

FACILITATOR GUIDE



LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2021

A Walk Made Worthy

Youth  Lead

Youth@Lead

LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2021

A Walk Made Worthy

— FACILITATOR GUIDE —



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CURRICULUM INTRODUCTION

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One of the key parts of youth discipleship is developing a resilient identity in Christ. This resilient identity helps young people to navigate times of stress, experience new things and people, and move through life while holding fast to their Christian faith. In *A Walk Made Worthy*, we will explore how young people can remain humbly confident in their faith through times of struggle, times of joy and times of temptation. As we do, we will encourage them to be lifelong learners who face doubt and challenge by turning to God's Word.

SESSION ONE > *A Walk Made Worthy*

This session introduces our key verses, Colossians 1:9-12, and helps lay out how our gift of faith gives us a distinctive walk. The Holy Spirit gives us resilience that is humbly confident to face all we will walk through in this world.

SESSION TWO > *In Times of Struggle*

This session focuses on how we can be resilient in our walk during times of struggle. By looking at Jacob wrestling with God, we see how we can be confident in God even amid struggle.

SESSION THREE > *In Times of Joy*

This session helps participants to see how joy can draw us closer in gratitude to God and encourage us to show the fruit of the Spirit. We celebrate times of joy, but we know life has ups and downs. So, through it all, our lives should be focused on Jesus.

SESSION FOUR > *In Times of Temptation*

This session focuses on how we face a world full of temptation and how God helps us to resist. It reminds us of how we are forgiven and how that forgiveness changes how we walk through life.

SESSION FIVE > *What's Next on Your Walk?*

This session is designed to help participants turn the first four sessions into actionable items for the future.

TRAINING VISION

YouthLead Training had its beginning in the hearts of teens. A meeting of teen representatives from various districts asked LCMS Youth Ministry to create a leadership development training designed specifically for teens. Each year, a new group of teen representatives from various districts and congregations gathers and consults on the training for the upcoming year. In this way, the themes and topics of the trainings reflect the needs and concerns of teens. Each training combines aspects of leadership development and spiritual growth.

Not only are the resources written for youth, they are intended to be led by youth. Every three years, teen participants at the training event elect five of their peers to facilitate the training sessions for the next three years. This executive team is trained and mentored throughout the three-year term to develop their leadership skills and prepare them to serve.



Once a teen has experienced YouthLead Training as a participant, he or she is encouraged to partner with an adult leader to facilitate the training with another group of youth. The adult leader should take the initiative in the event planning and arrangements for the training experience, while the teen should prepare to facilitate the training sessions. In this way, teens are given the opportunity to model leadership, inspire other teens to leadership, and live out their role as an active part of the church. The goal of this ministry model is to be like ripples in a pond. The circles of influence spread as teens lead teens through the leadership training process.

PARTICIPANT AND FACILITATOR GUIDES

The facilitator guide walks teens through the process of facilitating the training. It gives detailed instructions to help teens effectively lead the training and develop their leadership skills.

Each teen leading the sessions should have a facilitator guide, and each participant should have a copy of the participant guide. All the same questions and space for notes in the participant guide are included in the facilitator guide so you don't have to go back and forth. The information included on the participant guide is indicated between the orange lines.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

Start with prayer. Before you begin to prepare to lead this training, ask the Lord to guide you. Ask Him for guidance and wisdom. Ask Him to guide your motives

and actions so the message of His Word is clearly spoken and eagerly understood by the participants. Start now and continue to pray through the entire process, asking your heavenly Father to prepare the hearts and minds of the participants to learn, grow and apply what they have learned.

