



AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I AM SENDING YOU
AMBASSADORS
fostering a new generation of spiritual leaders



MODULE 5

LIFESTYLE AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING **LEADER**

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AMBASSADORS

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AMBASSADORS

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AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I AM SENDING YOU

AMBASSADORS



Welcome to Ambassadors.

Ambassadors is a new level of youth ministry designed to equip leaders with resources to train a new generation of youths to be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in their local churches and communities.

An ambassador generally represents a country or a cause. A Christian ambassador is a representative of another kind; they represent the values, principles, culture, and laws of the kingdom of God. They stand for the character and purpose of the King of this kingdom—Jesus Christ, Himself.

This Youth Department resource is based on seven foundations that are considered as essential to meet the developmental needs of our young people between the ages of 16–21. They include:

1. A Christ-centered discipleship plan
2. Leadership development
3. A personal, public, and small group based mission lifestyle
4. Character and personality development, including outdoor, high adventure programming
5. Lifestyle and vocational training
6. Nurturing godly relationships
7. Community outreach development through service projects and emergency preparedness training

Each of these seven foundations will be presented in modules, with participants gaining certification for each module completed. While each module has a specific focus, there are FOUR elements that will be common throughout the curriculum. Leaders **MUST** ensure that all these elements are embraced to make the experience meaningful, attractive, and challenging.

- First, the concept of a spiritual companion. At the beginning of each module, each participant will choose a friend who will be their companion for the duration of the module. They will meet during each session to encourage and support each other in their role and growth as an Ambassador. Groups of spiritual companions will also come together for specific activities. This builds the concept of interdependence and accountability into the Ambassador experience.
- Second, an Individual Discipleship Plan (IDP). At the beginning of every module, each participant will make a simple plan of how they would like to grow spiritually and acquire practical competency in the area of the upcoming module. Their spiritual companion will be there throughout the module to help and encourage them to accomplish their plan. The IDP helps to emphasize the continuing nature of discipleship and that learning is a continual part of life. By linking spiritual companions together for this work, it stresses the need for interdependence on each other as we learn, grow, and work for God. (See guidelines for creating the IDP on page 13. Participants have their IDP pages in their Guidebook.)
- Third, projects. Each module will have a project that will integrate the core concepts from the module into a service learning activity focused on helping others. This will be an opportunity for the Ambassador class to work together as a whole. You will

find INSTRUCTIONS for setting up your project in the back pages of this Leader's Guide. You might have to plan for multiple projects, depending on the size of your group.

- The main objective is to incorporate service as a way of life, rather than an occasional activity.
- Aim for projects that would call for regular involvement over a period of time.
- Make contact with your Volunteer Service organizations, the local Council, and other entities that could assist you.
- If your group settles on a particular medium/long term project, there is no need to change the project when the time comes to engage with a new module. Use your discretion.
- Fourth, social activities. Ensure that you plan for a social activity at least once a month. Make sure that you always provide opportunities for good and wholesome fun for that age group.
 - You do not have to conduct all your sessions in a building. As appropriate, conduct some in nature, in the context of a camp, in someone's home, etc.
 - In the back pages of your Leader's Guide you will find a list of websites where you can access 'Ice Breakers' or brief fun activities that you can inject into all your sessions.

Of course, CONDUCT ALL YOUR ACTIVITIES PRAYERFULLY.

RECOMMENDATION

It is highly recommended that you set aside your first meeting as a fun ORIENTATION to share the Ambassadors concept, share the Participant's Guides, give an overview of the first module, discuss the FOUR elements and their implementation, discuss the frequency of meetings, organize calendars, etc.

Participant's Guide

A participant's guide for each module has been prepared for each participant.

- The Participant's Guide is essentially the workbook containing all the sessions of each module that the participant will engage with.
- In the back pages of each module there is a page for creating the IDP. There is also a list of the sessions for that module that the leader will date and sign upon the participant's completion.
- Each participant will be required to complete 75 percent attendance and participation to receive the certification or award at the end of each module. Participants can make-up for missed lessons to achieve the required 75 percent at the discretion of their leader.

Fostering togetherness is at the heart of a model for discipleship, which the General Conference is focusing on; it is known as "Together Growing Fruitful Disciples." This model emphasizes understanding, connecting, equipping, and ministering—but doing all of this "together." For God did not design us to grow or minister alone, but in community. Paul writes that growing in Christ is achieved as everyone uses the gifts God has given to them, "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

Thank you for helping to educate our young people to become Ambassadors of Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

General Conference Youth Ministries Department



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CREATING YOUR IDP

As a human being with a nature that naturally tends to move away from God, growing to reflect Jesus as an Ambassador will rarely happen by chance or without much thought. That's why for each of the Ambassador's modules, you will be creating your own IDP. The focus of each IDP will relate to the theme of your current module and last for the duration of that module.

Here is an example of what an IDP will look like. Fill in your own IDP on the form provided.

1. IDP Module Name:

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCIPLESHIP

2. Spiritual Companion: Who is the spiritual companion who will encourage and support you in the next stage of your spiritual journey of growing as an Ambassador of Jesus? They will remain your spiritual companion throughout the current module.

JOHN WILCOX (Your choice of spiritual companion is added in session 3. Leave blank for now.)

3. Personal vision statement: This includes two parts: (a) What do you see in your life today that you would like to change in order to become more effective as an Ambassador for Jesus? (b) Describe how you would like to see yourself in the future. Before you start writing, take a moment to pray for God to guide your thoughts.

- CURRENTLY, I DO NOT HAVE A REGULAR OR VERY MEANINGFUL DEVOTIONAL LIFE.
- I WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP A DEVOTIONAL LIFE THAT CAN EQUIP ME SPIRITUALLY TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AMBASSADOR FOR JESUS.

4. Expected evidence of change: After looking at your personal vision statement, list the evidence you might expect to see that reveals you are growing in Christ.

- I THINK AN EFFECTIVE AMBASSADOR IS SOMEONE WHO IS ALWAYS PRAYING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO REVEAL THE CHARACTER OF JESUS WHEREVER THEY GO. THAT IS WHAT I WANT FOR MY LIFE.

5. Next steps: List the practical steps you will take to accomplish your personal discipleship vision. Think about how these steps will also shape your daily devotions with God.

- SET MY ALARM CLOCK FOR 7AM TO START MY DEVOTIONS
- SPEND 30 MINUTES IN PRAYER AND BIBLE READING
- REPEAT BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP
- FIND A BOOK TO READ THAT TEACHES DIFFERENT WAYS TO STUDY THE BIBLE
- PRAY EACH DAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOD TO USE ME AS HIS AMBASSADOR

6. Reflection: How did I do? This is completed at the end of the module. It gives you a chance to reflect on what worked well and what you would like to improve in the future. You can compare your expected evidences of change to what actually happened.

- I REALLY ENJOYED THESE LAST FEW WEEKS. THE MORE I READ AND UNDERSTOOD, THE MORE CONFIDENT I BECAME TO PRAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOD TO USE ME. I THINK I WILL EXPAND THE TIME FOR DEVOTIONS I HAVE IN THE EVENING, AND NOW THAT I HAVE READ A BOOK ON BIBLE STUDY, I WOULD LIKE TO READ ANOTHER ON INTERCESSORY PRAYER. I HAVE FOUND THAT I REALLY ENJOY PRAYING FOR OTHERS.

basic template for teaching sessions

This template will be used during most in-house teaching sessions. There will be variations in the format depending on the focus for the day.

welcome & activity

2+ min

1. General welcome and opening prayer.
2. A short getting-to-know you activity. As friendships continually deepen, so the ability to encourage and support each other spiritually deepens.

did you know?

13 minutes

An activity that introduces the theme for the day.

mission briefing

10 minutes

A simple Bible study that gives the biblical foundation for the theme done in groups of two or three. It will be helpful for leaders to circulate around the room to listen in on conversations to see that participants are going in the right direction and to answer questions.

thinking it through

5 minutes

A personal reflection time where each participant writes down what they have personally learned from the Bible study and how this applies to their own life as an Ambassador. To be shared briefly with their spiritual companion who will be a spiritual encourager during the curriculum.

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

40 minutes

An activity that expands on the main theme for the lesson. This section is called “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” because an ambassador’s main task is to represent who Jesus is to others, as well as what the kingdom of heaven stands for.

next steps

15 minutes

An ambassador for Jesus will grow spiritually and will witness in everyday life beyond the training sessions. Therefore, each participant will develop an individual discipleship plan that will help them grow as an ambassador for Jesus when they are outside of the learning environment.

At the beginning of each module in the curriculum, participants will develop an individual discipleship plan (IDP) that will guide their personal spiritual journey during that section. Each IDP will focus on the theme of that section. “Next Steps” is a time for participants to reflect on how their IDP is working and to pray for each other in what they aim to do next. This will be done with their spiritual companion. A spiritual companion is a friend who prays for and encourages their own companion over a set period of time.

summary

5 minutes

As a whole group, this is an opportunity to summarize what participants have learned during the session. It is a time for the leader to generally review what has been done and to ask for volunteers to briefly share what they have learned.

SESSION 1

first things first

leader's guide





1: first things first

session overview

- leader notes**
1. This session introduces the module on Calling and Vocation. The word vocation is from the root vocare or voice—to hear a voice. This lesson begins the work of examining how we prepare for the call of God. It is primarily about prioritizing.
 2. The general outcome of this lesson is an intentional awakening to the way God promises to direct, communicate, and guide His followers. One of the main questions young adults ask today has to do with what God’s will for them might be. This module begins with foundational insights about planning and preparing for success, followed by practical challenges to listen for and learn how to plan in order to be effective in work and life in general.

- materials**
1. Pens or markers
 2. 3X5 cards (3 each)
 3. Tape

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will...	1. Understand the nature of how God guides those who are planning their future.	1. “Reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” discussion
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Develop and Plan for new growth and a renewed commitment to establish priorities.	1. “Thinking it through” reflection and “next steps” planning (IDP)
Heart Participants will be able to...	1. Sense the futility of planning without prioritizing and experience peace in the reality that God’s will continually unfolds in an ongoing walk with Him.	1. “Mission briefing” activity and the “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” study; guest testimony

- extra resources**
1. www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com
 2. For a basic survey of organizational principles from a Christian perspective, check out <http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/10-time-management-tips-for-the-busy-christian/>.
 3. *Discovering God’s Will*, Troy Fitzgerald. Pacific Press Publishing.
 4. Another website article that is helpful is a discussion of the ways Christian leaders prioritize their life: <http://www.cbn.com/finance/rbrchristianleaders.aspx>.

1: first things first

teaching plan

welcome

5 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Introduce the topic for this session as the beginning of a fruitful season of searching and practicing God's guidance in to in our present. As Ambassadors work through this module, their everyday choices and commitments will lay the foundation for a productive future (2 min).

did you know?

10 minutes

1. Share the following scenarios with the participants.

Scenario 1

A new teacher begins his first teaching session by handing the class a mathematics test and says "Begin" Then at the end of the class session, the teacher collects the exam papers and proceeds to share that one of the common reasons students are not learning math well is because they need to repeat and practice the concepts several times before they actually learn it and take a test. Then, in the last few minutes, the teacher asks "Do you understand today's mathematics lesson?" What's wrong with this story?

Scenario 2

Eight runners are assembled on the track to run the 400-meter race in front of an excited arena of fans. While the runners are standing in their lanes waiting for the race to start, they hear the sound of a gun firing, and suddenly the crowd is cheering. The runners, surprised by the immediate start of the race, start running—looking around at each other with uncertainty as to whether they should be running at all. Around the first corner they hear the announcer say over the loud speaker, "Get set!" Now, even more bewildered, they round the final turn where the announcer declares, "Get ready!" as the crowd cheers the runners crossing the finish line.

2. Ask the participants, "What is wrong with the scenarios?" Clearly, there is a sequence by which certain things happen and, when things are not done properly, the effort is usually unsuccessful.
3. Invite the participants to observe the picture of the cart and the horse at the beginning of this session. There is an old idiom that says, "You have the cart before the horse." Usually, it describes when people attempt a task out of order.
4. Say: "This module is designed to help young people discover their calling and vocation in life. It is essential for Ambassadors of God to "get the horse before the cart" so that their learning, choosing, and working fit with God's plan for their life.



mission

briefing

20 minutes

Divide the participants into groups of 4–5 and answer the questions given in the “mission briefing” handout.

1. The first activity is designed to get young people thinking about core areas of their life that they want/ need God’s guidance. Ask the groups: “What were the areas of priority? Were there one or two areas where people seemed to be especially open to God’s help?”
2. Invite the participants to respond to the second question that urges them to either agree with the statement or disagree. There are examples in the Bible of how God revealed the future for people but not with the kind of detail we would like. Most of the time, God does not tell us the future but reveals His will as we walk with Him. Moses did not know what he was getting himself into when he was asked to lead the Israelites to freedom. Abraham was told to go to a land he did not know. Even the disciples that sought Jesus out were told to “come and see.” The key is that as we walk with God, we are in His will. Where we go with Him is where we should go!
3. Give each participant three 3X5 cards for the “thinking it through” section.

thinking

it through

10 minutes

1. Give time for the participants to answer the reflection questions in the “thinking it through” section.
2. Give the participants a few moments to write down some of their “one word” hopes and dreams for the coming year (i.e. major, job, discipline, rest, contentment, success, etc.). Invite them to share their answers (as they are comfortable). Tape their anonymous responses to a visible wall for them to survey.

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

30 minutes

Throughout this module it will be pivotal to invite guests to share their testimony or life experience on the various topics that will be discussed. While this may initially seem like a challenge, prepare ahead of time in order to consistently have a guest available. For each topic, there will be specific questions offered, but feel free to reorganize, re-shape, or trim any of the questions to fit your situation (10 min).

For this session, we want to emphasize our need to prioritize God as first, best, and most important in our life before our life work will be meaningful. Invite someone to share (5–10 minutes) about how prioritizing “first things first” has impacted their personal life, work life, and home life.

Ask: “Who inspired you to put “first things first” and how did they do it?”

1. The first question in the “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” section of the participant’s guide asks them to share who they know who organizes their life according to their priorities. It is important that throughout this module they relate what they are studying to real people (5–7 min).
2. As the participants read and respond to the words of Christ, remind them that Jesus is challenging people to move from what they do (good or bad) to something that is better. For example, it is important to tithe, but to tithe all the little things you have as income yet neglect to be generous to those who are poor is a case of mistaken priorities (10 min).



3. First Things First. This question asks the participants to identify what God's will is. Invite the participants to walk through each passage asking, "What does God want most?" (Below is a list of the passages with a brief summary and a few extra Scriptures for further reference if needed.) (15 min)
Read the passages of Scripture given that show God's "explicit" will for us. These passages contain phrases like: "God's will is..." or "It is God's will that we..." and "God is not willing for... but instead wants...."
 - a. Matthew 18:12-14: God's will is that we are saved. (See also 2 Peter 3:8-9, Galatians 1:3-5, 1 Timothy 2:1.)
 - b. Colossians 4:12-13: God's will is that we grow and are sanctified to be like Him. (See also Colossians 1:9-12, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6.)
 - c. Ephesians 5:17-21: Be filled with the Spirit of God.
 - d. Ephesians 6:5-8: To serve and work for others with humility.
 - e. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: To live a lifestyle of worship and joy.
 - f. 1 Peter 2:15-16: Silence the critics of faith with good deeds.Invite the groups to respond and share their observations.
Then ask: "How would starting with these priorities firmly in place affect your sense of calling and your vocation?" In other words, "What difference would this make in the way you search, train, work, and serve in the world?"
4. As participants share which quote resonates with them, listen or poll the groups to see if one or two quotes seems to ring true with the rest of the group (5 min).
5. If there is time, debrief question five and listen to the groups share who in the Bible and throughout history have changed the world because they put first things first (5 min).

next steps

15 minutes

1. Allow time for the participants to meet with their Spiritual Companion and discuss the basic ideas they have about their IDP. This module will require specific attention to concrete goals they make. Their IDP should feature skills, internships/apprenticeships they want to explore as well as personal objectives about the way they listen and obey God's voice faithfully.
2. Encourage them to continue to practice and refine their plans in a prayerful way.
3. Give them time to pray for each other and their willingness to hear and obey God's calling in their life.

summary

Have you ever heard voices that others could not? What was Noah thinking building a boat the size of a soccer field? He must have been hearing strange voices. What about Moses, who re-entered Pharaoh's palace, where he was wanted dead or alive, and demanded that the children of Israel be set free? He must have been hearing strange voices. Or David, what about David? The Bible says that he ran out to meet Goliath. He ran! What voice was



whispering in his ear? Esther—oh, Esther must have been crazy to do what she did. Who was speaking to her? Joseph. Daniel. Mary. If you look at all of the people in Scripture who were ambassadors for God to their world, they all made a very basic step in their preparation for life: they all put God's will first and foremost in their mind, heart, and practice.

Do you remember the "explicit will of God"? He wants you to be saved for eternity. Have you started with that today? Have you invited Him into your heart? His will is that we set our lives aside to grow and become like Him. Do you make yourself available to Him throughout the day? His will is that we serve those we work for in such a way that humility and integrity shine through. Do our employers boast of how faithful we are? His will is that we silence the critics of Christianity with our kindness to others. Have we been good to people today?

Let me ask: If you committed to those explicit things first, do you think anyone who lived that way would ever lack for guidance or opportunities in life?

As you think of what God is calling you to do, be, and be about, we will be exploring the things you can do to prepare today for the life you have tomorrow.





SESSION 1

first things first

participant's guide



SESSION 1

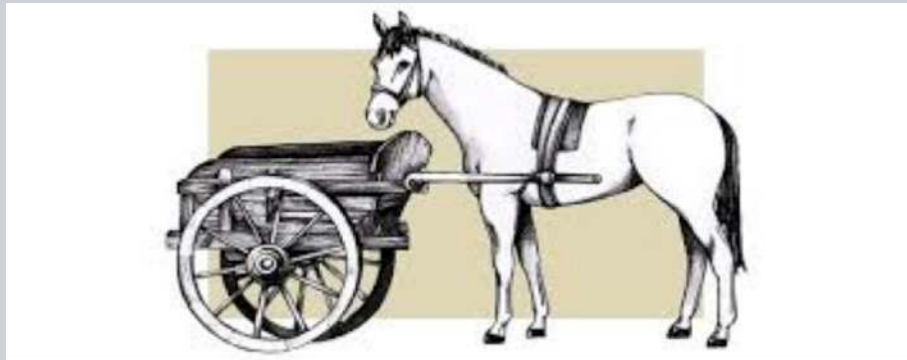
first things first

?

did you know...

Ninety-five percent of all returned gadgets still work but are returned because consumers don't read the manuals (www.gadget.com).

What's Wrong With This Picture?



“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you”

Matthew 6:33





mission briefing

1. If you could get God’s direct guidance on questions you have about your future, which would be the most important question for you? Which is the least? (Rank the following in order of importance with “1” being the most important and “6” as the least.

- _____ What career/job should I pursue?
- _____ Who should I marry?
- _____ What should I do with my free time?
- _____ Where should I live?
- _____ What specific skill do I need training in that will make me successful?
- _____ In what area of my life should I just take a leap of faith?

