is; Not as I would have it;

Trusting that you will make ali things right lf I surrender to your will; So that **1**

may be reasonably happy in this lite and supremely happy with you forever in the next. AMEN.

- Reinhold Niebuhr

Don't forget to remind your students to spend time with their journals this week, reflecting on what God is teaching them during this journey.

**CONNECT .TIME.**

Serve refreshrnents of sorne kind so kids and leaders can hang out and connect. Consider having sorne healthy options for those who rnay use food as a way of coping. A ping-pong table, foosball table, or even a few board garnes will give teenagers an excuse to connecl.

**RELAPSE** les son forty-five

**PRINCIPLE 7:**

Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in arder to know God and his will for my life and to gain the power to follow his will.

**SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS:**

*"Let the word of Christ dwe!I 1n you rích/y" (Co!ossians 3.16 NIV)*

**SCHEDULE**

*.":.* **CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)

**f.l WORSHIP** (1O minutes)

**1111111 TEACHING TIME** (30 minutes)

**a, VIDEO TIME** (1O minutes)

**¡i¡** SMALL GROUPS (35 minutes)

**Q** CLOSING (5 minutes)

••••• CONNECT TIME (15 minutes)

**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

» CD player (optional)

» CD with worship music (optional)

» TV and DVD player

» The Landing DVD 4

» 3X5 cards-several per teenager

» Pens or pencils

» Character slips (available on the CD-ROM)

**PREPARATION**

» Pray for your teenagers and your meeting

» Review this lesson

» Gather supplies

» Se!ect songs for the Worship Time

» Copy and cut character slips (available on the CD-ROM)

» Run through the Teaching Time activity as a reflective exercise for yourself. You wili be sharing your testimony with the group next week.

**CONNECT TIME**

**SUPPLIES:** character slips.

SAY: Let's play a game pretending we are other people. Everyone graba piece of paper from this hat; don't show anyone your slip. On that paper you'II see a name of a famous person, either real or fictional.

We're going to take turns telling our person's story as if we were the person. Here's the catch: You can't

**say the person's name. When you're done, we're going to see if we can guess who you are.**

Sorne suggested people:

» Cinderella

» Superman

» Little Red Riding Hood

» Darth Vader

» Mickey Mouse

» Dora the Explorar

» Jack Bauer

» Atiraham Lincoln

» Famous sport stars your kids would know

Make sure to corne up with enough characters so that each student can participate.

**WORSHIP**

Lead kids in three familiar worship songs. lf you have a youth band, invite the group to lead your teenagers in worship. Otherwise, play the songs **from** a CD and encourage kids to sing along-or simply play the music as everyone sits and thinks about the words of the songs.

Then have everyone read aloud, together, this woek's scriptural truth *"Let /he word of Christ dwe/I in you rich/y" (Co!ossians 3.16 N!V).*

## ... ·.•··..••·;;FEACHI:NG TIME

SUPPLIES: 3X5 cards and pens or pencils.

SAY: Last week we looked at sorne ways to avoid slipping back into our old hurts, hang-ups, and habits. We talked about how we can encourage each other and hold each other up, and that daily journaling can help keep us focused. Today we are going to keep going forward.

One way to keep moving forward is to tell your story to someone else. Think about your favorite movie.

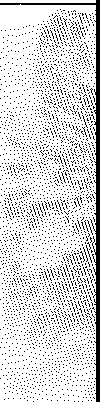
Although you may like the special effects or the actors in it, what you're probably drawn to most is the story. Every good story has a beginning, a middle, andan end-or a to becontinued.

Let me give you an example of one of my favorite stories. Once there was a hero. His birth was shrouded in mystery. He claimed to have a connection with the ultimate power in the universe. This man did amazing things. He had superpowers. He knew what people were thinking. He could change people with the slightest touch, or even with only words.

Then, he was betrayed. One of his inner crew sold him out to the evil empire. He was unjustly tried and was killed for a crime he didn't commit. He said he'd be back.

After he was killed, he was buried, but that wasn't the end of his story. On the third day, he carne back frorn the grave. Only instead of punishing the people who killed him, he forgave them. Not just for killing him, but for everything they'd ever done. Of course, this hero is Jesus. And his story continues.

What is your story? Maybe you're here for the first time and all of this kind of freaks you out a little.



Relax. No one is going to ask you to stand up here and tell your story. But if you've been coming to The Landing for a while now, you've probably seen

sorne changes in your lite. Telling other people about those changes can be scary, but it can help keep you from a relapse, and it can help others find what you have found.

**So** today we'II spend sorne time thinking about and actually writing our stories.

Hand out severa! 3X5 cards and pens or pencils to each teenager. As you lead them through this exercise, be sure to give them plenty of time to answer the questions you'II be asking.

**SAY:** Every good story has a beginning. Yours does too. So, let's take a few minutes and write the first part of our stories. We'II call this the "old me." Again, if you're newer this may be the current you. That's OK. Just answer these questions as honestly as you can. No one is going to read anything you write.

On the top of each card write the letters OM for "Old Me."

**SAY:** On the first card, start at the very beginning; write down when and where you were born. Do you have any brothers or sisters? Where do you fit in the line up?

Next card: As a child what coping skill did you use to get attention or to protect yourself?

Next card: How did you handle pain and disappointment?

Next card: What's your biggest hurt, hang-up, or habit?

The next few cards will reflect what has happened on your journey here at The Landing, so on top of these cards write the letters TL for "The Landing." lf applicable, describe your experience in turning your life over to Christ.

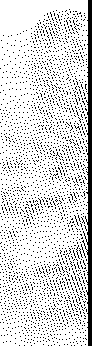
Next card: What are sorne of the positive changes you have seen in your life?

Next card: Have you forgiven yourself and others for pain in the past? How?

Next card: Have you made amends to the people you have hurt?

**SAY:** 1 think that's enough for this week. Next week we'II spend sorne time on the "New Me" and our "To Be Continued" parts of our stories. Please bring these 3X5 cards back with you. And 1'11 be sharing my testimony with you next week.

**VIDEO TIME**



Set up a DVD player and TV in your meeting area. Ahead ot time, cue up the video "Good vs. Great" from DVD 4 in the kit. Play the video-this one is 9 27 minutes long.

**SMALL GRO.UPS**

Priorto beginning yoursmall group, read through the followíng Small Group Guidelines with your teenagers.

1. **Focus on your own thoughts and feélihgs When sharírig with··the gróúp.**
2. **Please avóid Al.Lcross talk.**
3. **We are here to support one another.**
4. **Value and protect anonyrhity and confidentiality.**
5. **Avóid offehsivé language; it has ho place in a Christ-cehfered gróup.**

Remember, as aleader you are to model these guidelines for your group as you lead the discussion.

Alter the whole group has watched the video, split into your small groups, with a conversation leader in each one. Have your conversation leaders ask these questions (available on the CD-ROM) about the video,

with the intent to draw out personal stories from the kids in the group.

Remember, as the leader, you may want to model sorne of these answers for your group by sharing from your own experience.

**ASK:**

» As you watched the video, what impacted you the most? Explain.

» When is "good" not good enough in life?

