

YOUNG LIFE
CAMPAIGNERS[®]
HANDBOOK

IMPACTING KIDS TODAY — PREPARING THEM FOR TOMORROW



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ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Ray Donatucci and Donna Hatasaki headed the Young Life task force that created this leader's guide to discipleship. Other members of the task force who contributed material included Fil Anderson, Sheila Chambers, Jud Jones and Mike Maisel. Ken Gire, award-winning author of *Intimate Moments with the Savior*, as well as several other books, also served in an advisory capacity.

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A Leader's Introduction to this Handbook

Introduction

This Campaigner handbook is an attempt to focus our mission on the high calling of “making disciples of all nations” (Matt 28:19). To say this is a monumental task is no overstatement. First of all, each one of us has strong convictions about what discipleship is and what it is not. Each one of us has a picture in our mind of the ideal Campaigner group and we are intensely loyal to that vision.

As we talked with staff from around the country, we discovered even the word *Campaigners* connotes a wide variety of understandings. Some areas have strong Campaigner ministries, others do not. Some places have Campaigner-led club ministries, others do not. Some areas have all-school Campaigner meetings, others break up into smaller groups based on grade and/or sex. Some parts of our country run their Wild Life clubs with high school Campaigners, others do not consider this a viable option. Some strictly adhere to a pre-planned curriculum, others respond to the ever-changing needs and desires of their Campaigner group. Some center their discipleship in work projects and mission trips, others in sharing and discovery groups, while still others anchor their meetings on biblical literacy and memorization. Many do not even like the word *Campaigners* when talking about their discipleship group.

In addition to these differences, we serve in a mission that is attempting to live out the Great Commission by reaching across ethnic, racial and social lines. Our staff find themselves working with international, urban, suburban and rural students. We are involved in some of the most affluent communities in the world and, also, in the most impoverished. We are working with the physically challenged, unwed mothers, troubled teenagers, foreign exchange students and gang members. The only thing that is “normal” in all of this is that adults are living out their love for Christ in a wide variety of settings...just as our Lord would have us do!

With these things in mind what can we say about applying the Campaigner ministry to such diverse settings? It is the hope of this task force that our mission could “stack hands” on this:

Campaigners is still a group of adolescents committed to growing in Jesus Christ and reaching out to their world for His sake.

How this takes shape may vary from one setting to the next. The personal life situations of those attending Campaigners will differ greatly. The leader’s style and language along with the biblical applications will change depending on the age, sex, race, social setting, economic resources, ethnic background, family of origin and/or geographic setting of those involved.

What follows is an attempt to find some common ground on which we can stand together. In a mission that embraces many different kinds of people from many denominational backgrounds doing so many different forms of outreach, this is an exciting challenge.

This is worth a best effort. May the Lord bless you all in this great endeavor.

What is Campaigners?

Campaigners is a group of students committed to growing in their relationship with Christ and sharing this relationship with others.

Committed to a Group

God works through a group, a “body,” a team; His Church. We learn about ourselves and His love for others as we live and work together.

Committed to Growing

As leaders, we recognize that kids are in different places in their journey with Christ. Keeping this in mind, *Campaigners is still for those who desire to grow in their faith.* In club we aim at the lowest common denominator. The club message is basic so that the one farthest away might understand. In Campaigners, however, we are running with the big dogs. We are aiming at the highest common denominator. Although our Campaigners will be at various levels of commitment to Christ, this is still a time for those who want to be challenged to grow spiritually.

Committed to Sharing

Our growth in Christ will show itself in our love for others. Campaigners is more than simply gaining biblical knowledge, although it most definitely includes this. As we grow we will want to reach out to others. Campaigners becomes the student leadership and backbone for our club work.

Mark 12:28-31: “One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, ‘Of all the commandments, which is the most important?’

“‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.’”

The **heart and soul** of Campaigners should be to help students (and ourselves) obey the great commandment:

- to love God above all else and with everything we have and are;
- to love our neighbors — families, friends, peers, those of various backgrounds and cultures, the less fortunate — as ourselves.

But this doesn't just happen.

Good teachers take time to design lesson plans.

Good coaches take time to prepare their strategy for game day.

Good builders work closely with their blueprints.

Good Campaigner leaders:

- are motivated out of their love for Christ and His truth;
- are going somewhere. They have a plan and are working on it;

- are developing their own leadership and discipleship skills;
- are prayerfully dependent on the Lord to produce *His* fruit.

This manual is for all those deeply desiring that students would encounter the Lord and grow in their faith. We hope this manual will help:

- **Focus** our attention on the high calling of discipleship;
- **Sharpen** our skills and understanding of rooting students in Christ;
- **Equip** us with tools needed in this task;
- **Provide** examples and studies on which to build;
- **Continue** the important dialogue within our mission on how best to help adolescents “live a life worthy of the gospel;”
- **Encourage** us all to love Christ and others more;
- **Develop** a new generation of leaders for Jesus Christ.

Begin With the End in Mind

Your discipleship will take the shape of whatever you believe to be your goal.

- For some the goal is informational. If we can just get Campaigners to read the Bible and learn biblical truths, we have succeeded.
- For others the goal is sharing. Our teenagers need adults who create a safe place for them to be able to talk about what they are feeling in a non-judgmental setting.
- Still others may see the goal of Campaigners as building the Young Life club at their school. Kids need a form of outreach to learn how to serve the Lord among their peers and club provides such an opportunity.

Those of us compiling this handbook believe that each of these goals is worthwhile. Our discipleship needs to be marked by biblical teaching, open sharing of who we are and the challenge to walk our talk among our friends and family. But none of these is the primary goal of our time together.

The primary goal of Campaigners is to help students love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength and to love their neighbors as themselves.

This is the great commandment. The great commandment warrants our greatest attention. It is the end that we must keep in mind as we set out.

How does Campaigners help us love God and others? By giving us a true understanding of the One we worship and our need for God (biblical literacy). By allowing us to know the Lord’s healing and compassion (honest sharing). And by giving us opportunities to

live out our faith in an unbelieving world (service and mission).

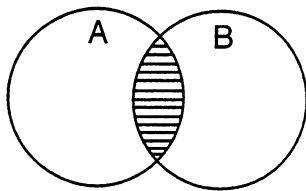
When setting out, remember the end we have in mind is to love God with all that we are and to love others more. Keep asking yourself, "How does this help my friends love God and others more?" Begin with this end in mind!

One View of Discipleship

When we think of growing in Christlikeness, three areas come to mind: beliefs (biblical literacy), emotions (honest sharing) and behavior (obedient service).

- The more I think (and believe) God's thoughts the more my mind is transformed and renewed (Romans 12:2).
- The more my attitude and disposition become like Christ's the more I become like "the fragrance of life" (2 Corinthians 2:16).
- The more my behavior reflects the love of God the more I "walk as he walked." (1 John 2:6).

We will love God more completely as these three areas grow in Christlikeness.

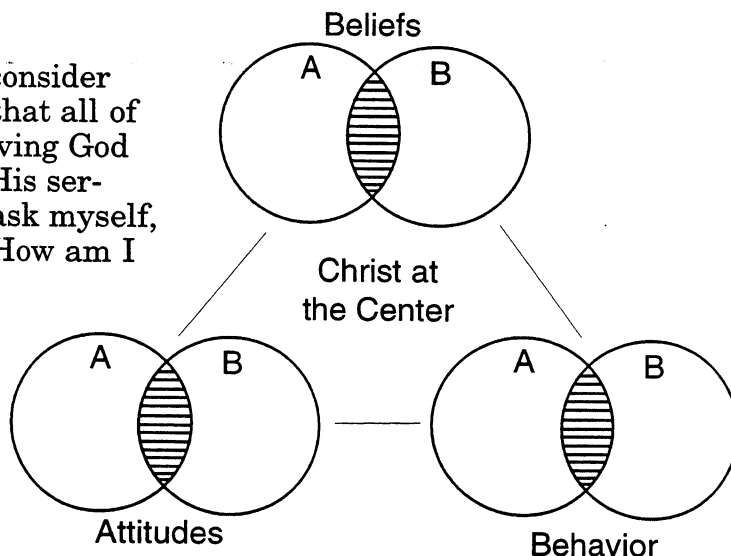


Venn Diagrams in Basic Geometry were something many of us had to endure. Do you remember "A" union "B" and "A" intersect "B"? Let's suppose that A is everything I believe and B is everything that God declares is true. Then A intersect B are all the things that I believe which are also what God declares to be true. The larger this intersection becomes, the more I am reflecting the

character of Jesus Christ.

A lot of people figure if they can't do something perfectly they have failed. In discipleship, however, I never fully arrive. I am never everything that God wants me to be. I can never say $A = B$. But, am I headed in the right direction? Can I look back and see growth in my life? Can I say, "This year I am 20 percent better than I was last year?" Now there's a reason to be thankful!

One way of analyzing discipleship is to consider the diagram to the right. Keep in mind that all of this begins with a heart committed to loving God above all else. He is the Lord and I am His servant. Once this is settled I still need to ask myself, "Am I living a life worthy of the Lord?" How am I in the areas of beliefs, behavior and attitudes? Am I growing in each area? Have I majored in one area at the expense of the other two?



The pamphlet, *My Heart, Christ's Home*, by Robert Munger, beautifully describes the process of Jesus living in us by painting the picture of our heart as a house and Jesus as a guest moving from room to room, gently redecorating as He goes. A needed quality on our part is a willingness and determination to let the Holy Spirit move into all the corners of our minds and hearts. As we have already indicated, there cannot be discipleship without discipline. **The discipline of the followers of Jesus Christ is not so much to master information as to be mastered by the Holy Spirit.** True Christian discipline is our attempt to create the space in our lives in which the Spirit of Jesus Christ can change us into the image of God.

Remember, begin with the end in mind. The end is loving God and others more.

If I want to live a life worthy of the Lord
 am I believing
 feeling
 and doing
 the things that please Him?

For us to love God more, we must allow God to master us. We must invite God to change the way we believe, feel and act. As God changes us from the inside out we will be able to live a life that is worthy of the Lord.

In the following sections of this manual, you will find a few tools that will help you and your fellow leaders as you strive to help your Campaigner friends learn to love God and other people. You will find:

- **A tool for training Campaigner leaders;**
- **A tool for planning Campaigner lessons;**
- **A tool for finding good books and resources that deal with discipleship.**

May God use these tools in your hands to help carve out His kingdom among teenagers today.

Strategies for Using this Handbook

Suggested Strategies for Using this Handbook

Don't Forget! You are modeling what it's like to lead a discipleship group as you lead your leaders through this handbook. Are you modeling: quality preparation, sensitivity to participants and good leadership in directing discussion? Your leaders will learn as much or more about leading Campaigners by watching you as they will from reading this handbook.

Session One

Title: *What Do You Know About Leading Campaigners?*

Time: 60 minutes

Objective: **This section is designed to bolster the leader's confidence** by helping the leader realize that he or she already knows a lot about leading Campaigners, even if he or she has never led a group before. It's designed to get some good discussion going on the philosophy and intent of Campaigners as well.

Strategy: 1. Read page 16 (Sit down with...) aloud or relate its contents in your own words.

2. Work through pages 17-20. You may wish to divide into pairs or small groups to work through these pages. If you choose to do this, be sure to reconvene as a whole before the meeting is over to compile comments and input.

Note: This section of the handbook promises to create some interesting and possibly lengthy discussion. Do not rush the discussion. It is better to run out of time and pick up the discussion next week than to stifle productive conversation.

Session Two

Title: *Your Walk: Examining Your Steps* (page 23-32)

Time: 60-90 minutes

Objective: **This section focuses on the life of the leader and reminds us that authentic ministry flows out of the core of the leader's character.**

Strategy: You may wish to assign this section as independent study since much of it is introspective in nature. If you choose to work through it as a group, you will need to peruse it beforehand to determine which questions are appropriate for group discussion, and which are more personal or introspective in nature. If you assign it as independent study, be sure to give leaders an opportunity at the next meeting to share some of their thoughts and/or answers.

If you choose to work through this section as a group, here is a suggested outline:

A. Loving God (10-15 minutes)

1. Question #1: Read scenario. Ask questions rhetorically.
2. Questions #2-4: Read Scripture and discuss.

B. Loving Others (45-55 minutes)

1. *A Good Friend to Walk With...Are You?* Read Scripture and write summaries in blank spaces provided.
2. *The Well-Ordered Steps of a Friend:*

Truth — Ask, “Does anyone want to share any answers to these questions?” If not, skip ahead to...

Sacrifice — Discuss “Some places I can go,” and “Some things I can do.”

Vulnerability — Optional discussion. You may wish to break into pairs to discuss or simply share your own personal example with the group.

Service — Discuss as a group or in pairs. If you break into pairs, don’t forget to consolidate input when you reconvene as a group.

C. The Interior Life of the Leader (10-20 minutes)

You may wish to assign this as independent reading or read it as a group. If you read it as a group, here are some possible discussion questions:

Before you read it, ask:

- Who in your life looks most like Christ to you and why?
- What do you know about this person’s spiritual disciplines?

After you read it, ask:

- What about this article strikes a chord in you?
- What in this article makes you uncomfortable?
- Who have you known that most walks his or her talk?
- How has this person impacted you?

Session Three

Title: *Discussions Along the Trail: Beginning with an Invitation and Planning It Out* page 34.

Time: 60-90 minutes

Objective: **In this section the leader will be challenged to determine his/her overall goal for Campaigners, and to begin thinking of individuals in the group and their needs.**

Strategy:

1. Read and discuss the text as a group.

2. Divide into pairs or small groups to: determine the goal, brainstorm the composite and identify the ten statements. Regroup before the time is up to share input.

Session Four

Title: *Discussions Along the Trail: Planning it Out*, page 35.

Time: 60-90 minutes

Objective: **This section introduces a tool for helping leaders learn to plan good discussions.**

Strategy:

1. Work through a Brainstorm sheet as a group. Divide into pairs to devise an actual discussion from the Brainstorm sheet.

or

2. Work through a Brainstorm sheet as a group. As a group, use the Brainstorm sheet to devise an actual discussion. Work through another Brainstorm sheet as a group, then assign devising an actual discussion as homework. Bring these back next session and have leaders share their ideas.

Session Five

Title: *Discussions Along the Trail: Planning it Out*, page 35.

Time: 60-90 minutes

Objective: **In this section, leaders will be challenged to sharpen their discussion skills.**

Strategy:

1. A suggestion for introducing this section is to copy the Helpful Hints on page ?, cut them into separate sections and distribute them to leaders. Have the leaders role-play the principle they've been given before the group until the group is able to guess the principle (sort of like charades).
2. Another approach: Divide the leaders into two groups. Give them five to ten minutes to come up with a role play entitled, "How to Ensure a Campaigner Kid Never Comes Back to Campaigners." Have both groups perform their role-play, then brainstorm, from what you have observed, principles for leading a discussion. Look over Helpful Hints (page 45) to see if there are any principles you have added or missed.
3. Work through the *Exercise What You Know* section (page 47) as a group, in small groups or pairs. When you reconvene, have each person share one of his best responses with the group.

Session Six

Title: *Discussions Along the Trail: Pulling it Off*, and *Picking it Apart*, page 51-55.

Time: 60-90 minutes

Objective: **This final section of the workbook focuses on the principles for facilitating a discussion and challenges the leader to evaluate his/her efforts candidly.**

Strategy:

1. Read *Pulling it Off* as a group.
2. Analyze the scene and hold a short brainstorming session to determine the principles for pulling off a good discussion. Some examples might include: be on time; welcome whoever is there gladly, even if it's one person; remove distractions; establish group rules for safe discussion such as confidentiality and no humor at someone else's expense.
3. Read *Picking it Apart* as a group. Or relate the text in your own words and discuss.
4. Read the scripture and questions on page 54 Ask the leaders to listen to the questions and answer for themselves silently.
5. Walk the leaders through *A Practical Checklist* (page 55) and explain.

The Young Life Leader's Guide for Discipleship

What do **YOU** know about

leading
CAMPAIGNERS?

Turn the page to find out.

Sit down with a group of Young Life leaders and ask, “What do you know about leading Campaigners?” and you may stop the conversation before it even gets started. Besides silence you might hear, “I know it’s frustrating!” or “I know I’m not doing a very good job at it.” On the other hand, ask, “What questions do you have concerning Campaigners?” and you’re in for a long discussion. In fact, everyone from seasoned staff to veteran volunteers, seems to have more questions than answers when it comes to leading Campaigners.

- How do you begin a group?
- Who should be included in a group?
- Is Campaigners more than just a meeting?
- How do you plan and guide a good discussion?
- What can you hope to accomplish with a Campaigners group?
- How can you measure your effectiveness as a Campaigner leader?

In this interactive workbook you will be asked to struggle with these and other questions concerning Campaigners. This workbook was constructed with the conviction that you actually have a lot of answers to these questions, but maybe just need a tool for drawing those answers to the surface. It was constructed with the conviction that the process of wrestling with these questions in the company of other Young Life leaders would be infinitely more valuable to your ministry than a manual packed with someone else’s answers that sits on your shelf and collects dust.

The title question of this workbook is, “What do you know about leading Campaigners?” not, “What does someone else want to tell you about how she leads Campaigners?” But before we can begin answering this question, we first have to answer the question that hundreds of bewildered high school students ask each year:

“Campaigners? What is Campaigners?”

Turn the page to begin wrestling with that question now.

campaigners

(kam-pān'urz) n.

If you were writing the Young Life dictionary, what would you write beside the term “Campaigners?”

Let's wrestle a little longer with the definition of Campaigners. Take these two questions to the mat:

1. You've just been appointed supervisor in charge of quality control for the new Young Life Campaigner Factory in Colorado Springs. Campaigner groups from all over the country get shipped to your plant daily for inspection before they receive the official Campaigner Seal of Approval. As you stand beside the conveyor belt, examining the passing groups, what *essential elements* are you checking for before attaching the Campaigner label?
2. It could be said that Jesus had the first Campaigner group with his 12 disciples. Imagine a reporter from the *Hebrew Herald* cornering Jesus with the following questions. How do you imagine Jesus would respond?

HH: Okay, Jesus, exactly what are the prerequisites for joining this group? How do you get in?

Jesus:

HH: When do you meet with these guys?

Jesus:

HH: What exactly do you hope to accomplish with this bunch and how do you plan to accomplish it?

Jesus:

Is Campaigners more than just a meeting? If so, what else is it? Do you think Jesus would have been able to accomplish what He hoped with the disciples if He had met with them only one hour a week? If a reporter were to ask you these same questions concerning a Campaigner group you were leading, in what ways would your answers resemble Jesus'? In what ways would they differ?