2. Agree or disagree with the following statement: “God does not reveal His will for us to consider it; He reveals His will as we commit to follow Him wherever He may lead.” Explain your answer.



thinking it through

1. When you look at your own life now, are there things that seem out of order or prioritized in a way that is not healthy?
2. Reflect on some of your hopes and dreams for the coming years. What are some tangible things you would like to achieve? Write your answers on the 3x5 cards provided. (Use one word on each card to describe what you hope to achieve.)



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. In your groups, briefly share about someone you know who has “put the horse in front of the cart” or exemplified the premise “first things first.” Describe someone you know who prioritizes their life well.

2. Throughout the Gospels there are sayings from Jesus about ordering your life in a way that is wise. In the verses below, what specific challenge is made and how do you see those types of challenges embraced and ignored in your culture today?

- a. Matthew 7:24-27

- b. Matthew 23:23-25

- c. Matthew 6:28-34

- d. Mark 8:34-36

3. According to the following passages of Scripture, what does God explicitly say He wants, wills, or wishes for His people?

- a. Matthew 18:12-14

- b. Colossians 4:12-13

- c. Ephesians 5:17-21

- d. Ephesians 6:5-8



e. 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

f. 1 Peter 2:15–16

4. Read the following quotes some have made about priorities and share in your group which comment speaks to you personally. Why?

“Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least.” Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“Most of us spend too much time on what is urgent and not enough time on what is important.” Stephen R. Covey

“Desires dictate our priorities, priorities shape our choices, and choices determine our actions.” Dallin H. Oaks

“The will of God is not something you add to your life. It’s a course you choose. You either line yourself up with the Son of God...or you capitulate to the principle which governs the rest of the world.” Elisabeth Elliot

“A simple life is not seeing how little we can get by with—that’s poverty—but how efficiently we can put first things first. . . . When you’re clear about your purpose and your priorities, you can painlessly discard whatever does not support these, whether it’s clutter in your cabinets or commitments on your calendar.” Victoria Moran

5. Brainstorm in your group the various people in Scripture and in history who have worked effectively for God. Make a list of the top ten people who put “first things first” into practice and made a difference in the world.



SESSION 2

leader's guide

hearing voices and guidance from the gut





2: hearing voices and guidance from the gut

session overview

leader notes

1. This lesson continues the conversation about the way God guides people in His will through the still, small voice inside. Some call it a conscience, others might say it is intuition, while others might refer to the quiet voice as something we sense. Given that we are human and prone to be selfish, it is crucial to distinguish between God's voice and our impulses.
2. The goal of this session is to get participants to identify God's quiet calling in their mind. There are those who hear voices others don't hear. How do we know it's God's voice and not our own wants or wishes?

materials

1. 3X5 cards
2. Writing utensils
3. Paper

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will know that...	1. Hearing God's voice speaking to our heart/ mind grows out of a lifestyle of prayer.	1. "mission briefing" & "thinking it through"
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Pray, listen, and practice paying attention to the promptings of the heart.	1. "next steps" discussion with Spiritual Companion & "reflecting Jesus and His kingdom" discussion
Heart Participants will be able to...	1. Understand that God has placed before each person the goal Commit to check their thoughts and desires with the Word of God.	1. "thinking it through" portion & "reflecting Jesus and His kingdom" study

extra resources

1. <http://www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com>
2. *Red Sea Rules*, Robert Morgan
3. *The Bush Won't Burn and I'm All Out of Matches*, Daniel Schaefer
4. *Discovering God's Will*, Troy Fitzgerald



2: hearing voices and guidance from the gut

teaching plan

welcome

10 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Introduce the topic for this session. During this module it will be helpful to remind them about constructing their IDP. The first four sessions are about discovering principles of knowing God's will and the following are practical in that they focus on developing necessary skills that will enhance any career or vocation (2).

did you know?

10 minutes

1. Before the participants take out their handouts, invite each to take out a 3x5 card or a piece of paper and write five questions that they would like to ask God about their future.
2. Ask them to take out the participant's guide and refer to the claim on the front where it indicates that young adults are concerned about what vocation God has in mind for them. The next statement is also pertinent because young adults want to be sure about their next step as if it is their last step. In today's world, young people are likely to switch fields of work at least three times, but more likely up to five. Ask them to list on the other side of the card several jobs or careers they feel interested in. Have them share their answers in small groups.

mission

briefing

10 minutes

1. In the last session we discussed how God has declared explicitly what He wants believers to be and do. Yet, when you consider these explicit callings, they are not really vocations but qualities that make our work/job a venue for ministry. Does God have a specific vocation in mind for each of us? If so, how do we discover what it is? If not, how do we choose? The Bible may not have a direct or specific answer to this, because in ancient times your vocation had been decided by your family situation. For example, if your parents farmed wheat, you would probably follow in those footsteps. If your parents built furniture, so would you at an early age. If you were a priest or a soldier, it was likely because you were postured for that work at an early age. Also, the various occupations have multiplied dramatically as men and women can do many things for work. So, how much does God have to say about what you choose to do for work?
2. In groups of 3-4, read through a day in the life of Jesus found in Mark 1:21-39. Commentary: Throughout the day Jesus fulfills all the requests and demands of the people. As a need arises, He responds: a demon possessed man in church, Peter's mother-in-law who was sick. After sundown all the sick and broken came to Jesus for healing. But early in the morning, Jesus is praying. Does He continue to do what everyone expects Him to do? No! He declares, "We must go to another place where I am to preach—that is why I am here." Jesus, because of His quiet walk with God in prayer, knew what to do next. Would walking with God



in this manner help you know what to do today? If you know what to do today, would you then also know that your choices about a vocation are also going in the right direction?

3. Allow the groups to consider the following: Knowing God's will is more about knowing God than it is about knowing what decision to make all the time.

**thinking
it through**
10 minutes

1. Give time for the participants to answer the reflection questions in the "thinking it through" section. The first question explores potential choices for a career or vocation and to imagine being a devoted follower of Christ in that profession.
2. The second question is about the deeper calling they have. Our choices grow out of our values and principles. Often, reflecting on those principles can help make decisions about what to do or not do.

**reflecting Jesus
& His Kingdom**
40 minutes

Guest Interview: Invite someone who has done a variety of different types of work to share with the participants about how they made their decisions. Some questions to ask:

- Did you hear an audible voice? Was it something that seemed to come from your own heart and your own thought process?
- In what way do your core beliefs and values inform your decision about what work you choose to do?
- What gives you a sense of satisfaction in your work?
- What gives you confidence that your work is what you should be doing today?

Be sure to thank the guest publicly and offer time for participants to ask questions after the session.

1. After the interview, invite the participants to divide into groups of 3-4 and begin working through the "reflecting Jesus and His kingdom" section. The first question involves thinking about and sharing where they are in their thoughts about a vocation.
2. The task of the second question is to enable them to succinctly say what listening to God looks like in real life (examples below).
 - John 8:47: Love God, hear Him clearly
 - Isaiah 30:21: Listen to God, get direction
 - Luke 11:28: Hear God and obey Him
 - Hebrews 2:1: Listen intentionally or drift away
 - Philippians 4:6-7: No need to worry, listen
3. 3 and 4. In the stories given there are various levels of clarity, doubt, and response. It is helpful to note that Samuel heard, but had to ask for help. Elijah was having a hard time with extreme events he had ex-



perienced. Paul was a believer in God but a persecutor of Jesus. They all had similar core beliefs with some differences. What is different about the situations? What is similar about their response?

- 1 Samuel 3:1–21
- 1 Kings 19:1–18
- Acts 1:1–30

next steps

10 minutes

1. Allow time for the participants to meet with their Spiritual Companion and discuss the progress they are making on their IDP. It is likely that setting goals for a module on Calling and Vocation is challenging. Invite them to share with their Spiritual Companion some of the aspects of their IDP they are certain about as well as what they are still thinking over.
2. Give them time to pray for each other and their ability to hear God's voice this week.

summary

5 minutes

Remember that first and foremost, we are called to a life with God for eternity. We are invited to a life of growth and transformation by His Holy Spirit. We are invited to live abundantly on this earth in a way that praises God for His goodness. We are challenged to serve others selflessly. Beyond this, the Bible doesn't directly tell us to be nurses, painters, policeman, or bakers; God seems to be quieter about specific careers than He is about our character. Maybe we can interpret from this that there are many types of work we can and should do, as long they agree with the deeper, more enduring things God has already called us to. If you are true to God's calling about the eternal things, then choosing a career is likely to be a choice that God can and will bless. Keep in mind a few checkpoints:

- Is it something you are interested in?
- Is it in harmony with the principles of God's Word?
- Can you be an ambassador of God to others in that type of work?

Many will change jobs over time, but one thing should never change—your devotion to God.

SESSION 2

participant's guide

hearing voices and guidance from the gut



SESSION 2

hearing voices and guidance from the gut

?

did you know...

Of all the questions young adults have about life, what God wants them to do as a vocation is found in the top five.

In today's workforce, young adults are likely to make significant shifts in their field of work as many as 3-5 times.



“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe”

Matthew 6:33





mission briefing

1. Does God have a specific vocation in mind for each of us? If so, how do we discover what it is? If not, how do we choose wisely?

2. How much does God really have to say in the Bible about what you choose to do for work?

3. Read through a day in the life of Jesus found in Mark 1:21-39 and respond to the following questions:
 - How would you describe a day in the life of Jesus?

 - Throughout this day is Jesus doing what He is supposed to do, or simply what everyone wants Him to do?

 - To what degree does His season of prayer help Him know what to do next?

 - Is His decision to “move on” callous or insensitive? Explain.



thinking it through

1. Think about the list of vocations you are interested in (that you wrote on the 3x5 card earlier). Can you see yourself being fully committed to Christ and doing this kind of work at the same time?

2. What are some of your core beliefs and principles that you will not compromise if they arise in certain occupations?





reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. On the continuum below, indicate where you are on the spectrum of knowing what you want to do for work (5 min).

Certain	Pretty Sure	Thinking but Uncertain	In the Dark
_____	_____	_____	_____

2. Jesus declared, “My sheep know my voice and they follow me” (John 10:4). Read the passages below and consider what they say about hearing God and standing firm in your convictions. In five words or less, summarize the message of each verse and then share your summaries with the rest of your group (12 min).

- a. John 8:47

- b. Isaiah 30:21

- c. Luke 11:28

- d. Hebrews 2:1

- e. Philippians 4:6-7

3. Consider the stories below of people who heard God speak to them about their future. To what degree did their relationship with God affect their ability to hear, understand, and follow His leading in their life? (15 min)

- a. 1 Samuel 3:1-21

- b. 1 Kings 19:1-18

- c. Acts 1:1-30

4. How did their core beliefs enable them to overcome their own humanness and do what God was calling them to do? (5 min)

5. If you had to make a decision in seven days as to which vocation or type of work you would pursue, what would you do differently this week? (5 min)



SESSION 3

as iron sharpens iron

leader's guide



MENTOR





3: as iron sharpens iron

session overview

- leader notes**
1. In this session we will consider the role wise counselors or mentors play in offering guidance, affirmation, and insight to the Ambassador's calling. Most everyone will be able to identify individuals they respect or consider "wise," however, inviting trusted people to offer their observations is a sign of maturity and an opportunity for discovery.
 2. Throughout this session there will be biblical examples of how our relationships with others can be another way God guides in our character, calling, and vocational considerations.

- materials**
1. Mason/mayonnaise jar
 2. Golf balls/large rocks
 3. Rice
 4. Sand
 5. Water
 6. Cards or paper
 7. Pens

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will have...	1. Knowledge of biblical mentorship and accountability.	1. Bible study and discussions.
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Engage wise counselors for guidance.	1. "Reflecting Jesus and His kingdom" and "mission briefing" sections
Heart Participants will be able to feel...	1. Confidence that consulting with respected advisors will confirm other forms of guidance.	1. "Thinking it through"

- extra resources**
1. <http://www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com>
 2. On asking others for advice—practical sites (non-religious):
 - <http://lifehacker.com/5925452/a-better-way-to-ask-for-career-advice>

This article features three great questions to ask before you ask for advice:

<http://www.pickthebrain.com/blog/3-questions-to-ask-yourself-before-you-ask-for-advice/>

General mentoring site: <http://www.mentoring.org/>



3: as iron sharpens iron

teaching plan

welcome

4 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Introduce the topic for this session by naming and describing the way God used someone to guide you when you needed it (2 min).

did you know?

5 minutes

As we have discovered, the notion that we are called to a specific job or career is not entirely accurate. Our life circumstances and skills may lead us to specific opportunities, but God seems to be more interested in some core practices in our lives rather than one specific job or career. In turn, if we plan and prepare well today we are likely to have great opportunities for work and ministry in the future.

mission

briefing

30 minutes

Direct the participant's attention to the picture of the jar in the "did you know" portion of the participant's guide. The jar is a picture of a timeless illustration that teaches many truths about ordering life well. You can either assemble the ingredients and do the illustration or simply describe it, depending on your time and resources.

Say: Your life is like this jar. Our days are filled with choices about what to do, where we should be, and how we should live. So much of what we engage in are routine little things. We listen, watch, text, move from one appointment to the next. The incidentals of life are like this rice; they can occupy space and fill up a day without thinking about it. (Pour rice into jar, filling it about half way.)

But throughout the day we also have choices to make and voices to listen to about the larger things in life. But because our first work is given over to the little things first, there is no room for the big things. (Show how the ping pong balls or large stones will not all fit). So, the result is that we wander without being pointed or urged by greater things.

But, what if we were to start with the big things of life: Time with God and His Word, prayer, doing the great things He calls you to do for others, and listening to the wise counsel of advisors or mentors? (Place ping pong balls or rocks in first now, naming them as you place them inside the empty jar, then add the rice slowly.)

When we put first things first it is no great miracle that the little things of life still fit. (Fill up the jar. You can then add sand.)

What is more, when we are grounded with first things first there is still room, and even more. (Add water.)

The purpose of this demonstration is to refocus the participants on priorities, but one of those priorities is listening to the wise counsel of godly advisors or mentors.



Invite the participants to answer the question in the “mission briefing” section individually, then discuss their responses as a group.

**thinking
it through**
10 minutes

1. Give time for the participants to answer the reflection questions in the “thinking it through” section.
2. It is always good to affirm those who offer godly guidance to our lives. Give each participant a thank-you card or a note.

**reflecting Jesus
& His Kingdom**
40 minutes

DEVELOPING YOUR IDP FOR MODULE 5—CALLING AND VOCATION

[Creating an individual Discipleship Plan (IDP) for Calling and Vocation Module]

This module considers the Ambassadors biblical sense of calling. This calling involves building a foundation of principles by which you and God can walk together towards meaningful work in life. Some times that meaningful work is a job or an occupation and sometimes He calls us to areas of ministry that are not paid positions. Many times God will call us to function responsibly with the basic activities of life and out of that work new opportunities will come. In some cases we are called by God to volunteer a few hours each week in a specific ministry to others.

Your IDP is your plan to succeed. It should include:

1. IDP Module Name: Calling and Vocation
2. Spiritual Companion: If you are just beginning Ambassadors one of the primary resources for our own growth is a spiritual companion. A spiritual companion will encourage and support you as your journey toward your calling in life by praying, listening, and sharing. This should be someone of the same sex. They will remain as your spiritual companion throughout this module.
3. Your personal vision statement: This includes two parts: (a) what you see in your life today that you would like to change in order to become more effective as an ambassador for Jesus. (b) Describe how you would like to see yourself in the future. Before you start writing, take a moment to pray for God to guide your thoughts.

Sample:

- I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A NURSE AND IT FITS MY VALUES AS A CHRISTIAN, SO I'D LIKE TO PURSUE THIS VOCATION BUT I WANT TO MAKE SURE I'VE GIVEN GOD A CHANCE TO SPEAK TO ME.
 - I WILL PAY ATTENTION TO THE VARIOUS WAYS GOD HAS CHOSEN TO LEAD PEOPLE BY THEIR CALLING AND MAKE A PLAN FOR MY TRAINING.
4. Expected evidence of change: After looking at your personal vision statement, list the evidence you might expect to see that reveals you are growing in Christ.
 - I THINK AN EFFECTIVE AMBASSADOR IS SOMEONE WHO IS ALWAYS PRAYING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO REVEAL THE CHARACTER OF JESUS WHEREVER THEY GO. THAT'S THE WAY I WOULD LIKE TO LIVE.

5. Next steps: List the practical steps you will take to prepare for possible vocational opportunities.
 - EXPLORE WHAT I LIKE DOING BY INTERVIEWING PEOPLE IN THAT FIELD OF WORK.
 - CHOOSE A TRUSTED MENTOR AND MEET ONCE A WEEK TO PRAY AND TALK.
 - PRACTICE BEING AN EXCELLENT WORKER WHEREVER I WORK.
 - DISCIPLINE MYSELF TO SAVE, GIVE, AND SPEND MONEY ACCORDING TO A PLAN.
6. Reflection: How did I do? This is completed at the end of the module. It gives you a chance to reflect on what worked well, and what you would like to improve in the future.

If time is available, ask the participants to divide into groups of 4–5 and complete and discuss the questions given in the “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” section of their participant’s guide (20 min).

Debrief by inviting students to share insights they heard in their groups that were particularly meaningful.

next steps

10 minutes

1. Allow time for the participants to meet with their Spiritual Companion and discuss the major goals of their IDP. It is likely that setting goals for a module on calling and vocation is challenging, but the more specific and tangible the goals, the better.
2. Give them time to pray for each other and their work.

summary

5 minutes

Ask anyone in the “sunset” of their life how mentors and wise people speaking truth into their life was crucial. Without fail, they will be able to name people who helped them with their opportunities. Some may offer advice or counsel when you don’t ask, but don’t shun the help. Furthermore, open your life up to a few trusted people who you can invite to share what they think you might be good at. Be specific with your inquiries and affirming with their responses. Also, remember that the wisest man—Solomon—once said in Proverbs 27:17, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” It’s no surprise that those who become the kind of Ambassadors for Christ that others look to for insight and advice are also those who listen to the wisdom of others in humility and with peace of mind.



SESSION 3

participant's guide

as iron sharpens iron



MENTOR

SESSION 3

as iron sharpens iron

?

did you know...



“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety”

Proverbs 11:14, NKJV





mission briefing

1. It is known that listening to wise people is healthy. It is one of those “core beliefs” or “first stones” of life. It is also known that learning from personal experience can be meaningful. Question: When is it best to listen to wise counselors and learn from their experience? When is it best to experience life lessons personally?

2. In your list of core voices that you listen to, which has the most influence? Rank the following in order of influence:

- _____ Parents and Family Members
- _____ Significant Other
- _____ Peer or Friend
- _____ Direct Counsel from the Bible
- _____ Your Conscience or Intuition
- _____ Spiritual Leader or Teacher



thinking it through

1. What are some reasons you can think of that cause young people to resist inviting someone for honest, direct advice?



2. Reaching out to a respected person for their observations can be painful but can also be insightful. One has to be prepared to learn no matter what they hear. Consider the following prompt for dialogue—written or in person: “Share with me your observations about what you think I do well, what my gifts might be, and where you think I might be a helpful contributor. Share with me some observations where you think I have room to grow.”



