***Appendix – Additional Training Materials for the Ministry***

***Moving from Drama Ministry to Youth Leadership Training***

***Drama Ministry is Really Leadership Ministry***

My hope in writing this book has been to help you establish and train a solid team of Drama Ministry leaders within a comprehensive leadership style that will do more than just provide a funny skit at a youth group meeting, or a mime for a retreat. That’s because, in all my work with teens using drama, I’ve found that it provides a unique and powerful experience that truly challenges teens to push themselves beyond what they think they can do, to what God knows they can do. It taps so deeply into their own souls and allows them to connect so intensely with the Holy Spirit that they are ready to take things to the next level with enthusiasm, confidence and joy!

As a Relational Youth Minister, my focus has always been on the person rather than the program, the relationship rather than the ritual. I’m an artist at heart, a writer, former radio producer and a videographer, who has learned the power of sights, sounds and the written word. Drama for me has always brought the best of those three and served to touch the hearts of young people – and all people – in ways that lectures and lessons and studies alone can’t do. That’s why I couldn’t settle for just providing a set of skits and plays without sharing the wealth of knowledge and the life experience that these wonderful teens have brought me over the years. This is really their ministry, not mine; they are the ones ultimately who have helped me to shape it into what it is today.

Having said that, I’m still a practical man. I see the value of spelling things out, of providing a framework from which to work out the wonder of drama in the real world. Because I have such love for young people, I used my creative abilities to respond to their needs and create practical, realistic programs to help guide and equip them for real and lasting ministry. This is why I have combined a comprehensive leadership training component into the drama ministry. Drama ministry is really all about leadership – taking hold of the gifts God has given us and yoking with Jesus as we walk with young people on the difficult and wondrous journey of the Christian life. Good dramatists make good leaders, because drama allows them to connect with Christ in a deep level where they find the power and presence they need to travel the road of trials with their fellow teens.

***Expanding the Overall Ministry to Encompass a Broader Leadership Ministry Style***

Though this book has focused more specifically on the power and practical benefits of Drama Ministry, I set it within the context of an overall Leadership Ministry style to allow for a more natural integration into the overall ministry to young people. As I sated earlier, Drama Ministry won’t be effective unless the team has established good follow-up to the dramas that are performed for the young people. This overall Leadership Ministry approach can easily be adapted and expanded to become part of your youth group’s total ministry picture. That’s why the handouts and prayers and other materials have been written in a more general style. Once you’ve grown a great team of “Parable Players,” you can use these materials for training your general leadership team.

For some of you, Drama Ministry will become a central component in your overall ministry plan, the hub around which all other aspects of the ministry – Bible study, Christian education, Sacrament preparation, etc. – revolve. For others, drama ministry will be but one vital part in a larger ministry with a different focus. My purpose here it not to advocate Drama Ministry to the exclusion of other aspects of Youth Ministry, but simply to share the power and importance that I believe drama can play in reaching into the lives of young people.

I’ve put together a general Leadership Training Retreat that has much the same focus as the Drama Training Retreat, but emphasizes the Leadership component to a greater degree. The presentations included are meant to take a group of teens who are ready to become leaders and give them a solid grounding in leadership principles. It exposes them to drama and the potential it has for ministry so that you can continue to build your drama team. It’s simply a slight shift in how you train your leadership team, but my hope is that it will complete what this ministry book begins.

***Final Thoughts for Stepping Up the Ministry***

As your Drama Ministry (and overall Youth Ministry) continues to grow, I’d like to make a few suggestions for taking your ministry to the next level. Having worked in radio and in videography for a number of years, I’ve seen the value in a good audio or video production. During my time at a Christian radio station, I created a number of stories and plays that I put on the air. I found that doing such productions truly stretched the actors and pushed me to new places as I tied their words and acting together with sound effects and music. In my video work, I’ve created everything from simple slide shows, to church promotional documentaries, to full-length seasonal devotional videos using dramatic reading, video and still images woven together to present the meaning and majesty of the life of Christ. I don’t share these to toot my own horn; anything that I’ve produced came after years of practice and the blessing of the Holy Spirit upon my life. He is the One who allowed circumstances to move me in such a way that I was able to take my love for drama to a whole other technical level; and if I can do it, so can you.

One thing I encourage you and your drama team to do is to make use of audio and video in your ministry. Create a multimedia Passion Play for a Lenten service. Have teens act out the Passion in a mosaic while scenes from artists or films flash on screens in the background. Create a weekly or monthly youth program on topical issues to send to a local Christian radio station. Put together a promotional video for your youth group or your parish to hand out to visitors. Assist the pastor with great PowerPoints for his next study series, or provide videos for Christian Education that you write, direct and star in. The possibilities, while perhaps not endless as so many say, will certainly be so much more than you can ever hope for or imagine if you are open to what the Holy Spirit will do in the lives of those who are committed to the cause of Christ.

I hope these ideas and these additional materials will help you to discern where God is leading your ministry. In the final section of this book is a small collection of “Dramas and More” – a sample of skits, prayers, plays, and large projects to help your group get started. The rest is up to God and to you. I wish you many blessings as you carry it all out for His honor, His glory and His holy Name!