Let's tie this all together.

At the very LEAST Campaigners ought to be...

At its very BEST Campaigners can be...

Now that you've wrestled with the question, "What is Campaigners?" let's get on with answering the bigger question, "What do know about leading Campaigners?" To begin to discover just how much you know, answer the questions on the following two pages brain-storm-style (anything goes). Hang on to your answers because you'll need them again later in the workbook.

What makes you feel comfortable...

...when you participate in a group discussion? Think back to a good experience you've had in a small group. What factors contributed to that experience?

What are teenagers...

...You thought that was the end of the question? Sorry, we don't have that much time! What are teenagers looking for when they walk into a Campaigner gathering?

...looking for in a relationship with a Campaigner leader?

What do you want...

...a high school friend to walk away with when he leaves a typical Campaigners gathering? (For example: I want him to leave with a feeling of..., a desire to..., a realization of..., a conviction of..., an understanding of....)

Now imagine you're sitting at a high school graduation, and one of the graduates is a Campaigner friend you've been spending time with for the past two years. As this student packs her bags and prepares to leave the land of high school behind, what do you hope she will be taking from her two years of experience with you?

What Do You Know About Leading Campaigners?

Maybe a lot more than you thought you did. You know something about what makes people feel comfortable in a discussion. You know something about what a high school friend is looking for when he walks into a Campaigners gathering, and you know something about what you want him to walk out with when he leaves.

You know as well that Campaigners works best if it's more than just a weekly meeting — that it works best if it's more like a daily walk. A walk where, with one hand you take hold of Jesus, with the other hand you take hold of a high school friend and together you venture down the path of life, stopping regularly to discuss what you're learning along the way.

You might say that your walk with Campaigner kids involves two steps — loving God and loving others. When you repeat these two steps over and over again, like putting one foot in front of another, you find yourself following Jesus and making great strides in your walk with your high school friends.

This workbook was composed to help you in that walk with Campaigner kids. It was composed with the conviction that YOU are the key to an effective Campaigner ministry. It was composed with the conviction that your Campaigner ministry is bound to flow out of who YOU are — your personality, your spirituality, your lifestyle. And it was composed with the conviction that YOU already know a lot about leading a Campaigners discussion, but maybe just need some help organizing, expressing and refining what you know.

This workbook has been organized into two general sections: *Your Walk* and *Your Talk*. *Your Walk* deals with your relationships with the Lord and with Campaigner kids and asks the basic question, “Are you a good lover?” How well do you love God? How well do you love others? How well are you doing in these two basic steps of the Christian journey? *Your Talk* wrestles with the process of developing effective discussions along the way.

What do you know about leading Campaigners? More than enough for God to use you in a dynamic way with high school kids. You know *Him*. And *He* is the beginning and the end of the lesson.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Why have Campaigners?

- To help Christians become rooted in their faith. They need help grasping God's Word. Romans 10:27; Acts 8:31, 18:26; Nehemiah 8:8.
- To equip Christians as missionaries in their high schools, homes, communities and the world. 2 Timothy 2:2.
- To provide a deeper look at Christianity for the unbeliever (remembering that the meeting is for those who are desiring to grow). John 12:20-21.
- To provide a time for fellowship, worship, discovery and adventure around God's Word and prayer. Hebrews 10:24-25.

Your Walk

Examining Your Steps

1. Loving God
Are You Following in Jesus' Footsteps?
2. Food for Thought
What Being in the Young Life Ministry Ought to do for You.
3. Loving Others
A Good Friend to Walk With...Are You?
4. The Well-Ordered Steps of a Friend
5. The Interior Life of the Leader

1 Loving God: Are You Following In Jesus' Footsteps?

1. Imagine for a moment, your own funeral. Imagine yourself neatly laid out in a beautiful casket surrounded by fragrant flowers. The organ — or jazz band, depending on your taste — finishes playing some of your favorite songs and a trio of guests steps to the podium to reflect on your life.

The first guest has spent several days poring over your personal diaries from the past few years. All of your thoughts about yourself and other people are recorded on the pages of those diaries. The second guest has been sifting through your financial statements from the past ten years. The third guest has been skimming your personal calendar and appointment book.

One by one, each guest rises to address the crowd and report on what kind of person he has discovered you to be. Each guest concludes his remarks with this statement: "After examining _____'s personal records, I conclude without a doubt that she loved _____ more than anything else in life." What would each of the guests say?

- the guest with your thought diaries:
 - the guest with your financial records:
 - the guest with your calendar and appointment book:
2. According to Jesus in Matthew 22:37,38, who or what should we love more than anything else in life?
 3. Read John 14:31. How did Jesus prove to the world that He loved His Father?

How will we prove to the people in our world that God is the love of our life?

4. The world knew Jesus loved His Father because Jesus did whatever His Father commanded. After loving God, what did Jesus say was the second greatest commandment in Matthew 22:39?

The next three pages of this workbook deal with our efforts to love others, specifically, our Campaigner friends. *It would be good for us to remember that each time we love a Campaigner friend, we are showing her and the world our love for the Father.*

Are you following in Jesus' footsteps? If you're leaving a trail that convinces the world that the Father is the love of your life, then you're on the right path.

2 Food for Thought

What Being in the Young Life Ministry Ought to do for You.

- It ought to be so unreachably big that you can only see it through the eyes of Christ by faith.
- It ought to be harder than you can handle on your own so as to make you more dependent on God.
- It ought to give you enough disappointments to make you humble and break your spiritual pride.
- It ought to be difficult enough to make you weep for others that you might become more compassionate.
- It ought to have enough demanding, insensitive, ungrateful people in it to teach you to love like Jesus loves.
- It ought to have enough impossible, insurmountable obstacles in it to teach you the goodness and power of God.
- It ought to teach you how to love when you're tired, give when you're spent and pray when you're weary.
- It ought to teach you how to turn your mourning into dancing, your sadness into joy and your sorrow into laughter.
- It ought to teach you the power and truth of God's word, the strength of His voice and the might of His commands.
- It ought to teach you to love the only One worthy of all our love; the One who became poor that we might become rich; the One who became sin that we might become the righteousness of God.

A true ministry is the ministry that helps you become:
 more like Jesus Christ
 more in love with God
 more in love with people.

3 Loving Others: A Good Friend to Walk With...Are You?

If we're following in Jesus' footsteps, we're becoming like Him. We're becoming a good friend to walk with. Read the verses below and summarize the characteristics of Jesus that made Him a good friend to walk with.

What made Jesus a good friend to walk with?

John 14:6: "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

Are you walking in the light of truth? Do you have a good footing on God's word? Could you, without hesitation, advise a high school friend to walk in your footsteps?

John 10:11: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Are you willing to lay down your life for your high school friends? Rearrange your schedule? Give up some of your free time? Sacrifice a weekend? Do you think winning the right to be heard with kids ends once they've decided to follow Jesus? What if you could only speak 30 minutes at a Campaigner meeting for every hour you had spent with Campaigner kids outside of the meeting that week?

1 Thessalonians 2:8: "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."

Are you willing to share more than just a lesson with a Campaigner friend? Are you willing to share your life — who you are, how you're struggling, where you've failed, how God has been kind to you? Grace should always precede truth when we talk with kids. Often our weaknesses are the pitcher God uses to pour out his grace on kids. When they realize we're only human, then they'll be more ready to hear the truth we've discovered in the midst of our struggles.

John 13:12-17: “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me “Teacher” and “Lord,” and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

Are you in the habit of serving Campaigner kids? What needs do they have that you can intentionally and specifically meet?

It has been wisely said that kids won’t care how much you know until they know how much you care. As we begin discussing our faith with our Campaigner friends, we need to be asked the question:

A Good Friend to Walk With . . . Are You?

Turn the page to begin intentionalizing your friendship with Campaigner kids.

4

Loving Others The Well-Ordered Steps of a Friend

Truth

What is your personal commitment to the truth?

My plan for consistent, personal Bible study is:

My plan for Bible study with others (where I am not the leader) is:

My plan for memorizing/meditating on the scripture is:

An area where I can work on becoming a more truthful person is:

Sacrifice

What is your specific plan for sacrificing for Campaigner friends?

I plan to spend ____ hours a week with Campaigner kids outside of the Campaigner meeting.

Some places I can go to see Campaigner kids are:

Some things I can do with Campaigner kids are:

I plan to pray for Campaigner kids regularly according to this schedule:

Vulnerability

What steps can you take to increase your vulnerability with your Campaigner friends?
Who is it most difficult for you to share yourself with and why?

Do you know any promises from God that will help you overcome this obstacle to vulnerability? If so, what are they?

Will you commit to praying about becoming vulnerable with that person?

What are some specific things you could share about yourself with kids that would both help them to see your humanness and point them to Jesus?

Service

What plans can you make to serve your Campaigner friends?

List the names of some Campaigner friends. Below each name, list one specific need of that friend, then list something you intend to do to help meet that need, and when you plan to do it:

5 The Interior Life of the Leader

There are at least two characteristics which mark the lives of all the great saints who have lived throughout the ages. Whether you consider the apostles, Augustine, St. Francis of Assisi, Juliana of Norwich, John Calvin, Brother Lawrence, St. Teresa of Avila, John Wesley, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Mother Teresa, Billy Graham or any of the other named or unnamed saints, these two qualities appear to give definition, direction and quality to their lives.

First is *fellowship with God*. Look at the lives of the great saints and you see this deep and abiding intimacy with their Creator. They are people whose lives were and have been seized by His great affection for them. There is knowledge of their Father's love for them that speaks to the many issues of life. In the core of their being there resides a quiet, steady assurance that they are accepted and loved. They don't have to earn it, since it is a gift they have already been given.

The author Henri Nouwen describes this experience in his book, *Life of the Beloved*:

"Listening to that voice with great inner attentiveness, I hear at my center words that say: 'I have called you by name, from the very beginning. You are my Beloved, on you my favor rests. I have molded you in the depths of the earth and knitted you together in your mother's womb. I have carved you in the palms of my hands and hidden you in the shadow of my embrace. I look at you with infinite tenderness and care for you with a care more intimate than that of a mother for her child. I have counted every hair on your head and guided you at every step. Wherever you go, I go with you, and wherever you rest, I keep watch. I will give you food that will satisfy all your hunger and drink that will quench all your thirst. I will not hide my face from you. You know me as your own as I know you as my own. You belong to me. I am your father, your mother, your brother, your sister, your lover and your spouse...yes, even your child...wherever you are I will be. Nothing will ever separate us. We are one.'"

Second is *service for God*. Their lives are marked by reaching out, caring and giving. They follow Jesus' example of laying down their lives for their friends. An air of openness exudes from them to others. Their care is genuine and sensitive. It creates a space for the other person which, in turn, offers them the freedom to be who they really are. They don't have to act or speak a certain way to know they have value and are loved. Compassion is in their hearts; hearts that do not judge or condemn.

Again, Henri Nouwen speaks to the importance of this characteristic in *Life of the Beloved*:

"Our greatest fulfillment lies in giving ourselves to others. Although it often seems that people give only to receive, I believe that, beyond all our desires to be appreciated, rewarded and acknowledged, there lies a simple and pure desire to give...We may be little, insignificant servants in the eyes of a world motivated by efficiency, control and success. But when we realize that God has chosen us from all eternity, sent us into the world as the blessed ones, can't we, then, also trust that our little

lives will multiply themselves and be able to fulfill the needs of countless people? This might sound pompous and self-aggrandizing, but in truth, the trust in one's fruitfulness emerges from a humble spirit. It is the humble spirit of Hannah who exclaimed in gratitude for the new life born in her: 'My spirit exults in God my savior — he has looked upon his lowly handmaid — and done great things for me...from this day forward all generations will call me blessed.' The fruitfulness of our little life, once we recognize it and live it as the life of the Beloved, is beyond anything we ourselves can imagine...How different would our life be if we could but believe that every little act of faithfulness, every gesture of love, every word of forgiveness, every little bit of joy and peace will multiply and multiply as long as there are people to receive it."

These saints' lives overflow with intimacy and service, because they have surrendered to the Holy Spirit, and see their lives in relation to God, instead of God in relation to their lives. As the Psalmist said, "Know this: Yahweh is God, and God, Yahweh. He made us, we didn't make Him. We're his people," (Psalm 100:3). As a result, they recognize that every event in their life is an opportunity to experience God's presence and to offer Him service.

It seems we can know we are headed for trouble when either our spiritual life isn't leading to active ministry or our ministry doesn't emerge out of a personal, regular and intimate encounter with Jesus Christ.

John indicates that to be a minister is to be a witness. All we really have to give is that which we have been given. "From the very first day, we were there, taking it all in — we heard it with our own ears, saw it with our own eyes, verified it with our own hands. The Word of Life appeared right before our eyes; we saw it happen...We saw it, we heard it, and now we're telling you so you can experience it along with us, this experience of communion with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ," (1 John 1:1-3).

Perhaps one of the most often ignored areas of preparation for ministry in Young Life is the preparation of our own-soul. Often we can look temporarily successful in ministry, but be quickly wearing ourselves out because of inattention to our souls. On his deathbed, Jim Rayburn, the founder of Young Life, pleaded with one of his dear and trusted friends: "Don't ever let them stop telling kids about Jesus." Perhaps our greater fear in Young Life these days, should be that we as leaders would stop talking *with* Jesus, rather than we would stop telling kids *about* Him. After all, most of us have more hours of training in how to talk and be with people than in how to talk and be with God. What is our motivation in ministry? Where does the energy and drive come from? Are we leading others to an encounter with God like our own? Is there integrity in our leadership?

The example set for us by Jesus Christ demands our attention. His ministry was so powerful and unique because it was from above. It was born out of His own intimate relationship with His Abba (Father). All the questions Jesus ever raised, all the answers He gave, all the confrontations He evoked and all the consolations He offered reflected His life from above. His ministry was profoundly effective because it rose out of His own deep experience of being loved and was in no way motivated by any personal need for affirmation and acceptance. He was completely free to offer His love and service because He didn't belong to this world or anyone in it, but instead He reserved His devotion and love exclusively for His Abba in heaven.

In his book, *Leadership Jazz*, Max DuPree tells the story of the birth of his granddaughter:

“Esther, my wife, and I have a granddaughter named Zoe, the Greek word for life. She was born prematurely and weighed one pound, seven ounces, so small that my wedding ring could slide up her arm to her shoulder. The neonatologist who first examined her told us that she had a five to ten percent chance of living three days. When Esther and I scrubbed up for our first visit and saw Zoe in her isolette in the neonatal intensive care unit, she had two IV’s in her navel, one in her foot, a monitor tube and a feeding tube in her mouth.

“To complicate matters, Zoe’s biological father had jumped ship the month before Zoe was born. Realizing this, a wise and caring nurse named Ruth gave me my instructions, ‘For the next several months, at least, you are the surrogate father. I want you to come to the hospital every day to visit Zoe, and when you come, I would like you to rub her body and her legs and arms with the tips of your finger. While you are caressing her, you should tell her over and over how much you love her, because she has to be able to connect your voice to your touch.’

“Ruth was doing exactly the right thing on Zoe’s behalf (and of course on my behalf as well). And without realizing it she was giving me one of the best possible descriptions of the work of a leader. At the core of becoming a leader is the need to connect one’s voice with one’s touch.”

Whatever term we use, authenticity, congruence, consistency, it still works out in life the same way. The kids we work with in Young Life are desperately needing to know if our walk (life) and talk (words) match up. What is going on deeper in our lives will ultimately make the difference. It is the hidden, nonverbal, unspectacular things that God so often uses. We must connect our voice with our touch. Powerful proclamation becomes hollow if it is not backed up by personal practice.

The privilege and responsibility of being a Young Life leader is great. There are no shortcuts. We must be diligent and determined in our commitment to living a life of fellowship with God and service for God. To sustain effective and satisfying ministry requires an intentional effort to stay in touch with the “rivers of living water” (John 7:38) that refresh, renew and sustain. Again, at the core of becoming a leader is the need always to connect one’s voice with one’s touch.

Your Talk:

Discussion Along the Trail

1. How about Beginning with an Invitation?
2. Planning It Out
 - Food for Thought
 - Begin with the Kids in Mind
 - Food for Thought
 - Moving from Point A to Point B
 - Brainstorm!
 - Organizing Your Brainstorm into a Discussion
 - Helpful Hints for Planning a Discussion
 - Exercise What You Know
3. Pulling It Off
 - Principles for Making it Work
4. Picking It Apart
 - How Well Have You Loved?
 - A Practical Checklist
 - Food for Thought: Ministry Principles
 - Food for Thought: More than Just a Meeting

Discussions Along the Trail

Once you've become a good friend to walk with, how do you begin scheduling intentional times of discussion along the trail? How do you begin meeting regularly with a group of high school friends to discuss their journey with Jesus?

"How's your walk?
What's been
tripping you up?"

1 How about beginning with an Invitation?

If you've proven yourself a truthful person who sacrifices for your friends, responds to their needs and opens yourself up to share the real you, your high school friends are going to have a hard time resisting a personal invitation to meet you on a regular basis and discuss what they're learning along the trail. If you run a small-group Campaigners centered around one grade and/or one sex, what do you need to know before extending an invitation?

WHO are you inviting? Not only should you have a list in mind, but you should be ready to share that list with each person you're inviting.

"Sam, I've been thinking about getting some of the guys from our cabin at camp together..."

WHAT are you inviting them to do? Be clear about your intentions.

"I was wondering if you'd like to get together on a regular basis to study the Bible, pray and talk about how we're doing in our relationships with God?"

WHEN would you like to get together? It's impossible to find a time that works for every person every week. Sometimes it's best to decide on two or three times that work for you, then let your friends decide which one of those times is best for the biggest number of them.

WHERE do you plan to meet? Find a place free of distractions that is comfortable and offers some measure of warmth for your friends.

WHY do you want to meet with this person? Because you consider him a friend.

"Sam, I count you as one of my friends, and, because of that, I'd like to begin to meet with you and some of the other guys from our cabin to study the Bible, pray and talk about our relationships with God."

Some leadership teams choose to run *one* Campaigners for the whole school (all grades and both sexes) for the purpose of building a community of believers in the high school as well as giving kids ownership of club and the opportunity for ministry. In this scenario, "who to invite" is not much of a question because Campaigners is open to all students — from the new believer to the mature Christian. For guidelines on this type of meeting, please refer to page 63.