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. Survey the passages of Scripture that have brief insights about the role of wise voices in your life. Which passage do you find most meaningful? Why?
- Proverbs 18:1: “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.”

 - Proverbs 11:14: “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”

 - Proverbs 27:17: “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

 - Hebrews 10:24–25: “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

 - Psalm 145:4: “One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.”

 - Genesis 2:18: “Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”



2. What are some healthy mentoring relationships in Scripture? What makes their interaction helpful to you today?

3. If you could ask anyone in Scripture for advice about the big choices you have to make for your future, who would you choose? Why? (Let's assume Jesus would be our first choice—but choose someone else.)

4. How should you ask/invite someone to speak truth or insight into your life? What manner and with what words would you use to initiate the conversation?

SESSION 4

leader's guide

God-given gifts, talents, and tendencies





4: God-given gifts, talents, and tendencies

session overview

leader notes

1. According to Scripture, every believer is endowed with gifts to be used for ministry. Some possess natural tendencies or talents that they may develop for good or evil. Then there are skills that one can learn with a degree of practice. One of the ways God can guide us to our vocational callings is through our aptitude.
2. While it is true that just because we might be good at something we doesn't necessarily mean we need to do it for a living, it is helpful to explore the various qualities that we have been blessed with.

materials

1. 3x5 cards
2. Pens

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will...	1. Understand our aptitudes are opportunities for blessing others.	1. Bible study and discussions; "reflecting Jesus and His kingdom"
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Negotiate the awkward tension of self-awareness and humility.	1. "mission briefing"
Heart Participants will be...	1. Willing to surrender their whole life to God's purpose.	1. "thinking it through"

extra resources

1. Take the Strengths Inventory at <http://www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com/gdi/>.
2. Search the Hesaigo.org site and look at the various service calls around the world and consider the types of skills and gifts needed around the world.
3. Sites for assessing skills and strengths:
 - <http://www.strengthsquest.com/home.aspx>
 - <http://voices.yahoo.com/5-best-career-aptitude-tests-help-find-the-5870110.html>
 - <http://www.assessment.com/>



4: God-given gifts, talents, and tendencies

teaching plan

welcome

4 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Introduce the topic for this session by challenging them to willingly to look honestly and listen carefully to what others might say. Say: "As we meet and work together, if God does not speak directly to you through a burning bush or send you dreams and visions, perhaps there are some other ways God could be encouraging you to a particular calling or vocation (2 min).

did you know?

10 minutes

1. Invite the participants to take out their handout and reflect on when their life, situation, or an event was more effective because of a variety of people who offered different gifts. (See page 63) Like every part of the body has a unique function, all parts still work for the body. Ask them to share an example of someone they work or go to school with that has a different set of gifts (tools) that you appreciate.
2. Think about the idea of "synergy," where the collective effort of many parts is greater than the sum of those parts individually. There are sounds, tones, and chords that voices can make in harmony that can never be duplicated by another instrument. There are many symbols that illustrate this principle, what metaphors can you come up with that capture this principle of diversity in our skills and gifts?

mission

briefing

15 minutes

1. Arrange the group in a circle with the chairs facing outward. Invite the participants to take a seat. The objective is to have individuals write their name on the front of a card and write one gift, one skill, and one talent they possess on the back. This is often hard for people to do because we tend to downplay our attributes, but encourage them to do it anyway. Assure them that no one else will see what they write. Then they will turn the cards back over to the side that has just their name and, on command, hand the card to the person on their left. Once everyone has received a card they are to look only at the name and write around the name a gift, talent, or skill that they perceive this person has. Give a brief allotted time (15 seconds) and say, "Rotate." Continue to rotate and write on each card. Say: "If you are new and don't know someone, write a positive first impression." When the cards have gone almost all the way around, stop the rotation just before it reaches a full circle and walk around the circle to collect the cards. (They will look at them during the "thinking it through" and "next steps" sections.)
2. Divide the participants into groups of 3-4 and answer the two questions given in the "mission briefing" handout.
3. After they discuss the difference between gift, talents, and skills, invite them to think and reflect on the picture of the hands in the "did you know" section. Ask, "What can you do now that will glorify God?" "What can you do now to train, learn, develop, and 'fan into flame' for the glory of God?"



**thinking
it through**

5 minutes

1. Give time for the participants to answer the two reflection questions in the “thinking it through” section.
2. Create the quiet space for them to think and pray.

**reflecting Jesus
& His Kingdom**

40 minutes

In this session it would be good to arrange a guest to share a talent, skill, or gift they possess. (You could invite a skilled craftsman, a Christian professional, medical worker, teacher, artist, etc. Review the questions first and make sure they can respond to those questions in a meaningful way.)

Invite the guests to discuss:

How did you come to be good at what you do?

How do you balance being confident and proud of what you do with remaining humble and teachable as well?

How does your ability glorify God?

1. Divide the participants into groups of 4–5 and answer the questions together in the “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” section.

next steps

10 minutes

1. Allow time for the participants to meet with their Spiritual Companion and discuss their IDP. Discuss the affirmation and the hesitation we have in talking about ourselves. What does it mean to pursue God’s calling with confidence and humility?
2. Give them time to pray for each other and specific opportunities they might have to develop new skills.

summary

5 minutes

One of the ways we can sense God guiding us in our choices for work is through our own gifts, skills, and abilities. Think of those people who are truly successful in what they do. Whether they make a lot of money or success is the meaningful work their energy produces for others, what makes them successful? When you look around and see people who are fulfilled in their work, it is because their work is a joy. Even the most mundane or routine jobs can be opportunities to express joy. Think about the kind of person you want to be at work. A job or profession does not make you happy or productive, rather people who are devoted, joyful, humble, and loyal to God find ways to make every job they do a joy to the world. What about you?





SESSION 4

participant's guide

God-given gifts, talents, and
tendencies



SESSION 4

God-given gifts, talents, and tendencies

?

did you know...



The collective effort of many parts is greater than the sum of those parts individually.

“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”

Colossians 3:17





mission briefing

1. What is the difference between a spiritual gift, personal talent, and a skill? In your groups, make a short list of examples of each.

2. Read 2 Timothy 1:6. What has God gifted you with that you need to “fan into flame”?



thinking it through

1. As the 3x5 card is returned to you, take some personal time to reflect on the words others have declared about you. How do your own perceptions of yourself compare to what others see in you?

2. Take time to pray about the wide array of possibilities that are before you.





reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. As the sanctuary was being constructed there were already certain professions and skills displayed in the lives of the Israelites. Read Exodus 36:1, 8–38 and discuss what kind of training they might need and how they might have received that training. How is it different for you today?

2. Survey the various vocations in Scripture and choose examples that are primarily a skill, a calling, or a talent.

Baker (Genesis 40:5)	Carpenter (2 Samuel 5:11)
Butler or cupbearer (Nehemiah 1:11)	Feller (Isaiah 14:8) and hewers (Joshua 9:21)
Cooks (1 Samuel 9:23–24)	Metalworker: coppersmith (2 Timothy 4:14), goldsmith (Nehemiah 3:8), silversmith (Acts 19:24), founders (Judges 17:4), and smiths (1 Samuel 13:19).
Grinder—or miller (Matthew 24:41)	Merchant (Genesis 23:16; Isaiah 24:2)
Fishermen (Isaiah 19:8; Matthew 4:18)	Potter (Jeremiah 18:2; Romans 9:21)
Hunters (Jeremiah 16:16)	Mason (2 Kings 12:12)
Shepherds (Luke 2:8; Genesis 4:2,20)	Tanner (Acts 9:43)
Farmer (Genesis 4:2; Isaiah 17:5)	Tent-making (Acts 18:3)
Judges (Judges 2:16; Luke 18:2)	Apothecary/modern chemist (Nehemiah 3:8)
King(1 Samuel 8:5)	Banker or lender (Proverbs 22:7)
Governor (Genesis 42:6; Daniel 6:2)	Fuller or laundry person (Malachi 3:2)
Deputy or administrator (Acts 13:7)	Host or inn-keeper (Luke 10:35)
Soldier (1 Chronicles 7:4)	Master or teacher (James 3:1; Romans 2:20)
Jailer (Acts 16:23)	Singers and players (Psalm 68:25; Revelation 18:22)
Publican or tax collector (Matthew 9:10)	Priest (Exodus 31:10)
Scribe (Matthew 5:20)	Prophet (Genesis 20:7)

3. As you consider the list of vocations above, how have occupations changed over time and in what ways are they the same?

4. The Bible seems more emphatic about how our abilities are used rather than what our abilities are. Read the following passages and briefly discuss the purposes of our gifts, talents, and skills.

- Colossians 3:17

- 1 Peter 4:11

- Titus 3:14

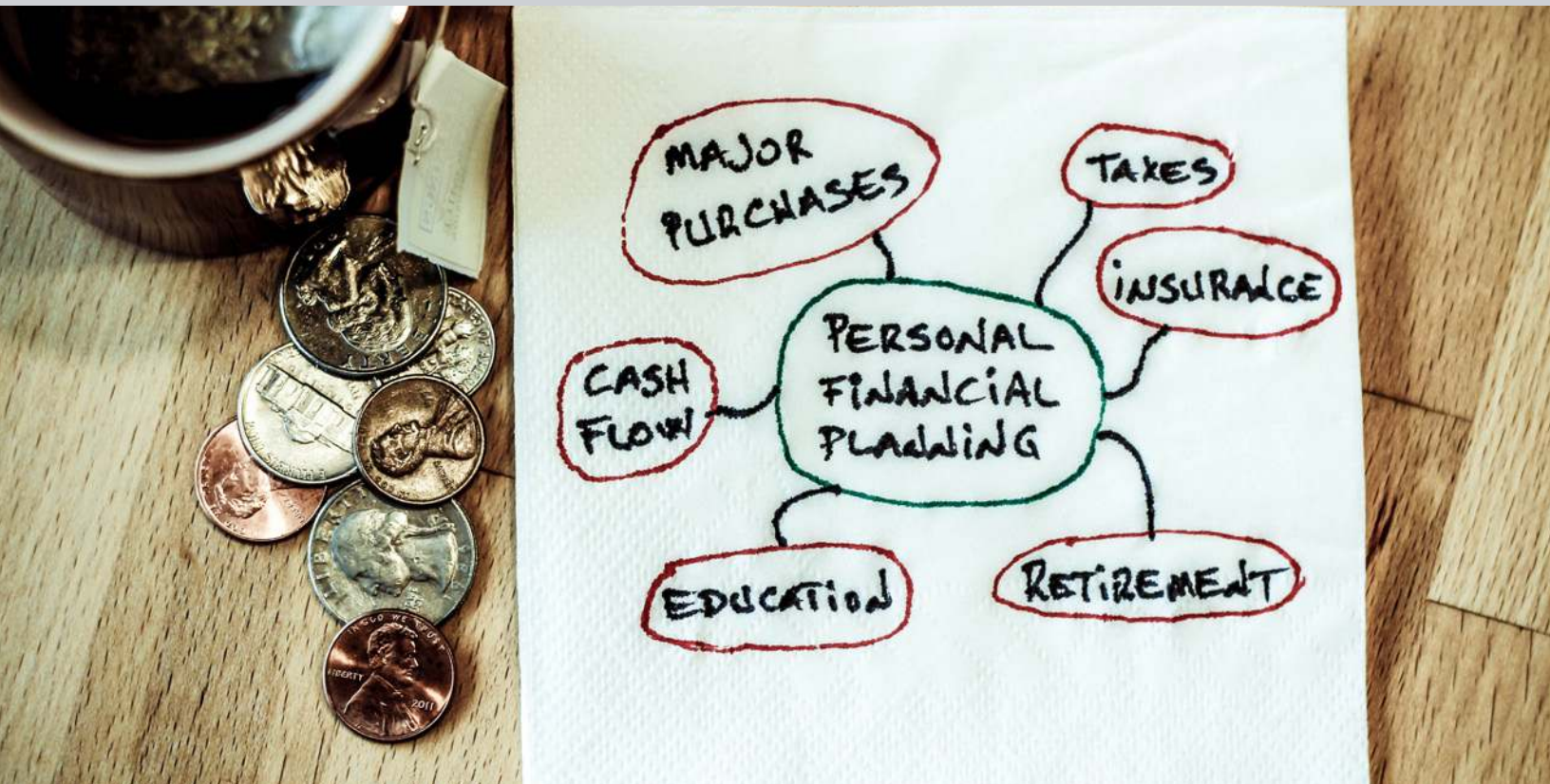
- Ephesians 4:11-13



SESSION 5

financially wise

leader's guide





5: financially wise

session overview

- leader notes

- This lesson offers insights into developing habits and skills for the wise management of money. Those who manage their finances well live with an uncommon freedom from worry. Foundational to financial success is learning to live within your means and disciplining yourself to plan well.
 - The overall goal of this session is to expose participants to the timeless habits of people who function responsibly with the money they make.

- materials

- Pencil and paper

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will...	1. Understand basic principles of wise financial management.	1. Bible study and discussions
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Experience the potential freedom of living by biblical practices of financial planning.	1. “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” and “mission briefing”
Heart Participants will be able to...	1. Sense the frailty of a love for money and a desire for cooperation with God.	1. “thinking it through”

- extra resources

- The leading resource in personal finance today is Dave Ramsey; offering excellent classes, advice, and support from a Christian worldview: www.daveramsey.com.
 - Tips for young adults from the banking industry: <http://www.bankrate.com/finance/retirement/10-financial-tips-for-young-people-1.aspx>.
 - Money Facts: Financial Planning 101 Finances Made Simple For Teens & Young Adults, by Debra D. Green.

5: financially wise

teaching plan

welcome

5 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Introduce the topic for this session as a practical skill that is relevant regardless of what kind of vocation you choose or calling that chooses you. When Ambassadors choose to live based upon biblical principles, their lifestyle bears fruit—fruit that lasts (John 15:16). While being a believer does not guarantee wealth or prosperity, there is wisdom in the Bible on how to be financially responsible (2 min).

did you know?

10 minutes

1. Invite the participants to take out their handout and reflect on the symbols under “preventing.” The three graphics show different aspects of financial struggle: The circle (endless cycle of work with no purpose), debt (the chief financial problem with young adults today), and worship (a kind of slavery to the quest for wealth). Which do you think is the most problematic?
2. What do you think is the most effective skill necessary for being a believer who manages their resources well?
 - Discipline
 - Opportunity
 - Self-control
 - Courage
 - Decisiveness
 - Faith
 - Hard work
 - Patience
 - Generosity
 - Carefulness

mission briefing

15 minutes

1. Divide the participants into groups of 3–4 and answer the questions given in the “mission briefing” handout.
2. As participants identify the most effective quality or skill for managing resources, invite them to share their responses. See if there is a consensus or a significant diversity of thought in this area.
3. Ask: Why would Ambassadors for God need to be wise with money? The challenge is not to be rich or poor but to be wise with what you have. How would such a witness help the work of God’s kingdom?

thinking it through

5 minutes

1. Give time for the participants to answer the reflection questions in the “thinking it through” section.
2. Perhaps you could share a challenging area of financial life that God has helped you overcome.

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

40 minutes

1. The involvement of special guests who have a particular contribution to the topic is very helpful during this module. As we move into specific target areas where our goal is to build successful habits, please plan ahead and invite guests to speak briefly to that particular skill. They might share experiences or specific examples of how they function or what they have learned. In this session it would be helpful to get a guest who has experience making hard choices about delayed gratification or planning for emergencies. Choose the interview questions accordingly. Here are a few suggestions: What is the most difficult habit to develop when it comes to money management? If there is one thing we could do this week to change our financial practices for the better, what would make the greatest difference?
2. Divide the participants into groups of 4–6 and ask them to work through the “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” questions. You can appropriate time for them to complete the following questions and then debrief on what you think are the most important highlights, or you can let the groups work on one question at a time and debrief each question as you progress.
 - Question #1 Recognize that God is the Source of all. What do Philippians 4:19 & 2 Corinthians 9:8 declare about the source? How can Ambassadors keep in the forefront of their minds that God is good and in control?
 - Question #2 Living simply on the margin (flexible tension where there is room for increase and decrease). The same principle applies to time: you can arrive early, on time, or late. If you aim at arriving on time but things beyond your control slow you down, you are late. It is because you did not allow for margin. If you arrive too early, precious time is wasted. The minutes add up. Think of the stress that is incurred over the course of your life because you are racing so as not to be late. The same is true with finances—planning wisely means allowing a margin for income and expenses. There is a theme of “be prepared” throughout Scripture:
Be ready for Sabbath (Exodus 20:8–11)
Be ready to share, preach, and proclaim (2 Timothy 4:1,2)
Be ready for Christ to come (Matthew 24:42–44)
 - Question #3. Intentionally saving money is not just for the rich but for all who desire not to be taken off balance by trouble. The principle is to make saving money (no matter how much you make) a part of your planning so that when emergencies come (and they will), you are prepared. Discuss why you think saving is so hard for humanity.
 - Question # 4. Avoiding Debt. After reading Psalm 37:21 and Proverbs 22:7, discuss the problem with debt and what you should do about it. Use the same scenario we used for savings to look at the problem of debt.



You might add this challenge:

If you are not in debt, avoid it.

If you are in debt but not overwhelmed by it, eradicate it.

If you are in over your head, faithfully erode it.

- Question #5. Those who budget, plan, and execute their intentions find ways to face the hardships that inevitably come. Proverbs 23:23 says, “Buy the truth and sell it not; also wisdom and instruction, and understanding.” Knowing what to do when married to actually doing it produces a good result.

Some specific areas to plan:

- actual income (err on the lower side to have margin)
 - expenses
 - plan on saving specific amounts or percentages
 - map out a long term plan to get out of debt—even if it takes years!
 - set specific goals
 - identify what you can do without but also what you choose to do without
 - get counsel from a wise person if you are overwhelmed
- Question #6. Practice contentment. What does it mean to be content?
Use the following sayings to practice a lifestyle of contentment:
 - Use it up
 - Wear it out
 - Make do
 - Do without

next steps

15 minutes

1. Allow time for the participants to meet with their Spiritual Companion and discuss the goals they have made for the IDP. When it comes to making decisions about their financial situation, invite them to be specific and set manageable goals to achieve.
2. Give them time to pray for each other and their work. Sometime it is difficult to make choices that move us out of our comfort zone. Encourage them to hold each other accountable and lift each other up in prayer.

summary

5 minutes

Of all the things Jesus spoke of, money is in the top five topics. Because we were created to work, produce, and manage, we are given a sacred trust. Something happened since those commands were given in the garden. Humanity tends to cling to life on earth without regard to greater principles or knowledge of God. So much pain and sadness exists and much of it revolves around money. As Ambassadors, we must learn to manage our finances in a way that brings glory to God and hope to others. As it was said throughout this session and will repeat again—the rain falls on everyone. How we are prepared for the rain enables us to negotiate the bad



weather. If we are unprepared—no jacket, no umbrella, no place for shelter—then the rain does more damage than if we had been prepared.

Simple challenges are not always simple to do:

Be content with what you have. Why? Because your situation does not change by worrying, complaining, or feeling outraged. Those who are content learn to be resourceful with what they have, and in that state God is able to bless you and trust you with more.

Be careful. Plan. Prepare. Make choices today to live thoughtfully so that later you may have more options.