### Day One

5:00 p.m. - Staff Arrival and Set Up

5:45 p.m. - Participants Arrive - Welcoming/Retreat Rules/Icebreakers

7:30 p.m. - Session One –

“Leadership and Fellowship”

* Presentation – “Ministry and Fellowship”
* “Knowledge, Gifts, Leadership” Sheet filled out
* Small Group Activity – “Leadership Sharing Questions”

9:00 p.m. - Snack Break

9:30 p.m. - Small Group Experience

* Reflection – “The Call”
* Sharing – “Where Am I Going?”

10:30 p.m. - Youth-led Prayer and Free Time

12:00 a.m. - Lights Out

### Day Two

7:30 a.m. - Rising, Showers, Breakfast

8:45 a.m. - Icebreakers and Youth-led Prayer

9:30 a.m. - Session Two –

 “Communication”

* Presentation – “Telling Stories”
* Activity – Outlining stories and sharing in small groups
* Skit/Presentation – “Working with Small Groups”
* Art and Drama Workshop – with two skits for exercises

11:30 a.m. - Free Time and Lunch

1:00 p.m. - Session Three –

 “Peer Ministry Skills”

* Skit – “Pastor, I need Help”
* Presentation/Discussion
* Discussion on Spiritual Warfare
* Small Group Helping Exercise

2:30 p.m. - Small Group Experience

* Reflection – “Crossroads”
* Sharing – “Life Choices”

3:30 p.m. - Mentoring/Journaling/Free Time

5:30 p.m. - Dinner and Group Games

7:00 p.m. - Session Four –

 “Prayer and Worship Planning”

* Presentation – “Prayer Planning”
* Small Group Prayer Assignments – Bonfire, Morning, Closing

8:30 p.m. - “Bonfire” Activity – with prayer prepared by small group

12:00 a.m. - Lights Out

## Day Three

7:30 a.m. - Rising, Showers, Breakfast

8:45 a.m. - Icebreakers and Prayer - prepared by small group

9:30 a.m. - Session Five –

 “Youth Ministry Planning”

* Presentation on Youth Ministry
* Small Group Activities – Planning meetings and a calendar
* Large Group Sharing – Where do we go from here?

10:30 a.m. - Witness Talk by Youth Leader

11:00 a.m. - Clean up, Free Time and Lunch

1:00 p.m. - Small Group Guided Experience

* Reflection – “Coming Home”
* Sharing – “Me and Jesus”

2:00 p.m. - Worship preparation

2:30 p.m. - Closing Worship – prepared by small group

3:00 p.m. - Participants Departure

3:30 p.m. - Staff Departure

### Day One - Friday

***Focus –*** *“Leadership and Fellowship”*

*This is a time to get to know one another and to learn about the fellowship of the early Church and how our fellowship today can follow that model.*

*This day will include a presentation, time to share, a reflection and an evening prayer service.*

### Day Two - Saturday

***Focus –*** *Sharing the Gospel Message*

*This whole day will focus on what it means to share the Gospel and will include learning about communication skills, drama, witnessing, helping skills, spiritual warfare and prayer planning.*

*It will include three sessions, a reflection, time for writing one’s testimony and for sharing faith with an adult mentor, as well as an evening “bonfire” prayer experience.*

## Day Three - Sunday

***Focus –*** *Youth Ministry Planning*

*This day will deal with specific planning for our church youth ministry as well as examining our own commitment to leadership with our church that each person will make.*

*This final day will include a presentation and lots of brainstorming and planning, a reflection, a witness talk and a closing worship service.*

*There will be a strong emphasis on small group sharing, prayer and personal reflection. Each day we will have a meditation that focuses on a different aspect of the journey of Christianity (being called, facing our crossroads, surrendering to God’s Spirit). This will be an intense experience the youth won’t soon forget. There will be plenty of time for play, for rest and for private time with God.*

*Each young person who comes will be making a commitment to put 100% into the retreat. To do that, there must be parent support. Parents need to support and encourage their children not only during the retreat, but also throughout the year as the young people seek their place as leaders at the church.*

#### Outline for Session One – “Leadership and Fellowship”

##### ***Main idea –*** To examine our ministry of leadership in light of the experience of the early Church, in order to understand that leadership is closely connected with fellowship in God’s Spirit.