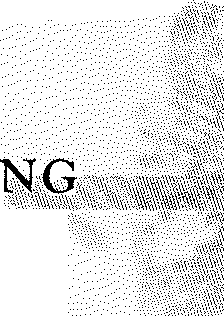
» How is the temptation to slide into relapse related to the tension between good and great in your life?

» How do you think telling your story will help you avoid relapse?

» How do you feel about sharing your story?

" How have you been doing with your daily journaling?

At the end of this discussion, the leader should close in prayer, thanking God for giving us the strength to finish our ¡ourney.

Glose by reading the Serenity Prayer together (available on p. 3 of their Student Journal). Keep in mind, sorne teenagers may not want to read aloud with the rest of the group. That's OK; encourage them to focus on the words being shared.

God, grant me the serenity

to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus did,

this sinful world as it is; Not as I would have it;

Trusting that you will make ali things right lf I surrender to your will; So that 1

may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next. AMEN.

- Reinhold Nietiuhr

Don't forget to remind your students to spend time with their journals this week, reflecting on what God is teaching them during this journey.

CO**NNECT TIME**

Serve refreshments of sorne kind so kids and leaders can hang out and connect. Consider having sorne healthy options for those who may use food as a way of coping. A ping-pong table, fooshall table, or even a **few** board gamas will give teenagers an excuse to connect.

**GRATITUDE** lesson forty-six

**PRINCIPLE 7:**

Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and his will for my lile and to gain the power to follow his will.

**SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS:**

*"Let the word of Chnst dwell in you rich!y" (Co/ossians 3.16 NIV),*

**SCHEDULE**

.".". **CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)

***n* WORSHIP** (15 minutes)

**111111 TEACHING TIME** (40 minutes)

**ib SMALL GROUPS** (30 minutes)

**Q CLOSING** (5 minutes)

**."."e CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)

**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

» CD player (optional)

» CD with worship music (optional)

» 3X5 cards-several per teenagers

» Pens or pencils

**PREPARATION**

» Pray for your teenagers and your meeting

» Review this lesson

» Gati1er supplies

» Select songs for the Worship Time

» Be prepared to share your story within a 5- to 7- minute timeframe

••••• **CONNECT TIME**

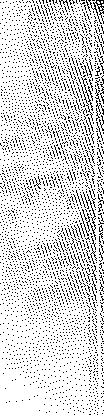
Warmly welcome everyone to the group.

Here's one you've done befare. Have your teenagers and adult leaders stand in a circle and, one by one, quickly respond to a bizarra question. Each person gets just two seconds to think befare responding-the whole group should count in unison "One t!1ousand one, one

thousand two" to count off the two seconds each person is allowed. lf someone cannot answer within the two­ second allowance, they're out of the circle. Create your own wacky questions. or use these as a starter.

**ASK:**

» **lf you were a candy bar, which would you be?**



» **lf you could go on a road trip, where would you go and who would you take?**

» **What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?**

» **Have you experienced another culture? Tell us about it.**

lf you want. ask your teenagers to suggest their own wacky questions ahead of time.

**WORSHJP**

Lead kids in three familiar worship songs. lf you have a youth band, invite the group to lead your teenagers in worship. Otherwise, play the songs trom a CD and encourage kids to sing along-or simply play the music as everyone sits and thinks about the words of the songs.

Then have everyone read aloud, together, lhis week's scriptural truth: *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you rich!y" (Colossians 3.16 N!V).*

**TEACHING TIME**

**SUPPLIES:** 3X5 cards and pens or pencils.

Have students get into trios.

**SAY:** 1 know that there have been times in this journey that have been difficult. Maybe even today you are struggling. Fer the last few weeks *we've* been talking about staying focused and moving forward en our journey. We talked about how prayer and reading our Bibles, having help and encouragement from others, and telling our stories can help us avoid the mistake of slipping back into

what we feel is more comfortable. Today we're going to spend a few minutes creating gratitude lists. A gratitude list is basically just a list of things we're thankful fer. So, in your groups spend a few minutes talking about things you are grateful for. lf you

have a hard time getting started maybe start with, "l'm thankful that l'm breathing right now" or, "l'm thankful that I am here tonight." 1'11 give you a few minutes and then call you back together.

**ASK,**

>> Did sorne of you come up with the same things to be grateful for?

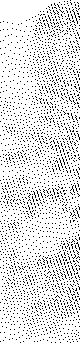
» How did it feel to express thankfulness?

» Was this the first time this week you thought about the things you are thankful fer?

Read aloud 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in ali circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

**ASK:**

» How is it possible to *give* thanks in ali circumstances?



» Does God want us to give thanks even in the middle of bad situations in life, too? How do we do that?

» When has it been hard for you to be grateful to God in your lile? Explain.

**SAY:** Last week we started writing our stories. lf you were here last week, 1 hope you brought your 3X5 cards back with you. lf you didn't or if you weren't here, 1 can remind you of the questions we asked last week.

But I did promise you last week that I would share my story with you. 1'11 keep it short, so don't worry, but ene thing I am so grateful for is what God has done in my life.

Here's my story.

Tell them your story. Make ita 5- to 7-minute version of your testimony. lf you·ve never shared your story befare. just answer the questions in Lesson 45 and the questions that follow in this lesson as well. Then. just share your story. lf you have shared your testimony be/ore, just edil it down to 5-7 minutes. Keep a few things in mind before you share:

» Keep ali graphic descriptions or accounts out **of** your testimony. Rernember the age group you are sharing with.

» Try to highlight anything from your teen years.

» Make sure you make your story encouraging­ focusing more on what God has done for you and the changas you have made than any other part o/ your story.

**SAY:** Thanks for letting me share. Now let's continue writing our stories together. We can actually think of our stories as a thank you note to God. As we talk about the changes he has made in our lives, we are

saying thank you.

Last week we looked at the "Old Me," and "The Landing" parts of our stories. Now we'II move on to the "New Me." Remember to answer each question on one 3X5 card.

Write NM on these cards for "New Me."

**ASK:**

» Have any relationships been healed or improved?

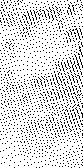
Alter giving your students a few mir1utes to write, **ASK:**

» Next card: How has your relat'tonship with Jesus grown?

Alter giving your students a few minutes to write, **AS K:**

» Next card: What do you do to celebrate the changes God has made in your life?

Alter giving your students a lew minutes to write, **ASK:**

» Next card: Name three people God has placed in your life that you are grateful for and why.

Alter giving your students a lew minutes to write, **ASK:**

» Next card: In what area of this journey are you especially thankful for God's power?

Now for the last section of our stories-the "To Be Continued" cards. Label these BC.

ASK:

» What are sorne recent victories you can share with others?

After giving your students a rew minutes to write, **ASK:**

» Next card: What encouragement could you give to someone just coming to The Landing?

Alter giving your students a few minutes to write, **ASK:**

» Next card: How can you give back to your friends and family who are in similar situations as you?

**SAY:** Now, if we put our cards in order we have a pretty good start on our stories. Take time this week to look at the cards in your stack and thank God for what he has already done in your life. Bring back your cards next week.

**SMALL GROUPS**

Prior to beginriingyoú(smiiilgroúp,}ei:íd through fhe following Small Group Guidelines vvith your teenagers.