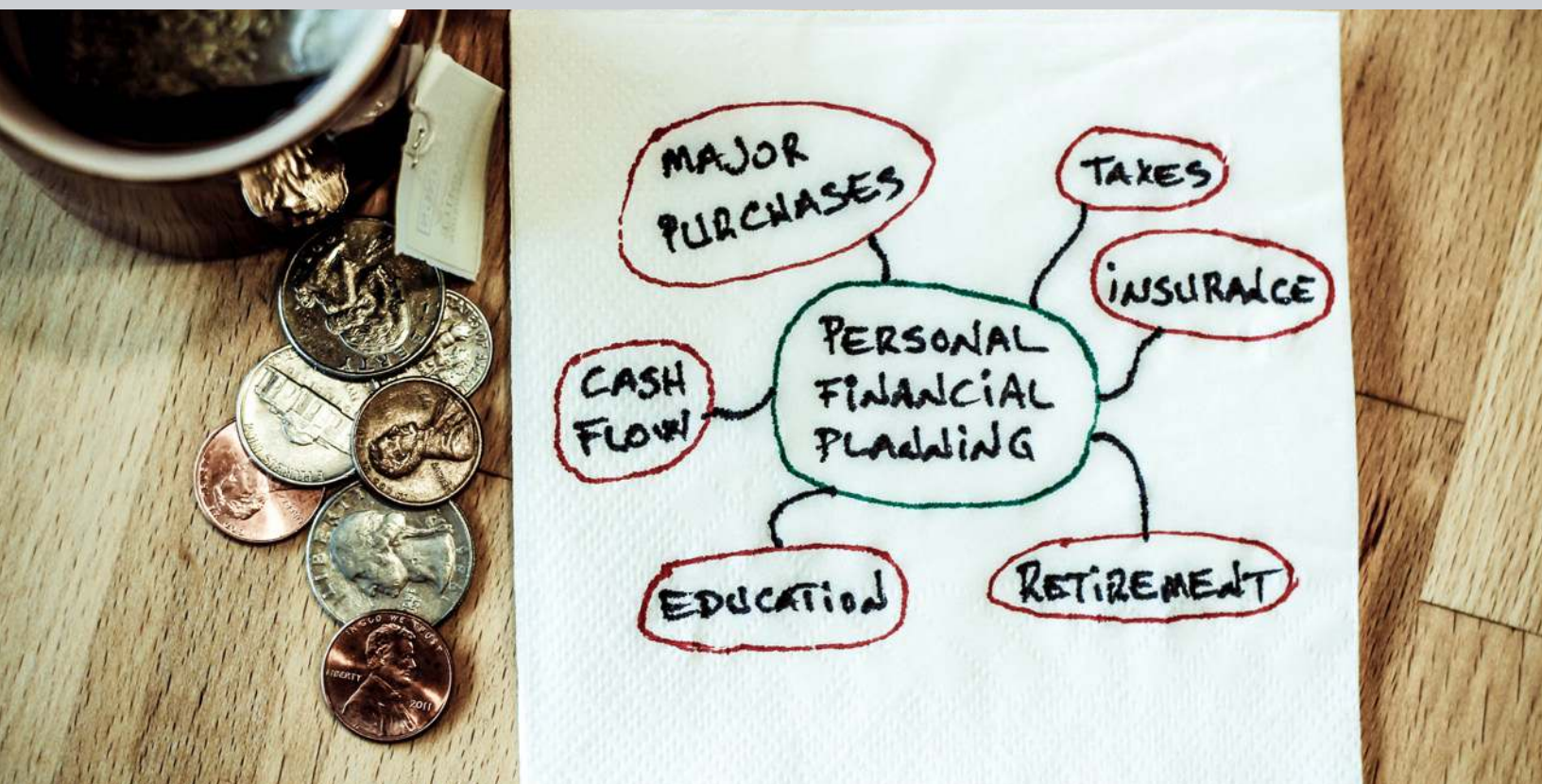
Be consistent. Develop the habit of delayed gratification and avoid being trapped by wanting things immediately. Wait to buy. Let the moment pass and see if it is something you need. By simply giving it time, you give yourself time to check whether this is a want or a need.



SESSION 5

financially wise

participant's guide



SESSION 5

financially wise

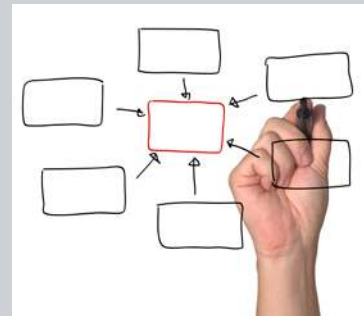
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did you know...

Preventing



Planning



“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?”

Luke 14:28





mission briefing

1. What do you think is the most effective skill/quality necessary for being a believer who manages their resources well? (Circle two and be ready to say why you think this is true.)

Discipline	Faith	Talent
Opportunity	Hard work	Time management
Self-control	Patience	Single-mindedness
Courage	Generosity	Gratefulness
Decisiveness	Carefulness	Contentment

2. When it comes to being financially wise, planning is key. Consider the series of parables Jesus told in Luke 14:25–33 about being prepared. What do the illustrations teach about our approach to personal finances?



thinking it through

1. When you think about the list of qualities for wise money management, which do you struggle with the most?

2. If you were to commit one aspect of your financial life to God in prayer, which area would you want to start with? (Work, school, spending, saving, giving, wasting, etc.)





reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. **Recognize that God is the Source of all.** What do Philippians 4:19 & 2 Corinthians 9:8 declare about the Source? How can Ambassadors keep in the forefront of their minds that God is good and in control?

2. **Living simply on the margin** (flexible tension where there is room for increase and decrease) is planning for the unplanned surprises along the way. Planning wisely means allowing a margin for income and expenses. “Be prepared” is a common command in Scripture. Recall and share the many ways in which we are supposed to “be ready” and discuss how that relates to living on the margin financially.

3. **Intentionally saving money** is not just for the rich but for all who desire not to be taken off balance by trouble. Read the wisdom in Proverbs 22:3 and briefly share why you think saving money is worth doing and why it is so hard to do.

Consider the following formula for saving money: If your income is \$12,000 a year and you save \$1,000 a year and earn six percent interest compounded annually, you would have \$24,672.56 at the end of fifteen years.

If at the end of fifteen years of saving faithfully you had a child that needed to go to college or you wanted to purchase a house, you could draw \$2,000 a year for ten years and still have \$15,322.17 set aside at the end.

The principle is to make saving money (no matter how much you make) a part of your planning so that when emergencies come (and they will) you are prepared.

4. **Avoiding Debt.** Psalm 37:21 and Proverbs 22:7 describe the problem of incurring debt. Read the passages and discuss the following example as a group. Using the same scenario we used for savings, take a look at the problem of debt.

Let’s say you make \$12,000 a year and, instead of saving \$1,000, you go into debt to buy a car, computer, or some furniture. If you did not pay it back but continued the debt at ten percent interest, in fifteen years you would owe \$34,949.74. Many feel trapped, depressed, and like they are in a vicious cycle with no eminent end to their trouble. The problem is not the economy, debtors,



unemployment, or capitalism. The problem has to do with our desire to have something now and pay later. The rain falls on both, so we know that trouble can be around the corner, but the same trouble can either ruin your day or ruin your life depending on your choices.

5. Those who **budget, plan, and execute** their intentions find ways to face the hardships that inevitably come. Proverbs 23:23 says, “Buy the truth and sell it not; also wisdom and instruction, and understanding.” Knowing what to do when married to actually doing it produces a good result. What are some specific aspects of your financial life that you should plan?
-
-
-

6. Practice contentment. What does it mean to be content? Read 2 Corinthians 6:4–10 and try to imagine the diverse experiences the apostles had throughout the course of their life. How does this challenge from Paul resonate with the culture you live in today?
-
-
-

SESSION 6

materialism and the heart

leader's guide





6: materialism and the heart

session overview

- leader notes**
1. Throughout this module you will discover that some sessions focus on practical topics such as finance, giving, work ethic, and integrity. All of the sessions grow out of God’s call to young people to prepare for a life of work.
 2. This session urges Ambassadors to renew their focus on the kind of treasure they choose to value. There are so many types of material riches that call to young people, but God is calling for a generation to know the difference between temporary and eternal things.

- materials**
1. Writing utensils
 2. Paper

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will know...	1. The trappings of materialism and the treasure of eternity.	1. Bible study and discussions
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Choose to deny or surrender an earthly treasure.	1. “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” and “mission briefing” sections
Heart Participants will be able to feel...	1. Confident in the choice for better treasure.	1. “thinking it through”

- extra resources**
1. Good books on the Christian struggle against materialism:
 - 7 Experiment: Staging Your Own Mutiny Against Excess, Jen Hatmaker
 - Rolling Away the Stone: Mary Baker Eddy’s Challenge to Materialism
 - Idol Lies: Facing the Truth about Our Deepest Desires, by Dee Brestin
 2. Web Articles:
 - <http://www.christianitytoday.com/iyf/hottopics/faithvalues/7c1026.html>
 - <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/1999/may24/9t629b.html>

6: materialism and the heart

teaching plan

welcome

5 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. In this week's session we continue the conversation about calling and vocation, looking specifically at how Ambassadors for God should relate to material things. The basic question is: How do we relate to material things when our first call is to "love the Lord with all our hearts, soul, mind and strength"? (2 min).

did you know?

15 minutes

1. Invite the participants to take out their handout and consider the opening statistic about advertisers and young consumers. Ask the participants to think about why it might be true that teens and young adults are most susceptible to materialism.
2. Ask: What is it about the young person's season in life, facing imminent choices about career, family, and future, that provides such fertile soil for both materialism and for a deep commitment to God?

mission

briefing

15 minutes

1. Say: The simple definition for materialism is the "preoccupation with material things or temporary and superficial endeavors rather than on spiritual or eternal things." Since we live in a world of both material and spiritual things, how can we negotiate the dangers and seize the opportunities of being a part of this world?
2. Divide the participants into groups of 3-4 and answer the questions given in the "mission briefing" handout. Debrief with the whole group by asking them to identify the three things their peers seem to be preoccupied with the most.

thinking

it through

5 minutes

1. Give time for the participants to answer the reflection questions in the "thinking it through" section.
2. Challenge them to choose one thing to do without or create some distance from that may be a materialistic preoccupation.

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

40 minutes

1. Divide the participants into groups of 4-5 and invite them to work through the questions in the "reflecting Jesus and His kingdom" section.
2. The passage in 1 Timothy 6:2-10 has many challenges to a young person (Timothy) that are relevant today. One of the important features of this passage has to do with the fact that what Paul and Timothy struggled with long ago is still a problem today. The problems of sin cause people to be selfish and self-sufficient. You may notice those tendencies in the passage. Also, the passage seems to indicate that these poor choices are the work of people who learn to love something other than God.



3. The wisdom from Proverbs and the words of Christ describe the folly of worldly pursuits and the eternal goodness of devotion to God. The challenge is to summarize the passage into seven words, which makes them work hard at understanding the meaning of the passage. Invite the participants to share their summaries with the rest of the group.
4. When we ask participants to make three rules or principles, we are urging them to develop their own way to apply the truths of Scripture.

next steps

15 minutes

1. Allow time for the participants to meet with their Spiritual Companion and consider how they might make tangible progress on their IDP this week. What specific goals have you set that can be achieved in the coming days?
2. Take time to encourage each other and pray that you and your partner will grow to love the things of God rather than the empty things of this world.

summary

5 minutes

It is no surprise that materialism permeates our world. At the very beginning, it was Lucifer who tempted Adam and Eve with the possibility that if they ate of the tree, they could have more. It seemed so harmless, and what added to the temptation was the idea that God might be withholding something good from them. Today, there is a yearning for earthly things: technology, money, clothes, cars. All these things will rot, rust, and fade away with time. Many of these items are useful, but do they deserve your love? “Love God with all your heart, soul, and strength.” Perhaps the most striking thing Jesus said about our stuff is “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” In other words, if you put your time, energy, work, and value on something—you will ultimately love it. You can learn to love something. You can learn to love someone. It simply requires you to invest in it. Has God offered you something worth all of your effort, energy, and interest? His kingdom is not about computers, cell phones, new shoes, or a car. His Ambassadors may wear shoes, drive a car, and own a cell phone, but those who are followers of Christ love Him; no worldly possession is more valuable than their relationship with Jesus. Maybe we should all ask, “What am I learning to love?” For, where your treasure is...





SESSION 6

participant's guide

materialism and the heart



SESSION 6

materialism and the heart



did you know...

The rate of materialism among young people grows in direct proportion to the efforts of advertisers targeting them. When advertisers promote products or services to consumers, the most responsive audience is young people between the ages of 15 to 25. Why do you think this is the case?



“Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless”

Ecclesiastes 5:10





mission briefing

- Below is a spectrum of words that show the progression of materialism. Read the progression words from left to right and identify common areas in your culture where people are preoccupied or obsessed with “things.”

Obsession Preoccupation Fascination Infatuation Appreciation

- Compare the messages of Deuteronomy 6:5 and Matthew 22:37-38 with the warning given in Luke 12:15.

- How does an innocent appreciation for a material item turn to a dangerous affection?

- How can a healthy appreciation for things be balanced with gratitude and a deep love for God?

- Is it possible for believers to like their things and still love God? Explain.



thinking it through

- What are some of the “things” you treasure that may be problematic? What are some of the things you treasure most of all that are sometimes easy to forget because they are not material?

- Reflect and make a short list of what you are grateful for. What items on the list are material or temporary? What items are eternal? What can you do this week to practice some distance from the “things” that preoccupy you?





reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. Read 1 Timothy 6:2–10 with fellow Ambassadors (first by yourself, and then as a group) and ask the following questions of the passage.

- When you read this section of Scripture, what problems do you see Paul trying to address? Why?

- Is the tendency toward materialism a specific choice or the result of many small choices?

- How do you know when you have cultivated a “love of money”?

2. Read the following verses that counsel believers about the nature of material desires. Summarize each verse in seven words.

- Proverbs 28:20

- Proverbs 23:5

- Proverbs 11:4

- Matthew 6:24

- Matthew 6:19–22

3. Based upon the passages of Scripture and personal experience, compose three rules or life principles to live by that will help you avoid preoccupation with material things.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____



4. Sometimes we are more impressed or enamored by material things because they seem more real than spiritual blessings—you can touch them, own them, use them. But the kingdom of God offers things that are hard to touch, taste, and see. How might you develop a sense that eternal things are, in fact, very real?



SESSION 7

work ethic

leader's guide





7: work ethic

session overview

leader notes

1. This lesson presses the virtue of work into the conversation about calling and vocation. That humanity should work is obvious, but why and how they should is something the Bible speaks to.
2. The overall goal of this session is to inspire Ambassadors to be the kind of workers that bring glory to God. Whether launching into professional work or working to earn your way through school, your work ethic matters.

materials

1. Writing utensils
2. Paper

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will understand...	1. The way we work sends a message about the kind of people we are.	1. Bible study and discussions
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Do great work in the coming week that goes the “extra mile.”	1. “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” and “mission briefing” sections
Heart Participants will be able to feel...	1. A calling to raise the standard of work to be more than what we do for a paycheck.	1. “thinking it through”

extra resources

1. Sites that show what employers are looking for:
 - <http://careers.theguardian.com/careers-blog/specialist-generalist-what-do-employers-want>
 - http://www.prospects.ac.uk/applying_for_jobs_what_skills_do_employers_want.htm
 - <http://theundercoverrecruiter.com/top-7-qualities-employers-are-looking-candidates/>
2. Books that are helpful:
 - Keeping the Promise: A Work Ethic for Doing Things Right, by Larry Kennedy
 - The Work Ethic: Working Values and Values That Work, by David Cherrington
 - Working for Good: Making a Difference While Making a Living, by Jeff Klein
3. 1 Peter 2:18-21



7: work ethic teaching plan

welcome

2 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Introduce the topic for this session as a practical challenge to increase your influence as a worker (2 min).

did you know?

10 minutes

1. Introduce this session by telling a story or giving an example of someone who goes the extra mile in their work. Who do you know that works in such a way that their employers never want to lose them?
2. Work is not always an ideal place to live out your witness for Christ. We are called to say something about ourselves and about our God by the way we work.

mission

briefing

15 minutes

1. Divide the participants into groups of 3-4 to answer the questions in the “mission briefing” handout. After they have a chance to answer the first question, survey the participants as to which qualities ranked the highest and why.
2. The story of Joseph demonstrates his devotion to duty in spite of all kinds of obstacles. Urge the participants to look carefully at the story for insights into Joseph’s work ethic.
3. In spite of unfair circumstances, Joseph was able to succeed. What lessons can you draw from this story that might help someone who is working hard but being treated unfairly?

thinking

it through

5 minutes

1. Allow time for participants to take a few moments and reflect on their work history. What could they have done better? What did they do well? What witness did their work make on those around them?
2. What is one attribute that was mentioned in the list they chose from that they want to practice this week?

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

40 minutes

1. Divide the participants into groups of 3-4 and answer the questions in the “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” section.
2. The first question considers the idea that work is a part of creation and God’s perfect plan for this planet. When we work, we resemble God. Like God, you can make plans, complete tasks, and function creatively. Also, God gave us the task of ruling over and taking care of His creation.
3. Questions 2 & 3 examine two passages that are similar in emphasis and content. They both state that the way we work for others is indicative of the way we relate to God. It might be similar to the idea in Matthew 25 where Jesus declares, “When you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me.”



4. The concept of going the extra mile comes from when a Roman soldier commanded anyone in their territory to carry their pack; on pain of death they were required to carry it a mile. But even as we are urged to carry the pack a second mile, we are compelled to work with such integrity and goodness that we go the extra mile for our employers.

next steps

15 minutes

1. As the participants meet with their Spiritual Companion, encourage them to report on their current progress as well as areas of their IDP they might be struggling with. Give the participants time to pray for each other.
2. It might also be a good idea to gather all the participants and pray for the places of work represented around the room. What a blessing it could be to pray for the businesses and places of work, for employers and fellow employees, as well as the customers and consumers. Perhaps such a season of prayer could begin to expand the sphere of your witness in your community!

summary

5 minutes

Should employers and business owners see a difference in the work ethic of Ambassadors as compared to others? Daniel and the three boys were noticed. They were found to be wiser than the others because of choices they had made. Joseph was different and became a notable leader. Developing good habits at work will not only bless God and others, but will open doors of opportunity for you as well.

Think about it another way. If you are working full time, how much of your life do you spend at work, sleeping, and doing other routine activities? Typically, you would work at least eight hours a day. You might also sleep eight hours a day. Thirty percent of your day, week, and life you will spend at work. Does it matter? Absolutely. So much of your life will be spent working that it stands to reason that your life should be spent well. Heed the words of Paul: Serve people as though you were serving God. Work selflessly with dignity, kindness, and integrity. Do more than what is expected with a joyful spirit. Do these things “without complaining.” And as you do, your work will speak for God!





SESSION 7

work ethic

participant's guide



SESSION 7

work ethic



did you know...