2 Planning It Out...

You love God and you're busy demonstrating it to the world by loving other people. You've decided to focus your efforts particularly on high school folks. You've befriended some kids and proven yourself to be a good friend to walk with. Some of the kids you've befriended have recently decided to follow Jesus. Some were already following.

You've invited your friends to begin meeting with you regularly to discuss what you're learning along the trail as you follow Christ together. They've agreed to meet and are looking forward to it. **NOW WHAT?** Do you rush out to a bookstore and buy a stack of Bible study books and hope that somehow they meet the needs of your group? Do you play it by ear and scribble a few thoughts on a napkin an hour before you meet with your friends? Do you pull out every old trick from your Young Life bag that you've seen used in the past that seemed to work — or at least kept kids occupied for an hour or so? After all, isn't the goal of the meeting to make sure there's no dead air time?

Where do you begin when it comes to planning a discussion with your friends?

Stephen R. Covey, in his best-selling book *The Seven Habits of Highly Successful People*, says you should "begin with the end in mind." Add to that wise guideline, "Begin with the kids in mind," and you've got the boundaries of a good beginning.

Begin with the end in mind. Now is the time to review your answer to the question, "What do you want a Campaigner friend to pack with him from his years of experience with you when he graduates from high school?" In fact, imagine that your friend has an unusually small suitcase and can carry only one thing with her from her years or months or weeks with you. What would that one thing be? Write it out in sentence form in the box below:

This statement represents your ultimate goal for your Campaigner friends.

For the purposes of this handbook, keep this goal or objective always at the forefront of your thoughts when you plan your Campaigner discussions. Every discussion you have should somehow help your friends take a step closer to that goal. For the purposes of this workbook, the answer to the above question is: **We want our Campaigner friends to walk away from their experience with us with an increased love for God and for other people.** Our Lord's great command in Matthew 22:37-39 remains our focus in Campaigners — to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves. In fact, you'll find that each of the resource sheets for discussions at the back of this workbook tie into this overall objective.

Begin with the kids in mind.

Now that you've stated clearly what your ultimate goal is for your Campaigners, you need to establish where to begin. You are beginning with your friends, where they are, who they are, what they are today. Need a visual tool?

POINT A

Your Campaigner Friends
Where They are Spiritually Today

POINT B

Your Ultimate Goal for Them
Where You'd Like Them to Be Eventually

The question is, how do you get from Point A to Point B? We'll get to that. But first you need to thoroughly examine Point A. Let's begin with the kids in mind.

Draw a Campaigner composite. Brainstorm for a few minutes a profile of a typical Campaigner friend. Who is she socially? What are some of her social needs? Who is she emotionally? What are some of her emotional needs? Who is she spiritually? What are some of her spiritual needs? The more specific you can be in this composite, the more useful it will be to you when you plan a discussion for your group. In other words, if you lead a group of junior and senior guys, then brainstorm a composite of junior and senior guys. If you lead a coed group of freshmen, then draw a composite of a freshman. In fact, it would be highly beneficial to you, at some point, to sit down and draw a composite of each person in your group. If you lead an all-school Campaigners, a composite of your whole group might be helpful. However, the more in touch you are with who they are, the more likely your discussions will hit the mark, scratch the itch and inch their feet closer to your goal. Here's a sample composite:

Freshmen Girls Sample Composite

Socially: They giggle a lot and talk a lot; are basically immature; may not be used to sharing in a group; need a lot of time to talk about themselves; need tools to help them share in a group (for example: a weather map of their life drawn with crayons on paper to help them talk about what's going on in the different parts of their life).

Emotionally: They tend to be insecure and highly unpredictable; can be laughing one minute and crying the next; feel things strongly but can't always verbalize their feelings; need a lot of affirmation and acceptance; need a stable leader who won't take their emotional swings personally; need tools to help them verbalize their feelings (for example: the weather map).

Spiritually: This group is largely composed of new Christians with a couple who are still investigating the faith. They know almost nothing about the Bible, prayer, church or anything else that deals with the life of faith. They need to be greatly encouraged in their new love for Jesus. They need to be instructed in the basic steps of faith. They need to be warned of the hazards they'll be encountering. They need to be assured of God's forgiveness.

Now draw your own Campaigner composite. Beneath your composite is another box. In it write the sentence you came up with that summarizes your ultimate goal for your Campaigner friends. It will be helpful to have your beginning (Point A: where your Campaigner friends are today) and your end (Point B: where you want them to be ultimately) on the same page.

**Campaigner Composite
(Point A: Where they are Now)**

Socially:

Emotionally:

Spiritually:

**Your Ultimate Goal for Your Campaigner Friends
(Point B: Where you want them to be Eventually)**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Who your Campaigner friends are spiritually
determines the material;
Who they are socially and emotionally
determines the method.

Moving from Point A to Point B...

It's time for a disclaimer. Or maybe just a clarification. Talking about the Christian journey in terms of moving from point A to point B is not theologically sound. It's not as if we, at point A, do not love God or anyone else. It doesn't mean we are unable to love God and others until we have arrived at point B. We begin loving God and others the moment Christ first comes into our heart. Moving toward point B simply means we're growing deeper in our love for God and others. Breaking the Christian journey down into mechanical parts is not a true reflection of what is happening in the life of the believer, but it is useful for helping us organize our thoughts as we work to plan discussions.

With that in mind, how do you begin to move from point A to point B? Very slowly. Usually two steps forward and one step backward. It's important that you keep re-evaluating your progress all along the way. Though your point B (your goal) will not change, your point A (your friends) will change regularly. You can only hope to move point A toward point B if you are meeting point A where she is and escorting her gently toward point B.

Now that you've thoroughly examined where your Campaigner friends are, and you know clearly where you want them to eventually be, list below up to 10 statements they need to grasp in order to get from point A to point B. For example: If point A is a new Christian who understands very little about the faith, and point B is a maturing Christian who has a deepening love for God and for others, then here are some statements she would need to grasp to get from point A to point B:

1. God loves you so much, He has come to live within you.
2. God loves you so much, He wants you to talk with Him about everything.
3. God loves you so much, He has special plans just for you.
4. God wants you to love Him in return.
5. We can love God by loving the people He created.
6. Love is an action, not a feeling.

As you can see, once you get started, it's not hard to begin firing out those statements. Try it yourself. List below up to 10 statements your Campaigner friends need to grasp in order to move toward your ultimate goal for them.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You now have the beginnings of your first 10 Campaigner discussions. Each of the statements you've made could be the core objective for one Campaigner discussion. You could build an entire discussion around that statement. The purpose of each discussion would be for your Campaigner friends to walk away with a grasp of the statement for that week. For example, if your statement for the week is, "God loves you so much, He has come to live within you," then you build an entire discussion — complete with questions, scripture, analogies, personal stories, creative activities — around that statement. When your friends leave the discussion that week, the one thing they're certain of is that "God loves me so much He has come to live within me." The realization of that fact moves them one step closer to loving God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, and loving their neighbors as themselves.

Now that you know 10 points you would like to make, how do you begin to build a discussion around each point?

BRAINSTORM!

Use the following method to begin brainstorming a discussion.

1. **Write out your ultimate goal again:** I want my friends to love God and others more by...
2. **Write out the specific objective for this discussion.** This is your goal and the statement your friends need to grasp in order to move one step closer toward your goal (For example: my friends will love God and others more because they have a better understanding of the truth that Jesus has come to live within them):
3. **Brainstorm scripture references.** Write out any reference you know that deals with your statement. At this point you may want to consult a concordance or Bible dictionary. Comparing different translations of the same verse(s) can be helpful as well. Write where the verse(s) is found and a brief description of the passage, for example: John 14 — Jesus promises the Holy Spirit:

Now determine which verse(s) you're going to use. Don't choose too many. Keep it simple.

4. **Look at the verses you've chosen.** Brainstorm scripture questions that deal directly with those verses. For example: John 14:15-20 — Who gives us the Holy Spirit? How long will the Holy Spirit be with us? What are some of the words Jesus uses to describe the Holy Spirit? As you brainstorm these verses, you may want to divide the following space into sections and keep questions written beneath the appropriate verse(s).

5. **Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point,** even though they may not be based directly on the scripture you read. For example: What images come to mind when you hear the words, "Holy Spirit?" What do you think some of the advantages would be to having God living within you?

6. **Brainstorm sharing questions.** These are questions that reveal more about the person answering the question than about the scripture or topic being discussed. For example: Since you've been following Jesus, what changes have you noticed in the way you think and feel?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you're trying to make. Remember, no matter how good a story is, if it doesn't help your friends understand your point, save it for another day.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers. Brainstorm questions or activities, attention-getters or "hooks" to open the discussion and capture your friends' interest. For example: Who knows you better than anyone else, and how did they get to know you so well? You may want to borrow questions from previous numbers for this part.

Organizing Your Brainstorm into a Discussion

Now that you've brainstormed all the questions and stories you can possibly think of, how do you begin to sift through and organize this information into a flowing discussion? First we have to concede that, no matter how well-organized we are, there's no guarantee the discussion is going to flow down the channel we hollow out for it. Kids have minds of their own. And questions of their own. And crises of their own. And moods of their own. The best we can do is plan the direction we'd like the discussion to take, then trust the Holy Spirit to make the actual discussion unfold. Following is a tool to help you begin to organize your thoughts, questions and stories into what *could* be a flowing discussion.

1. **Icebreaker** (How will you get their attention and begin the discussion? Choose from #8 on the brainstorm page. For example: Who knows you better than anyone else and how did they get to know you so well?):
2. **Bridge question or statement** (A simple statement or question that leads from the icebreaker into the meat of the discussion; a transition statement. For example: Today we're going to talk about someone who knows you better than the person who knows you best.):
3. **Examination and discussion of scripture** (draw from numbers 4, 5, 6 and 7 on the brainstorm pages):

4. **Which verse from this study can you memorize and meditate on for your next meeting?**

5. **Application** (How does what we've talked about impact our lives personally? Sharing questions might fit here. For example: Think about your day today. Share one thing that would have been different if you had fully realized that God was with you in person.):

6. **Action step for the week** (What action can we take based on what we've learned today? Give the group time to discover and discuss this. Encourage them to come up with a specific, measurable — or at least semi-measurable — action for the week. For example: This week, each time I turn on the TV, I will first ask myself, "Is this something Jesus is going to enjoy watching with me?"):

Remember: what is expected must be inspected. Be sure you ask them for a report on their experiences next week.

Helpful Hints for Planning a Discussion...

1. **People forget lectures but remember discoveries.** Don't tell them what you want them to know; help them discover it for themselves through the artful use of questions and exercises.

For example: Instead of listing the essential elements of a Campaigner group, you might instead propose a scenario: "You've just been appointed supervisor in charge of quality control for the new Young Life Campaigner Factory...What essential elements are you looking for before attaching the Young Life seal of approval?"

2. **Avoid asking a question with a right answer** when possible.

For example: "What is Campaigners?" might be better phrased, "If you were writing the Young Life dictionary, what would you write beside the term 'Campaigners'?"

3. **Plan as many questions as possible.** *Anticipate* as many of their questions as possible. The purpose is to be prepared to respond to their questions with more questions that will lead them to discovery.

For example: When a Campaigner asks, "But how can I be sure the Holy Spirit lives in me?" instead of instantly responding with "Ten Ways You can be Sure the Holy Spirit Lives in You," you might say, "That's a good question. Has anyone seen evidence of the Holy Spirit in your life since you've started following Jesus? What did it look like?"

4. **Help them feel successful and affirmed.** There are at least a couple of ways to do this:

When someone asks a question or makes a point that is lost in the grass out in right field, find a way to affirm what was said and redirect the remark to the discussion at hand.

For example: When a Campaigner says, "Where's the verse in the Bible that says, 'If you love something, set it free?'" you could say, "That's a great saying, isn't it? But actually, it's not in the Bible. Although there are a lot of verses that talk about love and freedom, like the one Sam just read..."

Another way you can make your Campaigner friends successful is to make them the experts. Be the student and let them be the teacher. Ask them with your attitude, your eyes and your questions to "teach me who you are."

For example: You might say, "Tell me what it's like to be a sophomore at Central High School." Or, "If you were a parent, what's one rule you would make for your kids?"

- 5. Use vivid imagery.** A picture is worth a thousand words. People think in pictures. Use images to: (a) turn flat questions into exciting encounters; and (b) make God's word come alive.
- a. Turn flat questions into exciting encounters: Instead of saying, "Tell me what Jesus' philosophy of discipleship was," you might say, "Imagine a reporter from the *Hebrew Herald* cornering Jesus with these questions..."
 - b. Make God's word come alive: Think of the five senses when you read a passage. How did Zacchaeus feel sitting up on that prickly limb? What did it sound like when Jesus turned over the tables in the temple? What did the disciples' feet smell like when Jesus bent down to wash them?
- 6. Remember that self-disclosure is self-disclosure, not other-disclosure.** Personal questions should always be optional and most always first answered by you.
- 7. Assume that your friends know nothing about the Bible.** Show them the table of contents. Give them plenty of time to find verses. Don't put them on the spot.
- 8. Avoid Christian jargon.** Think of fresh ways to communicate unfamiliar terms like "justification" and "sanctification." Avoid cliches, as well.

Exercise What You Know...

Exercise what you know about planning a discussion by working through the problems below:

1. **Discovery — not lecture.** You have a group of new Christians. You want to give them an overview of the basics they need in order to keep walking with Jesus: prayer, Bible study, fellowship, etc. Come up with an exercise or a set of questions that would lead them to discover what they need without you having to come right out and tell them.

2. **Avoid asking a question with a right answer.** Rewrite the questions or statements below so that however the person answers, he or she can feel good about the answer.
 - a. Define sin.

 - b. What did Jesus mean when He said to the woman at the well, “Whoever drinks of the water I give him will never thirst?”

 - c. What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

3. Planning and anticipating questions. You are talking to the group about 1 Corinthians 13 and the characteristics of a loving person. You've avoided lecturing them about the characteristics of a loving person by asking them to write a want-ad for a loving person, then reading 1 Corinthians 13 and writing, as a group, God's want-ad. As you work on God's want-ad together, questions and comments are popping up. Some are in left-field. Some are good but are not useful to discuss with the group at this time. And some are good and need discussing. For each of the questions or comments below, write a question in response, or a question and a statement, that would direct the flow of the conversation to serve your purposes.

a. Speaking of want-ads, I saw this really disgusting personal ad the other day...

b. Love never fails? Then why are there so many divorces?

c. Choose a passage from one of the gospels. John 2:1-11 would work nicely. Read the passage and in the space below, brainstorm as many possible questions concerning this passage as you can. Anything goes. After you're finished brainstorming, evaluate your list of questions and make any changes or improvements you can think of.

4. Make them successful. You've already practiced dealing with a left-fielder in the above exercise. Now practice making them the experts by appropriately phrasing two or three questions for each of the areas below. Make them the experts on:

a. Friendship:

b. Family Relationships:

c. Life at their High School:

5. Use vivid imagery. Can you think of more creative or picturesque ways to ask the following questions?

a. What do you think Jesus thinks about your thought life over the past two days?

b. What area of your life do you feel needs the most work, spiritually speaking?

c. What do you want to be known for at school?

6. Self-disclosure, not other-disclosure. Rephrase the questions or statements below as needed:

a. Okay, now everyone is going to share their most embarrassing moment. Sam, you start.

b. When have you experienced the most pain?

7. Assume that your friends know nothing about the Bible. If you were handing out slips of paper with Bible references written on them, how would you rewrite these references:

a. 1 Cor. 13:1-8

b. 1 Jn. 1:9

8. Avoid Christian jargon. Translate the following terms into modern language:

a. justification

b. sanctification

c. walking by faith

d. grace

9. Make God's word come alive. Choose one of the following passages. Read it and ask yourself questions involving the five senses. Then either rewrite the passage in your own words or practice relating the passage to a friend.

a. John 13:2-5 (Jesus washes the disciples' feet.)

b. Matthew 14:22-23 (Jesus walks on water.)

c. Mark 11:15-17 (Jesus clears the temple.)

3 Pulling it Off...

Principles for Making It Work.

The day has finally arrived for your first Campaigner meeting. You've planned ahead thoroughly, talked with God amply and now you're walking into the living room of the house where the discussion is going to take place. Is there anything you need to know in order to pull this thing off? Read the following scenario. *Circle any trouble spots* that need to be corrected before the next meeting. *Underline any positive efforts* that need to be affirmed and repeated next time. Then, from what you've circled and underlined, make a list of principles to follow for pulling off a successful discussion.

John, the leader, walks into Campaigners. "Sorry I'm late, guys," he says. "The phone rang when I was walking out the door. Hey, where is everyone?"

"There was a meeting after school for anyone trying out for spring sports," one of the guys replies as he changes the channel on the TV.

"O.K., guys," John says. "Let's gather around the table here and get started with the discussion. Mark, would you turn off the TV for us? Guys, I just want to start out by saying how glad I am you're here."

"Yeah," Sean replies, "Too bad those guys from spring sports couldn't be here."

"I don't know," Mark adds. "I'm glad Rico isn't here. I don't like him."

"Me neither," Mike adds.

"Really?" asks John. "What don't you like about Rico?"

After a few minutes of free-for-all Rico-bashing, John redirects the conversation. "Guys, I want this group to be your group. I want you to have a big say in when we meet and what we talk about. Right now I'd like you to write down on this paper I'm passing out three things you'd like to talk about during our times together."

Eventually John ignites his well-planned discussion and the hour passes like a minute, with everyone wishing there was more time to talk. John says, "We'll just have to stop with Mark's comment and pick up with this again next week. Great questions, guys. Great discussion."

"Yeah," says Mike, "all except those wonderful insights from Sean!" Everyone laughs at Mike's obvious sarcasm. Everyone except Sean, that is.

"Mark, I know you've never prayed out loud in a group before," John says, "but would you close our time together with a prayer now?"

Later that evening the leader, John is at a ballgame with some Young Life kids who weren't at Campaigners. Someone asks how the Campaigner meeting went. John says, "It was great. But poor Mike. I didn't realize he felt so bad about not getting the part he wanted for the play. He hides his feelings really well."

You should be able to come up with at least 10 principles of pulling off a discussion from this scenario. And maybe a few more that aren't illustrated here. In fact, you might want to refer back to your answers to "What makes you feel comfortable when you participate in a discussion?" (page 19). List all the principles you can think of for pulling off a discussion below:

Principles for Pulling Off a Discussion

4 Picking it Apart...

How Well Have You Loved?