1. **JO"ocus óny'oúr º nthóüghts rid feiiHÍígs when sharing Withth.e group.**
2. **Please .avoíd ALL cross talk,**
3. **•we·.are•.t,ere}o.•tiup rt; l)e anoth :-**
4. **Value and protect an9nyrnity nd confídentiálíty:**
5. **Avoid offensive language;. it has.no place in a Christ-óentered group.**

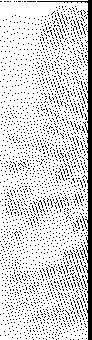
Remember, as .a leader you are to módeCthése guidelinesfor your group asyou léadthe discussion.

Break your larger group into small groups of three or more, with a conversation leader in each one. To prime the pump **for** discussion. have the leaders begin the small group time by telling about a time (using their discretion) when they found a reason to be thankful during a hard time. Then have groups each discuss these questions (available on the CD-ROM).

Remember, as the leader, you may want to model sorne of these answers for your group by sharing from your own experience.

**ASK:**

» **What's one situation in your life that you'd have a hard time finding a reason to be grateful?**



**Explain.**

» Are you generally a grateful person, or is thankfulness more of a struggle for you? Explain.

» What do you notice that's different about people who tend to be grateful, compared to people who don't tend to be grateful?

» What have you noticed about yourself when you're living with a grateful heart, and when you're not?

» Are you looking forward to writing your story?

» How are you doing with your daily journaling?

The leader of the group should close this time with a prayer that offers God thanks for the group.

###### CLOSING

' "'" -,•

Glose by reading the Serenity Prayer together (available on p. 3 of their Student Journal). Keep in mind, sorne teenagers may not want to read aloud with the rest of the group. That's OK; encourage them to focus on the words being shared.

God, grant me the serenity

to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

iving one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus did,

this sinful world as it is; Not as I would have it;

Trusting that you will make ali things right

lf I surrender to your will; So that 1 may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next. AMEN.

* Reinhold Niebuhr

Don't forget to remind your students to spend time with their :ournals this week, reflecting on what God is teaching them during this :ourney.

**CONNECT.TlME**

Serve refreshments of sorne kind so kids and leaders can hang out and connec\. Consider having sorne healthy options for those who may use **food** as a way of coping. A ping-pong table, foosball table, or even a few board games will give teenagers an excuse to connect.

**GRATITUOE** lesson forty-seven

**PRINCIPLE 7:**

Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and his will for my life and to gain the power to follow his will.

**SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS:**

*"Let the word of Christ dwe/I in you richly" (Co/ossians 3.16 NIV).*

**SCHEDULE**

.".". **CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)

**J°j WORSHIP** (1O minutes)

**1111!1 TEACHING TIME** (35 minutes)

**1**•**11**•**111• VIDEO TIME** (5 minutes)

**í**•**l**•**ll**•**l SMALL GROUPS** (35 minutes)

**U CLOSING** (5 minutes)

••••• **CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)

**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

» CD player (optional)

» CD with worship music (optional) " TV and DVD player

» The Landing DVD 4

» Copies of "Road Signs" handout-one per teenager (available on the CD-ROM)

» Copies of station instructions (available on the CD-

ROM)

» Puzzle

" 3X5 cards

» Pens or pencils

**PREPARATION**

» Pray !or your teenagers and your meeting

» Review this !esson

» Gather supplies

» Select songs for the Worship Time

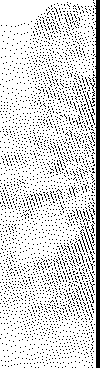
* Make copies of "Road Signs" handout

» Make copies of station instructions

» Set up stations before kids arrive

signs as a starter for brainstorming. On the back of your handout, write which road sign on the list-or one that isn't on the list-best represents who you are right now or who you want to be.

Alter a few minutes, ask your teenagers to each stand and tell about their road sign, explaining how it reflects who they are or who they want to be.



#### WORSHJP.

Lead kids in two or three familiar worship songs. lf you have a youth band, invite the group to lead your

teenagers in worship. Otherwise, play the songs from a CD and encourage kids to sing along-or simply play the music as everyone sits and thinks abou1 the words of

the songs.

Then have everyone read aloud, together, ti1is week's scriptural truth: *'Let the word of Christ dwelI in you rich/y" (Colossians 3.16 NIV).*

**CONNECT TIME**

**SUPPLIES:** copies of "Road Signs" handout, and pens or pencils.

Warmly welcome everyone to the group.

Give your teenagers each a "Road Signs" handout, and a pen or pencil, and then **SAY:** Look at this list of road

**TEACHING TJME**

SUPPLIES: Pens or pencils, 3X5 cards, and a puzzle.

**SAY:** For the last few weeks we've been writing our stories together. Many of you are excited about sharing your stories with others, and we are going to give you an opportunity to do just that. No, not

today, don't worry. But soon. Sometimes this process of writing our stories can be a bit overwhelming, though, so today we are going to put them aside and focus on more things we are thankful for.

As we've mentioned before, we're on this journey on the road to healthier, freer lives. The reason we call this gathering The Landing is that this journey is like coming home to a place where you are loved and where you can be who God created you to be. This journey is for everyone who feels stuck in life­

trapped by their hurts, hang-ups, and habits, or their circumstances, or their addictions. lt's also a place for people who haven't faced those intense battles but want greater wisdom on leading a healthy life filled with freedom.

Today at The Landing we're going to focus on having a grateful attitude in four areas of our life: toward God, toward others, toward our journey here in this group, and toward our church or youth group.

You'II set up three stations around the room.

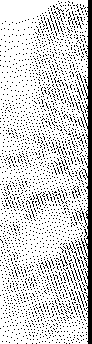
**Station** 1: **Thankful to God**

Print up the sheets witl1 the following Scripture verses.

Read through these verses and take a few moments to thank God.

Philippians 4:6: "Oo *not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."*

Psalm 107:15: *"Give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing*



*love and wonderful deeds formen."*

Psalm 106: 1: *"Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."*

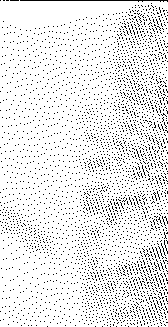
Colossians 3: 17: *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

**Station 2: Thankful for Others**

Set upa puzzle on a table. You are going to finish the puzzle as a group. Here's the catch: No one gets to pul more than five pieces of the puzzle together. lf you have a largar or smaller group, adjust the number of pieces each student can complete accordingly. Also, you don't have to have a huge 1,000-piece puzzle because it would take too long to complete. So don't worry if the puzzle seems simple or small; you'II want to find one you can complete in the time allotted. Then, take one piece of the puzzle out and hold on to it until the rest of the puzzle is complete, without telling the students. Allow students to make multiple visits if needed and even work together if the puzzle ends up being more challenging than you thought.

When the puzzle is complete, **SAY:** As you can see we had to work together in order to finish the puzzle. Although a few of us may have been able to sit down and complete it by ourselves, we had to rely on each other to finish it.