“If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles”

Matthew 5:41





mission briefing

1. Rank the following qualities in order of their importance to the workplace. If you were to hire someone, which qualities would you desire most? (1—most desired, 10—the least)

Desired Qualities of Employees

_____ Dependable	_____ Punctual
_____ Self-Starter	_____ Trustworthy
_____ Problem Solver	_____ Considerate
_____ Attentive	_____ Positive
_____ Conscientious	_____ Honest

2. Read the story of Joseph in Genesis 39 and underline or highlight the parts that describe Joseph’s work ethic or the effects of his work ethic.

3. In spite of unfair circumstances, Joseph was able to succeed. What lessons can you draw from this story that might help someone who is working hard but being treated unfairly?



thinking it through

1. Think of your work history and your work ethic in your most recent job. What could you have done better? What did you do well? What witness did your work make on those around you?

2. What quality in the list you discussed previously do you want to practice this week?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. True or False: Work is a by-product of sin. Read and discuss the origin of work in Genesis 1:28 and 2:15. What words or phrases denote God's plan for work?

2. Read Colossians 3:22-25 and make a list of the specific counsel Paul gives to workers.

3. Read Ephesians 6:5-8 and discuss the motivation for an exceptional work ethic according to this passage.

4. One report showed that the top three skills employers are looking for are teamwork, problem solving, and communication. Jesus told His disciples that “if someone in authority asks you to carry their pack one mile, carry it an extra mile” (Matthew 5:40,41). What would it look like in your work place to go the extra mile in:

- Teamwork

- Problem Solving

- Communication

SESSION 8

leader's guide

dealing with disappointment and unemployment



8: dealing with disappointment and unemployment

session overview

leader notes

1. In this session we will look at the inevitable roadblocks that come up in life and how to keep our head, keep our faith, and keep working towards what God has called us to. Specifically, handling unemployment is critical because we were meant to work (Genesis 1 & 2) and when that becomes unavailable, our sense of identity and purpose takes a blow.
2. The overall goal of this session is to help Ambassadors prepare for adversity, proceed through in faith—not by sight, and proclaim God’s faithfulness in spite of the circumstances or outcome.

materials

1. 3x5 cards or small sheets of paper (enough for each participant to have five)
2. Writing utensils and clear tape (to paste cards on a wall or board)

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will know...	1. Adversity and disappointment are experiences to prepare for.	1. “Reflecting Jesus and His kingdom”
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Persevere through adversity and disappointment.	1. “Next Steps”
Heart Participants will be able to...	1. Praise God in undesirable circumstances.	1. “Thinking it through” and “mission briefing”

extra resources

1. www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com
2. Christian perspective on overcoming adversity:
 - <http://www.ucg.org/christian-living/overcoming-adversity-requires-perseverance/>
 - <http://www.kencollins.com/life/hope-20.htm>
3. A good article on negotiating adversity:
 - http://www.huffingtonpost.com/norman-e-rosenthal-md/overcoming-adversity_b_3779880.html
4. An article on preparing and enduring like a marathon runner:
 - http://www.huffingtonpost.com/karen-m-wyatt-md/marathon-running-lessons_b_3093761.html
5. Article on the things you can change:
 - http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jon-wortmann/overcoming-fear_b_2981521.html

8: dealing with disappointment and unemployment

teaching plan

welcome

4 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Introduce the topic for this session by describing the way life always has ups and downs and that how we prepare, proceed, and proclaim our praise to God in our circumstances not only gets us through but causes us to shine bright for our Savior (2 min).

did you know?

10 minutes

1. Introduction: Even when you faithfully listen and learn to follow God's call in your life, adversity will come. For some, it seems that they experience more rain than sunshine, more open roads to new opportunities, while others face roadblock after roadblock. Sometimes, it is not as easy as turning lemons into lemonade. There are some people in Scripture and in history who can serve as examples.
2. Invite the participants to take out their handout and consider the roadblock sign in the road. When in your life have you encountered a sign like this in the road of your life?

mission

briefing

15 minutes

1. Divide the participants into groups of 3-4 and answer the questions given in the "mission briefing" handout.
2. After the participants share what they have written on their cards, post them on a wall and invite the group to observe any patterns they see in the types of things others are wrestling with.
3. As the participants discuss Peter's challenge to the church, focus especially on verses 6-7 where it says "these trials are for a season."
4. Extra Passages: Romans 8:18-21; John 16:33; 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:12-15; 1 Peter 4:12-13.

thinking

it through

5 minutes

1. Give time for the participants to answer the reflection questions in the "thinking it through" section.
2. Create a quiet time for them for a few minutes and then invite them to pray for each other in groups to resolve to stay faithful and press on through struggles.

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

40 minutes

1. As you think about inviting a guest for this session, it would be helpful to invite someone who has negotiated through disappointment while praising God. Whether they have endured hard times financially and stayed faithful or found their way through seasons of adversity by trusting God and staying on task, ask them to answer or share their thoughts on the following questions:
 - What are some of the more difficult challenges you have had to face in your life?
 - When have you had to trust God through adversity?

- What lessons did you learn about negotiating through disappointment?
 - When you face financial, work, or personal problems, how do you deal with them?
2. Divide the participants up into groups of 3–4 and invite them to share what was helpful about the personal sharing/guest presentation. As the groups turn their focus onto the questions in the “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” section of the participant’s guide, urge them to read the passages carefully.
1. **Prepare.** The first passage calls for a total preparation of the Ambassador’s life, not because we don’t know what will happen, but because we know there is an evil power against what we know to be good. The image of a soldier putting on the different pieces of armor is a vivid illustration, but it is more than just an analogy—it is a battle—and preparation is key (10 min).
- The Belt (of Truth): “Stand firm in the belt of truth buckled around your waist,” “Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth!” (Psalm 86:11).
 - The Breastplate (of Righteousness): “with the breastplate of righteousness in place,” It is because of His righteousness we can “come boldly into His presence” (Hebrews 4:16).
 - The Shoes (of Peace & Preparation): “For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared” (Isaiah 52:7 & Romans 10:15).
 - The Shield (of Faith): “Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one” (1 Peter 1:3–5).
 - The Helmet (of Salvation): “Take the helmet of salvation.” The evil one targets the mind with lies about our identity and our destiny in Christ. The enemy wants to make us doubt our salvation in Christ (Revelation 12:10,11).
 - The Sword (of The Spirit): Put on “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” The power of God’s word is unmistakable and always reliable (2 Timothy 3:16,17 & Hebrews 4:12).
 - Prayer: “Pray In the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere” (Ephesians 6:18).
2. **Proceed.** In Psalm 73 there is a song written by Asaph, a worker in the temple. Whether he was a priest or musician is not known for sure, but his road took an interesting turn. He lived faithfully but he became afflicted (physically, emotionally, financially) and began to despair. The key word in this is “almost.” He “almost” slipped. He struggled to reconcile the way the wicked seemed to be blessed while he suffered with affliction. You might ask: Do you ever wonder why it seems that wicked people seem to escape tragedies and disappointment? They live horrible lives and never seem to get caught. Instead, they get rich (10 min).
- Asaph, in a season of despair and disappointment, chose to go to the sanctuary: “When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny” (Psalm 73:16,17).

He proceeded forward in spite of feeling disillusioned. He pressed on when the future was unclear. He did what he knew was good when he felt bad. The result was a renewed vision of God's will and he was transformed. We don't know if his circumstances changed, but we know his heart was strengthened. Proceed forward even when things look bleak. Practical ways to proceed:

- Designate a little time each day to search for employment.
- Seek ways to volunteer your services, for in those moments you might make a connection or impress someone with your service that might hope to employ you.
- Continue to ask and invite others for possible work. Sometimes people forget, but if your need for work is closer to the forefront of their mind, a connection to someone or some kind of work will be easier.
- Work at something while you search: around the house, at the church, in the community. Because work is essential to our sense of identity—whether we get paid or not—we need to be doing something. A depression sets in like a vicious cycle when you don't have work. You feel bad. You aim low. You stop trying. And when this takes place, hope seems far away.
- Pray to God for eyes to see and ears to hear what He has for you today. Ultimately, you work for God as an Ambassador. You are wealthy, royal, and righteous in His sight. You have an eternal kingdom you are headed towards. Therefore, work this day in whatever way you can for the kingdom and, as you “seek first the kingdom,” God will aid you in your struggle for a job.

3. **Proclaim.** In 2 Corinthians 12 Paul faced a moment in his ministry where he couldn't work. He couldn't travel. He couldn't do what he was called to do. Again, we don't know the affliction, but he was riding high for a while (he refers to boasting about amazing revelations) but became debilitated by a “thorn in the flesh.” Apparently he prayed for God to take it away. Why not? Would Paul be more effective if he could preach and teach and travel? Sure. But three times he prayed and God's answer in his disappointment was, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” What does this mean? Is God able to do as much, if not more, in our disappointment than in our success?

Paul eventually moved victoriously from that state of brokenness, but in his dismay and struggle he proclaimed, “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:9,10). (10 min)

- Prepare for trouble.
- Proceed when you can't see clearly.
- Proclaim God's grace in your brokenness.

next steps

15 minutes

1. Allow time for the participants to meet with their Spiritual Companion and discuss what they are learning as they meet the goals described in their IDP.
2. Give them time to pray for each other and their work and have a special season of prayer for those they know who are struggling.

summary

5 minutes

Sometimes disappointment comes because of things we do to cause the trouble. The man waiting at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5) became preoccupied with fixing his broken situation. He wanted to be whole, but things were just not working out. He complained to Jesus, “Every time I try to get into the healing waters someone else goes in before me because I have no one to help me.” Jesus healed him, but later found him and cautioned him saying, “Stop sinning or something worse will happen.” Well, that’s direct. Sometimes our desperate situation is a result of something we do or fail to do.

Many times we are challenged by afflictions, roadblocks, and experiences that are the result of something someone else does. How should we respond? Hopefully, you have discovered that these ups and downs happen to all people at some point in life. Ambassadors are urged to prepare for the roadblocks of life by putting on the armor of God. Sometimes there is nothing you can do about a personal misunderstanding or the loss of a job. Sometimes the rain falls, and you can complain about the water or you can proceed forward by faithful devotion to God. Claim what Job declared: “Even though you slay me, I will trust in you.” The result will be praise. You will proclaim that God is good in the storm or the sunshine. Such a testimony will shine bright in a dark world.

SESSION 8

participant's guide

dealing with disappointment and unemployment



SESSION 8

dealing with disappointment and unemployment

?

did you know...

When the going gets rough, we sometimes wonder if we made a wrong turn. Why do people think doing God's will should be problem free?



**ROAD
AHEAD
CLOSED**





mission briefing

1. When have you faced a roadblock sign to your future aspirations?

2. On 3x5 cards, write the type of roadblocks your friends, peers, associates have experienced in the last year. Write one roadblock per card (Such as: unemployment, sickness, relationship trouble). Write it large enough so you can read it when it is pasted on the wall.
3. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 and discuss Peter's challenge to the church. How might this passage encourage or strengthen someone facing unemployment or misfortune?



thinking it through

1. Reflect on the times in your life when it seemed like everything went wrong. No matter how hard you tried, your circumstances seemed to bring trouble to you rather than good opportunities. How did you make it through?

2. What are some attitudes and behaviors you would like to practice when life does not seem to go your way?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

As God calls Ambassadors to prepare for a life of meaningful work and witness, there are seasons where obstacles will block the free flow of life. Some will face unemployment. Others may face an accident or illness. Still some might just miss opportunities and struggle to achieve their goals. Scripture is filled with those who emerge victorious from dark and disorienting seasons of life. How did they do it?

Read the following passages and examine the way to prepare, how to proceed, and when to proclaim God's goodness while we are weak.

1. Prepare: Read Ephesians 6:10–20 and discuss the various ways to prepare for problems that will come. How do the different parts of the armor of God prepare you for emergencies?
 - The Belt of _____
 - The Breastplate of _____
 - The Shoes of _____
 - The Shield _____
 - The Helmet of _____
 - The Sword of _____
2. Proceed: Read through Psalm 73 and listen to the song written by Asaph, a worker in the temple. Whether he was a priest or musician is not known for sure, but his road took an interesting turn.
 - What is Asaph's problem? (Psalm 73:2–14)

 - Where does Asaph proceed to? (Psalm 73:16,17)

 - What do you think happened in the sanctuary?

 - Even though his circumstances hadn't changed, what changed his mindset? (Psalm 73:21–28)

3. Proclaim: In 2 Corinthians 12:1–10 Paul faced a moment in his ministry where he couldn't work. He couldn't travel. He couldn't do what he was called to do. He faced some kind of affliction.
 - Even though Paul prayed three times for God to take away the problem, the answer was "no." Is Paul's prayer for relief a reasonable request?



- What is the upside of God's response? What is the obvious downside?

- In what ways has God done more through your weaknesses than He has done through any skill or strength?

-
- Paul proclaims that whatever God chooses to use for His glory is good (strength or weakness). How does the praise we give God while we are in trouble become a beautiful witness to the world?

-
4. Prepare for trouble. Proceed when you can't see clearly. Proclaim God's grace in your brokenness. When have you witnessed someone overcoming disappointment in a similar way?

SESSION 9

leader's guide

true blue honesty and integrity



9: true blue honesty and integrity

session overview

- leader notes**
1. As we continue the journey of hearing God’s call and choosing to explore what it means to follow God’s will, there is yet another core quality to consider: integrity. Whatever your vocation or work, being someone who is sincere is expected of all who put on the name of Christ.
 2. The goal of this session is to commit fully to a lifestyle and a work-practice of integrity.

- materials**
1. Blank card or note paper
 2. Envelopes
 3. Large paper
 4. Marker board or wall
 5. Clear tape

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will know...	1. The need for Ambassadors of integrity in the workplace.	1. Bible study and discussions
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Commit to practice honesty inwardly and outwardly.	1. “Reflecting Jesus” and “mission briefing” sections
Heart Participants will be able to feel...	1. Stirred by the opportunities to witness through honest living.	1. “Thinking it through”

- extra resources**
1. Standing Tall, Roemaine Hayden-Moore
 2. Every Man’s Battle, Stephen Arterburn & Fred Stoeker
 3. The Ten Commandments of Character: Essential Advice for Living an Honorable, Ethical, Honest Life, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin
 4. The Seven Levels of Lying, Sarah Sumner, <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/may/7-levelslying.html>
 5. Various online honesty quizzes:
 - <http://www.funquizcards.com/quiz/personality/are-you-a-honest-person.php>
 - <http://www.allthetests.com/quiz05/dasquiztd.php3?testid=1048887941>
 - <http://www.blogthings.com/howhonestareyouquiz/>

9: true blue honesty and integrity

teaching plan

welcome

2 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Introduce the topic for this session on integrity saying: "Throughout the ages the people of God have lived in the world, worked side by side with those who are un-believers, and sought to be a light unto the world. A Christian is often considered a blessing or a hypocrite based upon the one quality of integrity."
"Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters" Albert Einstein
"In the end you should always do the right thing even if it's hard." Nicholas Sparks
"Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not."
Oprah Winfrey
"I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have." Abraham Lincoln
"Integrity is telling myself the truth. And honesty is telling the truth to other people." Spencer Johnson

did you know?

10 minutes

1. As Ambassadors take out their participant's guide, draw their attention to the word avowal and read the story about Rosalie Elliot.
2. In the fourth round of a national spelling bee, 11-year-old Rosalie Elliot, from South Carolina, was asked to spell the word "avowal." As she spelled the word, her soft southern accent made it difficult for judges to determine if she had used an 'a' or an 'e' as the next to the last letter of the word. The judges counseled together for a few awkward minutes, as well as replayed a recording, but they still couldn't determine which letter had been pronounced. Finally the chief judge asked Rosalie the question, "Was the letter an 'a' or an 'e'?" Rosalie knew by now the correct spelling of the word. No one but Rosalie would have known she was lying if she had claimed, "I used the letter 'a'." But without hesitation, she replied that she had misspelled the word and had used an 'e'. As she walked off the stage, the entire audience stood to their feet and applauded her honesty and integrity, including newspaper reporters covering the event. Several universities contacted her to let her know that when she was ready for college, they wanted her. While Rosalie had not won the contest, she had definitely won something greater that day.

mission

briefing

10 minutes

- Divide the participants into groups of 3-4 and answer the questions given in the "mission briefing" handout.
1. After the participants have discussed the first two questions in groups, invite them to share their insights with the rest of the participants. Discuss how the quality of integrity is different from any of the other qualities mentioned in the list.

thinking it through

5 minutes

2. Ask the participants to answer number three in groups then, on a board, poster-board, or piece of paper, list the names of people in Scripture they would trust.
1. Give time for the participants to answer the reflection questions in the “thinking it through” section. There are two questions that urge Ambassadors into a time of reflection and repentance.
2. Create the quiet time for them to write down one or two areas of their life where they want to be honest and true. Give each participant a sealable envelope and a small piece of paper to write their commitment to integrity. Be sure to remind them to be specific with their personal challenge. Commitments like: “I want to be more honest” or “I want to be a person of integrity” are too general. Targeting a specific area of their life increases the relevance and the nature of the commitment. After they have completed their commitments and put them in envelopes, you have a variety of choices:
 - Let them keep the envelope in a place where they can see and remember it.
 - Have them turn in their envelopes (assuring them they won’t be opened) and mail it to them in a few weeks.
 - Have them turn in their envelopes and return it to them in a few weeks at another gathering.

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

40 minutes

As is the practice in this module, select a guest to present or be interviewed by the participants. You might even consider a panel of guests to answer questions about how integrity is needed and sometimes challenged in various workplaces. Guests from several different occupations will enlighten participants to the nuances and operations of diverse vocations as well as cultivate a desire to be honest in whatever work they should choose. Make sure the guests extend the opportunity to have a conversation with participants about their work-life if it is requested.

Questions to ask guests:

- Why are integrity and honesty crucial to the place in which you work?
 - Are there special circumstances where it might be easy to compromise on integrity?
 - How do you negotiate the waters of unethical behavior in the workplace?
 - What do you suggest or what counsel would you give to a young person considering a vocation in your area of work?
1. Invite the participants to complete the “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” portion in groups of 4–5.
 2. If you have access to a dictionary or the web, invite participants to look up the three words.
 3. As participants compare the two stories (Acts 5 & Daniel 1), urge them to follow through with the questions and share in their groups. (Potential responses are in bold.)
 - What is the nature of their temptation? **To live differently than what they know to be right. To do what is wrong and hope that no one will see or know.**

- What is the short-term benefit of being dishonest? **Escape immediate negative effects.**
 - What is the short-term possibility of telling the truth or being true? **Embracing or accepting the potential negative effects that the truth will bring.**
 - What is the long-term result of being honest? **Ultimately, knowledge and security of doing the right thing.**
 - What is the long-term result of being dishonest? **Ultimately, the only one who is deceived is self.**
4. As the participants read Samuel's claim of integrity, the question is asked, "Can this be said of you?" Be sure to remind young adults that whatever reputation you hope to achieve begins by what you do today. And, even a dubious reputation in the past can be corrected and restored over time.
 5. Who do you know that operates with biblical integrity? Write them a note indicating your observation and your appreciation of their honest way of living/working. Either send the card by mail or hand it to them in person. Another option is to have participants trade and deliver for each other. The overall goal is to affirm the integrity of others and to deepen the learning experience for participants.

next steps

15 minutes

1. Allow time for the participants to meet with their Spiritual Companion and discuss the progress they are making on their IDP. Ask each other: If you have to choose or explore three vocational paths, which three would you choose to explore? Who do you know that you can talk to in that field?
2. Give them time to pray for each other and their progress on hearing God's call.

summary

5 minutes

Paul declares in 2 Corinthians 5:20 that "We are Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us." Is this true of you today? Perhaps we all have areas in our lives that we struggle with, but are we people of integrity? Does the world know us? Does what the world knows about us align with what we profess and live? These questions are direct, and God's grace is able to extend an invitation to us today: No matter what we have said, done, or been in the past—today is a new day. Do you want to join the ranks of men and women who have embraced a lifestyle of integrity?