How do you begin to measure your success as a Campaigner leader? When we ask that question, immediately stomachs churn. That's because we usually think of success in terms of measured results. We think our success is measured by the answers to these questions:

How many kids are coming to Campaigners? How many Campaigner kids are faithfully walking with the Lord? How many are teenage Mother Teresas? How many are signing up to become missionaries in Africa? How many have quit partying? How many have indicated an interest in summer workcrew?

But, if we measure our success in terms of results, then Jesus many times looked like a failure. His "Campaigner group," after three years of walking with Him, day in and day out, deserted Him when He needed them most. At times they cared about who was going to sit where in heaven more than they cared about the heart of Jesus.

Measuring success in terms of results is a very tricky business when your results involve living, breathing people complete with a free will and a sinful nature. *We can only measure our success in terms of things we have control over*, and no matter how persuasive or attractive we might be as a leader, we cannot control other people.

What, then, do we have control over? *Our own efforts*. How do we measure our success as a Campaigner leader? By laying our efforts alongside of God's commandments. How did Jesus measure the success of His ministry? He laid His life down beside the yardstick of His Father's commandments, and showed the world by His death that His task had been a success.

What question did Jesus answer in order to measure His success? He answered the question, "How well have I loved?" And the answer was, "Perfectly." He loved His Father more than life itself, and He loved His Father's children as Himself.

What question do you need to answer in order to evaluate your success as a Campaigner leader? *How well have I loved?* The work that love does in the hearts and minds of kids is God's business. It's out of our control. On the next page you'll find a short passage and a few simple questions to help you reflect once again on your love life.

Self-Evaluation

“As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us...You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.”

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, 10-12 NIV

1. Mark the line below with an X in the location that best describes your attitude in Campaigners:

gentle _____ forceful

2. Are you sharing your *life* with kids as well as your *words*?
3. How often do you spend time outside of the meeting with these friends?
4. Paul uses “holy, righteous and blameless” to describe himself to his “Campaigner group.” What three adjectives would your Campaigners use to describe you?
5. “Encouraging, comforting and urging.” Paul devotes two-thirds of his effort to lifting up and one-third to pushing out. How does this compare to your efforts in Campaigners?
6. Good fathers are realistic in their expectations of their children. A father of a two-year-old doesn’t expect her to do algebra. What are realistic expectations we can have for Campaigner kids?
7. How and what have you prayed for them?

It might be a good idea to ask yourself these questions regularly. And it wouldn’t hurt to ask yourself at the end of each day, “How well have I loved?”

A Practical Checklist.

Beyond evaluating how well you have loved, there are a few mechanical questions you can ask yourself after each Campaigner meeting that will help you improve your effectiveness. Below is a sample page from a journal you might keep concerning Campaigners:

Date:

Location of meeting:

Who attended: (circle first timers)

Prayer requests:

Topic of discussion:

Questions or stories that went over well:

Questions or stories that need improving:

Comments kids made that I need to follow up on:

Ideas that came to me for future Campaigner discussions:

Business items we discussed:

Who do I need to spend time with this week?

Food for Thought

Ministry Principles

1. **Effective ministry is relational.** Jesus is the ultimate example of relational ministry...“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Our groups should continue to grow in their relationship with *us*, each other and the Lord. Campaigners is not just a Bible study.
2. **The goal of our ministry is to love God more.** We are calling kids to be givers and not takers, to think of others more than themselves and to see that obedience to Christ is the most important lesson to learn in their lives.
3. **Relationships are more important than meetings.** This is not to say that the way we plan our meetings is not important. But kids learn more about following Christ from our lives than our lessons. What we do outside of the meetings is vitally important to how kids come to understand how to walk with God.
4. **Campaigners is not an end in itself.** If it is, it will become stagnant. We must help our friends discover their ministry (2 Timothy 2:2). The goal of their lives as well as ours is to love God and others more. How are they doing this?
5. **New believers need immediate attention.** We would never leave a newborn baby alone to fend for herself. Newborns need attention and care and so do new Christians. Follow-up starts immediately.
6. **You cannot out-give God.** The more you give the more God gives you to give. What you don't use you lose is very true. Look at all God has given us. By comparison, at our best, we hardly give anything at all.
7. **What is expected must be inspected.** Never give an assignment that you do not follow up on at the next meeting.
8. **Kids want something big enough to which they can give their best.** Expect big things. Challenge and affirm those who are catching on.
9. **Be the servant of your Campaigner group.** Avoid using high school people to meet your needs for approval, identity and acceptance. As leaders we are to set aside our needs in order to help our friends discover and experience answers on their own.
10. **Model and uphold the value of the Church.** Remember, we have them for four years at the most. They will need to spend the rest of their lives in the Church. Help them understand the unique role the Church will play in the lives.
11. **More is caught than taught.** Keep in mind that our Campaigner friends will become like we are. This puts a premium on our personal relationship with Jesus. If we are growing they will catch this from us. If we are not they will pick this up as well.
12. **Prayer is the real work.** This is our most important challenge. There is nothing we can do that is more important in our ministry with Campaigners than praying for them.

Food for Thought

More Than Just a Meeting!

Growth in Loving Christ

- Are they growing in their obedience to the Lordship of Jesus in their lives?
- Are they growing in their understanding of biblical truths and principles?
- Are they becoming a positive part of their school, family, friends and club?
- Are they learning to give and to serve?
- Are they learning to worship Jesus Christ?
- Are they involved in the things that interest Him?

Growth in Loving Others

- Outreach is discussed as part of every meeting.
- Give them a specific application (something they can put into practice) each meeting. Check up on applications "What is expected must be inspected."
- Give kids ownership and roles in club. Discuss the previous club each week and help them understand the principles behind it.
- Pray for club and specific people at each Campaigners.
- Be constantly looking for ways to serve their families, friends and communities.

More Thoughts on Campaigners

Food For Thought

Helpful Hints and Creative Ideas

- 20-second sharing — split into groups of three and give them a question to answer. Start with one person in the group and say “go.” Time for 20 seconds; when time is up yell “switch,” then it goes to the person on the right. After the third person, yell “time.” This process can be repeated for as many questions as you ask. Three is a recommended number. When they pray it is no longer timed.

Sample questions:

Lighter: Share favorite movie.
If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go?
Share something exciting that happened this week.
Favorite hobby, tv show, food, etc.
Share a positive way you’ve seen God working.
20 sec. weather report on how you’re doing.

Deeper: Share something you’re struggling with.
If God could change something in your life, what would it be?
Share toughest thing you’ve been through this year.
Ways you’ve seen God work this week.
Something you are trusting God for.
Something you are excited about.

Last: Something you need prayer for.

- Turn to one other person and share what you’re learning or not learning in your quiet time. Pray for each other.
- Every kid get a partner and share the story of how he or she began walking with Jesus.
- As a group — have kids encourage others in the group for something they saw them do in Christ that week. This encouragement and affirmation helps them know what could happen if they applied themselves more to serving others in their school.
- Possible ways to pray together in Campaigners
 - 1 sentence prayers thanking God
 - 1 word prayers of attributes of God (holy, powerful, awesome)
 - Names of God (Lamb of God, Good Shepherd)
 - Prayers of how you’ve seen Him work lately
- Check on last week’s application! There must always be an application!

- Don't tolerate negative humor or sarcasm. Obviously there is a gentle, thoughtful way to correct and an insensitive way. Be wise in the way you correct. Encourage the best without shaming. Try to avoid rebuking in the group. It's always better to pull the person aside one to one.
- Possible format to begin the meeting with:
 - Singing (one fast song — to bring focus and to experience the joy of Christ, then two to three slower songs. These help students experience worship and can serve as the number 8 on your Brainstorm sheet).
 - Starting with your Bridge Question from your “Organizing Your Brainstorm” sheet, you can continue your study as you planned.
- Helpful Tips:
 - Have written notes to refer to 2 Timothy 2:15.
 - Encourage everyone to bring a notebook.
 - Affirm kids when they answer a question.
 - Try to avoid Christian terminology when possible.
 - Be alert to situations that are happening in their lives that might help them understand your point.
 - Make sure you don't get sidetracked by a question, comment or interruption. But be sensitive to the situation.
 - Have them read the scriptures you use to teach from. Ask “who wants to read loud and with enthusiasm?” If reading a long passage, pass off after a few verses or break to explain.
 - Avoid reading too many scripture references.
 - Expect that *you* will learn in your preparation of the study.
 - If possible, make sure everyone is reading from the same translation. If not, call attention to the differences and compare them from time to time when it might be helpful or instructive.

Challenges for Campaigners

- Pray for their friends. Keep a journal of prayers prayed and watch the faithfulness of God at work.
- Prayer partners to meet with during the week to pray for each other, common concerns and club.
- Invite friends to club.
- Fill your car with non-Christians friends when you come to club.
- Introduce your friends to the club leaders.
- Sit with new kids at club and help them feel at home.
- Cheer for skits, clap with the song leader, involve others, sing enthusiastically, be quiet during the talk and pray for the speaker.
- Help clean up after club.
- When driving people home ask what they thought. Look for opportunities to share what Jesus means to you.
- Encourage leaders and other Campaigners.
- Pray regularly for new Christians.
- Go to church together.
- Who are the “lepers” in their school? How can they be reached?
- Who are the “lepers” in their community? What can they do for them?
- Expose them to other teachers, churches, friends and situations. Sometimes we are too protective of “our kids” and don’t allow them to become attracted to other expressions of faith. Remember, they are not “our kids.”

Basic Elements of a Large Group Campaigner Meeting

Worship
Family Time
Teaching
Vision

I. Worship

Purpose: Colossians 1:28. Focusing our heart in prayer and in song:

1. Teaches kids how to worship — how to tell God what they feel and their love for Him.
2. Brings focus to the meeting — brings everyone together while creating a positive atmosphere.
3. Scripture songs provide a great way to learn scripture.

II. Family Time (See Helpful Hints and Creative Ideas, page 60)

Purpose:

1. Building God's family in the school
2. Establishing virtues for the group
3. Connecting relationally — growing deeper in Christian community.

Principles to keep in mind:

1. Build an atmosphere of affirmation for every effort in Christ.
2. The pacesetting of a few raises the standards of the whole group.
3. We forget a lot of what we hear and remember most of what we discover ourselves.

III. Teaching

Purpose: To communicate doctrine of the Christian faith in terms a high school student can understand and apply to his/her life.

Principles to remember:

1. The Spirit of God opens their minds so they can understand the Scripture (Luke 24:45). Pray as you prepare.
2. High school students are the busiest and most bored segment of our culture, therefore teaching should be laced with applications and examples.
3. People remember 55 percent body language, 7 percent what you say, 38 percent how you say it (voice inflection).

Format: This varies based on the leader's gifts. Some can hold kids attention by doing all the talking. Most need to include interaction.

IV. Vision

Purpose: To discover what God wants to do through them in their high schools, families, communities and world. To specifically teach kids how to live out their faith — to take what they are learning and put it into real-life terms.

We are good at teaching them about God but where we fail is in teaching them how to live it out in math class, in the lunchroom, on the field, on the basketball court, with family, on a date, with their money and possessions, in the hallway, with those who are “different,” etc... We need to be experts on training kids to live out their faith, individually and with each other.

We are building a family to accomplish something — to encourage each other to grow in loving God and to bring the love of Christ to their friends. What’s OUR vision? That they would love God more, love each other and that they would bring Christ to their friends. (If you’re a football team, the goal is to get to the end zone. Without the end zone, there is no game. *Most Christian kids don’t have an end zone — they don’t know their purpose.*)

Examples:

- It means nothing to a high school kid to tell him “Consider others better than yourselves,” (Philippeans 2:4) or “Serve others” (Mark 10:45), but if we tell them “give up the front seat; say hi first, offer rides, offer to get something when you get up from the table, look for ways to include others instead of being included,” all of a sudden it means the world.
- Ask, “What would it be like at your school if everyone knew Christ?” Paint a picture for them — this means more than just saying “we need to witness.”
- Dream about how to reach the whole school. Ask, “What would be the best way to reach the school? A big truck with speakers in the parking lot? Pamphlets at lunch? A rally? We think the best way is to help them to see the value of relationships — loving your friends, praying for them, looking for ways to serve them (be specific).
- Have each person pick someone to be praying for. Start with 1 not 10 — pray that God would show you who that one is. Ask “Who’s the person you are praying for.” “How have you been able to serve him?”
- What would it be like at club if everyone here brought someone new?
- Evaluate club in Campaigners (they are partners in the ministry).
- Share stories of how someone impacted the school. Ask, “who impacted you and how?”
- Don’t let their vision end at Young Life. “The goal is not to get your friends to Young Life. The goal is, how are your friends going to hear about and experience Christ?”

Caring for New Christians

A Checklist for Action

A young friend of yours has just decided to follow Jesus Christ. Now what? You've been so focused on winning the right to be heard and communicating the Good News clearly that, perhaps, you weren't quite prepared to hear your friend say, "I've given my life to Jesus." What do you do next? *New Christians need immediate attention.* Here are some ideas:

- Discuss your friend's decision with him individually and *immediately* to determine exactly what he decided to do. Has he truly surrendered his life to Jesus? Does he understand the implications of this? Pray with him and help him discover the adventure he has undertaken.
- Give your friend a Bible. Take some time to walk her through the basics of the Bible. Young Life's *The Journey* Bible has some great articles that will help her begin her devotional life with Jesus. Don't just hand her a *Journey*. Go over these articles and help introduce her to regular devotional times with the Lord.
- Get him started reading the Bible. Share some of your favorite passages with him. Reading a Gospel together and meeting regularly to discuss what the Lord is teaching you is often a great place to start.
- Keep in close contact. Plan on calling or visiting your friend frequently, especially at first. Think of her as an infant left in your care. Too much time without personal contact could be harmful to her health.
- Take your friend to church. If your friend already attends church with his family, offer to go with them. Introduce him to others in the church that might help him grow and stay focused on Christ — youth pastor, senior pastor, other committed students. If your friend doesn't have a church home, invite him to come to church with you. Pick him up, sit together, introduce him to your friends and the pastors, process the time with him after the service and don't forget to bring him again next week.
- Invite your friend to Campaigners. A supportive group of Christian peers is critical. Get the more mature Christian kids involved with your friend.
- Pray for your friend daily. Satan is seeking whom he can devour. Your prayers provide a shield of protection for this newborn believer. Ask other people to be praying for your friend as well.

Ethical and Legal Concerns

As a Young Life leader, you have the indescribable privilege of introducing disinterested kids to Jesus Christ. As a Campaigner leader, you have the awesome responsibility of living a life which is a model of hope for them.

Kids look at all aspects of your life. They notice how you spend your time and money. They watch how you treat your spouse/kids or close friends. They pay attention to whether or not you keep their confidences. They observe your driving patterns; they listen to your language. In short, your life is an open book.

When a Young Life leader violates healthy sexual boundaries to become inappropriately involved with an adolescent, that young person, who is at a time of great vulnerability in his or her life, experiences the profound betrayal of one in whom great trust has been placed.

How does boundary crossing begin? It often begins in particular settings which, if thought through ahead of time, could have been avoided. Based on the knowledge of these situations, we ask you to comply with the following guidelines (not a comprehensive list):

- If you are a male, focus your ministry with males; females with females.
- Don't be alone in a recreational or driving situation with a person of the opposite sex.
- Have your one-on-one depth conversations in a public place.
- Respect the boundaries of others; don't assume that others welcome your hug or your touch.
- Understand that dating between a Young Life leader and a kid is NEVER appropriate.

In many ways these guidelines belong in the arena of "abstaining from all appearance of evil," (1 Thessalonians 5:22). And, it may seem to you that these guidelines are far too obvious...that it would be unnecessary to spell them out. But these are exactly the situations which have resulted in accusations and in some cases, dismissals of Young Life volunteer leaders, because their actions were either clearly inappropriate, or were misinterpreted by kids or parents.

Ministry to kids in the name of Jesus Christ is a great privilege which carries with it tremendous responsibility. We welcome you to this ministry, and ask you to be wise in your judgments, to "Live as children of light," (Ephesians 5:8) that you may enjoy years of Young Life ministry to kids.

Note: There is one more arena that creates tension and great confusion for Young Life leaders: identifying your legal responsibility to report suspected abuse to local authorities. This is such an extremely complicated matter, with no simple 'across the states' requirements, that we ask you, any time you learn of alleged abuse, to contact your immediate supervisor, and then call the Human Resources Department at the Service Center (719) 381-1800. Human Resources, with legal counsel, will then assist you.

Resources for Further Reading

RESOURCE GUIDE

The Basics

Bible Dictionary (New Bible, Unger's)
English Dictionary
Study Bible (NIV, Ryrie, etc.)
Bible Paraphrase (The Message, Phillips)
Commentaries (Bible Knowledge, Zondervan)
Concordance (Strongs)
Nave's Topical Bible
Basic Christianity, John Stott
The Master Plan of Evangelism, Coleman

Growth in Christ

The Applause of Heaven, Max Lucado
Calvary Road, Roy Hession
Celebration of Discipline, Richard Foster
Design for Discipleship, Books 1 and 2, Navigators
Disciples Are Made Not Born, Walt Hendricksen
Evidence That Demands a Verdict, Josh McDowell
Experiencing God, Henry Blackabee
First Love, John MacArthur
God Came Near, Max Lucado
He Still Moves Stones, Max Lucado
Incredible Moments with the Savior, Ken Gire
Instructive Moments with the Savior, Ken Gire
Intimate Moments with the Savior, Ken Gire
Joshua, Girzone
Knowing God, J.I. Packer
Long Obedience in the Same Direction, Bridges
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, C.S. Lewis
My First 30 Quiet Times, Ty Saltzgeber
My Heart Christ's Home, Bob Munger
My Utmost for His Highest, Oswald Chambers
On the Anvil, Max Lucado
Peace Child, Don Richardson
Practicing His Presence, Brother Lawrence
The Practice of Godliness, Jerry Bridges

The Pursuit of Holiness, Jerry Bridges
Ragamuffin Gospel, Brennan Manning
Reaching Out, Henri Nouwen
Screwtape Letters, C.S. Lewis
A Shepherd's Look at Psalm 23, Phillip Keller
The Signature of Jesus, Brennan Manning
Six Hours One Friday, Max Lucado
Topical Memory System, Navigators
Abba's Child, Brennan Manning
You Gotta Keep Dancing, Tim Hansel

Relationship with Others

The Body, Chuck Colson
Dropping Your Guard, Charles Swindoll
Improving Your Serve, Charles Swindoll
Institute of Biblical Counseling Series, NavPress
 Who We Are and How We Relate
 Loneliness
 Stress
 Guilt
 Anger
 Self Image
 Grief
Lion and Lamb, Brennan Manning
You Can Make a Difference, Tony Campola

Resources for Building a Discussion

Brainstorm

1. **Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:** I want my friends to love God and others more by...
2. **Write out the specific objective for this discussion.** This is your goal and the statement your friends need to grasp in order to move one step closer toward your goal. (For example: my friends will love God and others more because they have a better understanding of the truth that Jesus has come to live within them.):
3. **Brainstorm scripture references.** Write out any reference you know that deals with your statement. At this point you may want to consult a concordance or Bible dictionary. Comparing different translations of the same verse(s) can be helpful as well. Write where the verse(s) is found and a brief description of the passage, for example: John 14 — Jesus promises the Holy Spirit:
4. **Look at the verses you've chosen.** Brainstorm scripture questions that deal directly with those verses. For example: John 14:15-20 — Who gives us the Holy Spirit? How long will the Holy Spirit be with us? What are some of the words Jesus uses to describe the Holy Spirit? As you brainstorm these verses, you may want to divide the following space into sections and keep questions written beneath the appropriate verse(s).