**page 199 you can complete a written Gratitude List. This is a good exercise because having a written list helps to remind us of the things we are thankful for, especially on those days when we have a hard**

**time remembering.**

Place the last piece in the puzzle. **SAY:** In order for us to keep going on this journey we will need

each other. Let's just take a minute to silently pray

## VIDEO ..TlME

and thank God for putting the people in this room together, thank him for placing each person in this room in your lite, and ask him how you can show one another how you are thankful for them.

Station 3: Thankful for My Church and Youth Group Set up a stack cf 3X5 cards. lnstruct your students

to write a thank you note to either the cr1urch's senior pastor or youth pastor, expressing gratitude for providing The Landing as a place for them to work on their hurts, ha,1g-ups, and habits.

**SAY:** There's one more area that we are going to explore, but instead of doing it ata station, we'II do it in small group. We'II be talking about the things we have learned so far in The Landing. Be thinking of things you have seen or heard or the changes you have seen in your lite as a result of your time here.

lf you have enjoyed the las\ two weeks of thinking about the things you are grateful for, 1 want to !et you know about a section in your Student Journal. On

Setup a DVD player and TV in your meeting area. Ahead of time, cue up the video "Thank You, God" from DVD 4 in the kit. Play the video-this one is 1 :31 minutes long.

**SMALL GROUPS**

Prior to beginnihg your srhall group, reád through the fóllowing· SmalliGroupGuideliries Withyourteenagers.

**1. i=oc:us orí yóufown thoughts and feellngs wheñ sharing with the group.**

**2, PIea.se avoid ALL c:ross talk.**

**3. We are\_ hére\_ tosupporfone ánother.**

**4 .• y iue a Pf?l Rtanonymity and confid ntiality. 5,Avóidoffens,ive Ianguage; ithas•noplace·,in a**

**Christ-centered.group,**

Remémberras áleáder yoü áre to model thesé guidélihes fol'your group as you foad the discússion.

Alter the whole group has watched the video, split into your smail groups, with a conversation leader in

each one. Have your conversation leaders ask these questions (available on the CD-ROM) about the video. with the intent to draw out personal stories from the kids in the group.

Remember, as the leader, you may want to model sorne of these answers for your group by sharing from your own experience.

**ASK:**

» As you watched the video, what impacted you the most? Explain.

» Why is it so easy to ferget about the things that make us grateful to God?

» How have you seen God move in your life over the course of your time in The Landing?

» What is one thing you have learned or ene change you have made during our time together?

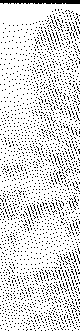
At the end of this discussion, the leader should close in prayer, thanking God for a!I the reasons the teenagers are gratetul.

**C.1,QSI..G,.**

**SAY: Let's take a few minutes to silently thank God** fer ali of the things he has done in our lives. Tell him thanks fer ali of the big things, and ali of the little things, too. Then, if you are comfertable, say out loud ene thing you are thankful fer. You'II know when to start because 1'11 go first.

Glose by reading the Serenity Prayer together (available on p. 3 of their Student Journal). Keep in mind, sorne teenagers may not want to read aloud wíth the rest o/ the group. That's OK; encourage them to focus on the words being shared.

God, grant me the serenity



to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus did,

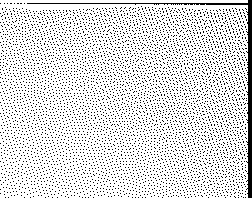
this sinful world as it is; Not as I would have it;

Trusting that you will make ali things right lf I surrender to your will; So that 1

may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you ferever in the next. AMEN.

* Reinhold Niebuhr

Don't ferget to remind your students to spend time with their journals this week, reflecting on what God is teaching them during this journey.

**CONNECT TIME**

Serve refreshments of sorne kínd so kids and leaders can hang out and connect. Consider having sorne healthy options for those who may use food as a way of coping. A ping-pong table, foosball table, or even a few

board games will give teenagers an excuse to connect.

**GIVE** lesson forty-eight

**PRINCIPLE 8:**

Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words.

**SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS:**

*"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires" (Matthew 5.1* O *GNT).*

*"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual shou/d restare him gently But watch yourself, or you* a/so *might be tempted" (Ga!atians 6.1 NIV).*

**SCHEDULE**

**CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes) **WORSHIP** (15 minutes) **TEACHING TIME** (40 minutes) **SMALL GROUPS** (30 minutes) **CLOSING** (5 minutes) **CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)

**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

» CD player (optional)

» CD with worship music (optional)

» Pens or pencils

» Small candy bars

» Copies of the Candy Bar handout (available the CD-ROM)

**PREPARATION**

» Pray **for** your teenagers and your meeting

» Review this lesson

» Gather supplies

» Seiect songs for the Worship Time

» Make copies of the Candy Bar handout (available on the CD-ROM)

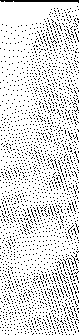
••••• **CONNECT TIME**

**SUPPLIES:** 3X5 cards, and pens or pencHs. Warmly welcome everyone to the group.

This is an oper,ing "connect" activity thal you're doing once every month. Have teenagers get in a circle. Give them each a 3X5 card and something to write w1th (if tr1ey don't already hava a pan or pancil). Ask them to write one creativa question on their card that's designed to cJiscover wi1at their friends in the group think, feel, and believe For exampie: "lf you had the whole day to yoursell, what wouid you do?" Or "Would you rather give money to a cause, or give your time to it'7"

Ask teenagers to pass the cards to you, then quickly select live question-cards basad on which ones you think would be most interesting to answer. Then ask one teenager to volunteer to sit in a chair in the middle of your circle-the "Hot Seat." One by one, ask the Hot Seat person the five quastions.

Encourage the remaining kids in the circle to ask at least two lollow-up questions (total) after every answer from the Hot Seat person.



**fl WORS.HlP**

Have your teenagers hold in front of tham anything of value that they brought to The Landing-a cell phone, a wallet, an iPod, a photo ol their family, and so on.

Then **ASK:**

» What would you be willing to give to another person here at The Landing-right here and now?

No matter whether people offer something serious or lunny or nothing at all, foilow up and **SAY:** lt's not always easy to give something to someone,

especially if the "something" actual/y matters to us. And few things matter more to us than our hearts­ yet Godhasasked us to give him our hearts. How can he do that? Well, God's a/ready given us his heart-and everything e/se that's of va/ue to him.

God wants us to give ali because he's already given a/1. Let's worship God now.

Then lead kids in two or three familiar worship songs. lf you have a youth band, invite the group to lead your

teenagers in worship. Otherwise, play the songs from a CD and encourage kids to sing along-or simply play the music as everyone sits and thinks about the words of

the songs.

Then have everyone read aloud, together, this week's beatitude: *"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires" (Matthew 5.1* O *GNT).*

#### TEACHING. TIME

**SUPPLIES:** copies of Candy Bar handout.

Give eacr1 teenager a small candy bar and a "Candy Bar" handout (available on lhe CD-ROM). Tell your teenagers to read all of the directions and follow them. lf a kid follows the instructions and turns in his or her candy bar to you, give that person two candy bars in return (even if you get only half of a candy bar).

**ASK:**

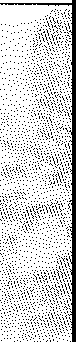
» How well did you follow the instructions with the candy bar game?

» Did anyone read all the way through the instructions first? Why or why not?