- It will make you a dependable worker.
- It will open doors to leadership.
- It will challenge your lifestyle.
- It will bear good fruit.
- It will create resistance from those who are bent on evil.
- It will be misunderstood.
- It will make ethical choices clearer.
- It will speak well of your Savior.

Ellen White wrote:

“The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.

“But such a character is not the result of accident; it is not due to special favors or endowments of Providence. A noble character is the result of self-discipline, of the subjection of the lower to the higher nature—the surrender of self for the service of love to God and man” (*Education*, p. 57).

When I read what Samuel said to the people, I wanted to be able to say the same thing. Have I wronged anyone? If so, I will make it right. Having a character that is honest and true will ultimately win in the end.



SESSION 9

participant's guide

true blue honesty and integrity



SESSION 9

true blue honesty and integrity



did you know...

The word “sincere” or “pure” in the New Testament means sun-tested or tried by the light of the sun. Another way to say something is sincere or true is to say it is “made without wax.” Dishonest merchants would repair broken pottery and art with melted wax and sell it shortly after it had been painted or whitewashed. When the sun would bake the pottery, it would fall apart. If it could stand in the sun, it was “pure” or “sincere”—sun-tested.



“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God”

Philippians 1:9–11





mission briefing

1. Which quality in the list below should be first in a leader?

2. Which quality, if it is not present in a person, compromises them as a Christian leader?

_____ Communication

_____ Vision

_____ Organization

_____ Courage

_____ Resourcefulness

_____ Attentiveness

_____ Decisiveness

_____ Honesty

_____ Charisma

_____ Perseverance

Kouzes and Posner (two leadership authors) surveyed thousands of people around the world and identified the qualities most desired in a leader. In almost every survey, honesty and integrity were identified more frequently than any other quality. Is this surprising? If people are going to follow someone, whether in service, business, or ministry, they want to know that their leader is trustworthy.

3. If you had to choose five people from Scripture who are examples of integrity, who would you choose and why?



thinking it through

1. Take a few moments and reflect on the areas of your life and practice and ask: Are there parts of my life and character that aren't always true, honest, and sincere? Why? Take some time to pray and search your heart as you confess to God your need for integrity.

2. Write down one or two areas of your life where you want to be devoted to integrity. Be specific. Place this commitment in the envelope and seal it.



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. As you survey the insights from a wise guy (Solomon), what advice seems to be the most meaningful for you today?

- Proverbs 10:9

- Proverbs 28:6

- Proverbs 11:3

- Proverbs 19:1

- Proverbs 12:22

- Proverbs 20:7

2. How are the words honesty, integrity, and sincerity different and in what way are the words very similar?

3. Read and compare the story of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1–11) with the story of the Hebrew captives (Daniel 1:1–20).

- What is the nature of their temptation?

- What is the short-term benefit of being dishonest?



- What is the short-term possibility of telling the truth or being true?

- What is the long-term result of being honest?

- What is the long-term result of being dishonest?

4. Read 1 Samuel 12:1-4 and note Israel's regard for Samuel.

-
- Looking at the questions Samuel asks, what are the various ways in which a person can operate with integrity?

- What is their reply?

- Can a similar statement be made about you today?

5. Who do you know that operates with biblical integrity? Write them a note indicating your observation and your appreciation of their honest way of living/working. Either send the card or give it to them in person.

SESSION 10

tithing and giving

leader's guide



10: tithing and giving

session overview

- leader notes**
1. In this module on calling and vocation, Ambassadors need to discuss the gift of being a generous follower of God. There is a distinction between simply giving and cultivating a generous lifestyle. In this session the discussion will challenge Ambassadors to foster generosity as a practice instead of an emotion.
 2. When we give, we grasp what it means to be made in the image of God.

- materials**
1. Hand Reader's Theatre Scripts to practice ahead of time: "The Widow's Might"

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will know...	1. The rationale for tithe, giving, and gratitude as it relates to vocation.	1. Bible study and discussions
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Demonstrate that God is the source and resource of their life through their stewardship.	1. "Reflecting Jesus" and "mission briefing" sections
Heart Participants will be able to feel...	1. Connected to the great cause of God by participating in mission through giving.	1. "Thinking it through"

- extra resources**
1. Articles that might be helpful:
 - <http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2013/may/inside-look-at-church-attenders-who-tithe-most.html>
 2. Key phrase: Ten percent is a good floor but not a ceiling for generosity.
 - <http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2013/spring/tithing-law-or-grace.html>
 3. Christ's Object Lessons, Chapter 25, Ellen White. Brilliant insights into the heart of giving and the heart of the giver.
 4. <http://growingfruitfuldisciples.com/four-processes>
 5. Great Faithfulness Stories: <http://www.lds.org/general-conference/2011/04/the-lords-richest-blessings>

10: tithing and giving

teaching plan

welcome

2 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. As you begin the session, make sure you have chosen five participants to read the Readers Theatre script entitled, The Widow's Might. (It would be most effective if they could practice their delivery a few times prior to the program.)

did you know?

10 minutes

1. Invite the participants to take out their handout and consider the quote from French philosopher, Albert Camus, where he observes, "Too many have dispensed with generosity in order to practice charity." Ask: "What is the difference between charity and generosity?"

mission

briefing

10 minutes

Divide the participants into groups of 3-4 and answer the questions given in the "mission briefing" handout.

1. "Mission briefing" begins with a short true/false quiz. (Answers are in bold.)
True or False: In the four Gospels Jesus spoke about money more than He spoke about heaven or hell combined. **It is true.** It may seem strange when you think of all the things there are to talk about: forgiveness, mercy, the law, the end of the world, service, the power of God, etc., but conversations that mention money are common.
True or False: One out of every four parables has to do with money. **It is true.** Can you think of a few?
True or False: Since Jesus referred to money, treasure, and wealth so often, it means that we should be preoccupied with becoming rich. **It is false.** The bulk of Jesus' words about money have to do with altruism, temporary versus eternal things, and the poor overcoming poverty.
2. Invite the readers to stand in a straight line, facing the gathering, and remind them to read loud, clear, and with expression. The "Widow's Mite" reading captures the heart of the giver and how generosity transcends charitable contributions. As you heard the reading, what part or idea was particularly helpful to you? Why?

thinking it through

5 minutes

1. Give time for the participants to answer the reflection questions in the "thinking it through" section.
2. Invite the participants to break into groups of two or three and pray for each other. Pray for courage, gratitude, and the faith to trust God to provide as they give generously.

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

40 minutes

During each session we have attempted to invite a guest to share an angle or insight on aspects of vocation that might inspire or educate participants. Since this session intends to bolster the faith and gratitude of Ambassadors in order to be generous in their giving, the guests for this session need to be people who have been faithful in generous giving whether they have much or little. Choose a guest or two, or even a panel if possible, to answer the following questions:

1. Tell one brief personal story of God's blessing and faithfulness to you as you have been faithful in your giving.
 - When you think of your work, possessions, and future opportunities, what do you feel most grateful for?
 - How do you organize or discipline your life so that your giving is a matter of the heart and a matter of consistent practice?
2. Divide the participants into groups of 5-6 and have them answer the questions in the "reflecting Jesus and His kingdom" section. The section focuses on four major areas: Our original call to work and be stewards of the earth, tithe and offerings, a generous response, and scriptural stories of generous givers. (Answers provided in bold.)
 - Question #1 asks: Read Genesis 1:28 & Genesis 2:1-3, 15. Why do you think God wrote into our lives the need to work?
From previous sessions we know that: 1) Work is not a curse but part of God's plan before sin, 2) as God worked and rested, so we are called to work and rest as His created beings, and 3) God calls us to cooperate with Him in cultivating and continuing the glory of God on earth.
 - Question #2 looks at Leviticus 19 and the evidence of God's plan for growth, giving, and systematic generosity:
The first passage calls for landowners to leave portions of their field un-harvested so the poor may have as much as they need. There is inherent in God's plan an expectation of benevolence. This is further evident in verses 23-25 where the plan for growing trees is given. Trees were to be left to grow and build without being harvested. There is a principle of growth, delayed gratification, and trust in the goodness of God in the future. The fourth year the harvest is given entirely to God as a testimony to the truth that He is the Source. From that point on the trees would abundantly bless year after year.
 - Questions #3 & #4 might be more efficiently discussed if the participants in groups divide up the questions, especially the five stories at the end. Jigsaw the stories by asking each participant to read a story and prepare a response to the question.

next steps

15 minutes

1. Allow time for the participants to meet with their Spiritual Companion and discuss the progress they are making on their IDP. Challenge them to be specific about the things they are doing well and the things they are struggling with.
2. Give them time to pray for each other and their work.

summary

5 minutes

Jesus said:

“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” (Matthew 6:2-4).

Jesus said:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

Jesus said:

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” (Luke 6:38).

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies” (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).

1. The foundational principle about money is that everything belongs to God and therefore anything you own, earn, or achieve is a gift. If this is true, you can respond one of three ways:
 - **Defiantly**—Like Cain or Judas, resist the mercy and generosity of God and choose to own everything.
 - **Minimally**—Simply give what might be considered helpful or give to be known as one who has given, but not so much that it changes the way you live.
 - **Thankfully**—with gratitude for every good gift you have, practice giving consistently, systematically, generously, and faithfully whether you have much or little to give—those who do never regret the blessings of God. Take God at His promise—even His challenge: “Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it” (Malachi 3:10).

SESSION 10

tithing and giving

participant's guide



SESSION 10

tithing and giving



did you know...

Albert Camus said, “Too many have dispensed with generosity in order to practice charity.”

Charity vs. Generosity



“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”

2 Corinthians 9:7





mission briefing

1. For the following quiz, indicate whether you think the statement is true or false.
 - True or False: In the four Gospels Jesus spoke about money more than He spoke about heaven or hell combined.
 - True or False: One out of every four parables has to do with money.
 - True or False: Since Jesus referred to money, treasure, and wealth so often, it means that we should be preoccupied with becoming rich.
2. The “Widow’s Mite” reading captures the heart of the giver and how generosity transcends charitable contributions. As you heard the reading, what part or idea was particularly helpful to you? Why?



thinking it through

1. Do you see yourself as someone who is generally grateful for what you have and have the opportunity to do? When have you thought, “If I had more money, I would definitely give more than I give today”? Is your giving/returning to God based upon whether you have plenty? Are you reluctant to return tithe and offerings when you have little?
2. What kind of changes do you need to make in the way you relate to God with your finances?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. Read Genesis 1:28 & Genesis 2:1-3, 15. Why do you think God wrote into our lives the need to work?

2. Read and discuss the very basic beginnings of systematic generosity in Leviticus 19:9,10 & 19:23-25. What do these passages say about God's plan for sustained giving and gratitude, as well as help for the poor? (Also read Proverbs 3:9-10.)

3. Read Malachi 3:8-12 and answer the following questions.
 - Why do you think a "return to God" begins with a call to return tithes and offerings?

 - How is not returning tithe "robbing God"?

 - What is the challenge? What is the promise?

4. Read the key verse from 2 Corinthians 9:7 that describes the motivation or the heart of the giver. Ask: do you agree or disagree? "God is more concerned with the heart of the giver than the size of the gift."
 - What does it mean to give "according as he purposed in his heart"?

 - Is giving "without necessity" or "not grudgingly" an automatic emotion you feel or something you learn over time and experience?

 - Can you give cheerfully and still feel a little anxious about giving?

5. Read the following stories and describe how the individuals practiced generosity over charity.
 - Mark 14:1-9

 - Matthew 20:1-16

- Luke 7:1-10

- Luke 8:1-3

- Acts 4:32-37

SESSION 11

discipline

leader's guide



11: discipline

session overview

- leader notes**
1. As young adults plan and prepare to work as God has called them, one can argue that without self-discipline you will not succeed. This session offers a spiritual/biblical foundation for self-discipline as well as procedures for forming good habits.
 2. The key in this session will be to challenge participants to practice self-discipline in an area of their life related to their potential work or vocation.

- materials**
1. 3x5 cards
 2. Pens

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will know...	1. The nature and dynamics of habit formation.	1. Bible study and discussions
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Prepare for and practice repeating a behavior or action that is desired.	1. "Thinking it through" and "next steps"
Heart Participants will be able to feel...	1. Confident that there are rewards that come from a self-disciplined life.	1. "Reflecting Jesus" and "mission briefing" sections

- extra resources**
1. Our High Calling, The true Force of the Will, Ellen White, p. 103
 2. This index has excellent links to rich statements on the topic:
 - http://www.gilead.net/egw/books/misc/Mind,_Character,_and_Personality_Volume_2/index.htm?http&url=www.gilead.net/egw/books/misc/Mind,_Character,_and_Personality_Volume_2/26_Habits.htm
 3. Habits: Readers Digest
 - <http://www.rd.com/slideshows/10-bad-habits-and-the-best-ways-to-quit-them/#slideshow=slide11>
 4. Excellent suggestions for vocational and workplace habits:
 - <http://sridharlaxman.com/build-powerful-habits-for-a-successful-career/>

11: discipline

teaching plan

welcome

2 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. There are some things you can do in this life without trying; we all have different talents and abilities. There are some things you will be able to do with a certain degree of effort. However, there are some achievements that will not happen by initial talent, minimal effort, or accidental good fortune, but are produced by repeating a practice systematically over time. In other words, there are some things you can never do by trying that you can only do by training. In this session we will practice self-discipline and the essentials of forming good habits (2 min).

did you know?

10 minutes

1. Ask the participants: If you have to choose one habit to form and one habit to give up, which would you choose? (Give each participant two 3x5 cards and have them write on one card “+” indicating this is a habit you want to add, and on the other card a “-” indicating a habit you want to subtract from your life.)
2. Who do you know that is a self-disciplined person who typically demonstrates the will power to form good habits? Do you ever wonder how they do it? Our topic for today is on self-discipline and the art and science of developing good habits from a biblical foundation. Begin thinking about the habits you want to form in the coming year.

mission

briefing

10 minutes

1. Divide the participants into groups of 3-4 and answer the questions given in the “mission briefing” handout. (Answers in italics.)
 - **Question #1:** What are the seven most sought after habits?
 1. Exercise more
 2. Read
 3. Floss
 4. Sleep by midnight
 5. Eat breakfast
 6. Save money
 7. Eat more vegetables

Ask: What did you expect? What surprised you? Why?

- **Question #2:** What are the seven bad habits people most want to quit?
 1. Continual snacking even when not hungry
 2. Spending too much time watching T.V.

3. Overspending into debt
4. Eating too much fast food
5. Behavior that leaves you angry, stressed, or worried all the time
6. Skipping breakfast
7. Smoking, drinking, drugs (including pain killers)

Ask: What did you expect? What surprised you? Why?

- **Question 3:** Read 2 Timothy 1:7. The three gifts the Spirit gives are “power, love, and self-discipline.”

**thinking
it through**
5 minutes

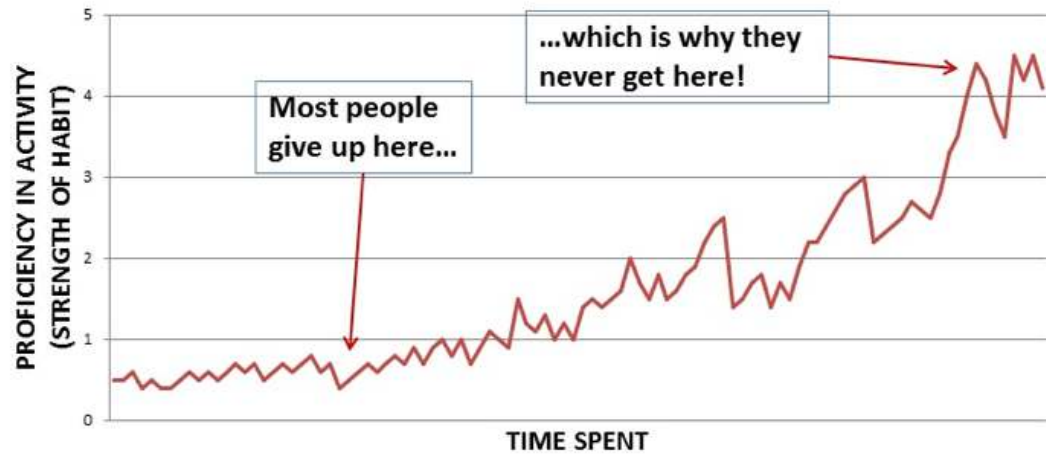
1. Give time for the participants to answer the reflection questions in the “thinking it through” section.
2. Create a quiet time for them for a few minutes and then invite them to share generically what they hope God will do in them.

**reflecting Jesus & His
kingdom**
40 minutes

Throughout this module you have been connecting Ambassadors to real people who share their stories, advice, and reflections on calling, vocation, work, ethics, faith, and faithfulness. This week, consider inviting someone to share whose job requires good habits and self-discipline. Contractors, farmers, painters, and physical therapists have to do menial, basic things that may not seem meaningful unless seen as an essential part of the overall goal. How do they do the little things, regularly, on time, and well when it is easy to procrastinate? Perhaps you could invite them to share a story or two (a good habit and a bad habit) that affected their work. Essentially, we are hoping that they might share about their work but also about how they need self-discipline to get their job done.

1. 1-3. Have the participants divide into groups of 4-6 and complete the first three questions in the “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” section together.
4. The four techniques for successful habit formation are given to the participants to explore and discuss in their groups. Likely, the techniques will relate better to some than others. Developing a new habit requires the following:
 - a. Thoughtful planning—what you choose to work on needs to be made accessible and repeatable. If it is jogging, have your shoes ready in front of the door. If it is Bible study, put your Bible in the way where you can see it or have to pick it up to start the day.
 - b. Resolve—there are challenges, speed bumps, and obstacles along the way. Knowing this and knowing what to do will increase your success. When you know to expect a struggle, inconvenience, or unpleasant activity it helps focus your attention on overcoming rather than on why there might be challenges.
 - c. Patience—inasmuch as obstacles will challenge your progress, so will the time it takes to see significant progress. As you will see, knowing that the results will not come immediately allows you to focus on being faithful instead of looking for results.

- d. Vision—to do what is hard to do when you don't always feel like it is a matter of planning, resolve, and patience. Knowing why is about vision. Seeing the end goal and the reason this habit is important empowers the will.
5. Look at the chart on the timeline of habit formation. Some say you have to repeat an action or thought 20–30 times in order for it to become a habit. What can this chart teach us?