5. **Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point**, even though they may not be based directly on the scripture you read. For example: What images come to mind when you hear the words, “Holy Spirit?” What do you think some of the advantages would be to having God living within you?
6. **Brainstorm sharing questions**. These are questions that reveal more about the person answering the question than about the scripture or topic being discussed. For example: Since you’ve been following Jesus, what changes have you noticed in the way you think and feel?
7. **Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point** you’re trying to make. Remember, no matter how good a story is, if it doesn’t help your friends understand your point, save it for another day.
8. **Finally, brainstorm icebreakers**. Brainstorm questions or activities, attention-getters or “hooks” to open the discussion and capture your friends’ interest. For example: Who knows you better than anyone else, and how did they get to know you so well? You may want to borrow questions from previous numbers for this part.

Planning Sheet

Date:

Campaigner Lesson Topic:

1. **Icebreaker** (How will you get their attention and begin the discussion? Choose from #8 on the brainstorm page. For example: Who knows you better than anyone else and how did they get to know you so well?):
2. **Bridge question or statement** (A simple statement or question that leads from the icebreaker into the meat of the discussion; a transition statement. For example: Today we're going to talk about someone who knows you better than the person who knows you best.):
3. **Examination and discussion of scripture** (draw from numbers 4, 5, 6 and 7 on the brainstorm pages):
4. **Which verse from this study can you memorize and meditate on for your next meeting?**

- 5. Application** (How does what we've talked about impact our lives personally? Sharing questions might fit here. For example: Think about your day today. Share one thing that would have been different if you had fully realized that God was with you in person.):
- 6. Action step for the week** (What action can we take based on what we've learned today? Give the group time to discover and discuss this. Encourage them to come up with a specific, measurable — or at least semi-measurable — action for the week. For example: This week, each time I turn on the TV, I will first ask myself, "Is this something Jesus is going to enjoy watching with me?"):

Remember: what is expected must be inspected. Be sure you ask them for a report on their experiences next week.

Campaigner Meeting Evaluation

Date:

Location of meeting:

Who attended: (circle first-timers)

Prayer requests:

Topic of discussion:

Questions or stories that went over well:

Questions or stories that need improving:

Comments kids made that I need to follow up on:

Ideas that came to me for future Campaigner discussions:

Business items we discussed:

Who do I need to spend time with this week?

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A Message from the Task Force

Now that you've worked your way through the handbook, you are ready to get started on putting together Bible studies. What follows are several sample Brainstorms to get you up to speed. They are organized topically on page 77. Unlike follow the dots Bible studies that might help some but be useless to many others, these brainstorms can have a broad application. These sample studies are designed for you to tailor to your specific needs. We have done the brainstorming for you. All you need to do is take the Planning Sheet and put together your own study. You may find that you can put together several studies from one brainstorm. Once you've done this a few times you'll catch on. Then brainstorming will become second nature to you.

May God bless you as you seek to serve Him.

1 BALANCED CHRISTIAN LIFE

A: New Life in Christ

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...living out their new life with Christ.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

To provide an image and a framework to think about our new walk with Christ.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, 'All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever.' And this is the word that was preached to you.

"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." 1 Peter 1:22-2:3

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"
2 Corinthians 5:17

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20

"Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, 'Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.'

"In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.'

"'How can a man be born when he is old?' Nicodemus asked. 'Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!'

"Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again." The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.'

"'How can this be?' Nicodemus asked.

"'You are Israel's teacher,' said Jesus, 'and do you not understand these things? I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone to heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.'

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:1-17

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- You are an infant. You've been born all over again—spiritually.
- New life. Starting over again.
- What in your past is gone?
- What is this new life in Jesus to be like?
- Have you opened the door to let Jesus in to dine with you?

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What's new? Who's on the throne of your life?
- What does a healthy baby need? Whatever they need, we need as babies in Christ. (Sleep/Rest—Prayer; Food—the Word; Love—Fellowship; Diapers changed—Forgiveness; Exercise—Witnessing/Faithful service.)

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- Do most parents want their baby to remain a baby forever?
- What do you need more of as a baby in Christ?
- If a baby lacks one of the above, what do you conclude about the baby?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Dr Spock's book on childcare (or any other childcare book)—find illustrations for raising babies that would be similar to beginning our walk with Jesus.
- Baby book of names and what they mean.
- Tell your conversion story. What did you do to keep your faith alive?
- Stories of those who have been faithful—give them a vision of what they can become and accomplish.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Share a babysitting horror story.
- Tell baby stories about yourself.
- Name book and what your name means.
- Names parents give their kids.

1 BALANCED CHRISTIAN LIFE

B: Time Alone with Jesus

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...learning how to spend daily time alone with Jesus.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

To understand and implement a daily time alone with Jesus that includes Bible reading and prayer.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." Mark 1:35

"In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation." Psalm 5:3

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:6

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17

"Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near." Revelation 1:3

"Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Acts 17:11

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:9-11

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

"But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers." Psalm 1:2-3

"And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" Psalm 42:1-2

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Jesus took time to be alone with God. It was important for Jesus to pray.
- The hand illustration (hand holding a book needs the thumb to get a firm grasp.)
 - Fingers: Hear—Romans 10:17
 - Read—Revelation 1:3
 - Study—Acts 17:11
 - Memorize—Psalm 119:9-11
 - Thumb: Meditate—Psalm 1:2-3
- Time alone with God is time getting to know God through reading His word and prayer.
- Time alone with Jesus demonstrates that we love Him.
- Time alone with Jesus feeds our souls.
- Time alone with Jesus draws our lives into God's perspective.
- Why do you think Jesus took time early in the morning to be with His Father? Can we learn anything from this?
- What's one thing you can act on based on what you read today from the Bible?

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- We read God's word to discover what's important to Jesus. I want what's important to Him to be important to me.
- We read not just for more head knowledge but in order to apply what we learn to our lives.
- It is not enough for us to master Christian beliefs and doctrine but to be mastered by the Lord in our everyday lives.
- How have you heard God's word this week? How have you read God's word this week? How have you studied God's word this week? What have you memorized this week? What have you learned from meditating on God's word this week?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- Why does a coach call a time-out in a game? What is he/she trying to accomplish? How does this compare to time spent with God? What can be accomplished when you get alone with God?
- What kind of relationship would you have with your boy/girl friend if you never called him/her, talked to him/her, wrote notes to him/her, spent time with him/her? Yet, this is what we can easily do with Jesus.

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Martin Luther—the more he had to do in a day the longer he spent with Jesus in the morning. Because he had so much to do he needed the Lord all the more. We tend to ignore the Lord when we are too busy.
- Keep a prayer log of things you are praying for in your time with Jesus. When you get answers to prayers, write them down. Review your answered prayers once a month and notice the Lord's faithfulness. What is He teaching you?
- If you read just two chapters on day out of the New Testament you can read it in its entirety in 19 weeks!

- Cows eat food and store it in one of their stomachs. Then when they are relaxing they rechew this food so it can be digested. This is what meditating on a passage does for us. It allows us to take the time to ponder the verse and work it deeper into our hearts and lives.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- What's your favorite fast-food? What's your least favorite?
- What's your favorite meal? How does it compare to a fast-food meal?
- What would you look and feel like if you had a steady diet of junk food?
- What makes for a good relationship?
- What are qualities of a good friend?
Time, communication, knowing one another, shared experiences, support—all things that our time alone with God can build.

1 BALANCED CHRISTIAN LIFE

C: The Wheel

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...having a better understanding of the dimensions of my new life in Jesus.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

The key to living out the Christian faith is putting Christ at the very center of our lives and being obedient to four basic principles.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-39

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:1-3

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." Matthew 7:24-27

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- The wheel: A way to illustrate how we live out the great commandment of Matthew 22. Christ is the hub—He's the center of our lives; He's the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:17). The vertical spokes are the ways we relate to God. Prayer from us to Him. The Bible from God to us. The horizontal spokes deal with our relationship to others. Fellowship with other believers and witnessing to the world around us. If we have a balanced Christian life, the wheel is round and able to roll. If our life is not balanced, the wheel is flat and we aren't able to go anywhere.
- Hebrews 12, Fix your eyes on Jesus: We run the race with our eyes (our lives centered) on Jesus. We are fixed on Jesus when we have Him at the center of our lives and prayer, Bible study, witnessing and fellowship are an integral part of our lives.
- Foundations are important. You can't build a solid house without a firm foundation. The same is true with our faith. What's our foundation? Jesus. How do we know we have Him? By keeping our lives focused on Him at the center and the four spokes a vital part of our lives. Matthew 7

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

Matthew 22

- What does Jesus say is most important?
- What does "Love God with all of you" mean?
- What are ways to show someone your love?
- What are ways to love God?
- Why do you think Jesus combines our love for God with loving others?

Hebrews 12

- What is the race marked out for us?
- What advice does this verse give us for running the race?
- What are the important factors involved in living out our Christian faith?
- Does it sound like it will be easy? Why do it?
- Where should our concentration be?

Matthew 7

- What does it mean to hear Christ's words and put them into practice?
- Why is it important to do this?
- What is your foundation?
- How firm is your foundation?
- What storms are confronting your foundation?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- What is most important to a Christian?
- What happens when we do everything well but are not focused on Jesus?
- Which part of the wheel is strongest in your life? Weakest?
- How would you describe the Christian life to a new Christian?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- The wheel is a simple way to illustrate the Christian life. Christ is the center, four spokes: two vertical—prayer and the Bible (our relationship with God), two horizontal—witnessing and fellowship (our relationship with others), with the rim being our obedience to Jesus in all aspects of our lives.
- Could you imagine what a wheel would look like if one of the four spokes was missing? Or if there was no hub? Or if there was no rim? You would not be able to go anywhere. The whole purpose of the Christian life is to get somewhere—we are to grow in our Christlikeness.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- If you were to make a recipe of how to live the Christian life, what would be the ingredients?
- Bring a wagon wheel or bicycle wheel that is flat or broken. Show how one spoke or the rim or a shattered hub ruins the whole function of the wheel.



BALANCED CHRISTIAN LIFE

D: Witnessing

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...sharing our faith with others.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

How to tell others about Jesus in a way that is honest, real and winsome.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" Matthew 28:16-20

"The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, 'Follow me.'

"Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.'

"'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked.

"'Come and see,' said Philip.

"When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, 'Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.'

"'How do you know me?' Nathanael asked.

"Jesus answered, 'I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.'

"Then Nathanael declared, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.'

"Jesus said, 'You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that.' He then added, 'I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.'" John 1:43-51

John 9: Healing of the Blind Man; I once was blind but now I see.

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- The need to have both a plan and a Christlike approach to your outreach.
- Using Phil and Nate: Just come and see.
- Using the Great Commission: Our life is our witness.
- If you had the cure for a very bad disease, wouldn't you want to share it with those who are dying of that disease?
- The simplicity of our witness: Blind man. "Blind but now I see."

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What is witnessing?
- How can we witness?
- List different ways we witness.
- What has killed our witness in the past?
- What was your initial feeling about the world, friends, after you became a Christian?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- What is expected of a witness in a trial?
- Who shared their faith with you? What did they do?
- When you think of sharing your faith with someone what comes to mind?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Writing out your testimony, addressed to someone.
- Timeline of your life before and after Christ.
- The art of driving a car properly. Look immediately in front of you vs. looking down the road to keep the car in the center of the lane.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Have you ever been to a trial? How did the actual trial differ from ones you see on TV?
- Have you ever had to testify in a trial? How did it go?
- What's been the biggest difference in your life since you've decided to follow Jesus?
- When you think of sharing your faith with someone, what comes to mind?

1 BALANCED CHRISTIAN LIFE

E: Prayer

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...talking with Him regularly.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

Prayer is a good conversation with God.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."
John 15:7

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"
2 Corinthians 5:17

"Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." Romans 8:14-16

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him." 1 John 3:1

"He called a little child and had him stand among them." Matthew 18:2

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'" Matthew 6:9-13

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Prayer is a response to the incredible love of God.
- Jesus teaches us how to pray.
- Prayer is a childlike conversation with God.
- Jesus made time to pray.
- Jesus teaches us that God is our Father.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- God is a loving daddy who wants the best for His children. Tell Him the things on your heart.
- God takes great pleasure in the well-being of His children.
- What does it mean to be a son of God?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- How do you pray?
- What is your posture? Why?
- Tell us about your best time ever praying. Why?
- What is the hardest part of praying?
- When you think of a loving Father, what images come to mind?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- A-C-T-S: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication
- Elements of a good relationship—Communication
- Re-write the Lord's Prayer

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Play charades. Highlight the problems of communication without words.



BALANCED CHRISTIAN LIFE

F: Fellowship

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...loving those who are in the family of God.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

To get a better understanding of the importance of fellowship.
To convince us of our need for each other.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves." Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

"I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." Romans 1:11-12

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

"Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason cease to be a part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason cease to be a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?" 1 Corinthians 12:12-17

"For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them." Matthew 18:20

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- On our journey we need to have traveling companions, fellowship.
- We are most in God's design when we function together as a body.
- To avoid fellowship is to miss God's desire for His people.
- Fellowship encourages us on in our faith.
- When we meet together God is with us.
- Every one in a fellowship is indispensable. We all have something to offer.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What would be problems with continuing your faith with no group Bible studies?
- How can we help one another in our faith?
- What does the image of a body in 1 Corinthians 12 mean for us?
- Why does Paul think it's important to meet together?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- How have other Christians supported you?
- What is one thing in which you need to be encouraged?
- What is something that discourages you?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Fire with a bunch of logs vs. one coal off by itself (goes out).
- A personal example from one of the leaders' lives about fellowship.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- What's the best team you ever played on? What made it so?
- What's the toughest team you ever played against? What made it so?
- What's your favorite team in pro sports? Why?

1 BALANCED CHRISTIAN LIFE

G: God's Word

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...allowing God to speak to us daily through the scriptures.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

For our journey we need God's Word. The Bible serves as our road map along the way. It is something we need to use daily.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." Joshua 1:8

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.'

"Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

"Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."'

"Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

"Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.'

"Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."'

"Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him." Matthew 4:1-11

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

"We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words." 1 Corinthians 2:12-13

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Matthew 24:35

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." John 17:17

"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward." Psalm 19:7-11

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." Colossians 3:16

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Note the use of scripture in resisting the temptations in Matthew 4.
- The Holy Spirit helps us understand the scriptures.
- God's word is His love letter to us.
- God's word is a road map for living.
- God's word reveals His character, and how we can know Him.
- God wants His word to be a part of our daily life. (Just like we would talk to our best friend on a daily basis.)

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- How do you read scripture?
- What do you think is the purpose of the Bible?
- Would Christianity continue if the Bible was gone?
- Read your favorite verse. Why?
- Ever gotten an answer through scripture?
- What can the Bible do for you?
- How can you allow God's word to dwell in you more richly?
- What does the Bible say about itself?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- When would be a good time to read God's word?
- How has God's word affected your life?
- How has remembering a verse helped you in a hard situation?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Love Letter: do you remember when you got your first love letter? How you probably carried it around with you, kept it in a special place, and read it over and over. That's what the Bible is like, it's God's love letter to us.

- Road Map: If you left in a car heading out of Little Rock toward California and didn't consult a road map, you could wind up missing the whole state of California. The Bible is our road map for life. If we don't read it we'll have no direction at all.
- When I was in junior high I had some incense burning on the top of a Bible someone had given me. I fell asleep and woke up to the smell of burning Bible. I was horrified thinking that God would get me for burning a hole in His Bible. So I carefully packed it away in a drawer and never looked at it again. What's special about the Bible are the truths and promises God has for you when you read it. Feel free to mark in it and take notes, although I still would not recommend that you burn holes in one.
- The Bible is the most remarkable book ever written. The writing was done by about 40 men in many occupations. They wrote over a period of approximately 1,500 years, and in three languages —Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. Yet the Bible has one great theme and central figure—Jesus Christ. All of this would be impossible unless the Bible had one supreme author—and it did: the Holy Spirit of God. (Design for Discipleship Book 2).
- D.L. Moody said, "Sin will keep you from this book or this book will keep you from sin."
- When FBI agents are trained in spotting counterfeit money, they study the originals. We need to study the Bible because it is the source of truth.
- "A former park ranger at Yellowstone Park tells the story of a ranger leading a group of hikers to a fire lookout. The ranger was so intent on telling the hikers about the flowers and the animals that he considered the message on his two-way radio disturbing, so he switched it off. Nearing the tower the ranger was met by a breathless lookout, who asked why he hadn't responded to the messages on his radio. A grizzly bear had been stalking the group, and the authorities were trying to warn them of the danger. Any time we tune out messages God has for us through his Word, we put our spiritual lives in danger. It is crucial that we never turn off God's saving communication to us."

—Harold M. Wiest

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Play a game where kids are asked specific questions about their faith (from the study leader) and they need to answer the questions without the use of scripture.
- Did you have a Bible when you were younger?
- What was it like?
- When did you get it?
- Did you have a family Bible in your house or in the home of a relative? Was it ever opened?
- Make up a Bible trivia game (not that anything in the Bible is trivial!)