Read Matthew 5:14-16.

**ASK:**

» What does it mean to be the light of the world?



» How is sharing our stories like letting our light shine befare other people?

**SAY:** A huge part of this journey is giving back to others. Whether it is your first time here today or if you've been coming since week one, helping others will impact them as well as you.

You may be thinking, "What are you asking me to give? What can I give?" Well, we're not talking about money. Although sorne of you may have extra money that could help others financially, what we're really talking about is giving of yourself.

**ASK:**

» What are sorne ways we can give to friends, fami/y members, and other people?

» What have you learned here at The Landing that you could pass on to someone else?

**SAY:** One great thing we can share with others is our story. 11 you have your 3X5 cards that we've been using to outline your story, go ahead and get those out now. lf you didn't bring them or if you haven't done this yet, don't worry-1 have the questions we've been using. Go ahead and take a look at those and follow along as best as you can.

Get students irito pairs.

**SAY:** Telling your story in front of a group can be scary. So as a form of practice, go ahead and just read through your cards with your partner.

Give the students 1O minutes or so to complete.

**SMALL GROUPS**

Príor to beginning your small group, !"ead through .the following Small Group Guidelines with your teenagers.

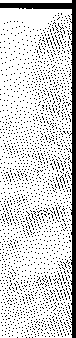
1. **Focus .on yout own thoughts• ánd feelings when sharingwith.the group.**
2. **Please avoid ALL cross talk.**
3. **We are here to support one ahother.**
4. **Value and protecf anonymity.and confidentiality.**
5. **Avoid óffensive 1angüage;** it **has no placeiin a Christ-c::entered group.**

Remember, as á1eaderyou a.reto mod8lthese guideliíles for your group ás you lead the discusslon.

Break your larger group into small groups of three or more, with a conversation leader in each one. To prime the pump for discussion, have the leaders begin the small group time by telling about a time when they "gave what they had to give" to others. Then have groups eacl1 discuss these questions (avaiiable on the CD ROM).

Remember, as the leader, you may want to model sorne of these answers for your group by sharing from your own experience.

**ASK:**



» What is one way you can give back to others?

» What is one way to serve that seems natural for you?

» How did it feel telling your story to someone?

» Do you think you'd be able to tell our entire group your story?

» How can your story help someone else?

» How are you doing with your daily journaling?

The leader of the group shouid close this time with a prayer that offers God thanks for giving us good gifts that we can give to others.

 **CL.QSING**

Glose by reading the Serenity Prayer together (available on p. 3 of their Student Journal). Keep in mind, sorne teenagers may not want to read aloud with the rest of the group. That's OK; encourage them to focus on the words being shared.

God, grant me the serenity

to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus did,

this sinful world as it is; Not as I would have it;

Trusting that you will make all things right

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*1*

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lf I surrender to your will; So that 1 may be reasonably happy in this lite and supremely happy with you forever

in the next. AMEN.

- Reinhold Niebuhr

Don't forget to remind your students to spend time with their journals this week, reflecting on what God is teaching them during this journey.

**CONNECT TIME**

Serve refreshrnents of sorne kind so kids and leaders can hang out and connect. Consider having sorne healthy options for those who rnay use food as a way of coping. A ping-pong table, foosball table, or even a **few** board garnes will give teenagers an excuse to connect.

**GIVE** lesson forty-nine

**PRINCIPLE 8:**

Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words,

**SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS:**

*"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires" (Matthew* 5, *1* O *GNT),*

*"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritua/ should res/ore him gently But watch yourself, or you a/so might be tempted" (Galatians* 6' *1 NIV),*

**SCHEDULE**

.".". CONNECT TIME (15 minutes)

WORSHIP (1 O minutes)

**111111** TEACHING TIME (35 minutes)

**111111•** VIDEO TIME (5 minutes)

'

**iÍi** SMALL GROUPS (35 minutes)

**Q** CLOSING (5 minutes)

••••• CONNECT TIME (15 minutes)

**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

» CD player (optional)

» CD with worship music (optional)

» CD with soft background music (optional)

» TV and DVD player

» The Landing DVD 4

» Deck of playing cards

» 3X5 cards-several per teenager

,, Pens or pencils

» Paper

**PREPARATION**

» Pray for your teenagers and your meeting

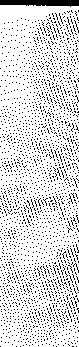
» Revrew thrs lesson

» Gather supplies

» Se!ect songs for the Worship Time

when you were the same age as your card number­ your favorite foods, sports, activities, people, and so on. lf you have a jack or queen, talk about when you were 11 years old. And if you have a king or ace, talk about when you were 12 years old.

Alter a couple of minutes, SAY: Now find someone different who has a card from the same suit as one of your cards-hearts, clubs, spades, or diamonds. Then find as many common current "favorites"



as you can. For example, maybe both of you love Mexican food or a certain store at the mal!.

Alter a couple of minutes, **SAY,** Now find someone different who has a card with the same color and number. Talk about one way you've grown closer in community during your time at The Landing.

**CONNECT TIME**

**WO.RS.Hll?**

**SUPPLIES:** a deck of playing cards. Warmly welcome everyone to the group.

Divide the deck among your teenagers - for example, if you have 1 O kids in your group, they'II each have about frve cards. lt's OK if kids don't have the exact same number of cards each,

Then **SAY:** Find someone who has a same card number as you. Then talk about your "favorites"

Hold up one of the "King" cards from your deck of cards,

**ASK:**

» Think about sorne things that make Jesus stand out from every other person who ever lived­ what are sorne of those things?

Lead kids rn two or three familiar worsr1ip songs. lf you have a youth band, invite the group to lead your

teenagers in worship. Otherwise, play the songs from a

CD and encourage kids to sing along-or simply play the music as everyone sits and thinks about the words ol the songs.

Then have everyone read aloud, together, this week's beatitude: *"Happy are /hose who are persecuted because they do what God requires" (Matthew* 5.·*1* O *GNT).*

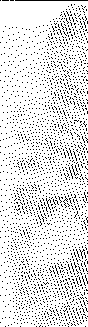
#### TEACHING TIME

**SUPPLIES:** CD player, CD with solt background music, 3X5 cards, paper, and pens or pencils.

**SAY:** Today we're going to work sorne more on our stories. Last week you told one other person your story, and that was probably uncomfartable far

sorne of you. But remember: Sharing our stories with others is one amazing way to give back. Far the next few minutes we're going to write our stories. So 1 have sorne pieces of paper far you to transfer your story from your 3X5 cards. We'II start with your "Old Me" cards. Far the next five minutes write out your story as if you were presenting it to the whole group. Use your cards as guideposts to make sure you hit the highlights, but don't be afraid to add anything else God has shown you.

F'lay soft music in the background and allow students sorne time to write. lf you have new students remember that this can be uncomfortable for them. You may want to have a leader spend sorne time quietly talking to them just explaining what's going on. Reassure them that no one will be asking them to share their story at this time.