1. Read Acts 2:42-47. Then make the following comments (15 minutes):
* In the early Church, there was a unity of the Spirit. The believers had twelve things that held them together:
* *Teaching –* They were hungry for God’s Word and hungry to live out the Gospel.
* *Fellowship –* They lived in harmony, joy and peace, with the Spirit to guide and supply them.
* *Breaking Bread –* They celebrated the Lord’s Supper as a sign of their unity and strength in Him.
* *Prayer –* They were a people of constant prayer (seen throughout Acts), which came from the Spirit.
* *Wonder –* They saw life with new eyes, a mystery to be discovered and shared with joy.
* *Signs –* They experienced the Lord’s healing and the power of the Holy Spirit all around them.
* *Common Ownership –* They recognized God as the source of all they had.
* *Serving the Poor –* They were led to witness through service, to see Jesus in the least among them.
* *Tradition –* They acknowledged and owned what God had done in the past for His people.
* *Community –* They were a distinct community, in the world but not of the world, united in love.
* *Praise –* They constantly gave praise and worship to God for what He had done in Jesus.
* *Adding to the Saved –* They were called to spread the Gospel and baptize all nations in the name of Jesus.
* This was a community of the Spirit. These early Christians recognized that God was their leader. Their own leadership was the expression of God’s will working itself in their lives.
1. The participants fill out the sheet, “Knowledge, Gifts, Leadership Inventory.” Make the following comments (1 hour):
* Leadership is more than just “taking charge.” It is also about submitting to God’s authority and to human authorities. It is about coming to know God’s will and then looking to Him for the strength to complete the task He has given us to do. God calls us to know and love Him. Every good thing in our lives comes from Him. It is He who initiates this love relationship with us, He who calls us to follow Him, and He who gives us what we need to accomplish His will for His people throughout our lives.
* Use the passages (Proverbs 16:9, Proverbs 3:5-7, Isaiah 30:21, Jeremiah 29:11-13, Matthew 22:37-38, John 4:34, John 6:44-45, John 17:3, Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 5:19-20, Philippians 2:13, 1 John 4:7-8) to talk about what God’s Word says about God’s will.
* We need to understand that a gift we receive to help us lead is not a “super power” or a “thing,” but an expression of God working out His will in our life, of showing us He can accomplish through us what we cannot do for ourselves. He gives us these gifts not just for our benefit, but to build His kingdom through us.
* Use the passages (Romans 12:1-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 1 Corinthians 13) to show what God intends in giving us gifts. Then ask the participants to consider the following questions from the sheet in their small groups:
1. ***What is your relationship with God like right now?***
2. ***Where has God shown Himself in your life (through your gifts)?***
3. ***Where and in what ways do you think God is working in His people?***
4. ***How do you think you are called to join in with God’s great work?***
5. Close the Group by asking the participants for their comments on the activities, passages, etc. Tie things together in your responses to the group. Point out that being a leader means being a guide, a model, a companion, a teacher, and a servant. All of these things Jesus was and is *(Use the passages from John for illustration – 10:14-18, 13:1-7, 14:1-14, 14:15-15:8, 15:9-17*). In order to lead as He leads, we must have His Spirit in us (15 minutes).

# Outline for Session Two – “Communication”

1. Start by reading a short story such as a children’s story. Afterwards, talk about the following things:
* Stories have a beginning, middle and end. They communicate and illustrate a message to the hearers.
* Each of us is a unique story, written by God, unfolding day by day according to His plan.
* This session will focus on understanding our own stories and drawing out the stories from others.
1. Have the participants break into their small groups. Tell them to go over the “Youth Faith Journey Witness Journal” sheets (A-E to choose from) and then to take some quiet time (set to music) to begin to outline their own faith story. These sheets will have special topics to help get the group members sharing and also thinking about their story. Give them about 20 minutes to share and write. Tell them that they will be working on their outline throughout the retreat and will also have a special time later today to talk with an adult leader about their faith stories.
2. Go over the “Group Dynamics and Leadership Roles” sheet with the participants. Then ask the actors to do the two skits on working with small groups. After the first skit (the poor leader skit) talk about what went wrong, looking at all three “types” of characters. After the second skit, talk about what went right (10 minutes).
3. Give the participants a short stretch break of about 10 minutes.
4. Begin the Art and Drama Workshop by making the following comments:
* Art and drama can be a powerful witness of how the Gospel of Jesus works in our lives.
* God has made us in His image. We are the clay He wants to mold into the image of His Son.
* We need to be open and vulnerable during these exercises and when we witness to others.
1. Do the Drama exercises for about 10 minutes. Choose from the following:
* “Banquet Speakers” – Speaking on a silly topic continuously for one minute
* “String Sculptures” – Using string to draw how we feel and to become more open to God
* “People Sculptures” -
* “Silent Role Play” – Expressing emotions and a story with movement and pose
1. Do the more serious movement and drama exercises for about 40 minutes. Explain how this exercise will help the participants to understand how drama can reach others at a deeper emotional and spiritual level. Begin with simple movement to music, using the movement as a prayer, allowing it to slow things down and prepare for the drama. Then break the group into three teams and do the three exercises:
* “Saying Good-bye to Jesus” (12 people) – People who met Jesus take one last moment to bid him farewell.
* “See Me as I Am” (3 people) – A troubled teen comes to Christ after taking a good look in the mirror.
* “The Dance that is Me” (6 people) – Learning what it means to dance the dance known as Christianity.
1. Close the experience with a guided prayer focusing on God’s Word (10 minutes). As Christians, we are called to read God’s Word, to pray and to wait on the Lord for His Word to touch us. But many Christians fail to do this. Some will try to “sneak” prayer and Bible study into their lives. But God wants us to get our priorities straight so that His Word comes first in our lives. Only those who spend time listening to God, waiting on His Word, will find growth and maturity as Christians. The following scripture passages will be used for the prayer:
* Isaiah 29:16, 45:9, 64:8; Jeremiah 18:1-6; Romans 9:20-21
* Psalm 27, Psalm 40, Psalm 130
* Romans 8:18-25
1. The groups will be given a poster board and materials (paper, glue, string, magazines, etc.) to make an “Identity Square” to represent their group. They will put together a small poster/collage to show their individual gifts and their unity as followers of Christ. Inspirational Christian music will be playing in the background during this time. These will be on display throughout the rest of the retreat. Use the remaining time for this.