BALANCED CHRISTIAN LIFE

H: Obedience

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...obediently following Christ.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

Listening to God by reading His Word and then applying it to our lives.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." John 14:21

"And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul." Deuteronomy 10:12

"If you love me, you will obey what I command." John 14:15

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me." Galatians 2:20

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." Matthew 7:24-27

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Obedience is what puts your faith into practice.
- Obedience is faith in action. It is how people observe your faith.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What are the differences between the wise and foolish builders?
- What should be your motivation for obedience?
- Galatians 5:1 says that we are free in Christ. How does that relate to our obedience?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- What area of obedience to God do you struggle with the most?
- What part of the life of the Christian is the easiest for you to be obedient in?
- When you hear the word obedience, is your first thought positive or negative? Why?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Obedience is the outward sign of your faith. We know that gravity exists only when we drop something and we see it fall.
- If our life in Christ is like a bicycle wheel, Christ is the hub; God's Word, Prayer, Fellowship and Sharing your Faith are the spokes. Obedience is the tire, where your faith makes contact with the road.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Describe a time when you disobeyed parents, teacher, coach. Were you caught? How did it feel to get caught or how did it feel to get away with it?

2 FAITH IN ACTION

A: Acting with Justice

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...acting with justice.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

To begin to see that acting justly is part of following Jesus Christ.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

"This is what the Lord says: 'Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the Lord." Jeremiah 9:23-24

"Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone." Luke 11:42

"This is how we ought to know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:16-18

"Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you." James 5:1-6

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- How has God showed us what is good?
- What would Christ do in particular situations?
- Justice is part of God's character.
- Justice is the outworking of our love for God.
- Justice is the witness of the people of God to the world.
- Salvation has both individual and social implications.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- Why is justice important in relationships?
- What attitudes destroy justice?
- How does walking with God affect our attitudes?
- How does God balance His mercy with His justice?
- What is justice?
- Why is justice important to God?
- Why should justice be important to Christians?
- How is justice demonstrated and/or acted out?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- What do you perceive to be a gross injustice?
- How have you personally experienced justice?
- What can a teenager do to work for justice right now?
- What could our Campaigner group do together for justice?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Humble = strength under control. (Fine horseman controls, a powerful animal with knee pressure. The horse retains its power but allows the rider to direct—not self serving).
- Where were you when OJ was convicted? How did you feel right before the sentence was announced? Do you know that someday you will stand before your heavenly judge?
- Examples of being treated unjustly.
- Kids who have made a difference in our society.
 - The young girl in NYC who started providing clothes and food for the homeless by herself and it blossomed into a whole network of people doing it.
 - The pre-teens who started a club to help the environment that now has thousands of members around the country.
- A film/video on Martin Luther King, Jr. or a tape of his "I have a dream" speech.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Discuss OJ Simpson trial: How do attitudes about race affect justice? Is justice really being sought?
- What have you read in the newspaper or heard on the news that seems unjust to you?
- What seems unfair to you?
- Have you heard of any unique situations where justice was creatively administered?
- If you could change one thing about society, what would it be?
- What's one thing that you see people doing to others that makes you really mad?

2 FAITH IN ACTION

B: Jesus' Compassion for the Poor

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...having a heart for the poor.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

Sharing Jesus' compassion for the poor and His perspective on money.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 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 men. I tell you the truth, 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, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:1-4

"Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, 'Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?'

"'Why do you ask me about what is good?' Jesus replied. 'There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.'

"'Which ones?' the man inquired.

"Jesus replied, 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.'

"'All these I have kept,' the young man said. 'What do I still lack?'

"Jesus answered, 'If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'

"When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.'

"When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, 'Who then can be saved?'

"Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'

"Peter answered him, 'We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?'

"Jesus said to them, 'I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.'" Matthew 19:16-30

"Jesus sat opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

"Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.'" Mark 12:41-44

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets." Luke 6:24-26

"Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.' Jesus replied, 'Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?' Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.' And he told them this parable: 'The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.'" Luke 12:13-21

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." Luke 16:10

"Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.' So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, 'He has gone to be the guest of a "sinner."'" But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.'" Luke 19:1-10

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Note how Jesus talks about money and the poor.
- Jesus expects His people to be responsive to the needs of the poor.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- Why does Jesus talk so much about money and the poor?
- Why did Jesus warn His followers about the problems of being rich?
- What does Jesus want His people to do for the poor? Why?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- Who are the poor in our community?
- What could you do to help the poor in our community?
- What could our Campaigner group do together to help the poor?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Anything by Mother Teresa.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Statistics on poverty in the U.S.A.

2 FAITH IN ACTION

C: Agents of Peace

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...being agents of comfort and peace.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

To get a better understanding of what true biblical peace is and how to live it out.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome this world." John 16:33

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying others." Galatians 5:22-26

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." Matthew 5:9

"I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:34-36

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Real peace comes from God. There are different kinds of peace. What's the difference between God's peace and the worldly peace?
- A sense of peace enables people to live with quality in the midst of chaos.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What did Jesus mean by "not as the world gives peace?"
- Why would peacemakers be called "sons of God?"
- What does it take to be a peacemaker?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- How has understanding peace with God changed your life?
- How would seeing people as Jesus does make it easier to seek peace with them?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Focus on the cross of Christ.
How did it make peace between God and man?
What did it cost God?
What kind of commitment did it require?

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- What would you do to settle the war in Bosnia?

2 FAITH IN ACTION

D: Sacrifice

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...living a life of godly sacrifice.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice for our sin. With this in mind, what are ways we might sacrifice which would draw others and ourselves closer to God?

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

"And live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:2

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:1-2

"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:2

"This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1 John 4:10

"I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." Philippians 4:18

"God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood." Romans 3:25

"Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself." Hebrews 9:26

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Christ gave His life for us and asks us to entrust Him with our lives. The things God asks us to sacrifice may be hard at first but in the end are for our own good and point others to Himself. By dying with Christ we also rise with Him.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What does it mean for you to be a living sacrifice?
- Define the word sacrifice.
- How does it make you feel that someone would sacrifice himself for you?
- What did you gain from Christ's sacrifice? What can you sacrifice in order that others would see Christ?
- What areas of your life need to be sacrificed in order for you to see Christ?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- Who are the people who sacrifice the most in your life for you right now?
- What do they sacrifice for you?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

As we die to ourselves and sacrifice for others as Christ sacrificed for us, then we really live. Story of a mother and child buried in an earthquake. After a day the daughter got hungry—mother groped in dark and found a jar of jelly. It was gone in a day or so. They were in a small space—daughter kept saying "I'm hungry." Mother cut her fingers and gave her blood (to drink) for the daughter to live. This story told by Max Lucado in *Applause of Heaven*.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Share what you spend the most time doing or thinking about.
- Break up into small groups and share about your week and ways Christ has been working in your life.
- Start out singing—worship.
- Play any simple game—charades.

2 FAITH IN ACTION

E: Heart of a Servant

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...serving as He served.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

"Go and do likewise."

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'"

"'What is written in the Law?' he replied. 'How do you read it?'"

"He answered: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"'You have answered correctly,' Jesus replied. 'Do this and you will live.'"

"But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'"

"In reply Jesus said: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and left him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came to where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and he bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'"

"'Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?'"

"The expert of the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.'"

"Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'" Luke 10:25-37

(The Cotton Patch Version of Luke and Acts is a very useful paraphrase of this scripture.)

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- There is a correlation with Jesus that to know is to do.
- A servant heart cares with obeying and trusting Jesus.
- It is a trap to know and study the Law in place of knowing and following Jesus.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- Where do you see a breakdown in the Church, Young Life or yourself between knowing and doing?
- What is something you need to "go and do likewise?"
- What is eternal life?
- How do you get eternal life?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- What would Jesus saying to you, "go and do likewise" mean in the specific way you live?
- How could you love you neighbor as yourself? What neighbor comes to mind as you pray about it?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Re-write this story in the present-day high school world.
- Give examples, stories of people who would have gone and done likewise.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Read Cotton Patch Version to begin time. Can you imagine this happening?
- What upsets you about people—politicians, athletes, friends—who say they'll do something but don't?

2 FAITH IN ACTION

F: Humility

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...humbly serving them.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

Understanding that God loves you so much that He let go of everything in His grasp except the chance of spending eternity with you.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!" Philippians 2:5-8

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

"Jesus replied, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.'" Matthew 8:20

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2

"As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who are going to destroy the temple and build it again in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!'

"In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, "I am the Son of God."' In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him." Matthew 27:32-44

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

Hebrews 12:2

- What do you think kept Jesus going on the cross? In other words, what do you think the "joy that was set before him" was?

- What are synonyms for "endure?"
- What are some things people at your school have to endure today? What do they "set before them" to help them endure?

Philippians 2:5-8

- If you were writing the bill of rights for God, what would they include? Complete this sentence: As God of the universe, you have the right to...
- What rights to you see people clinging to today?
- Do you know any examples where a person gave up one or more of her rights for another person? What was the situation? How did the person she gave up her rights for respond?
- Imagine you're writing a want-ad for a personal servant. How would you complete this sentence: Wanted: Personal servant. Must be willing to...
- Choose one or two adjectives to describe a person who would be willing to exchange "God's 'Bill of Rights' for a Servant's Job Description." (When it's your turn you may say "crazy," and follow up later with the thought that God is crazy—crazy about us.)
- What do you know about Jesus' death on the cross? (what happened to Him physically, emotionally, psychologically, spiritually?)
- What do you think kept Jesus from pulling out His "God's Bill of Rights" during the crucifixion and acting on the one that says, "You have the right to call millions of angels to Your side for help at any time?"

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

See number 4 for these.

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- What's the toughest thing you've ever had to endure? What got you through?
- What person (besides Jesus) has sacrificed the most for you? What has he/she sacrificed, and how has it affected you?
- Do you find it hard to believe that God would let go of His rights for you? Which of the following of God's rights do you find it hardest to believe He would let go of for you, and why?
 - His right to remain in heaven and never come to earth;
 - His right to limitless power—to do as He pleases when He pleases;
 - His right to punish you for the things you've done wrong.

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Tell the story of the crucifixion (from memory, don't read it) and make it come alive.
- Tell a personal story about a time I had to grit my teeth and endure something: Why did I do it? How did I do it?
- I believe that the joy set before Jesus that helped Him endure the cross was the chance of spending eternity with me. He was willing to let go of everything in His grasp in order to extend an opening to me.
- A recent story from a San Francisco newspaper told of a man who almost put his family in bankruptcy in order to purchase his own blimp (a mini version of the Goodyear Blimp). One day, as his

family watched from a distance, he and his co-pilot worked with the blimp on the ground. Suddenly the blimp broke loose and began to float away. The owner and the co-pilot grabbed hold of the railing on the side of the blimp. The co-pilot realized immediately the gravity of the situation (no pun intended), let go of the blimp and fell to the ground. The owner held on despite the overwhelming odds that he could not stop the blimp from floating away. Eventually the owner could hold on no longer. From 200 feet in the air his hand slipped off the rail and he fell to his death in front of his wife and children. Why did one man let go of the blimp immediately while the other refused to let go? If you had been one of the owner's children watching the scene unfold, how would you have felt? If you were one of the children, how do you think you would feel ten years after you'd had time to process and understand what your dad had done? How is this owner similar to Jesus? How is he different?

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- God's actions tell us that we are more important to Him than anything else in His grasp. Our thoughts tell us differently. What are some specific thoughts about yourself that you need to get rid of in light of Christ's death on the cross for you?
- What's the toughest situation you've had to endure?

Transitional statement, "Today we want to ask that same question of Jesus. What was the toughest thing He had to endure? Why did He do it? How did He do it?"

3 APOLOGETICS

A: The Resurrection

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...knowing the importance of Jesus' victory over death.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

Believing that Jesus rose from the dead is critical to the Christian faith.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 'Sir,' they said, 'we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, "After three days I will rise again." So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.' 'Take a guard,' Pilate answered. 'Go make the tomb as secure as you know how.'" Matthew 27:62-65

"When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, 'You are to say, "His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep." If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.' So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day." Matthew 28:12-15

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living." 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Without faith in the resurrection there would be no Christianity at all.
- The chief priests and others had a vested interest in knowing Jesus was dead when He was buried in the tomb.
- A Roman guard was a big deal. They knew the importance of the resurrection.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- Why is the resurrection essential to the Christian faith?
- How many people saw Jesus after He rose from the dead?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- When did you first hear about Jesus rising from the dead? Did you believe it?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

Myths about the resurrection:

- Jesus wasn't really dead (the swoon theory): Jesus was beaten severely, couldn't carry His cross, underwent trauma and exposure, lost blood from the spear in the side, nail holes from spikes, not to mention a Roman centurion verified His death and many others witnessed it. Plus, how did He recover enough to get out of heavy grave clothes and roll away a five-foot circular stone and overpower the guard?
- The disciples went to the wrong tomb: Mary and Mary Magdalene saw Him buried and were the first to find the empty tomb. The disciples rushed back to the tomb—not with the women—and found the empty one. The Pharisees could have later produced the body and put the whole thing to rest.
- The disciples stole the body: How did they overpower a Roman guard (dangerous fighting men) and move the stone, when a couple nights before they were running scared. Why would they have endured ridicule, torture and martyrdom (all but one) for what they knew was a lie? How do you explain the dramatic change in them after seeing Jesus resurrected?

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Assign different groups to act out the different myths of the resurrection.
- Start out by saying that a major newspaper reported today that they disproved the resurrection—what would that mean for us as Christians.

3 APOLOGETICS

B: Reliability of the Bible

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...knowing His Word is reliable.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

An understanding of the basis for the Bible being the reliable Word of God.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"The grass withers and the flowers fail but the word of our God stands forever." Isaiah 40:8

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.' Jesus answered, 'It is written: Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' Jesus answered, 'it is also written: Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him." Matthew 4:1-11

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

"We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty." 2 Peter 1:16

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Jesus believed in the accuracy of the scriptures—quoting them repeatedly.
- Many eyewitnesses were there when things happened that were recorded in the Bible and if they said it wasn't true the Bible would not be around today.
- The writers of the Bible make some heavy-duty claims about how important it is. (God-breathed, stands forever.)

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- How important was scripture to Jesus? to Paul?
- What does "God-breathed" mean?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- What are some arguments people give for why the Bible is not reliable?
- Why is it important to know why the Bible is reliable?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

Myths about the Bible:

- The Bible is one of many great books: The Bible itself claims to be much more than a great book, it claims to be the inspired word of God. Written over 1600 years, 40 authors, three continents, a miracle of literary accomplishment.
- The Bible has been changed through the years and is not accurate. The Old Testament was copied with such precision that, when an entire scroll had been copied by hand, one letter at a time, if one mistake was made, the scroll was destroyed.

Requirements of copying Hebrew scriptures:

- each copy had to be made on a brand new writing surface and had to be prepared in a specific way.
- each copy had to be written in a certain number of columns of thirty letters width, with a certain number of lines to each column.
- each copy had to be made from an authenticated original.
- not even the tiniest letter could be written from memory, as one would glance at the word "to" and write the letters "t" and "o" before glancing back at the original, but every letter was copied singly from the original.
- no letter could connect with or overlap another letter. The distance between each letter was measured by a single hair or thread.
- every letter of every page and book was counted and compared against the original. The number of times each letter of the alphabet occurred in a book was counted and compared against the original. The middle letter of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament) and the middle letter of the entire Hebrew Bible were computed and indicated in the text. If one of these calculations was incorrect, the copy was discarded.

The New Testament is the most reliable, attested document of the ancient world. When using reliability tests and applying them to ancient works such as Plato, Caesar, Aristotle—the New Testament is much more reliable (see Josh McDowell "Don't Check Your Brains at the Door").

- The stories in the Bible are myths and legends. Many eyewitnesses to Jesus' miracles. Reliable people testified in writing to the authenticity of events—they were not effectively discredited or refuted and have stood the test of time and were recognized as authoritative.

- The Bible is archaeologically inaccurate: Many things reported as inaccurate have over time been vindicated by archaeology. For example:
 - Daniel 5:30: Once thought to be an embarrassing mistake (since a clay tablet named Nabonidus as the king of Babylon), later research supported the existence of Belshazzar, the son of Nabonidus, who ruled as co-regent with his father.
 - Romans 16:23: Excavations in 1929 revealed a man known as Gaius and identified him as the director of public works in Corinth.
 - Matthew 27:1-2: A 1961 discovery in the Mediterranean port of Caesarea uncovered a 2' x 3' inscription referring to Pilate.
- It's just a coincidence that the Bible predicted things that came true. There are 48 major prophecies concerning the Messiah fulfilled in one man (the odds of that are astronomical). Examples of prophecy: Matthew 1:18-25 (Isaiah 7:14); Matthew 2:1 (Micah 5:2); Matthew 26:15 (Zechariah 11:12); Matthew 27:8 (Isaiah 53:12) and many more.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Bible trivia game.
- Who/what can you trust in your life?
- Have you ever trusted someone then you were let down?
- Who is the most trustworthy person you know?

3 APOLOGETICS

C: Evidence for a Creator

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...being more confident that God exists and being able to explain proofs for His existence to others.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

To explore some logical arguments for God's existence.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."
Romans 1:20

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1-2

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- If a person will take a good look at the design and order in creation, he will necessarily see that there has to be a creator (a designer).
- Every effect has a cause. Therefore the creation has to have a creator.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- Have you ever laid on your back outside and looked at the stars? How did you feel? What did you notice?
- Think about your science classes. Have you ever thought about the order in nature? Looked at the intricacies of a leaf, the uniqueness of the human body? Could these things just have happened? Who could have created all of it?
- What does Paul mean in Romans 1:20 when he says that, "people are without excuse."

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Watchmaker analogy: If you were to take a watch and take it completely apart and place it in a box. Then shake it up as long as you want and at some point reopen the box. The odds would be about zero that you would open it up and find the watch back together again. The watch needs to be put together by the person who designed it. In the same way our world had to have a designer (a creator). It didn't just happen.
- Gravity analogy: When an apple falls to the ground, that is the effect. But what was the cause? Gravity. In the same way the creation had to be set into motion by a creative first cause (our Creator).

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- What are you fascinated with about nature?
- Where can you go to get away? (Camping, roof of a building.)