Alter about live minutes, **SAY: OK, now we're going to move on to "The Landing" portian of your 3X5 cards. Go ahead and write out what has gane on in your lile since coming to The Landing.**

Alter about five minutes, **SAY: Let's keep on moving. Let's spend sorne time on the super fun stuff, the "New Me." Write out all of the changes you have seen. While you're doing this, take sorne time to enjoy any victory, no matter how small it seems.**

Alter five minutes, **SAY:** And now, let's wrap it up with our "To Be Continued" cards. Just like any good movie that you just know will be made into a sequel, let us know what you're hoping to do now, far God and in the lives of others.

Alter the students are done writing **SAY:** You've now written your story-or most of it, at least. lf you didn't have time to finish, try and get it done befare next week. In the next two weeks we'II be asking far volunteers to share their stories with the whole

group. We'II have you read your written-out story so don't worry about trying to memorize it.

1,•ra•• **VIDEQ .TIME.**

Set up a DVD player and 1V in your meeting area. Ahead of time, cue up the video "Meet the Sanders: Serving Heathens" from DVD 4 in the kit. Play the video-this one is 2:23 minutes long.

¡¡¡ **SMALL GRQUPS**

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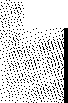
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Alter the whole group has watched the video, split into your small groups, with a conversation leader in each one. Have your conversation leaders ask these questions (available on the CD-ROM) **about** the video,

with the intent to draw out personal stories from the kids in the group.

Remember, as the leader, you may want to model sorne of these answers for your group by sharing from your own experience.

**ASK:**



» As you watched the video, what impacted you the most? Explain.

» As we go about sharing our stories with others, how can we avoid being like the couple on the video?

» How do we know what God wants us to give to others?

» Who is willing to share their story next week?

» How are you doing with your daily journaling?

lf any student is ready to share, refer them to the group leader to schedule who will share next week.

At the end of this discussion, the leader should close in prayer, thanking God for all the ways the group members are giving to others.

**SAY:** lf you are ready to share next week, let me know-1 know I speak for the other leaders when 1 say we can't wait to hear your stories!

Close by reading the Serenity Prayer together (available on p. 3 of their Student Journal). Keep in mind, sorne

teenagers may not want to read aloud with the rest of the group. That's OK; encourage them to focus on the words being shared.

God, grant me the serenity

to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus did,

this sinful world as it is; Notas I would have it;

Trusting that you will make ali things right lf I surrender to your will; So that 1

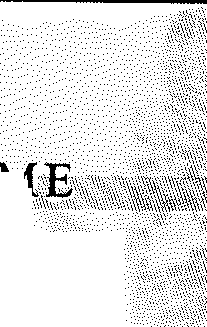
may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next. AMEN.

- Reinr1old Nieburir

Don't forget to remind your students to spend time with their journals this week, reflecting on what God is teaching them during this journey.

**CONNE**

Serve refreshments of sorne kind so kids and leaders can hang out and connect. Consider having sorne healthy options for those who may use food as a way of coping. A ping-pong table, foosball table, or even a few board garnes will give teenagers an excuse to connect.



LEADER NOTE: Next week you will have students share their stories. Depending on the size of your group, try to make sure you have enough stories for each of the next two weeks. In other words, don't have every student share next week, even if you have time. After the first group of students has gone, more are likely to want to share the following week.

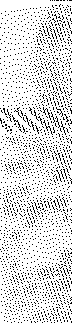
DO NOT make any student share if he or she is uncomfortable or new to The Landing. Remember that this is a journey.

lf possible, try to get a copy of the stories from each student who will share next week. This will help you make sure that they don't plan to share anything that is unclear or too graphic. You don't have to spend a lot of time editing what the teenagers want to say, but if you know what they're going to share, you won't be surprised.

YES

**n**. *¡* **11** *(*¡

**YES** lesson fifty



**PRINCIPLE 8:**

Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words,

**SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS:**

*"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires" (Matthew* 5.10 *GNT).*

*"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gentry. But watch yourself, or you a/so might be tempted" (Galatians 6: 1 NIV).*

**SCHEDULE**

**CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)

**WORSHIP** (15 minutes)

**TEACHING TIME** (40 minutes)

SMALL GROUPS (30 minutes)

CLOSING (5 minutes)

CONNECT TIME (15 minutes)

**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

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» CD player (optional)

» CD with worship mus·1c (opt'1onal)

» "Clean" trash-soda cans, newspaper, milk cartons, wrappers, and so on.

**PREPARATION**

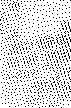
» Pray for your teenagers and your meeting

» Review this lesson

» Gather supplies

» Select songs for the Worship Time

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Lead kids in three familiar worship songs. 11 you have a youth band, invite the group to lead your teenagers in worship. Otherw1se, play the songs from a CD and encourage kids to sing along-or simply play the music as everyone sits and thinks about the words of the songs.

Then have everyone read aloud, together, this week's

beatitude: *"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires" (Matthew 5:10*

**SUPPLIES:** "clean" trash.

**CONNECT TIME**

TEACHINQ TIME.

armly welcome everyone to the group.

Get a bunch of clean trash. You’re looking for things like soda cans, old milk cartons, newspapers, plastic containers, cardboard boxes, 1unk mail-anything that you would put in the recycle bin. Spread it out in the front of the room. Have students find a piece of trash that they think could be used again or be made into someth1ng that could be used aga·1n.

**ASK:**

» How could your item be used again?

» What would have to happen to it first?

**SAY:** Let's talk about recycling. So many of us are concerned with being "green" or eco-friendly and a big part of that is recycling,

ASK:

» What happens when something is recycled?

**SAY:** In the recycling process, something that is old or something that's been thrown away is turned into something new. Lots of times we recycle things that we can't even see being used again. lt seems like junk. Maybe you have a ton of pain in your

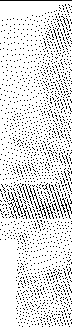
life or you've had things happen and you're just not sure how you can be used by God. Here's the

amazing thing about God-he specializes in recycling our lives. We have all had things in our lives that cause us pain, and we've all blown it in ways that embarrass us. Sorne of us have had people tear us down and made us feel like trash. But God can and will use what you've gone through to help others, if you let him. Listen to these amazing verses.

Read lsaiah 40:28-31.

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i111 **SMALL GR.QbkES-•"**

Prior to \_beginningyour.srnall group,. feád thJoúgh the following Small GroupGuídelines.withyour teenagers.

1. **Focus onyot.ir own th6ughts and feelings when sharing .with the group.**
2. **Please avoid ALL cross Í!ílk.**
3. **We are hereto supporto e arióther**\_**.** .·,... ..

**SAY:** Now we're going to have a few of you share **your stories. lf you are going to share today you already know it; if you're new here tonight, don't worry, l'm not going to ask you to volunteer. One thing before we begin; one of our guidelines is, "What is shared in the group stays in the group." Please remember that this applies to more than just our small groups. So, make sure anything that's said will not be repeated outside of the group. Remember, The Landing is a sale place.**

Then have the pre-picked students share their stories.

1. **Value and.protect anonymity and confidentiality.**
2. **Av.cid offensive<language; it has no place in,a Ghrist0 centered group.**

Remember, as a leader you are to model thése guidelines foryour group as you lead the discussion.