# Outline for Session Three – “Peer Ministry Skills”

1. Tell the participants that this session will focus on specific skills needed for ministering directly with peers. These skills deal with listening, discerning, and responding to the struggles of another person through a Christian perspective. It also deals with being a witness for Christ. Make the following points (5 minutes):
* We are not here to turn anyone into a counselor, but to teach each person how to give Christian counsel.
* Teens will turn to other teens for counsel, so we need to be equipped to respond, to call and to disciple.
* These skills go hand in hand with submitting to God and relying on His strength to see us through.
1. Go over the “Christian Helping Skills” sheet with the group. Be sure to tie in the scripture passages with the ideas on the sheet. Have the actors do the skit, “Pastor, I need Help” and then deal with the following (20 minutes):
* Ask: “Which of these skills did the pastor use well?” and “Are there areas that need improvement?”
* Tie in the skills with the words (and actions) of the pastor to bring it all home.
* Stress the importance of listening, giving solid biblical counsel, witnessing, calling and prayer in the process.

# Go over the sheet, “Witnessing – Sharing Your Story, Your Journey, with Others.” Tie this material in with the talk on peer helping skills with the following points (5 minutes):

* Knowing your witness talk will help you in sharing the Gospel whenever the opportunity is given to you.
* Ministering to others means filling the void in their lives with Jesus (sharing how He has filled you).
* Drawing others to Christ is a big commitment. We must be willing to follow up afterwards (prayer and help).
* Different people and different situations will call for you to adapt your story as the Spirit moves you.
1. Go over the “Spiritual Inventory” sheets and have a discussion with the large group, asking the participants to share their own struggles with Satan. Tie in their comments with the ideas on the sheets. Be sure to include the following (15 minutes):
* Satan uses Temptation, deception, and accusation to disrupt your relationship with God.
* We can choose to live in bondage to sin or to live in Christ and walk in the Spirit.
* When we take time to inventory our lives, we discover what we need to bring to God.
* As we confess our sins, we find healing from hurt, renewal and rebirth and connection to the Church

The participants spend time journaling about their spiritual journeys and can have a time of personal confession to God. The journals can be brought to Confession if it is available, and later to the bonfire prayer to be released (burned).

1. Have the participants break into their small groups***.*** Tell the participants that they will be given a time to practice using their helping skills. Give out one “Helping Scenarios” sheet to each small group. The group members may choose to use these and role-play. However, encourage them to have members share their own struggles to allow the Holy Spirit to work through their sharing. Encourage the groups to take time to pray for each group member (45 minutes). Ask them to consider the following during this time:
* With God, we can find the strength and wisdom to reach out to another and bring Christ’s healing power.
* However, there is no substitute for hiding God’s Word in our hearts and using that Word to heal.
* Listening (actively) to the speaker and to letting God speak to them through His Word will make things happen.
* Stay focused, be empathetic, be real, give of yourself, and be loving – just as Jesus is (WWJD?).
* Watch how much you respond, how many questions you ask, and how much of your story you share.
* Remember – helping is not giving advice, providing solutions, offering false reassurance, or playing counselor.
1. Close by reminding the participants to choose an adult to share with during the mentoring time. Tell them that they need to have a sense of their witness talk and bring the outline with them when they meet. They may also use the time to talk more openly about their Christian walk and to share their struggles with the adults. There should be some time spent talking about how they will reach out to others as a witness for Christ.