(chart: <http://kayleadershipacademy.com/2013/04/how-to-practice-selfdiscipline/>)

Notice that results aren't seen until over half way through the duration of time it takes to form a habit. Again, if it takes 20–30 repetitions to make a behavior habitual, then it is not until the end of that season that progress will be felt.

next steps

15 minutes

1. Allow time for the participants to meet with their Spiritual Companion and discuss the progress they are making on their IDP. Choose one habit to begin practicing this week and identify some of the things you can do to help yourself be more “self-controlled.” Use the information above to map out a plan where you might anticipate trouble and what you can do to make it easier to follow through.
2. Give them time to pray for each other and their work.

summary

10 minutes

Noah built a boat for more than 100 years. Can you imagine every time he hit his thumb, dropped a board on his foot, or got a splinter he must have wondered, “What am I doing?” But he kept building. When it comes to work habits, professional habits, and even habits of the spiritual life, they are all formed the same way: repeated action, faithful consistency, and following through until the end. When the rain drops fell, Noah must have kept the ultimate plan in front of his eyes each day.

And so it is with us. We have new habits to form. Some try to just get rid of bad habits, but think about that kind of approach—does it really make sense? Who wants to spend all their time and energy focusing on what not to do? Ambassadors are to take up new practices and form them into lifestyles.

If it is listening before speaking up—start the process of training.

If it is being on time and prepared for your classes—make it a priority.

If it is praying when you get angry, frustrated, and anxious—begin today.

Begin with the full knowledge that it won’t be easy but it will be worth it. Start with the understanding that there is a reason—a really good reason—to do what you are doing. And launch out knowing the results are more likely to be seen well at the end rather than at the beginning of the journey.

Consider a few more tips:

1. Set aside a certain time to practice.
2. Make it easy for yourself to move forward (e.g. keep your Bible where you cannot ignore it).
3. Make sure that this activity transitions easily into your daily routine. For example, you should not have to drive to the other side of town just to exercise.
4. If possible, get a few friends who have a similar goal and do this activity together. This usually is a huge success factor in continuing the activity.
5. Set small goals. Small victories woven together help achieving the broader goal much easier.

Pray for your new endeavors!



SESSION 11

discipline

participant's guide



SESSION 11

discipline



did you know...

Guess the seven most sought after habits

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Guess the seven habits people most want to quit

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____



Definition of self-discipline: Self-discipline is that quality that allows a person to do what needs to be done when he or she doesn't feel like doing it.

“God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline”

2 Timothy 1:7





mission briefing

1. What are the seven most sought after habits? What did you expect? What surprised you? Why?

2. What are the seven bad habits people most want to quit? What did you expect? What surprised you? Why?

3. Read 2 Timothy 1:6-8 and answer the following questions:
 - a. How is self-discipline a gift?

 - b. How is it a different kind of gift from “love” and “power”?



thinking it through

1. Reflect on your life this year and consider the things you wanted to do but somehow did not follow through on. Which area of your life do you want to have more self-discipline in?

2. Who do you know that you can reach out to as an accountability partner? Consider what you might say to someone to invite them to help you.



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 and discuss what insight this passage gives to forming good habits through self-discipline.

2. What biblical characters can you think of who model self-control?

3. Divide the following passages among the members of your group and read and examine what Scripture says about those who practice self-control.

- Proverbs 16:32

- Proverbs 25:28

- Galatians 5:23

- 1 Timothy 3:2

- Titus 1:8

- Titus 2:2

- Titus 2:6

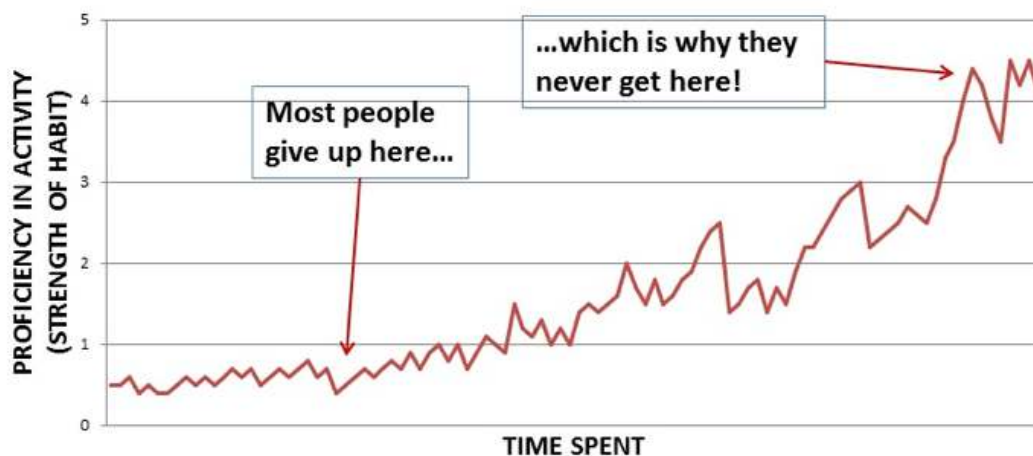
- Titus 2:12

- 2 Peter 1:5-7

4. Developing a new habit requires the following:

- a. **Thoughtful planning**—what you choose to work on needs to be made accessible and repeatable. If it is jogging, have your shoes ready in front of the door. If it is Bible study, put your Bible in the way where you can see it or have to pick it up to start the day.
 - b. **Resolve**—there are challenges, speed bumps, and obstacles along the way. Knowing this and knowing what to do will increase your success. When you know to expect a struggle, inconvenience, or unpleasant activity, it helps focus your attention on overcoming rather than on why there might be challenges.
 - c. **Patience**—inasmuch as obstacles will challenge your progress, so will the time it takes to see significant progress. As you will see, knowing that the results will not come immediately allows you to focus on being faithful instead of looking for results.
 - d. **Vision**—to do what is hard to do when you don't always feel like it is a matter of planning, resolve, and patience. Knowing why is about vision. Seeing the end goal and the reason this habit is important empowers the will.
- Which of the four parts of the process are the most challenging for you?
-
-

5. Look at the chart on the timeline of habit formation. Some say you have to repeat an action or thought 20–30 times in order for it to become a habit. What can this chart teach us?



(chart: <http://kayleadershipacademy.com/2013/04/how-to-practice-selfdiscipline/>)

SESSION 12

peer pressure

leader's guide



12: peer pressure

session overview

leader notes

1. Peer pressure is as ancient as Eden and still a present reality today. While young adults are often heavily influenced by their peers, God calls His people to be true even if they have to stand alone.
2. Ultimately, Ambassadors should renew their commitment to God's way versus the way of the crowd.

materials

1. Paper
2. Writing Utensils

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will know...	1. That the trend of peer pressure will only become more severe as we near the end of time.	1. Bible study and discussions
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Distinguish between collective wisdom and a common compromise.	1. "Reflecting Jesus" and "mission briefing" sections
Heart Participants will be able to feel...	1. Assured that loyalty to God is more valuable than being perceived well by peers.	1. "Thinking it through"

extra resources

1. Great articles in Insight magazine:
 - <http://www.insightmagazine.org/webbonus/viewstory.asp?issueid=20091643>
 - <http://www.insightmagazine.org/cover/index.asp?issueID=20131622>
 - <http://www.insightmagazine.org/webbonus/viewstory.asp?issueid=20111626>
2. An activity/Bible study
 - <http://www.gnycyouth.org/article/view/392/1/52>
3. Great book for reference on peer pressure:
 - <http://egwtext.whiteestate.org/publicationtoc.php?bookCode=AC&lang=en§ion=all>

12: peer pressure

teaching plan

welcome

2 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. As you introduce the topic for this session, remind the participants that God's calling is first to be faithful to God's explicit will: 1) experience salvation, 2) grow as a disciple, 3) walk with His Spirit, 4) serve faithfully in a way that honors God and blesses people. If you start with these, what you choose to do for work will work well for God's kingdom. However, no matter what our endeavor, we can expect to be challenged by peers to compromise our faith in one way or another. How might we be prepared to stand?

did you know?

10 minutes

1. Invite the participants to think of a time in their life where they experienced significant peer pressure.
2. Why do you think the perceptions of the crowd can sometimes equal or overshadow our personal convictions?

mission

briefing

10 minutes

1. Divide the participants into groups of 4-5 and answer the questions given in the "mission briefing" handout.
2. Think about the caption above the picture of the turtles and the fish that reads, "Even a dead fish can swim downstream but it takes courage to go against the flow."
As participants share their responses, share with them this information about the turtle hatchlings:
The hatchlings of loggerhead turtles seem too small to swim against the current, but researchers have discovered that after just a few hours of paddling they can resist being swept around the Atlantic Ocean by powerful currents.
The tiny turtles can influence where they end up with just a few hours of paddling a day. The more they swim against the flow of the current, the more they change their course by hundreds of kilometers.
(<http://earthsky.org/earth/baby-turtles-dont-just-go-with-the-flow>)
3. The three simple survey questions are to provoke thought. Make the decision as to whether the participants should talk publicly about their responses or not. The ultimate goal is to get them to think and make personal choices.
4. Here are samples of media pressure:
 - internet
 - facebook
 - newspapers and magazines
 - television
 - radio
 - books
 - online games
 - billboards and posters
 - text messages
 - movies

**thinking
it through**
10 minutes

1. Give time for the participants to answer the reflection questions in the “thinking it through” section. Standing up against peer pressure of any kind requires clarity of thought and courage. In what aspect of your life would you like to experience more clarity and courage? (5 min)
2. Create a quiet time for them for a few minutes and then invite them to pray as a group for each other to stand firm. (5 min)

**reflecting Jesus & His
kingdom**
40 minutes

As you consider inviting another guest to share a few of their thoughts on calling and vocation, choose someone who has had to stand up against the crowd or make decisions that are right even though the majority does not. Have them share stories and experiences where they were tempted to cave to pressure but were willing to stand up no matter the result (10–15 min).

1. Divide the participants into groups of 4–5 and ask them to work through the “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” section (25 min).
2. The questions for this Bible study are straightforward. Allow them to work through all it as a group. Debrief using the following questions:
 - a. How pervasive is peer pressure biblically, historically, and today?
 - b. Which of the anchor points in question #3 are the most difficult for young people today? Why?
 - c. Can you think of some examples of positive peer support and how it has made a difference in your life?
 - d. Which “one another” command do you think would make the greatest impact on the church if practiced?



SESSION 12

peer pressure

participant's guide



SESSION 12

peer pressure

?

did you know...

Even a dead fish can swim downstream, but it takes courage to go against the flow!



“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the
renewing of your mind”

Romans 12:2





mission briefing

1. Think about the caption above the picture of the turtles and the fish that reads, "Even a dead fish can swim downstream, but it takes courage to go against the flow." How is this statement true in your world today?

2. Answer the following survey questions:

- a. There are things I do because my friends do it, but I would choose otherwise were it not for the pressure.

Almost Always

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

- b. There are things I would say/not say if I knew my friends would not look down on me.

Almost Always

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

- c. What do you think is more severe—peer pressure or media pressure? Why?

3. Read the opening passage from Romans 12:1,2 and reflect on the pressure you feel to conform and the call you hear to be transformed.



thinking it through

1. Standing up against peer pressure of any kind requires clarity of thought and courage. In what aspect of your life would you like to experience more clarity and courage?

2. What can you do to make it easier for your peers to be true to their convictions? How can you be someone who alleviates peer pressure and adds a positive support for good choices?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. Read and discuss the following counsel from Scripture and say whether the counsel is advice/suggestion or command/directive.

- Exodus 23:2

- Proverbs 1:10

- Proverbs 22:24,25

- 2 Corinthians 6:14,17

- 2 Peter 3:17

2. Peer pressure is rarely about whether someone knows right or wrong; it is usually about what they are willing to do about it. Read the following passages and stories and share which story is speaking to you personally. Why?

- 1 Kings 18:16-21

- John 6:66-68

- Daniel 3

- John 18:15-18, 25-27



3. Being an Ambassador for Christ means that you are not moved to destructive words, thoughts, or actions by the pressure of friends, the crowd, or the pull of the world. Read and discuss the five anchor points for responding to peer pressure.

a. Conviction (Ephesians 4:14; Joshua 14:7; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; Jude 1:15)

b. Courage (Joshua 1:6-8; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Acts 4:27-31; Daniel 3:16-18)

c. Strength (1 Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 3:16 & 6:10; Philippians 4:13; Psalms 73:23-28)

d. Endurance (Hebrews 10:36,38; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:10)

e. Heavenly Goals (Colossians 3:1-2; Hebrews 11:26; Matthew 6:19,20; 2 Peter 3:10-14)

4. The following are “one another” statements from Scripture that state how we might influence each other in a positive way (positive peer support). Of those given below, which type of support do you think is most needed today?

- John 13:34 – “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another”
 - Romans 12:16 – “Be of the same mind toward one another”
 - Romans 15:7 – “Therefore, accept one another”
 - Galatians 5:13 – “Through love, serve one another”
 - Galatians 6:2 – “Bear one another’s burdens”
 - Ephesians 4:25 – “Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth to one another”
 - Ephesians 4:32 – “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other”
 - Ephesians 5:21 – “And be subject to one another in the fear of Christ”
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:18 – “Therefore comfort one another”
 - Hebrews 3:13 – “But encourage one another day after day”
 - Hebrews 10:24 – “Let us stimulate one another to love and good deeds”
 - James 5:16 – “Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another”
 - 1 Peter 4:9 – “Be hospitable to one another without complaint”
-
-
-
-

SESSION 13

Sabbath and work

leader's guide



SABBATH CREATION



13: Sabbath and work

session overview

- leader notes**
1. This session looks at the role of Sabbath in our vocational pursuit. If we were created to work, then what is the ultimate purpose of the Sabbath? How does our need for work and our need for rest resemble the “image of God”? And do we damage our ultimate calling by defining ourselves solely by our work? What happens when work and our calling become at odds?
 2. The goal of this session is to call participants to renew their sense of identity in Christ through loyalty to Christ and faithful keeping of the Sabbath.

- materials**
1. Sample of essential identification: driver’s license, passport, school I.D., certificate of birth or marriage; sample of non-essential identification: grocery club card or library card
 2. 3x5 cards
 3. Pens

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will know...	1. Our identity is not solely defined by vocation but by creation. This truth will get challenged by the world.	1. Bible study and discussions, “thinking it through”
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Practice resting from works (salvation), worry (cares of this life), and future expectations.	1. “Reflecting Jesus” and “mission briefing” sections
Heart Participants will be able to feel...	1. Relieved and rewarded by Sabbath faithfulness.	1. “Thinking it through,” “reflecting Jesus,” and “mission briefing” sections

- extra resources**
1. Court case for a man who wanted Sunday off for “Sabbath” observance.
 - <http://njewishnews.com/article/14014/court-ruling-on-sabbath-seen-as-huge-problem#.Uoq-LixZEdb>
 2. The Great Controversy, Ellen White, Chapters 25 and 35

13: Sabbath and work

teaching plan

welcome

2 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. Introduce this session as a discussion on the issue of Sabbath work or employers making it difficult for you to succeed because of your beliefs. As we discover how to be salt and light to our workplace, we are bound to be true to God's will, even if it means being misunderstood. When are we to make compromises and when are we called to obey God, even if it means going against our employers?

did you know?

15 minutes

1. Invite the participants to review the questions/claims employers have made to challenge Sabbath keepers to work on the Sabbath for fear of losing their job.
2. What are some similar scenarios you have experienced or know of?

mission

briefing

10 minutes

1. Divide the participants into groups of 3-4 and answer the questions given in the "mission briefing" handout.
2. What are some of the key forms of identification you own? (Have them show the different forms of ID they possess.) What do these forms of I.D. say about you? What can these forms of identification not say about who you are?

One of the most beautiful truths in the Sabbath teaching is that humanity is linked with God in a special way at creation. We are "made in His image" and that creative moment is "made holy" by a day of rest. God commands us to keep Sabbath because if we forget who He is and who we are, it is likely that we will replace God with ourselves.

Sabbath is, in a way, our reminder of identification.
3. If you read Ezekiel 20:20, the Sabbath is given as a "sign" between us and God. What do you think this means? Follow up by having participants read Exodus 20:8-11, Deuteronomy 5: 12-15, and 1 John 5:2-4.

thinking it through

5 minutes

1. Give time for the participants to answer the reflection questions in the "thinking it through" section. Give them time to reflect on the potential conflicts that are in the work world—especially in their chosen field.
2. Invite the groups to get together and pray for friends and fellow church members working in your community. Pray for their continued witness and blessing as they remain faithful to God in uncertain times.

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

40 minutes

If possible, invite someone from your community of faith that knows what it is like to face challenges and hardship at work. It doesn't have to be primarily about Sabbath, but encourage the guest to offer insights and resources that will help with conflict resolution or better communication. The workplace can be a fertile ground for ministry or a place of stress and anxiety. Perhaps they might share how to keep a level head and a level eye at work.

1. Divide the participants into groups of 5-6 and have them answer the questions in the “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” section. It works best if you have each participant in the group choose a passage to read on their own and they all can examine it simultaneously, then debrief in groups or all together.
 - Below are comments and suggestions to add to their discussion. It might be best to debrief as they make their way through the questions.
 - Question #1: From the temptation in Eden to today, God's people have been tested to stay faithful to their beliefs. Consider a few examples of Ambassadors who were willing to put their faith in God first, at whatever cost. Below are some thoughts on each story.
 - Genesis 39: Joseph spurned an adulterous relationship with his employer's wife, even though it meant losing his job and ending up in jail. Notice the final verses in the chapter that indicate that Joseph still succeeded.
 - Daniel 6: Daniel could have prayed privately with the window closed where his enemies could not see him. Even though he was arrested and sentenced to execution, he would not hide his loyalty and devotion to God.
 - Daniel 3: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego might have rationalized, “What good would we be to God's cause if we were to die? Surely He would want us to live to influence others. We can kneel before the image and pray to our God and live to witness another day.” Instead, their witness could only have been made by faithfulness.
 - Matthew 11:1-11 & 14:1-12: John the Baptist boldly told people where their lives were broken. It didn't matter if you were a fisherman or a king, he would tell the truth. As a result, John the Baptist ended up in prison. If John valued his head more than God's will, he might have toned down his talk, but he didn't. He died. (Jesus referred to him as the greatest man born of a woman.)
 - Acts 5:12-42: Peter had been commanded by the authorities to stop preaching in the name of Christ. Peter had already tasted the bitter pill of denying Christ before, and now he would rather die than deny Christ. Eventually, Peter was jailed and killed for Christ. He might have been worried about his family and friends, but he chose to remain faithful no matter what. He was respectful. He was thoughtful. And at the end of his ministry, he was true to his promise. Thousands of believers made Christ their Lord and Savior because of the faithfulness Peter showed.



2. Read the stories and discuss the lives of those who did not compromise their beliefs for their work, friends, or life. Invite the participants to discuss their response to the questions at the end of the stories. Conclude this portion by saying in your own words:
 - Perhaps you live in a nation where freedom of religion is a commonly held value. In Scripture, the very commands of God become points by which believers are tested. Your faithfulness is not to a teaching, but to Jesus who taught you. Let's read Revelation 12:10-17 and 14:12.
3. The final question is about how the Sabbath becomes important to us. The text says, "If you don't turn your feet from the Sabbath" you will be blessed. Everything grows from what we choose to do with our lives. If we practice faithfulness in regards to the Sabbath, the inescapable joy will come. It's like what Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

next steps

10 minutes

1. Allow time for the participants to meet with their Spiritual Companion and discuss the progress they are making on their IDP. Urge the participants to encourage each other to be specific with the kinds of things they struggle with or need feedback on.
2. Set time aside for the Spiritual Companions to pray for each other.

summary

5 minutes

The Sabbath is a gift and a sacred sign between God and us. It anchors our hearts and minds in the truth that we are created, loved, and saved for eternity.