Break your larger group into small groups of three or more, with a conversation leader in each one. To prime the pump for discussion. have the leaders begin the small-group time by te!ling about a time when they "gave what they have to give" to others. Then have groups each discuss these questions (available on the CD ROM)

Before group starts each leader should remind the students to not make ¡udgmental statements about the stories. Things like "Thanks for sharing" or "When so and so said ... " are fine, but make sure it doesn't slip into cross talk.

**ASK:**

» **Did hearing other people's stories get you excited to share your own? Why or why not?**

» **What's something in your life you hope God will recycle?**

» **What are sorne ways you're already saying**

**"YES!" to God in your life?**

» **What's one way other people say "YES!" to God that you really admire? Explain.**

» **How are you doing with your daily journaling?**

The leader of the group should close this time with a prayer that commits everyone to saying "YESI" to God.

Q CLOSIN.G

Close by reading the Serenity Prayer together (available on p. 3 of their Student Journal). Keep in mind, sorne teenagers may not want to read aloud with the rest of the group. That's OK; encourage them to focus on lhe words being shared.

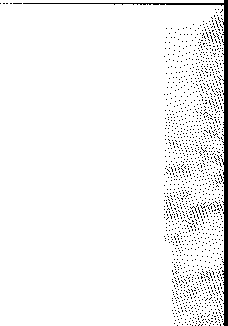
God, grant me the serenity

to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;

**Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is; Not as** I **would have it;**

**Trusting that you will make ali things right**

lf I **surrender to your will; So that 1 may be reasonably happy** in **this life and** supremely **happy with you forever** in the **next. AMEN.**

- Reinhoid Niebuhr

Don't forget to remind your students to spend time with their journals this week, reflecting on what God is teaching them during this journey.

••••• **CONNECT; 1'1ME,**

Serve refreshments of sorne kind so kids and leaders can hang out and connect. Consider having sorne healthy options for those who may use food as a way of coping. A ping-pong table, foosball table, or even a few board games will give teenagers an excuse to connect.

**YES** lesson fifty-one



**PRINCIPLE 8:**

Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words,

**SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS:**

*"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires" (Matthew 5.10 GNT).*

*"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spintual should restare him gently But watch yourself, or you a/so might be tempted" (Galatians 6: 1 NIV).*

**SCHEDULE**

.".". **CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)

**f.l WORSHIP** (1O minutes)

**lli!II TEACHING TIME** (35 minutes)

**ii, VIDEO TIME** (10 minutes)

**SMALL GROUPS** (30 minutes)

**u CLOSING** (5 minutes)

.".". **CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)

**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

* CD player (optional)
* CD with worship music (optional)

» TV and DVD player

» The Landing DVD 4

» Paper

* Pens or pencils

**PREPARATION**

* Pray for your teenagers and your meeting

» Review this lesson " Gather supplies

* Seiect songs for the Worship Time

••••• **CONNECT TIME**

Warmly welcome everyone to the group.

Here's one you·ve done severa! times during the year, and is **fun** to do again. Have your teenagers and adult leaders sta11d in a circle and, one by one, quickly respond to a bizarre question Each person gets Just two seconds to think befare responding--the whole group should count in unison "One thousand one, one

thousand two" to count off the two seconds each person is allowed. lf someone cannot answer within the two­ second allowance, they're out of the circle. Create your own wacky questions, or use these as a starter.

**ASK:**

* **What's your favorite cologne or perfume, and how many sprays do you use?**

» **What's your favorite restaurant and the your favorite dish there?**

,, **Would you rather go to the beach or the mountains?**

* **lf you could drive any car right now, what would it be?**

lf you want, ask your teenagers to suggest their own wacky questions ahead of time.

***fl* WOJtSHIP**

Lead kids in three familiar worship songs. lf you have a youth band, invite the group to lead your teenagers in worship. Otherwise, play the songs from a CD and

encourage kids to sing along~or simply play the music as everyone sits and thinks about the words of the songs.

Then have everyone read aloud, together, this week's beatitude: *"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires" (Matthew 5:* 1O *GNT)*

* + **t EACHI:NG .'.flME**

**SAY:** Wow, we are almost done with our year of The Landing. Sorne of you have been here since the first week and others of you are newer. That is so great because no matter where we are on our journey, God is not done with us yet. In fact, just because our year of The Landing is almost done doesn't mean that

we are done. Next week we are going to celebrate how far we've come, and then in two weeks we'II start right back at the beginning. So there are a few options for each of us. Maybe you've been with us for ayear and you feel like you've gotten sorne help and you're ready to step out on your own. l'd like

to encourage you to find somewhere in our church to serve-somewhere you can give back what you have received. You may want to do that here at The Landing. We'd lave for you to become student leaders. You can help us run our small groups and

give back from your experience. Or you may want to come back and begin the journey with us again.

Whatever you choose, the key is to keep moving forward. We need to keep our guard up and not become complacent and slip back into our hurts,

hang-ups, and habits.

» How will you keep moving forward?

**SAY:** Those are great ideas. We'II keep moving forward by setting aside a daily time with God. During that time we'II pray, read our Bibles, and examine our lives. We'II take a daily inventory to see if there are trouble spots or new patterns developing. We'II also see if we've hurt anyone or if anyone has hurt us, and then we'II quickly make amends or offer forgiveness if we need to. We'II keep journaling, and we will keep connected to the sale people we have met here. And we will give back. We will allow God to recycle our pain and use us for his purpose.



Now we're going to have a few o/ you share your stories. *11* you are going to share today you already know it, l'm not going to ask for volunteers. One thing be/ore we begin; one o/ our guidelines is, "What is shared in the group stays in the group." Please remember this applies to more than just our small groups. So, make sure anything that's said will not be repeated outside o/ the group. Remember, The Landing is a sale place.

Then have the pre-picked students sr,are their stories.

» What are sorne of the things you have learned at

#### VIDEQ TlME

The Landing to keep from going back into your hurts, hang-ups, and habits?

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Set up a OVO player and TV in your meeting area. Ahead o/ time, cue up the video "Beenie Weenies" from DVD 4 in the kit. Play the video-this one is 6 17 minutes long.

**¡i¡...xSMALL GROUPS**

Prior lo begirining youY smangroup, re d thYo gh.the following Small Group Guidelines with your teenagers.

1. **Focus on your own thoughts and feelings when sharing with the group.**
2. **Please avoid ALL cross talk.**
3. **We are here to supportoneanoth r.**
4. **Value and protect anonymity and confídentíalíty.**
5. **Avoid offelísive lalíguage; ít has no place in a Christ-celífered group.**

Remember, as a leader you are to model these guidelines for yOur group as you lead the discussion.

Alter the whole group has watched the video, split into your small groups, with a conversation leader in each one, Have your conversation leaders ask these questions (available on the CD-ROM) about the video,

with the intent to draw out personal stories from the kids in the group.

Before group starts each leader should remind the students to not make judgmental statements about the stories. Things like "Thanks for sharing" or "When so and so said ... " are fine, but make sure it doesn't slip into cross \alk.

**ASK:**

* **As you watched the video, what impactad you the most? Explain.**
* **Why is it often a surprise that God wants to work through us to impact others?**
* **When have you been in a situation like you saw in the video-when you almost accidentally made an impact** in **someone's** life?
* **How are** you **going to** keep **moving forward?**
* **What** are **your next steps?**

At the end of this discussion, the leader should elose in prayer by asking God to encourage each one of your teenagers.