### Outline for Session Four – “Prayer and Worship Planning”

1. Talk about prayer as relationship with God (10 minutes). Make the following points in your talk:
* In the Old Testament, God revealed more and more of His nature to His people. The Covenant was central.
* Abraham, who failed a lot, still became the Father of many nations. God molded him through a relationship.
* Isaac and Rebekah were an example of two people who put God at the center of their relationship.
* Jacob went from being a deceiver to being a man who “wrestled” with God. He was molded too.
* Moses was molded over many years, and became God’s spokesman, prophet and priest.
* In Jesus, we have a new relationship through His blood. We can now call God “Abba” (Dada!).
* John’s Gospel is a love poem between a Father and Son. We now share in that relationship because of Jesus.
* In the early Church, prayer, love and a unity as a family identified the Christians.
1. Talk about prayer as submission to God, seeking Him in total trust (10 minutes). Make the following points:
* Prayer is Adoration (Praise), Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication (Petition, Intercession) – “ACTS.”
* Our relationship with God should be identified along these lines (Do others see this in us?).
* We must be open to who we are, knowing that God knows us better than we know ourselves.
* We are called to seek God first, to ask with thanksgiving and assurance He will answer us.
* We have no anxiety because we have submitted to God’s will and are established in Christ (filled with Him).
* We must be self-controlled, praying continually, ever growing in our relationship with Jesus and His Father.
1. Talk about praying in the Spirit (Romans 8:18-39) (10 minutes). Make the following points:
* The Spirit intercedes for us, because He is our “deposit” of faith (2 Corinthians 5:5) – God talking to God.
* Because of Jesus’ death, we cannot be condemned. He has nailed our sins to His cross (Colossians 2:13-15).
* We are called to conform (be molded) to Christ and know that nothing can stand against us.
* We are more than conquerors (super victorious) and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.
1. Go over the “Prayer Planning with Young People” sheet, discussing each point thoroughly, providing illustrations and examples for each (10 minutes). Be sure to stress the following points:
* All prayer should be grounded in God’s Word and come from the Holy Spirit who lives in us.
* God is sovereign, yet we are called to pray because it conforms our will to His.
* Prayer is how we seek to know God’s will, not how we get God to bless our plans.
* Prayer is an expression of our relationship with God and so, should reflect who we are.
* Prayer involves waiting on the Lord, letting Him speak to us in His time and in His way.
* Prayer involves praise (looking up), and worship (bowing low) – an open, humble relationship.
* Prayer is the way we discover and express our unity as God’s people, with Jesus as our head.
1. Give out two prayer planning sheets (draft and finished) and assign a prayer experience to each small group (Bonfire Prayer for Day Two, Morning Prayer for Day Three, or Closing Prayer for Day Three). Allow each group to work on preparing their prayer during the remaining time. Provide assistance to the small groups. Have music, song sheets, candles and other externals on hand. Use the setting as much as possible. Be sure to tell the small groups the “themes” for the three prayers:
* Bonfire Prayer – This focuses on the discoveries, joy and unity we have found in Jesus during this retreat.
* Morning Prayer – This focuses on our need to work together to build the kingdom through the youth group.
* Closing Prayer – This focuses on celebrating our unity and commissioning each person to disciple others.

# Outline for Session Five – “Youth Ministry Planning”

1. Go over the sheets, “Creative Fellowship Meeting Planning” and “Fellowship Meeting Styles.” Tie in your remarks to the first presentation, which covered Acts 2:42-47, reminding the participants that their ministry to their peers needs to flow from the same Gospel that led the early Church. Also tie it in with the current ministry, looking at the ways the group has already been doing what is below. Here are some points to cover (15 minutes):
* Question – How should our fellowship meetings be like the early Church?
* *Teaching –* Does each meeting teach from God’s eternal Word? Is the Gospel freely shared?
* *Fellowship –* Is the group a place where all are welcomed and received in the Spirit of Jesus?
* *Breaking Bread –* Is worship and the Eucharist a central part of who we are and what we do?
* *Prayer –* Are we a group in constant prayer, giving all we do to our loving Father?
* *Wonder –* Do we see what unfolds in the lives of the young people with the eyes of faith?
* *Signs –* Is our group a place of healing and renewal, salvation and discipleship?
* *Common Ownership –* Do we give God the glory? Do we share the resources and responsibilities equally?
* *Serving the Poor –* Are we ready to reach out to the poor and the lost with materials, effort and prayer?
* *Tradition –* Do we honor our traditions and celebrate our history as God’s people?
* *Community –* Are we in the world, but not of the world? Are we connected to the larger faith community?
* *Praise –* Do we constantly give praise and worship to God for what He had done in Jesus?
* *Adding to the Saved –* Are we bringing others to Jesus and discipling those who are Christian?
* Question – What about our current ministry is living out the Gospel? Considering the following:
* Where are we doing each of the twelve aspects of the ministry (Look for specifics)?
* Where would we like to see improvement and what steps can we take to improve these areas?
* What new areas would we like to explore? How do they fit into the twelve aspects of ministry?
1. Go over the sheets, “Discernment and Confirming God’s Will in Your Planning – A Team Effort” and “Youth Leadership Planning – A Sample Structure and a One Year Plan.” Then pass out the worksheets (two of each for each small group) and ask each small group to do the following (35 minutes):
* Use the ideas suggested by the sheets. Take time to praise God for what He has done, to confess our weakness before Him, and to pray for His wisdom and strength in exploring, refining, planning, and beginning.
* Write up an outline of a fellowship meeting, choosing one of the styles and coming up with a theme based on a gospel story. Remind them to tie in evangelization (sharing the Gospel) to the meeting.
* Write up a sample calendar for the year, which will contain the group’s statement about the ministry and a list of activities for the year. Remind them that they are to plan realistically, while trusting God to provide the rest.
1. Have each small group share their ideas during the remaining time. Start with the fellowship meetings. Ask for comments and suggestions from the other groups. Then use the calendars to brainstorm some ideas for the coming year. Be sure to keep the focus on sharing the Word, making disciples, and equipping the saints for the work of ministry. Do the following:
* Consider whether the fellowship meetings would be worth turning into reality.
* Discuss continuing the process after the retreat with a planning team of adults and youth
* Look into other areas of ministry that will naturally flow from the fellowship meeting style.
* Come up with an outline or tentative plan that you can commit to taking further as a core team.
* Commit to praying further about these issues and to meeting at a later time to discuss them further.