Throughout history believers always get caught in conflict and controversies. Because their values and principles come from another world, the one they live in does not see life the same way. Some jobs require work on Saturday. Social events, athletic contests, and even academic opportunities often occur on the Sabbath. The temptation to compromise can be very intense. However, those who are Ambassadors of Christ have a first love and a first choice when it comes to lifestyle and work. God's will goes before anything and everything (Luke 6:46, 14:26).

Some in history have lost their friends, their jobs, and even their lives. But what would it profit anyone if they gain the whole world, but lose their soul?

What does it say to your employer? What does it say to your friends? What does it say to the world that you believe in something so strong, so eternal, so real that you would trade away what the world desperately protects, just to be faithful. They will notice. In some cases you will be appreciated and even valued as an employee. In other settings, you may not, but heaven will rejoice for it and will recognize you clearly.

SESSION 13

Sabbath and work

participant's guide



SABBATH CREATION



SESSION 13

Sabbath and work



did you know...

Questions and Comments Employers Make About Your Willingness to Work:

"I know this is your day of rest, but we just need to train someone in so they can work that shift. If you can compromise some on this we will eventually be able to let you have Saturdays off."

"You are going to do very well at this company. Are you willing to make this job your first priority?"

"Are you willing to work anytime or any day of the week?"

"Are you able to make an exception this time for someone who has an emergency?"

"If I allow you to take Saturday off, I have to do it for everyone."

"All the other employees are flexible with their work schedule and they are Christians too; why are you asking for what they are not asking for?"

"You knew when you were hired that this establishment is open on Saturday and employees work whenever they are needed. I'm sorry the previous supervisor thought it was O.K. to accommodate you, but we can no longer make that concession."

"Those who succeed in this kind of work have to work on Saturday—there is no way around it."

"It is your right to believe whatever you want. It is my right as an employer to choose who I hire and don't hire."

What Should I Do?



"I am the Lord your God; follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Keep my Sabbaths holy, that they may be a sign between us. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God"

Ezekiel 20:20





mission briefing

1. What are some of the key forms of identification you own? What do these forms of I.D. say about you? What can these forms of identification not say about who you are?

2. Read Ezekiel 20:20 and discuss what you think it means that the Sabbath is a “sign” between God and people.

3. Read the following passages on the Sabbath and review their meaning and purpose as believers.

- Genesis 2:1-3

- Exodus 20:8-11

- Deuteronomy 5: 12-15

- 1 John 5:2-4



thinking it through

1. Reflect on the potential conflicts that are in the work world—especially in your chosen field. How can believers prevent some of the conflict? How will you negotiate the conflict?

2. Get together and pray for friends and fellow church members working in your community. Pray for their continued witness and courage as they remain faithful to God in uncertain times.



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. Review the faithfulness of each the believers that stood faithful although their lives were threatened. Choose one verse in each story that captures how faithful they were.
 - Genesis 39

 - Daniel 6

 - Daniel 3

 - Matthew 11:1-11 & 14:1-12

 - Acts 5:12-42

2. In post-biblical days, many groups of people and countless individuals paid dearly to be true to their convictions. Read and discuss the stories below and answer the questions that follow.
 - a. John Hus refused to retract his convictions about the teachings of the papacy. He taught that the Bible alone is God's rule of faith. John was convicted of heresy and burned at the stake in 1415.
 - b. More than one hundred years later a young English woman, Anne Askew, was arrested for refusing to say that the communion bread and wine were the actual body and blood of Christ. She was mercilessly interrogated, tortured almost to death to gather names of others who shared her beliefs, and was sent to the stake.
 - c. Joan Bocher of Kent went to the stake for refusing to retract her questions about the Incarnation. She pointed out to her persecutors that just a few years ago they burned Anne Askew for believing a teaching they now embraced.
 - d. About the same time, Michael Servetus was condemned for two heresies: Unitarianism, and rejection of infant baptism. He refused to recant and was chained to a stake and burned alive.

- e. During the twentieth century, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh-day Adventists, and others who refused to go to war for Hitler were put in concentration camps or executed. Lutherans who refused to accept the Nazi domination of the church were fired from their jobs, imprisoned, and many were put to death.

Questions:

- Do you believe in something that is worth sacrificing your life for?

- Is the Seventh-day Sabbath really worth losing your friends, job, or life?

- Is there anything on earth worth more than your love and loyalty to Christ?

3. Read Isaiah 58:13,14 and pay special attention to how our hearts follow our feet. Compare this passage to Matthew 6:21. According to this passage, what is the first step toward enduring faithfulness to God?

SESSION 14

leader's guide

volunteering versus volunteerism



14: volunteering versus volunteerism

session overview

- leader notes**
1. Throughout this module we have considered the various aspects of vocational preparation from a spiritual standpoint. In this session we call upon all Ambassadors to respond to the call to volunteer. Whatever you choose to do for work, know that the gift of your time and service make a unique impact for God.
 2. We are all called to be witness in our part of the world with deeds of kindness.

- materials**
1. Marker/Chalkboard

learning outcomes

	Outcomes	Evidence of learning
Head Participants will know...	1. That every act of service does good and makes a difference.	1. “Reflecting Jesus and His kingdom”
Hands Participants will be able to...	1. Designate time to volunteering.	1. “Thinking it through”
Heart Participants will be able to feel...	1. Encouraged to be a part of the network of faithful service.	1. “Reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” and “mission briefing”

- extra resources**
1. The Volunteer Revolution: Unleashing the Power of Everybody, by Bill Hybels.
 2. Conspiracy of Kindness, Steve Sjogren
 3. <http://hesaidgo.org>
 4. <http://www.dosomething.org/blog/teens-and-volunteering>
 5. <http://www.wycliffeassociates.org/volunteer/why-volunteer.html>
 6. <http://www.christianvolunteering.org>

14: volunteering versus volunteerism

welcome

5 minutes

1. Welcome and opening prayer (2 min).
2. As you introduce this session, be mindful of the possibilities for Ambassadors to devote time to volunteer. Perhaps there will be service opportunities to share and collaborate on as a result of our time together.

did you know?

10 minutes

1. How many of you would describe yourself as busy? Or, perhaps you are bored.

Where are you on the continuum?

2

4

Busy

Some can be so busy with work, school, and life commitments that there seems to be no time or energy for anything else. Others might be bored for a variety of reasons (lack of opportunities, lack of energy, lack of vision, lack of determination—therefore they lack much to do). Remember the object lesson with the jar, the rocks, and the rice, sand, and water. The point is not to try and fit what can't fit into the space available, but to order your life according to the priorities you value most. The big things in life are faith in God, commitment to the mission of the church, devotion to family, etc. The rice represents the little things that happen to you in the course of a day. The point of the object lesson was to show that when you order your life well and plan for the things that are eternal, the promise is true: "Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Have you done this with your life, schedule, and with your heart?

2. Divide the participants into groups of 3-4 and ask them to briefly share about where they are on the “busy to bored” scale. After a few minutes, ask them to take out their participant’s guide and begin with the “mission briefing” section together.

mission

briefing

10 minutes

1. In the pictures of color dropped in water, there is a simple message to those who are followers of Christ. In light of this truth, complete the statements below:

All are _____ (called, needed, useful)

Everyone is _____ (gifted, influential)

Anyone can _____ (serve, help, contribute)

No one is _____ (useless, unnecessary, unable)

Ask for participants to share their responses with the larger group.

2. The pictures of color drops into a glass of water illustrate how each person has a unique impact on the world. Every individual witness is uncommon and is able to do good for God's kingdom. We need more

volunteers. Urge the groups on to answer question #2 in the “mission briefing” section. After they have discussed these questions, ask: Is this really the answer? Could it really be this simple? More workers? Why does such a simple response seem so hard to accomplish?

thinking it through

5 minutes

1. Give time for the participants to answer the reflection questions in the “thinking it through” section. It calls for a survey of the heart for time and space to be available for God.
2. You might set aside some time for them to pray for each other and for opportunities to volunteer.

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

40 minutes

1. Fact: Volunteering has increased around the world. Why do you think this might be true? What is it that is prompting both religious and secular people to volunteer their time to help others?
2. Two gospel commissions:
 - Matthew 28
 - Acts 1:8

next steps

10 minutes

1. Allow time for the participants to meet with their Spiritual Companion and discuss the progress they are making on their IDP. As they review and reflect on this module, which parts of this journey were most meaningful to you? Which aspects of calling and vocation do you wish you could spend more time exploring? Share with your Spiritual companion what is new about you as a result of this journey.
2. Pray together and share what you wish to apply to your life in the future.

summary

5 minutes

Paul was a tentmaker. Peter was a fisherman. Lydia was a seller of purple. When they heard the call of God to devote their lives to ministry, they all had different ways of bearing witness to Jesus.

Paul went to Arabia for three years to figure things out.

Peter dropped his nets to follow Jesus, but after the resurrection he went fishing.

We don't know that Lydia stopped what she was doing to continue her ministry.

Some are considering taking a year to serve as a volunteer. Some are going to school and long to help and make a difference in their environment. Others look around their town and communities and desire to bring a cup of cool water to those who are thirsty.

THIS IS YOUR CALLING. You may be a builder, nurse, teacher, or clerk. You might be a farmer, driver, doctor, or banker. But whatever field you choose to work in, choose also to compliment your excellent work with excellent service to others outside of your work.

In our world, many are searching for a truth that is real, true, and enduring. However, for many this is not discovered by arriving at theological beliefs, but rather experiences they have with other believers. The world is not just watching and wondering, it is working to do good for all as well, but perhaps many don't

know why. As we work alongside others in the world, we serve with a mindset that is earnest to help with no strings attached, but mindful that we are aliens on the way to another world. We give, share, tutor, cook, sing, encourage, clean, build, mend, transport, share, educate, honor, spend, coach, mend, heal, and help others live and grow. Out of our volunteer service, those who are distant—or even prejudiced against Christ—will be brought closer by our effort.

Ellen White said:

“The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ. A great work of reform is demanded, and it is only through the grace of Christ that the work of restoration, physical, mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished.

Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, “Follow Me.”

“There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit.”

As the word of the Lord came to Isaiah long ago, it comes to you today, asking: “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And your answer? “Here am I. Send me!”

SESSION 14

participant's guide

volunteering versus volunteerism



SESSION 14

volunteering versus volunteerism

?

did you know...

Below are close-up images of one drop of coloring in a glass of water.

Each drop has the same amount of color.

Each glass has the same amount of water.

The temperature, volume, space, and time of each drop are the same, and yet . . .



After repeating this experiment hundreds of times, still every drop has a different splash.

“Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify God”

Matthew 5:14



mission briefing

1. In the pictures of color dropped in water there is a simple message to those who are followers of Christ. In light of this truth, complete the statements below in your own words, then compare your answers to others.
 - All are _____
 - Everyone is _____
 - Anyone can _____
 - No one is _____
2. Read Matthew 9:35-38 and discuss the following questions:
 - a. What does it mean and what does it look when people are “harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd”?

 - b. When Jesus “saw them,” what was His response? Is it possible that we can see people in need and not really see them? How have you experienced this in your life?

 - c. What solution does Jesus offer?



thinking it through

1. As you reflect on your journey thus far, in what ways have you made yourself available to God? What part of your life do you resist making available to God? Consider the well-known expression, “God does not need people who are able, He needs people who are available.”

2. One of the ways we can give God access to our life is by making ourselves available to help others. How can you avail your services to someone as a gesture of gratitude or kindness this week? Pray for an opportunity, insight, or a providentially opened door.



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. Read Acts 1:6–8, the final words of Christ to His disciples, and answer the following questions:
- What does it mean to be a witness?

 - The disciples were commanded to bear witness in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. How are these three territories different?

 - Which do you think is the hardest territory to reach today? Why?
☐ Jerusalem (church people) _____
☐ Judea and Samaria (people who live closely but are divided by hate) _____
☐ Ends of the earth (foreign, culturally and religiously different) _____
2. When it comes to volunteer work, why should we be helping organizations, communities, and individuals in ways that are not overtly religious? Isn't it a waste of time and energy?

- Mark 9:41
- Galatians 6:9,10
- 1 Corinthians 3:6
- 2 Corinthians 2:14,15
- Which verse speaks to you personally today? Why?



3. How do you begin to find a project or a cause to volunteer for? Consider the following steps:

a. Pray for eyes to see opportunities (Psalm 119:118; Ephesians 1:18).

b. Wander through your local community and observe what the needs are (Matthew 9:36; Luke 7:13).

c. Ask leaders in the community and explore opportunities with service-oriented people in hospitals, clinics, and schools (Acts 2:42–47; Acts 4:32–35).

d. Start immediately (Acts 3:6,7; Mark 2:2–5; 1 John 3:18).

icebreakers

The following icebreakers can be found at: <http://christianteens.about.com/od/youthworkercenter/a/icebreakers.htm>

Personal Scavenger Hunt

Take five minutes and find the following items in your wallet or purse:

- Something that you have had more than a year.
- Something you are proud of.
- A picture of your siblings/parents/best-friend.
- Something that reminds you of a fun time.

One Step Further (10–15 minutes)

Do the following:

- Divide people into groups of three or four. (Do this by numbering off.)
- Have each group find five interests that they have in common with every other person in the group.
- Assign a scribe for the group. This person will take notes and share the list/information, first with their small group, and then with the larger group.
- Make sure to tell the groups to brainstorm for no more than 7 minutes. The list does not have to be perfect. Debrief.

The Question Game

1. If you could give advice to yourself ten years ago, what would it be? (5 words limit)
2. What do you consider to be the most valuable thing you own: when you were a child/teenager/now?
3. If you could have any job in the world, which one would you want?
4. What are you most talented at? What is your worst nightmare today?
5. What is your favorite way to waste time at work without getting caught?
6. If a movie was being made of your life and you could choose the actor/actress to play you, who would you choose and why?
7. Tell something that nobody in the group knows about you.
8. What person in the Bible do you most closely identify with?
9. If you won a million dollars, what would you do with it? (Can't be practical or spiritual)
10. If you could be an ice cream flavor, what would it be? Why?
11. If you had to be a teacher, what would you teach? Why?
12. What is your most embarrassing moment?

13. Goal you have for yourself?
14. When is your birthday? How do you like to celebrate your birthday?
15. Are you a morning person or a night person?

The following icebreakers can be found at: <http://fervr.net/youth-group/top-13-youth-group-mixers-icebreakers>

Concentric circles
(from p. 22 Creative
Christian Ideas by Ken
Moser)

Like speed-dating. Split the group into 2 equal groups. Have the groups stand in two concentric circles with the outside circle facing in and the inside circle facing out, each person should be facing a partner. Give the group 3-4 questions to ask each other (i.e. Name, place you were born, what's 3 things you'd take into the Big Brother house? Etc.). The partners have 2-3 minutes to ask the questions and find out the answers before the leader of the activity rings a bell (or similar) and the partners must change (i.e. Inside circle moves one person to the right or outside circle moves two people to the left, etc.). Repeat the process till everyone has met each other or till time allows. Select people to share with the group who they met and the answers to the questions.

community service project planning

module 5: VOCATION

introduction

The goal is to identify a needy cause and devise a medium/long-term plan to meet that need in the community. The emphasis is on the project being local and the participation being sustained over a period of time.

1. Introduce the idea of an Ambassadors' community service project. Describe it as an integral part of the Ambassadors' experience that begins now.
2. It would be advisable to do some prior research before approaching your group with the following tasks or you can choose to begin the process with the participants.
 - a. Identify a needy cause in the community that would benefit from the Ambassador's help. You might come prepared with a list of services offered in your community that need volunteer help or start brainstorming with the group. At some stage, this will require some research and consultation with volunteer services and the city/village council. Examples might include:
 - Health services
 - Mentoring
 - Community clean-up
 - Vulnerable citizen help (e.g. children of prison inmates)
 - Vulnerable families support
 - Food services
 - Seminars and classes
 - Community events
 - Fundraising
 - b. Explore as many options as possible and do a realistic evaluation of each one on the basis of your resources, time, and personnel.
3. Choosing the Project
 - a. Vote/decide on a short list of three or four for closer evaluation.
 - b. It would be advisable to do a site visit of the short list.
 - c. Have a feed-back session after the visit.
 - d. Prayerfully, choose the final project.
4. Get ready to participate in the community service project.
 - a. Present the idea that serving others with a loving heart and without any conditions requires some self-assessment and re-consecration to God.

- b. Take some minutes to lead the participants in the following in the participant guide:
 - Write down your reaction to the idea that you will give away your time and effort for free.
 - Write down how you really feel about it, not what you think you should feel.
 - If you find any objections in your mind to giving time and effort to others, write those down too.
 - Apply the Golden Rule to the plans the group has made.
 - Write down your reaction to giving to others what you'd like to receive if you were in their "shoes" (their situation).
 - Write a commitment statement that expresses what you pledge to do for God through serving the chosen group in the community.
5. Plan a field trip to the final project site.
 - a. Sign up participants so that all have a commitment to a time and place for the visit.
 - b. Make the visit a combination of learning the details of the organization's work and some time that the participants spend doing a sample of the work.
 - c. At the visit itself, ask participants to think about their experience and prepare to debrief at the next session when you will ask them to share their reactions to the community service visit.
6. Assuming that the response is positive and the group seems ready to proceed, ask participants to assist you in planning the following:
 - a. Decide on overall goal
 - b. Define tasks involved
 - c. Determine time commitment and schedule
 - d. Assign volunteer positions and duties (a mix of leaders and participants)
 - e. Seek permissions if needed
 - f. Work on budget if applicable
 - g. Obtain insurance if applicable
 - h. Plan for equipment and supplies if applicable
 - i. Plan for regular evaluation of goals
7. Arrange the bi-weekly or monthly project schedule and duration.
 - a. Get a clear list from the organization's representative that states expectations and requirements.
 - b. In situations that require background clearance, arrange for background checks.
 - c. Take time to coordinate participants and sign them up for particular times and dates of service.
 - d. Create and show a record in which you will log the main activities of the group.
 - e. Record the plans and share aspects of it and the progress at each session.

**mid-way through the
module**

1. It's time for a formal review of the initial community service efforts.
2. You can prepare a formal review form or simply record in the log the responses given by participants.
3. Take a careful look at how the activity is developing. Is the group truly meeting the needs identified at the beginning of the module? Does the activity seem to fit the group? What is God telling you about what has happened so far?
4. Take the participants through some minutes of free-flowing discussion of their experience.
5. Steer them toward the goals of serving the community without condition and for no reason but to give.

**at the end of the
module**

1. Celebrate what has been accomplished thus far.
2. Decide if the group will continue with the same project or choose a new one for the next module.
3. The designers of the Ambassador program would encourage continuity as much as possible.





AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I AM SENDING YOU
AMBASSADORS