**U CLOSIN.G**

**SUPPLIES:** paper and pens or pencils.

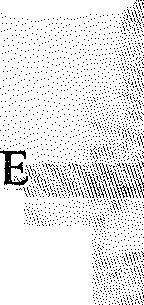
lf the weather's good, wrap up by having teenagers go outside for a sl1ort walk or sit and look at the sun or stars. Make sure each kid has a piece ot paper and a marker. Ask them to think about how God is encouraging them right now, whatever they're facing in life. lf you can't go outside, simply have your teenagers tind sorne space alone in or near your meeting area and do the same thing.

Gather together and ask your teenagers if they could share one thing they wrote as a way to honor God's goodness.

Clase by reading the Serenity Prayer together (available on p, 3 of their Student Journal), Keep in mind, sorne teenagers may not want to read aloud with the rest of

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the group, That's OK; encourage them to focus on the words being shared,

**God, grant me the serenity**

**to accept the things** I **cannot change,** the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus did,

this sinful world as it is; Not as I would have it;

Trusting that you will make ali things right lf I surrender to your will; So that 1

may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with you forever in the next. AMEN.

- Reinhold Niebuhr

Don't forget to remind your students to spend time with their journals this week, reflecting on what God is teaching them during this journey.

Serve refreshments of sorne kind so kids and leaders

can hang out and connect Consider having sorne healthy options for those who may use food as a way of coping. A ping-pong table, foosball table, or even a few board games will give teenagers an excuse to connect.

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**EBRATION** lesson fifty-two

**PRINCIPLE 8:**

Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and by my words,

**SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS:**

*"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires" (Matthew 5: 1* O *GNT),*

*"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritua! should restare him gent!y But watch yourse!f, or you a/so might be tempted" (Galatians 6: 1)*

**SCHEDULE**

••••• **CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)

**/'J WORSHIP** (1O minutes)

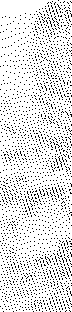
**lil!ID TEACHING TIME** (35 minutes)

**a, VIDEO TIME** (1O minutes)

iai **SMALL GROUPS** (30 minutes)

**Q CLOSING** (5 minutes)

.".". **CONNECT TIME** (15 minutes)



**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

» CD player (optional)

» CD with worship music (optional)

» TV and OVO player

» The Landing OVO 4

» Streamers, balloons, and other fun party elements

» Envelopes with letters your teenagers wrote to themselves in Lesson 38

**PREPARATION**

» Pray for your teenagers and your meeting

» Review this lesson

» Gather supplies

» Seiect songs for the Worship Time

» Bring the envelopes witr1 letters that teenagers wrote to themselves in Lesson 38

» 0ecorate the room for your celebration

••••• **CONNECT .TIME**

**SUPPLIES:** streamers, balloons, or any other elements that make a fun, party-style environment.

Warmly welcome everyone to the group.

To kick off the celebration, invite ali of your leaders to share what they've !earned over the course of the year, and to sl1are their biggest victory of the year.

Alter your leaders have shared, **SAY,** lf this happens to be your first time with us, this is a little different

than normal. We're finishing a year of this journey together and tonight, we want to celebrate changed lives.

Grab your milestone markers, then **ASK:**

» Who is here for the first time?

Ask this question based on each milestone and hand out the appropriate key tag to each student. Also, for those students who wrote the letter to Jesus in Lesson 38, hand them their envelopes to read and reflect on at sorne point this week.

**ASK:**

» Would anyone like to share what you've learned over the course of the past year?

» What would you say was your biggest victory this year?

**lJ WORSJllP**

**SAY:** As we say thanks to God through these songs we're about to sing, keep in mind the lessons you've learned on this journey, where you've been, and where you are now.

Lead kids in three familiar worship songs. **11** you have a youth band. invite the group to lead your teenagers in worship. Otherwise, play the songs from a CD and encourage kids to sing along-or simply play the music as everyone sits and thinks about the words of

the songs.

CFLEBRATION 139

Then have everyone read aloud, together, this week's beatitude: *"Happy are /hose who are persecuted because they do what God requires" (Matthew* 5: *1* O *GNT).*

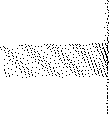
**week, bring along sorne friends who could benefit from what *you've* experienced at The Landing. And if *you've* gone through a full year with us, spread the news about how others can benefit from coming to**

**The Landing.**

••••

**VIDE,Q,TlME, Now, let's have sorne fun!**

Set up a DVD player and TV in your meeting area. Ahead of time, cue up the video "Running the Race" from DVD **4** in the kit. Play the video-this one is 6:35 minutes long.

**CELEB.RAT,lON **

SAY: **lnstead of having a lesson and our usual small group** times, **we're going to spend** time **hanging** out, watching **a movie,** and just **having** fun. Before **we do,** though, **1** just **wanted to** let you **know what's going**

**to happen** next. The Landing will **be** here **next week. We'II start** at **lesson** one, Principie 1. lf you have been with us the **whole year,** please **know we'd** love **to have you back next week.** In fact, **we** need you **back. We'd love** to **have** you **come back as** student **leaders so we** can **have more groups. Or** if **you don't** feel like **you're ready for** that, **come back** and go on the **journey** with **us again. lf** you've been **coming for** a whíle, or even if **it's** your first time, and **you missed** sorne of the lessons, you'II **be able to** start at the beginning **next week.** lf **you're back** with **us next**

Here are a few suggestions of ways to celebrate: please note that sorne of these would require leaving your meeting space for the remainder of your time together this week:

» **Movie Night:** Bring sorne snacks, pizza, soda, water, ancJ other supplies and en¡oy an appropriate movie together. To stay on the sale side, bring a rated G or PG movie to show your group. You know your students and your church better than we do, so make sure whatever you bring is appropriate for your setting.

» Sporting Event: This will require sorne planning ahead of time. lf you have an amateur, coliege, or professional sports team nearby, plan on taking your group to one of their games.

» **Game Night:** Encourage teenagers to bring their favorite games with them. Again, make sure that the games they choose to bring are appropriate for your setting.

» Family Fun Park: lf you have a loca! family fun park with miniatura golf, bowling, or laser tag nearby, consider taking your kids tbere to ce!ebrate. Playing together is just another way to continua to build trust and relationships

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01 course, you're not limited to these options. You know your teenagers better than we do, so do something that will be fun and memorable for them.

**U CLOSING** ,;

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Glose by reading the Serenity Prayer together (available on p. 3 of their Student Journal). Keep in mind, sorne teenagers may not want to read aloud with the rest of the group. That's OK: encourage them to focus on the words being shared.

**God, grant me the serenity**

**to accept the things** I **cannot change, the courage to change the things** I **can, and the wisdom to know the difference.**

**Living one day al a time, enjoying one moment at a time;**

**Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; Taking, as Jesus did,**

**this sinful world as it is; Not as** I **would have it;**

**Trusting that you will make all things right**

lf I **surrender to your will; So that 1 may be reasonably happy in this lite and supremely happy with you forever in the next. AMEN.**

Reinhold Niebuhr

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