# Leader’s Guide for the Small Group Guided Experience

*Sit with your group in a circle. Ask the group members to give themselves over to the Lord for this time. Read the Scripture passage and talk about what it means to you. Share a little bit about the opening song and then play it for the group. Suggest things for the group members to reflect on during the quiet time. Play the instrumental music without commentary. Afterward, invite open sharing of ideas. Add your own insights to what is shared, tying everything into the main focus of the retreat.*

**Reflection One –*****“The Journey Begins” –*** *Day One, Evening*

*Scripture - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Opening Song - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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| --- | --- |
| ***Main Ideas:**** *Openness to God’s movement in your life…*
* *Crossing the threshold of His will…*
* *Following His call with faith, hope and love…*
 | ***Images for reflection:**** *Beginning a journey into new territory…*
* *Leaving the safety of things you know…*
* *Preparing to climb mountains and face stormy seas…*
 |

***Sharing Questions:***

* *How open are you to God’s movement in your life at this moment?*
* *What times in your life have been beginnings for you? What was that like?*
* *When have you ever had to make a leap of faith in order to grow? What was that like?*
* *What do you hope to experience during our time together on this retreat?*

**Reflection Two –*****“Accepting the Challenge” –*** *Day Two, Afternoon*

*Scripture - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Opening Song - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Main Ideas:**** *Standing at the crossroads of a choice…*
* *Being swept up by the Holy Spirit’s call…*
* *Facing your fear and confusion with faith…*
 | ***Images for reflection:**** *Standing at a crossroads or a precipice…*
* *Being offered a choice between two things…*
* *Going into a time of darkness and struggle…*
 |


###### Sharing Questions –

* *What has held you back from knowing God more intimately and following His will more completely?*
* *What life choices are you facing right now? How are you responding to those choices?*
* *What helps you to keep connected with God and His will for your life?*
* *What have you discovered about your relationship with Jesus so far on this retreat?*

**Reflection Three –*****“Surrender to the Spirit” –*** *Day Three, Morning*

Scripture - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Opening Song - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- |
| ***Main Ideas****:** *Discovering Christ’s strength within you…*
* *The wonder of our unity in the Holy Spirit…*
* *Finding rebirth in living out our Father’s will…*
 | ***Images for reflection:**** *Reaching the end of the journey, to begin a new one…*
* *Being reborn, transformed, renewed…*
* *Finding a lost friend, rediscovering your friendship…*
 |


###### Sharing Questions –

* *What has God taught you or revealed to you during this retreat?*
* *What have you received from the other participants during this retreat?*
* *What have you given over to God during this time? What have you given of yourself?*
* *What would you like to say to your small group members right now?*

# Application for the Leadership Retreat

##### *Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Complete the following…*

1. *Share the “nuts and bolts” of your spiritual life (prayer, Bible reading, church attendance and fellowship with other believers – how you relate to Jesus and live the Christian life).*
2. *Why do you want to be a leader to your peers (be specific)?*
3. *What gifts and skills would you bring to this ministry that would help you to be a leader?*

1. *What do you plan to give to this retreat and what do you hope to get out of it?*

To Parents and Prayer Warriors Supporting the Youth on the

***Youth Leadership Retreat***

*Dear Parents and Prayer Warriors:*

*Thank you for supporting this young person on our Leadership Retreat. It is so important that our young people grow in their own walk with the Lord and that they be equipped to reach out to their peers in Christ. There is no other ministry more vital than leading others to Christ and supporting them through solid discipleship. This is what I’d like you to do for the retreat:*

* *Please pray for all these young people throughout the retreat. Ask God to protect them and fill them with His Spirit so they may be drawn closer to Him.*

* *Pray for all the leaders that we may focus on God’s will and not our own. Pray that we will be open to the Holy Spirit as He works in our lives.*
* *Pray specifically during these times when the group will also be praying:*
* *Friday, 9:30 – 11:00 p.m. – During this time we will be meditating on our call to reach out to others in Christ…*
* *Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – Our breakfast prayer, to begin a day of looking at our relationship to Jesus and learning about reaching out in Christian witness to others…*
* *Saturday, 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. – This will be a time for some deeper spiritual searching and sharing with peers and mentors…*
* *Saturday, 9:30 p.m. – Our evening prayer, focusing on our unity in Christ and the joy of living in His Spirit…*
* *Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – Our breakfast prayer, to help us focus on the ministry that takes place through Youth Group…*
* *Sunday, 2:30 p.m. – Our closing worship, to praise God for His closeness, His strength and His guidance, and to ask for His grace to begin the task of leading others to Christ…*
* *Please compose a letter to the young person, expressing your concern for them and sharing your feelings about their decision to become leaders to their peers. Parents can share much more about their relationships with the young person. Make it a positive, affirming letter and send it anyway you want (letter, card, or even a taped message). Put the young person’s name on the envelope and get it to Pastor Mark as soon as possible.*

*Thank you for giving so much of yourself to these young people.*

*In His Gracious Care,*

*The Retreat Team*

# Permission Slip for the Leadership Retreat

*I authorize emergency care as noted below:*

***To:*** *any physician, hospital or authorized health care delivery agent****From:*** *the parent(s)/guardian(s) of*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*This is to certify that the following persons are authorized to order emergency medical care for my/our child noted above, and also authorized to execute any permission slips, or authorizations required in connection with such a case:*