4 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

A: Understanding the Bible

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...being able to dig into the scriptures and apply them in our lives.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

Get some handles on how to study the scriptures for yourself.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."
Hebrews 4:12

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- God's Word can teach us.
- The more we learn, the more we can grow.
- The more we study God's Word, the better we'll know God.
- The more we study God's Word, the better we know ourselves.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What is the significance of the Word being razor sharp?
- Have you ever read something in the Bible and sensed the Lord judging one of your thoughts and/or actions?
- To say the Word of God is living and active is to say what?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- How often do you read God's Word?
- What keeps you from reading the Bible more?
- Have you ever felt God speaking to you about a specific situation through His Word? How did it feel?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- God's communication is true.
 - Titus 1:2 (the no-lying God speaks)
 - John 17:17 (What He says is true)
 - John 8:26 (God is reliable)
- The truth of scripture is a unified whole.
 - 2 Peter 1:20 (no one scripture is to be understood by itself alone).
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 (every bit of scripture has one source: God).
 - Luke 24:27, 44 (Jesus spent valuable time showing how the scriptures fit carefully together).
- Study a passage of scripture on your own.
 - Make observations
 - Look at the context in light of the chapter, the book.
 - Who is the author?
 - Who is the audience?
 - What are key words in the passage? (Look them up in a dictionary.)
 - How do the words fit together in each sentence?
- Interpret the passage (What does it mean?)
 - What does the passage say based on your observations?
 - Look at other passages that seem to talk about the same topic.
 - Read other peoples' work. (Bible dictionaries and commentaries.)
- Application (Apply the passage to your life.)
 - Summarize the points of the passage again.
 - What is it that this passage calls you to do or change?
 - Make a plan of action. (In other words, what are you going to do about it?)

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- What is your favorite book and why?
- What are the easiest things for you to remember? Why?

4 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

B: God's Love for Us

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...understanding God's love for us.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

God loves us with a generous, awesome, limitless love.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Now the tax collectors and 'sinners' were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

"Then Jesus told this parable: 'Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.'" Luke 15:1-7

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Note how the person searches out the lost sheep.
- Notice how important the one is.
- Note the celebration and rejoicing in finding the lost sheep.
- Why try to be righteous?
- Is your image of Jesus one that hangs out with the undesirables in your school?

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- Who is in the crowd listening to Jesus? Tell what you know about each.
- What is their attitude toward Jesus?
- Why do you suppose Jesus tells this story at this particular time?
- Who would represent the 99 sheep? The one that was lost?
- How does the shepherd feel about the lost sheep?
- What is the point Jesus is trying to make here?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- Who do you relate to in this story, the 99 sheep, the lost sheep or the shepherd? Why?
- How does this story show God's love?
- Can you remember how you felt as one lost or separated from God? Describe it.

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Paint the picture of the shepherd going out to look for the lost sheep, as you make it really come alive.
- Think about the game Hide and Seek you played as a kid...point of the game, to stay hidden, or to be found?
- Did you ever become lost as a kid? Maybe separated from your mom at the mall? Tell about it. Who found you? How scared were you? What did your mom do when she found you?
- How were you "found?" Tell your story.
- How did you feel about being found?
- Did you have anyone celebrate with you? Tell about it.
- What should our attitude be toward our friends who are lost?

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- What's something you've lost? What did you do? How did it work out?
- Have you ever been lost hiking? What were you supposed to do? What did you do?
- What do you do when you are driving and you get lost?

4 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

C: Prayer: Talking with God

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...learning how to pray daily.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

Prayer is having a natural, honest conversation with Jesus Christ.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"And when you do pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:5-15

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Was it important for Jesus to pray?
- What kind of God are you praying to?
- What are some of the things Jesus prays for in the Lord's prayer?
- Is God aware of our needs before we ask? If so, then why ask?

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- Who is speaking here? To whom?
- What is significant about the first four words in verse 5? What is the assumption Jesus is making here?
- What is prayer, according to verses 6 and 7?
- Let's make a list of all the things Jesus gave as examples in His model prayer in verses 9-15. (There are five major areas listed.)
- Looking at verse 8, if God knows what we need before we even ask Him, then why do we need to pray?
- From verse 12, does God's forgiveness of me relate to my forgiveness of others? How so? Could our lack of forgiveness cause a block in our relationship to God? Explain.

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- When do you pray?
- Do you sense that God hears you, or do you feel like your prayers bounce off the ceiling?
- What do you feel God is trying to tell you from this lesson on prayer?
- As in most of our relationships, our relationship with God needs to be worked at. God has done, and continues to do His part. What about our part? Spend a few minutes right now writing out a letter to God. Focus on areas that you know you need to work on in your prayer life.

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Use a dry-erase board to write all the components of prayer as found in verses 9-14. Have them go through each part and describe what it is.
- Use the anagram A-C-T-S to illustrate the four major parts of prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (personal needs as well as needs of others). This is easy to remember, and can help one who is beginning a regular prayer life. A good idea is to keep a prayer journal, and record these four things daily.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

Can you remember the first time you ever prayed, maybe as a small child? What do you remember about it? Who was with you, a parent or a grandparent? Try to describe the feelings you had about prayer, and about God.

4 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

D: Prayer: Listening to God

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...listening to God.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

There are many ways to listen to God and the things that are on His mind.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17

"Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

"When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, 'You are the Son of God!' But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.

"At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them." Luke 4:38-42

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Was prayer a priority for Jesus?
- How did Jesus pray?
- How can we use the Bible when we pray?
- What do you think Jesus would say about us being too busy to pray?
- Jesus spent time with His Father.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What is prayer? Why do we pray? Luke 4:38-42
- How is prayer like conversing with a friend?
- If prayer should be like a conversation, how are we supposed to listen to God?
- Where are the places God can speak to us? Through what? Through whom?
- Why is it important to listen to God?
- What do you think happens to people when they don't listen to God?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 on how well you listen to: friends, teachers, parents, siblings, coaches, God.
- What are some ways you could be a better listener?
- Take a few minutes and write a letter to yourself from God. What do you think He would say to you?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- As you listen to someone talk to you what do you hear beside the words? What does body language have to do with what a person is saying? Communication is 80 percent non-verbal. "Your actions speak so loud I can't hear what you are saying."
- Do a role-play with two people in a conversation: 1) doing the wrong things as listeners and 2) doing the right things.
- Think of a person in your life who you KNOW truly listens to you. What about this person leads you to believe he/she listens?

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

You, the leader, will start Campaigners as usual, except your actions will convey otherwise. You will act anxious by looking at your watch, fidgeting, looking out the window, being distracted. Speak normally as if nothing is wrong, let your body language say otherwise. Continue this until someone asks, "What's up?" This will lead into a discussion about how listening involves more than just hearing with your ears.

4 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

E: God in Your Day

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...the way we live our daily lives with Jesus.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

For God to become more and more a part of our everyday lives.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates."
Deuteronomy 6:4-9

"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."
Joshua 1:8

"As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me!'

"'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'"
Luke 10:38-42

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'" Matthew 25:34-36

"Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." Psalm 46:10

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

"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

"We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, who he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome." 1 John 4:16-5:3

"One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, 'Look at us!' So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

"Then Peter said, 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.' Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade." Acts 3:1-11

"Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Philippians 4:5-8

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- We should be in touch with God 24 hours a day. In the car, at school, at home, out with friends, at work.
- God's Word aids us in our constant relationship with Him.
- We can find God all day long in anything good He created, or anything good in our lives.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What do people spend most of their time thinking about? How about you?
- What does God's Word say we should think about most?
- How can we keep God in the front of our mind all day long? How can we keep God's Word on our mind all day long?
- What does it mean to pray continually?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- What helps you feel close to God? Why?
- How do you build relationships with people?
- What do the TV shows you watch and songs you listen to make you think about?
- How does the term "garbage in, garbage out" apply to these verses?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Have you ever been in love? Is it all you think about? Our relationship with God should be like that.
- Have you ever seen a movie, TV show, read a book or had an experience that stays on your mind? Reading God's Word, and sharing experiences with Him, keeps Him on your mind. God's presence is always with you. You simply need to learn to recognize it in the everyday.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Have them list the top ten things that they and their friends think about.
- Turn up the stereo very loud, and turn out the lights. Then have people in pairs try to learn a list of answers to questions they got before the lights were turned out. This is what we do in our lives when we are so busy with things other than God.
- Break kids up into two groups, have one group discuss very depressing topics, the other group fun, exciting topics. Ask the two groups how it felt and which one they would rather be a part of.

4 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

F: Discipleship

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...being committed to Jesus above all else.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

Being a disciple means giving your whole life to the One who loves you in the most extravagant ways.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, 'Follow me.'

"Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.'

"'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked.

"'Come and see,' said Philip.

"When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, 'Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.'

"'How do you know me?' Nathanael asked.

"Jesus answered, 'I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.'

"Then Nathanael declared, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.'

"Jesus said, 'You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that.'" John 1:43, 45-50

"Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.'" Luke 14:25-26

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10

"As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. 'Good teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

"'Why do you call me good?' Jesus answered. 'No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: "Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother."'

"'Teacher,' he declared, 'all these things I have kept since I was a boy.'

"Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'One thing you lack,' he said. 'Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'

"At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth." Mark 10:17-22

"Enter through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad the path that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7:13-14

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Jesus had hundreds of interested followers, but very few true disciples.
- Jesus gave the word "disciple" a much narrower definition.
- A disciple is one who is a learner.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What are three priorities of a disciple?
- How do you think Philip felt at first when an unknown man approached him and said, "Follow me?"

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- If I had to compare my spiritual life right now to something (sports) I am involved in, how would my spiritual life compare?
- What does it mean to be a disciple? What do you think Jesus had in mind when He used the word?
- Who is someone you know who exemplifies being a disciple?
- What do you think about most in your day?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Concentrate on priorities and what those priorities mean in daily life.
- Illustrations of people who paid the price to be committed to something.
- Professional athletes practice the fundamentals daily even though they are the best at their sports.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Finish the sentence: "When I think of real adventure, I think of..."
That is how we can look at the Christian life; we are on an adventure.
- Letter: "Dear God, I want to be..." (finish the sentence).

4 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

G: Developing a Personal Faith in Christ

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...growing in our love for God.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

- Growing in the understanding of the meaning of faith.
- Discovering for ourselves how we personally exercise faith in Christ.
- Defining areas in which we need to grow in faith.
- Learning to share about the nature of faith with others.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"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

"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men." 1 Corinthians 15:17-19

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8

"But the scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe." Galatians 3:22

"Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So, we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified." Galatians 2:16

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me." Galatians 2:20

"For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'" Romans 1:17

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you." Romans 12:3

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Faith is a gift of God; we did not earn it. (Ephesians 2:8)
- Our faith can be genuine no matter what our age. (1 Timothy 4:12)
- Our faith must be exercised or it's not faith. (James 2)
- Our faith must be shared. (2 Corinthians 4:13, Romans 10:17)

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- How have you shown faith in God?
- How can we grow in faith in Christ?
- In what areas do you show faith easily?
- In what areas is it difficult for you to exercise faith?
- Does faith take sacrifice?
- Is the road of faith always successful?
- How can we share our faith with others?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- How does God ask us to be faithful?
- How do we exercise our faith?
- What commands does God ask all of us to follow faithfully?
- Is it always easy to follow those commands?
- Do we have to be at a certain level of maturity to be faithful?
- Do some commands take sacrifice?
- Why then do we follow God?
- Does faithfulness necessarily mean that we will be successful?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Babi Bear Island, Malaysia on dinghy middle of the ocean, late at night, no life jackets, watching for rocks by flashlight and moonlight, big waves, had to trust captain, put my faith in him. I had to trust God.
- Rappelling.
- Rafting.
- Climbing. (Basically any outdoor or intense activity.)
- Having faith in my parents.
- Traveling alone in Asia or barren roads of Texas and had to trust God.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Have kids divide a piece of paper into six sections and ask them to draw symbols/pictures of times they have exercised faith. Allow them to talk about three of their choice within the small group. This should lead to questions within the group.

4 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

H: The Nature of Faith

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...having faith in God.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

- Learning to understand of the meaning of faith.
- Reading about others who have exercised faith in God.
- Applying this knowledge to our lives.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. 'Lord have great mercy on my son,' he said. 'He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.'

"'O unbelieving and perverse generation,' Jesus replied, 'how long shall I stay here with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.' Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment.

"Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, 'Why couldn't we drive it out?'

"He replied, 'Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, "Move from here to there" and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.'" Matthew 17:14-20

"For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'" Romans 1:17

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." Romans 10:17

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you." Romans 12:3

"In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, look! The tree you cursed has withered!'

"'Have faith in God,' Jesus answered. 'I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, "Go, throw yourself into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that you Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.'" Mark 11:20-25

"When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, 'My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.' So Jesus went with him.

"A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors, and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better, she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, 'If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.' Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

"At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, 'Who touched my clothes?'

"You see the people crowding against you,' his disciples answered, 'and yet you can ask, "Who touched me?"'

"But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.'"

Mark 5:21-34

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:8

"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

"Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So, we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified." Galatians 2:16

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

"But the scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe." Galatians 3:22

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- "The root of faith is the knowledge of a Person, and one of the biggest snares is the idea that God is sure to lead to success." (Oswald Chambers, "My Utmost for His Highest," March 19)
- Jesus calls us to faith. (Gospel references)
- Faith is a gift from God. (Ephesians 2:8, 4:13, Romans 12:3)
- Faith is what matters to God, not rules and laws. (Galatians 3, 5:5, 2:16, 2:20, 1 Corinthians 15:17, Romans 10:17)

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What is faith?
- What does it mean to have faith?
- Is faith conditional?
- How do intellect and reason play into faith? Do they?
- Is it easy to have faith in Christ? Why? Why not?
- Who do you know who has exercised faith?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

For Hebrews 11:17-19, Genesis 22

- Background questions about Abraham, Sarah and Isaac, offerings, general history behind Abraham.
- How do you think Abraham felt about his son, Isaac? How do most parents feel?
- It says in verse one that God tested Abraham. Do you think God tests us?
- God had promised Abraham that a great nation would come from his line, how could Abraham rationalize that God could grant that if he were to sacrifice Isaac?
- Why doesn't Abraham tell Isaac about the real burnt offering in verse 8?
- Do you think Isaac was getting a better picture in verses 9-10?
- Would Abraham have followed through with the command to sacrifice Isaac if the angel hadn't stopped him? Why? Why not? (Look to 8, 12, 15-18)
- Did Abraham believe that God would allow him to sacrifice Isaac? Really?
- What is faith? How did Abraham exercise faith? Would he have been faithful if he didn't believe that God's command was true?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Michael Card's "That's What Faith Must Be."
- Stories of people I've known who have shown faith/settlers in Nebraska—reading from old newspaper.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Faith fall, baby food or banana feed with blindfold, charcoal marshmallow skit, faith walk with blindfolds.

4 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

I: Death and Heaven

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...understanding our destiny and purpose.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

Jesus has prepared a great place for us in heaven.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.

"Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:1-6

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Jesus is preparing a place for us.
- There's more to this life than what we are experiencing now.
- Jesus is the way to get there.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- Who is Jesus talking to?
- Why do you suppose they were troubled? (Read the sub-topics in the scripture in Chapter 13 aloud to the group.)
- Why would Jesus be telling them to trust in God and to trust in Him also?
- In verse 2, Jesus talks about His Father's house having many rooms and that He is going there. What do you think He means by this?
- He also says that He is going to prepare a place for His disciples in His Father's house (heaven). What is His disciples' response? (verse 5)
- If you didn't know the directions to get from point A to point B what would you do? (Ask for directions.) What did the disciples do?
- Did Jesus give them directions? What were they?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- Who do you identify with in this story? Jesus, who is confident of where He is going and who He will be with or Thomas who is very confused and doesn't know how to get there?

- How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus is preparing a place for you? Afraid? Confused? Haven't thought much about this?
- Can you remember the first time you put your trust in God? Where do you feel you have the most trouble in trusting God? Do you believe that He is the Way (the "road map") Why or why not?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Describe your dream house, be elaborate; money is no object. After doing this it might be good to read the description in Revelation 21, highlighting what the New Heaven will be like.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- How many of you have gone on a family vacation road trip?
- Who planned this trip?
- Who navigated?
- Who drove?
- Were there any flights? Wrong turns? Just describe the trip?
- Did you get lost?
- Who stops for directions?

4 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

J: Our Love for God

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...understanding how much we have been forgiven.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

Our love for God grows as we realize the great price He paid for us.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

"When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.'

"Jesus answered him, 'Simon, I have something to tell you.'

"Tell me, teacher,' he said.

"Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

"Simon replied, 'I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled.'

"You have judged correctly,' Jesus said.

"Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.'

"Then Jesus said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.'

"The other guests began to say among themselves, 'Who is this who even forgives sins?'

"Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'" Luke 7:36-50

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Our love for God grows when we realize how much we have been forgiven.
- If we take God's love for granted, chances are we are not loving much in our lives.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What is the setting of this story?
- Who are the characters?

- What happens?
- Why do you suppose this woman does what she does to Jesus?
- How do you think the other guests were feeling about this time? By what indications?
- Compare the two very different attitudes shown toward Jesus during this encounter:
 - where do you think each attitude came from?
 - how was each attitude expressed?
- Why do you think Jesus allowed the woman to do this strange thing to him?
- What is the basis of the woman's love for Jesus?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- Where do you see yourself in this story? Who do you identify with?
- When you see someone expressing love for another person, how does it make you feel?
- Is it hard or easy for you to show your love for someone? Are you a hugger or a toucher?
- How hard is it for you to express your love for God? How do you express it? Have you ever done, or felt like doing anything foolish-looking or extravagant to show God how much you love Him?
- Thinking of all God has done for you, how can you best show Him your love for Him in the coming week?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Talk about the extravagance a man uses to show his love for a woman—buying expensive gifts—this is one way love and devotion are expressed.
- Give each person a sheet with this graph idea drawn on it, and have them circle where they see themselves:

LOTS OF SIN
NEED FORGIVENESS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

NO SIN
NEED NO FORGIVENESS
8 9 10

ABLE TO EXPRESS
LOVE TO GOD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

UNABLE TO EXPRESS
LOVE TO GOD
8 9 10

Discuss how these lines might relate...hopefully making them aware of what Jesus was talking about in verses 44-47.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- What would be the most fun way for a person who loves you to show you that love?
- What would be a wild and extravagant gift for you? What would make it be really meaningful?
- What's the biggest gift you ever received?