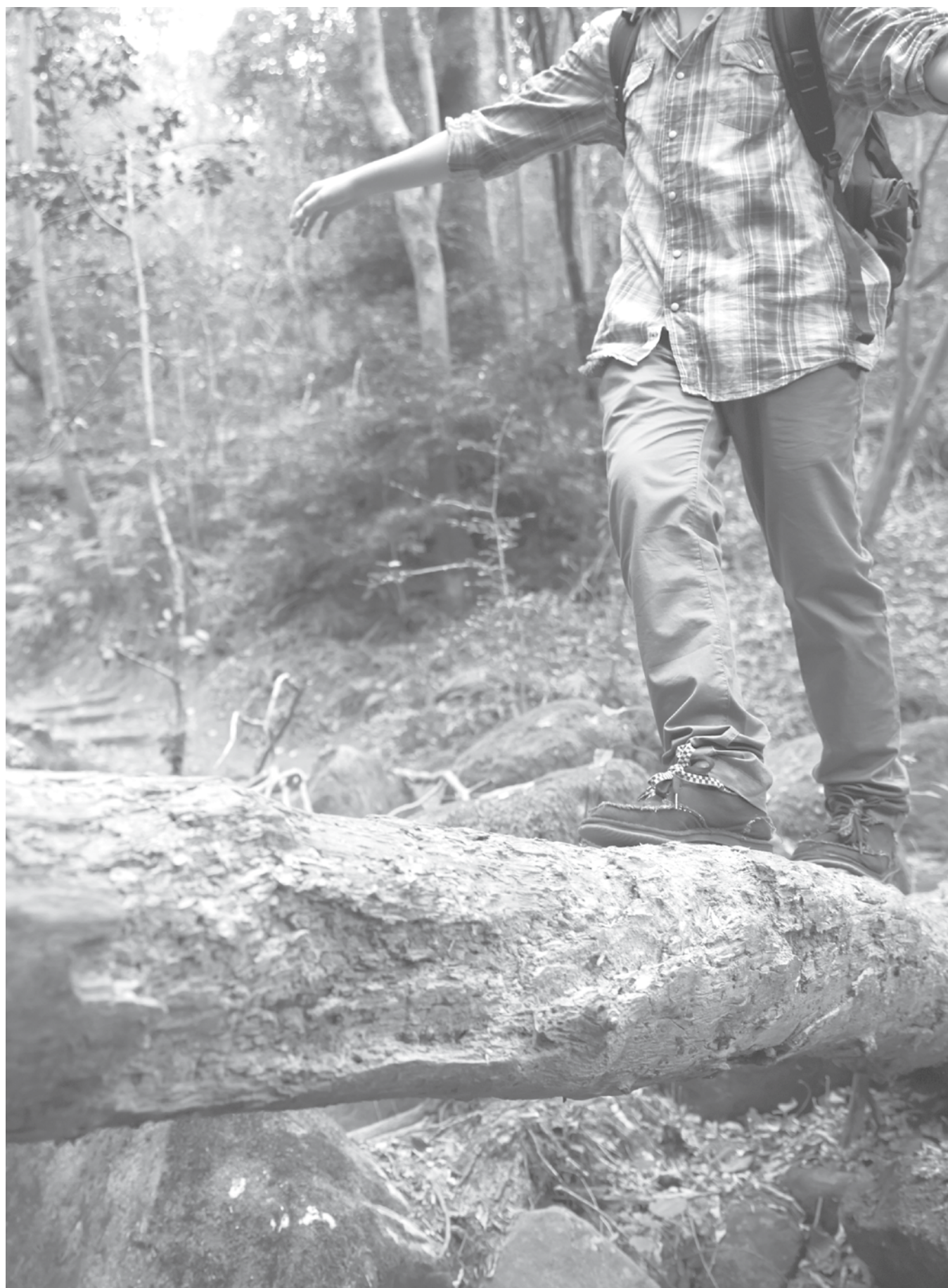
You should know the resources well by studying the written material and videos in advance. Be completely comfortable with all aspects of the training ahead of time.

Arrange the room so that participants have space to break into small groups and also interact as one large group. The video presentations are a key component. Before the group arrives make sure the necessary audio/visual equipment is available, set up and working. A large monitor and speaker can be used, but a laptop projector, screen and speakers would be best. Arrange the equipment and seating in the room so all participants can clearly see the screen and hear the audio.

Make sure you have a participant guide and pen for each participant. Ask participants to bring their Bible to the training but also have a supply available.

TRANSITIONS

If you are doing these sessions in a retreat, give you and your participants a break in between to stretch. Lead some stretches and simple motions. You may feel silly doing this, but it will help the participants switch gears and reengage in the next section.





SESSION 1: A WALK MADE WORTHY

OPEN WITH PRAYER

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Build a positive and open environment by helping participants feel comfortable with each other. Start with a set of opening questions to facilitate the first step of relationship building. These could include:

- What's your name?
- Where are you from?
- What is one place you enjoy watching people?
- What's the furthest you have ever walked in one day?
- What's a random fact about the world that other people might not know?