 *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Home address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone (Home)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Insurance Carrier \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Known Allergies \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Prescription/Non-prescription drugs currently being taken \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Date of last tetanus booster shot \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Any medical conditions of which we should be aware \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Emergency number(s) of parent(s)/guardian(s)\* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*\* Every attempt will be made to reach parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to routine or emergency treatment.*

Signature(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of child above and date signed

## Medical Information

***Christ’s Kingdom***

***Becoming a Soldier of Christ***

*Ephesians 6:10-18 tells us to ready ourselves to stand against the devil and be alert. Jesus gives us spiritual weapons to help us fight against the enemy. This is what Paul calls the Armor of God.*

*First, is the “Belt of Truth.” A soldier’s belt helps to keep the rest of his armor fastened to his body. The truth will hold all your other spiritual weapons in place. With the Truth tucked tightly around you, the enemy can’t try to disarm you.*

*Next, is the “Breastplate of Righteousness.” When you live a righteous life, the devil can try to accuse you of falling away, or being a “bad Christian,” but he won’t succeed. You will be able to stand firm in your faith and resist his blows because your righteousness will guard you as proof of your salvation in Christ. It will protect your heart against the devil because he hates to see deeds that remind him of your salvation through the cross of Christ.*

*The “Shoes of the Gospel” are next. You must be always ready to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ, to stand firm in the Gospel, to flee from evil in all its forms, to walk the path of peace. This means knowing and living the Gospel, and always being able to journey with another to work for the peace of Christ that is in your heart.*

*You have another powerful defensive weapon, the “Shield of Faith.” With it, you resist the fiery darts of the enemy. Your faith “extinguishes “ these darts; in other words, it renders them powerless. Your faith fends off the devil’s assault because each spiritual attack, each accusation, each deception, is stopped before it comes anywhere near you. Your belief stands to shield you from the discouragement and pain the world faces. Your faith guards you against despair because it takes each flaming arrow captive and puts it out before it can harm you because you have the hope that comes through perseverance in Christ.*

*The “Helmet of Salvation” is our assurance that we have been saved and set free in Christ. It is the knowledge that Christ is more powerful than Satan, that in Christ, we have a power and an inheritance that no one can match. With such assurance in our thoughts, Satan cannot enter our minds to deceive us into thinking we are hopeless and helpless. Guarding our head against Satan’s mind games is perhaps the most crucial way we maintain our victory in the Lord.*

*Our final weapon is an offensive one: the “Sword of Truth” which is the Word of God. If we pick up this sword – if we believe that God’s Word is living and true, perfect and whole for guiding our Christian walk, then we can run up to Satan and cause him to flee from us by using the Word to thwart his schemes and drive him from the hearts of other Christians and non-believers.*

With the whole Armor of God firmly in place, we are ready for spiritual warfare with our enemy the devil. We can truly know that we have victory in Christ, that Satan is a defeated foe because Jesus Christ has already triumphed over him by his cross. He has disarmed Satan’s power and made Satan a public spectacle (Colossians 2:15). This is the job of every Christian: To put on the Armor of God daily and stand against Satan so that we may win the battle and bring the victory of Christ to the whole world.

***The Kingdom of God***

When Jesus came, the people thought he might be the one to restore Israel's kingdom and lead a powerful army to defeat the Romans. The people were looking back to David's time, but God had warned them long ago that He is their true king (1 Samuel 8). Jesus’ idea of the kingdom was not what many people expected. Jesus’ kingdom was a kingdom of love, sacrifice, unity and peace. Here are some passages describing Jesus' kingdom...

***What the Kingdom promises us...***

* It gives us a life of joy and peace (Romans 14:17), freedom from sin’s control (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Galatians 5:16-21, Ephesians 5:3-5) and a life of producing the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
* We will inherit it (1 Corinthians 15:50, James 2:5) and receive it (2 Peter 1:11).

* ***What the Kingdom is like...***
* It is a kingdom where those who are poor in spirit, humble, merciful, peaceful or even persecuted in the cause of righteousness are called “blessed” (Matthew 5:1-12).
* It is a kingdom where the world’s rules are turned upside-down (Matthew 5:1-7:29).
* It is sown around us and what will happen will be that: some will not understand it and have it snatched away by Satan, some will have no root and it will wither away, some will allow the worries of this life to choke it off, and some will hear it, take it in and produce one hundred times what was sown (Matthew 13:1-23).
* It is a kingdom where good and bad are present together likes weeds and wheat (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43) or things in a net (Matthew 13:47-50).
* A little goes a long way like a tiny mustard seed or a measure of yeast in a batch of dough (Matthew 13:31-33).
* It is as valuable as a treasure hidden in a field or a pearl of great value - we sell everything we have to get it (Matthew 13:44-46).
* All are treated equally no matter when they came in to the kingdom, like the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16).
* It will be taken away from those who reject it and given to those who will produce its fruit (Matthew 21:33-44).
* It is a banquet that will not wait for the invited guests but will take all who are ready for the feast (Matthew 22:2-14).
* It is like a growing seed, which grows without our knowledge of how it does so (Mark 4:26-29).
* It will come upon us when we least expect, like the owner of a house returning from a trip, who will reward those who have been keeping watch (Luke 12:35-48); it will come like a thief in the night (Luke 12:39).
* It does not come with careful observation; nor can anyone say, “Here it is!” or “There it is!” because it is within us (Luke 17:20-21); it is a heavenly kingdom (2 Timothy 4:18, Hebrews 12:26-28).
* ***How we are to relate to the Kingdom...***
* We must pray for it (Matthew 6:10), seek it first (Matthew 6:33) and humble ourselves and become like little children to enter it (Matthew 18:1-4).
* We are called to repent of our sins (Mark 1:15), accept Christ’s righteousness (Matthew 5:20), do the will of God (Matthew 7:21-23), follow Jesus (Luke 9:61-62) and receive it as a gift from Jesus (Luke 22:29).
* We receive it when we are born again (John 3:3) and are redeemed through Christ (Colossians 1:12-14).
* We are called to preach it (Acts 8:22 and 28:31), work for it (Colossians 4:11) and even suffer for it (Acts 14:22, 2 Timothy 4:16-18).
* We are called to persevere in the faith for it (Acts 14:22, 2 Thessalonians 1:4-5) and love God who gave it to us (James 2:5).