5 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

A: Reaching Out to Your Friends

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...giving our lives away.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

Learn practical ways to reach out to our friends and give our lives away.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.'" Matthew 22:36-40

"A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' ... 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.' He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'" Mark 2:1-5, 11-12

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!" Philipians 2:3-8

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:16-18

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Jesus tells us how important it is to love our neighbor (friends).
- We, like the friends of the paralytic, need to bring our friends in front of Jesus.
- Jesus gave up His rights as God and as man for us.
- We need to show our love through our actions.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- How important is the command to love our neighbor?
- What does it mean to love in "actions and truth?"
- How did the friends of the paralytic love him?
- How did Jesus give up His rights?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- How can we bring our friends before Jesus like the friends of the paralytic?
- What are some practical ways we can give up our rights for our friends or look more to their interests than our own? (Give up the front seat.)
- What makes it hard to reach out to others?
- What are the rewards of reaching out to our friends?
- How do seniors treat freshmen? How could we apply Philippians 2 to how we treat younger people?
- Why is it hard to reach out to those above us on the social ladder? Why easier to those below us? Why do we always try to reach out to those above us on the social ladder?
- How have people reached out to you? How has knowing Christ changed you?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Paint a picture "What would your high school be like if everyone knew Christ?" Seniors looked out for freshmen, people gave up their rights for each other, people were more worried about giving than taking...
- Ideas for how to look out for younger kids: take them out with you to games, meals, club (remember how you looked up to older people), give them rides home, go over and talk to them at the lunch room, say hi in the halls (you'll blow them away), stick up for them.
 - Example: Greenhills High School—some seniors and juniors decided to really reach out and love the younger people. A tradition started and after a few years the whole school had changed, it became cool to reach out to younger kids; many people came to know Christ. 40 percent of the school came to club, camp. The whole atmosphere changed, teachers talked about it.
- Who is going to start it? It takes only a few.
- Share practical ways to care about friends and those younger—in the cafeteria, at a game, after school, in the hallway.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Describe your high school (write on a board).
- Describe what it would be like if everyone knew Christ.
- How did you end up meeting Christ?
- Why did you first come to Young Life?

5 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

B: Stress

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...living our lives with God's perspective and peace.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

Reasons God has for bringing stress into our lives.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Peter 1:6-7

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

"To keep from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' 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 12:7-10

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten the word of encouragement that addressed you as sons:

'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.'

"Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them

for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our own good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:1-11

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you." 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Stressful situations develop our character and strengthen our faith.
- Hard times can increase our dependence on God.
- As we remain faithful in stressful settings, it will demonstrate His power in our life.
- These times prepare us to minister to others.
- God has a conditioning program in which He disciplines us to get us in shape for His service.
- We are to handle problems in a way that contrasts us with the world.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What is the right attitude to have toward stress experiences?
- What is the right response to stress?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- Can you see the importance of a right attitude and response toward stress in your own life?
- How do you see people handling stress?
- Who handles stress in a positive way in your life?
- What's one stressful situation that you've been in that has turned out positive? Why?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Rope course experiences.
- Biblical people and stress story. (Joseph, Israel in exile, Abraham and Isaac, Jesus and the disciples in boat: Mark 4:35-41.)
- Learning to do something for the first time—how difficult it was.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Major stress stories or experiences that kids or leaders have gone through. (First time river rafting, climbing, playing an instrument, learning a new sport, water skiing.)
- Give them puzzles to do without all the pieces and watch the stress level rise.
- What was the most stressful experience of your life?

5 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

C: Temptation

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...resisting temptation.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

To recognize temptation in our lives and learn how to overcome it.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust in his eyes and the boasting of what he is and does—comes not from the Father but from the world." 1 John 2:15-16

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.'

"Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."' "

"Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will come lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."' "

"Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' "

"Again the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.' "

"Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."' "

"Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him." Matthew 4:1-11

"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death." James 1:13-15

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- We are all tempted.
- Temptation is not sin.
- God wants you to succeed (overcome temptation).
- Learn to recognize and flee temptation.
- We are either deceived or we deliberately disobey (Genesis 3).

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly back to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What is temptation?
- Is temptation sin?
- Why do we give in to temptation?
- What are some of the biggest temptations around you, at school, with your friends?
- How did Jesus handle temptation?
- When you're faced with temptation, how can you learn to recognize and take the escape route God has for you?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- What are your top three temptations?
- What makes these particular temptations hard to handle?
- Is there something that these temptations have in common? What is it?
- How have you been hurt by temptation? Giving in yourself, or someone else giving in?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Eskimo/wolf analogy: Eskimos hunt wolves by taking a large knife and dipping it several times in blood then allowing the blood to freeze. When the blade of the knife is completely covered with ice and blood, the knife is placed outside the village buried by the handle. During the night the wolf, who smells the blood, continues to lick until his own mouth is cut open by the bare steel blade. Ultimately he bleeds to death not realizing that he is feeding off his own fresh blood. (If you continue to give in to various temptations, they will ultimately destroy you.)
- Chair analogy: It's easier to pull someone off a chair than for you to pull someone up onto your chair. If your friends are putting you in too many tempting situations, you need to back away from those relationships for a while. In other words, it's easier for them to pull you down than for you to pull them up.
- Giving in to temptation is your attempt to fill a certain void in your life. If you begin to fill your life with Christ, you'll find that the lure of some temptations will fade.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Temptation is inevitable but sin is a choice. What do you think that means?
- What's the number one temptation the average high school person faces?
- What's a bad habit you're having trouble breaking? What's hard about it?

5 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

D: Forgiveness

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...understanding and receiving the Lord's forgiveness.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

To understand and accept that we are forgiven, allowing Christ to free us from guilt and thereby being able to forgive others.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

"But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

"But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

"At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?'

"'No one sir,' she said.

"'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'"

John 8:1-11

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

"For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

"Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

"Create in me a pure a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

"Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. Save me from blood-guilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not

take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

"In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem. Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar." Psalm 51

"In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." Hebrews 9:22

"Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord'—and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

"Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.

"Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!" Psalm 32

"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." Psalm 103:11-12

"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" Romans 8:32

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- God's forgiveness is a promise to Christians.
- The result of forgiveness:
 1. growth
 2. relationships are restored
 3. freedom from guilt
- Confessing our sins to God and others is as important as breathing; being forgiven and accepting that forgiveness will free you to grow up in Christ.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- When do we need forgiveness the most?
- How do we have forgiveness in Christ?
- What does God promise regarding forgiveness? (1 John 1:9, Psalm 103)

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- How long have you ever held a grudge?
- How long have you asked forgiveness of someone, but you weren't forgiven? How did that feel? How did you respond?
- How does it make you feel to know that God has forgiven you even though you don't deserve it?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Forgiveness happens so you can move on in a relationship, not so you can end one.
- GUILT—something you've done to someone.
- SHAME—something someone else has done to you.
- Guilt is like a tree that looks good on the outside but is rotten on the inside. It will destroy you from the inside out.
- When my wife was a little girl, she accidentally cracked the windshield of her father's boat. He never fixed it and every time they went out in the boat he would draw it to her attention. She would stare at the crack and feel worse. When you don't forgive, the crack that is formed between you and another person never heals.
- A little boy marks on a wall in his house. His dad forgives him and together they paint over the mistake. God forgives so the two of you can go on to work together.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- List all the ways to ask forgiveness. (I'm sorry, just kidding.)
- List all the ways to respond. (That's O.K., forget it.)

5 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

E: Love and Lust

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...relating with love and not lust.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

To understand God's love, receive it and allow God to love others through us.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

"We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

"We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother." 1 John 4:7-21

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he is and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever." 1 John 2:15-17

"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

"So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law.

"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." Galatians 5:13-26

1 Corinthians 13

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified through his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!" Romans 5:8-9

"One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?'

"The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."'

"The second is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.'

"Well said, teacher,' the man replied. 'You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.'

"When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions." Mark 12:28-34

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5-11

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- The difference between love and lust—

Love	Lust
giving	taking
sacrifice	selfishness
- To understand love and how to love we need to look at God's love for us.
- We can only give love humanly to the degree to which we can receive God's love.
- What about physical love? God is the author of our sexual desires. He designed us to be attracted to one another, to express our love physically in the context of marriage commitment.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- How did God demonstrate His love for us?
- What words could you use to describe God's love?
- Describe the attributes of love you see in Philippians 2:1-11.
- What characteristics of love found in 1 Corinthians 13 are the easiest for you? Which ones are the hardest?
- Define lust. Could lust be good if it was directed toward God?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- What is your definition of love?
- How has that definition changed since you met Christ?
- When in your life have you felt the most loved and why?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- God's love is a gift—when you receive a gift you don't put it on the shelf, you open it. In the same way we need to allow ourselves to open the gift of God's love. We need to allow Him to love us.
- "The best place for a fire is in the fireplace. It burns brightly, stays burning, warms the room, isn't smoky, and doesn't hurt anything. But if you build a fire in the middle of the room, it may burn hot for a while, but will ultimately destroy everything." (Josh McDowell)

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- 1 John 4:18 says, "Perfect love casts out fear." Make a list of what you think are qualities of perfect love. Then make a list of your fears. If someone loved you with some of these qualities of perfect love, would some of your fears begin to melt away? Which ones?

5 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

F: Loving Others

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...being more loving to others.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

To understand that God waits in the disguise of people around us, longing for us to love Him.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother." 1 John 4:19-21

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed your clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we think we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."
Matthew 25:31-36, 40-46

"And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me." Matthew 18:5

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

See number five.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

The scriptures I chose to use for this discussion are Matthew 24:31-46 and Matthew 18:5. The key verse for this discussion is Matthew 25:40 (whatever you did for the least of these).

- **Matthew 25:31-46**

- What do you see happening in this passage?
- Who do you imagine the King to be?
- What are the qualifications for becoming the King's right-hand man?
- What happens to the people on the right? on the left?
- According to verse 40, how can we do something loving for God?

- **Matthew 18:5**

- Imagine a group of four- and five-year-olds playing on a playground. Imagine you are a research scientist investigating the behavior of young children. What notes would you make about the characteristics of these kids as you watch?
- Why do you think Jesus would identify Himself with a child?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- Draw a verbal picture of a typical student at your high school by answering these questions: What is he hungry for? thirsty for? When does he feel like a stranger? What does he need protection from? What does he feel sick about inside? What makes up the bars of the prison he lives in? (What keeps him from experiencing true freedom?)
(Note to the leader: This works best if you write out what kids say on a dry-erase board or a big piece of paper. You might even sketch a profile of a person and fill in the space within the outline with the kids' comments.)
- Now that you have a composite of a typical student at your school, give that student a name—a real name of someone you know. Complete the following statements as specifically as possible: One thing I can do to help feed this person or give her a drink... When I plan to do this... One way I can help this person feel not so alone in her problems is... When... One way I can help this person experience freedom is... When... (Note to leader: this works best if you have these statements typed ahead of time on slips of paper for kids to fill in.)
- Which, if any, of the people that Jesus described do you feel most like today and why? (the hungry? thirsty? stranger? naked? sick? imprisoned?)
- If Jesus were to walk into our group right now and begin separating us, where do you think you'd end up—with the sheep or the goats? Why?
- When did you first realize you loved God? How did you express that love?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Here's an exercise: give the group ten slips of paper, each containing the name of a famous person (Hitler, Billy Graham, O.J. Simpson, Madonna, Barbara Bush). Have the group divide the list into two categories: sheep and goats—those going to heaven, those going to hell. For each decision they make, ask them to explain their reasoning. Read the Matthew 25 story and ask, "What criteria did Jesus

use to separate the sheep from the goats? Is this because God is only interested in our performance? Do Jesus' decisions have anything to do with the person's heart? If so, what?

- Play the Agree/Disagree game. The leader makes a statement. The kids vote with their bodies whether they agree or disagree with the statement. If they agree, they get up and move to the right side of the room. If they disagree, they move to the left side of the room. Then each side has to justify its vote. Here are some sample statements to vote on:

- God needs love from people.

- It's possible to love God but to hate a person.

- Love is an emotion you don't have much control over.

- The best way to help a poor person is to give him money.

The point of this exercise is not to come up with the right answer; the point is to raise questions and invoke a lively discussion. The kids will want you to give them the 'right' answers. If you do, you'll invalidate the usefulness of this tool from now on. Don't give the right answers. Just raise the right questions. Then read Matthew 25 and discuss.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

5 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

G: Family

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...understanding God's vision for our family.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

The way we love our family is important to God.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother'—which is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3

"When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, 'Dear woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home." John 19:26-27

"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

"If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." 1 Timothy 5:8

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!" Philippians 2:1-8

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Honoring your parents is important to God.
- Honoring your parents is a commandment that comes with a promise—it brings blessings.
- Jesus' mother was a priority to Him—even when He was going through tremendous struggle.
Therefore, we are to love our family even when we think they don't understand us or we are going through hard times.
- The hardest thing about loving our family is giving up our rights (let Jesus be our example).
- Loving our family can be something we do for the Lord.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What is the promise that is made when we honor our parents?
- What motivates us to love our family?
- In what ways did Jesus give up His rights? How can we follow this example with our family?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- Why is it harder to love your family than your friends?
- What are some practical ways you can honor your parents? How can you show your parents you love them?
- How could being an example of Christ impact your family?
- How is loving your family loving God?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Picture yourself getting older, falling in love, getting married, having a baby—how excited you would be, how much you would love that baby—then that baby gets to be a teenager and wants nothing to do with you and basically says “go to hell, you don’t know what you are talking about.” (Paint this picture so they see their parents from a different perspective.)
- How many of you could go over to that phone, call your parents and tell them you love them?
- Examples from the leader’s life about family struggles and Christ’s impact.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Tell a funny story about your family—growing up with siblings, holidays.
- Have everyone tell how many brothers and sisters they have.

5 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

H: Sex and Dating

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...understanding God's perspective on our relationships with the opposite sex.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

Develop integrity in our dating relationships—emotionally and physically.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him." 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6

"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple 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 body." 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they will become one flesh." Genesis 2:24

"May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love." Proverbs 5:18-19

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Sex was designed by God for marriage.
- God wants the best for us and our relationships—not to take away our fun.
- Self-discipline in the physical part of relationships is a way to love the other person.
- God gives guidelines to protect us—He wants to protect us from consequences of sex outside of marriage.
- God designed sex to be enjoyable (Proverbs 5) and sex in marriage to be beautiful.
- We can be forgiven and cleansed by God when we confess our sins. We can start over.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- What is sexual immorality?
- How do we control our body in a way that is holy and honorable?
- What is God trying to protect us from? Why would we need protection from sex outside of marriage?
- What does "your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit" mean?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- What would a relationship centered on Christ look like? (Paint a picture.)
- What would the world say about waiting to have sex until you are married?
- Where is a good place to draw the line to treat your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit?
- What are the consequences God is trying to protect us from?
- How does the world look at sex?
- Why is it hard to bring your faith into a dating relationship? (This could be a multiple-week series looking at dating one week and sex the next.)

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Child touching a hot stove:—it looks pretty, exciting, draws him to it but as a parent you can see the pain it will cause and you want to protect him from this. God feels the same toward us in the area of sex.
- Glue two sheets of paper together (ahead of time), pull them apart—the paper is shredded. This is what happens when we have sex (become one) and then break up. It was meant for a lifelong, committed, trusting relationship.
- Five people lined up boy/girl, each with a cup with a little water. Each spits into the water. Do dialogue—first boy dates girl as a freshman, they have sex (mix their water); girl dates next guy when they are seniors, they have sex (mix water); and so on down the line. Pour all water in the end into a clear glass—this is what the last person brings into marriage. Then have a glass of clear water (a virgin). What do you want to bring into your marriage? Optional: each cup can have a STD on the bottom.
- Bag of tootsie rolls. Chew one up and re-wrap and put back in bag. No one wants the used one.
- The famous guidelines to help keep you from temptation in your dating relationship: Stay vertical, keep the lights on, double date, have a curfew (the later it gets, the less inhibited), don't go in the bedroom, don't talk about marriage.
- Leader's personal experiences of a Christ-centered relationship, waiting till married, or mistakes, really are helpful.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Start out by describing how the world looks at sex—have a magazine or similar props and point out examples of how the world looks at it (soap operas, movies). Take a survey in "Seventeen" magazine or something similar that totally illustrates your point.
- "Sex, Lies and the Truth" video by Focus on the Family.

5 OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

I: Anger

1. Write out your ultimate goal for this discussion:

I want my friends to love God and others more by...acting in a godly way.

2. Write out the specific objective for the discussion:

To be able to deal with our anger (conflicts) in such a way as to honor God in truth but also with love and compassion.

3. Brainstorm scripture references:

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ." Ephesians 4:15

"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 'In your anger do not sin.' Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:25-32

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over." Matthew 18:15

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24

"My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires." James 1:19-20

"With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be." James 3:9-10

4. Look at the verses you've chosen:

- Don't be afraid of conflict—but deal with it in the right way.
- Don't let the sun go down on your anger and bitterness to get hold of you.
- Attack the problem, not the person.
- Use words that build up, not help tear down.
- Pay attention to the referee (God)—our example of compassion, love and forgiveness is Jesus.

After brainstorming the possible points you could make, narrow these down to the one(s) you want to use. Remember to keep it simple and clear. Everything you do from here down on this Brainstorm sheet should relate directly to this decision.

5. Brainstorm other discussion questions that relate to your main point:

- How can we be quick to listen rather than quick to anger?
- In our anger do not sin (Ephesians 4:26).
- How do we sin with our anger?
- How can we be angry and not sin? (This assumes we will all get angry!)
- What does compassion mean? What does it look like?

6. Brainstorm sharing questions:

- How have you been hurt by another's anger?
- How have you been blessed (encouraged) by another's compassion?
- How have you hurt others by your anger?
- How have you shown compassion?

7. Brainstorm stories, insights, analogies or personal experiences that help illustrate the point you are trying to make:

- Give examples of speaking truth in love and examples of truth in anger.
- Give illustrations and examples from your own life about dealing with anger in negative and positive ways.

8. Finally, brainstorm icebreakers:

- Think of a time that you were really angry and/or hurt. How did you deal with it? What did you do or say?
- What different ways have you observed people getting angry?

ANOTHER WAY TO GO

Topical studies are one way of studying the Bible. Eventually, though, you will want your friends to be able to study the Bible on their own. Instead of reading topically you will want them to study inductively. This means that they will read whole books of the Bible letting the meaning surface from within the text. There are several tools available that can help them in this process. Below are two different ways to study the Bible inductively.

1 The TAN method.

- T (Then) What was actually happening then? What's happening in the story? What are the facts? If you were a participant in the story, what would you be observing?
- A (Always) What is always true in this passage? What eternal truths do you discover? What do you learn about God? About life? About God's relationship with humanity?
- N (Now) What difference does this passage make in my life now? What will I do differently today because of the truth in this passage?

2 The Observation, Interpretation, Application method.

Observations:

- Who? Who's involved?
- What? What's happening in the passage?
- Where? Where does it take place?
- When? When did it happen?
- Why? Why did it happen?
- How? How are things accomplished?

Interpretation:

What does the passage mean? Look up key words in a Bible dictionary. What truth(s) are being communicated?

Application: SPECK

- S Is there sin that I should avoid?
- P Is there a promise from God that I can claim?
- E Is there an example for me to follow or avoid?
- C Is there a command for me to obey?
- K How does the passage increase my knowledge about Jesus Christ?