***Some additional readings about the Kingdom…***

Matthew 10:1, 5-42 Luke 4:16-21

John 15:9-17 Acts 2:42-47

***Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.***

 ***1 Timothy 4:12***


## Youth Leadership Planning – A Sample Structure and a One Year Plan

***Our Mission –*** *Because we have been set free in Christ, we are committed to reaching out in the Spirit of Jesus to our peers. We offer our lives and pledge to be open, available and loving ministers to all we meet. We are a Body, with Jesus as our head, building the kingdom in our church and our world.*

***Our Way***

* *Large group fellowship gatherings*
* *Worship that is meaningful for youth*
* *Peer ministry and mentoring*
* *Small group discipleship Ministry*
* *Retreats for healing and growth*
* *Service projects for those in need*
* *Mailings, phone ministry, publications*
* *Youth theater outreach ministry*
* *Ministry with other youth groups*
* *Community-building events*
* *Fundraising to support the ministry*

***Our Ministry***

***Word -*** *Sharing the Good News with our peers -*

* Making every gathering a time of growth…
* Keeping the lines of communication open to our peers...

***Fellowship -*** *Building the Body of Christ in friendship -*

* Offering experiences that open us up to the Holy Spirit...
* Reaching out in service to others as Jesus has taught us...

***Spirit -*** *Growing in our relationship with God -*

* Celebrating our relationship with our God in our worship...
* Touching our peers with the healing love of Jesus...



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| ***October –**** “Agape Sunday” – “Power of the Cross”
* Fundraiser – “Spaghetti Supper Variety Show”
* Community Building – Hay Ride
* Fellowship – Evang. Event – “Harvest Party”
* Newsletter – Fall Theme

***November –**** Fellowship – “Illusions vs. the Real Thing"
* “Agape Sunday” – “Building the Kingdom”
* (Jr.) – “Foodshare” service project (Part of Agape)
* (Sr.) – Mystery Meeting – “The Arrest”
* Newsletter – Thanksgiving Theme

***December –**** “Agape Sunday” – “Immanuel” – Healing service
* Fundraiser – “Christmas Letters from Jesus”
* Ministry Planning Sunday – To be announced
* Fellowship – Caroling /“Reindeer Games”
* Worship – Living Nativity/Drama
* Newsletter – Advent and Christmas Theme

***January –**** “Agape Sunday” – “The Light of the World”
* Fellowship – “Life Issues" - Discussions/Prayer
* Community Building – Evangelism All-nighter
* Winter Retreat (Run by the Youth Leaders)
* Newsletter – Life Issues (Youth commentary)

***February –**** “Agape Sunday” – “Following in His Steps”
* Community Building – Christian Dance
* Fellowship – “Love and Choice”/“Violence”
* Service Project – 30-hour Famine
* Newsletter – “Love and Life” Theme
 | ***March –*** * “Agape Sunday” – “Freedom and Forgiveness”
* (Sr.) – Fellowship – “Calvary Hike”
* (Sr. to Jr.) – Fellowship – “Discipleship”
* Worship – Passion Play
* Worship – “Palm Sunday Drama”
* Newsletter – Lent/Easter Theme

***April –*** * “Agape Sunday” – “Victory in Jesus”
* Fellowship – “Witnessing and Mission”
* (Jr.) – Community Building – “Night…the Town”
* (Sr.) - Community Building – Interparish
* Newsletter – Spring and Easter/Pentecost Theme

***May –**** “Agape Sunday” – “The Mission Church”
* Fundraiser – “Mother's Day Off Breakfast"
* Fellowship – “Drama Marathon”
* Ministry Planning Sunday – To be announced
* (Sr.) – Fellowship – “College and Christ"
* Newsletter – Motherhood/Woman Theme

***June –**** “Agape Sunday” – “Putting Childishness Aside”
* Worship/Fellowship – “Senior Banquet”
* Community Building – “Anything Goes"
* Leadership Retreat
* Newsletter – Summer Theme

***July and August -*** * *Drama missionary trips to churches*
* *Summer Missions Trip*
* *Summer Beach Party*
* *“Way Cool Summer Blowout ‘99”*
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