VIDEO

LEADER'S NOTE: Make sure everyone has a pen, a copy of the participant guide and their Bible with them. Let them know there is a square at the start of the lesson to take notes or write questions. We will address those in small group time.

SHOW VIDEO #1: A RESILIENT WALK MADE WORTHY

SCRIPTURE DEEP DIVE

LEADER:

From the first time Paul heard of church in Colossae, he prayed that they might know Jesus and what He has done. Paul prayed that the Holy Spirit would give them

faith and wisdom to walk through their life reflecting God's love. He prayed that they would be strengthened in their faith through the Holy Spirit so that their walk made worthy would help share the Gospel with joy and give thanks to Jesus until God called them home.

The same thing is true for you. From the moment of your baptism, your family, your sponsors, and your church have prayed similar prayers for you. They prayed that you would deeply understand the faith given by the Holy Spirit in your baptism. They prayed that you would be able to live out that faith bearing fruit so that others would know Jesus too.

Let's dive a little deeper into the verse from Colossians to see how it might help us to see more about resilience and humble confidence in our walk.

Read the Scripture passage from Colossians that was highlighted in this session again:

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (COL. 1:9-12)

If you have time, you might read it more than once. Ask these questions, giving plenty of time for people to look over the verses and think.

- › What do these verses tell us about God?
- › What do these verses tell us about how God works through us?
- › There is a lot of action in these verses. Where is the Law? Where is the Gospel?
- › How do these verses show us humility? Confidence?

WORD REVIEW: AXIOMATIC

LEADER:

The word for “worthy” here in Greek is the root of the English word “axiom” or “axiomatic.” Something that is axiomatic is self-evident or unquestionable.

Give participants a second to answer these questions in their guide and then ask for volunteers to share.

What are the axiomatic (unquestionable, irrefutable) truths that you build your life on?

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How do these truths impact how you walk through the world?

How do these truths impact how others see you?

In one of the blank pages in the back of your participant guide, draw ground or a road at the bottom of the page that includes the irrefutable, foundational beliefs that are a part of your walk. Be sure to leave plenty of room to add, since we will continue to develop this picture through our sessions.

PAIR SHARE/SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

LEADER:

During the video you had some space to take notes. Did anyone have something that was personally significant to you? What might have been new to you or left you with questions?

LEADER'S NOTE: Take time here to let people share. It's possible they didn't have any notes to share, so don't feel you have to linger here. If they do have questions you aren't confident to answer, be sure to note that participants can follow up with other resources or trusted sources like pastors and other church workers. Don't feel like you have to answer everything right now.

LEADER:

Our theme is “a walk made worthy.” The way that we walk through the world both physically and metaphorically can reveal a lot about our identity. Our identity and what we believe are reflected in how we carry ourselves, interact with people, deal with conflict or crisis and set our priorities. We have already talked about that a bit in our Word Study. Let's dive a little deeper into how our Baptism and a walk made worthy make us different, set us apart.

We only walk in a manner worthy of the Lord because of what God has done for us through Jesus' death and resurrection. We are made worthy because we have been forgiven and set free from our sin. The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives every day makes our walk resilient.

LEADER:

Our faith in Jesus as our Savior makes us walk differently through the world. We don't do it ourselves, but God works in and through us during our walk.

ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

- › What do people notice when the Holy Spirit works through us to share the fruit of the Spirit?

- Have you ever been in a situation where you were challenged to walk in faith? How did you respond? Would you change how you responded looking back?
- We know that we aren't worthy because of what we do, but because of Jesus' death and resurrection. How does that help give us confidence in our walk?

Resilience is when someone can bounce back and adapt when they face stress, adversity or tragedy. Resilience in our faith is when Christians can face new situations, experience crisis, meet new and different people, and engage challenging situations all while maintaining their identity in Christ. Resilience is a walk that takes you through every part of life confident in what Jesus has done for you.

ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

- When is a time you have been faced with stress, adversity or tragedy in a way that challenged your faith?
- What did God give you to help face that situation while maintaining your baptismal identity?

LEADER'S NOTE: *This is an opportunity for you to have a story to share as well. This may be a good place to give an example first. This gives people a comfort level in sharing. Also, please note that for the second question we are looking for ways God helped in that situation. We do not want the focus to be on how someone saved their own faith, but how God works through Scripture, prayer, worship and the vocation of other people to help us.*

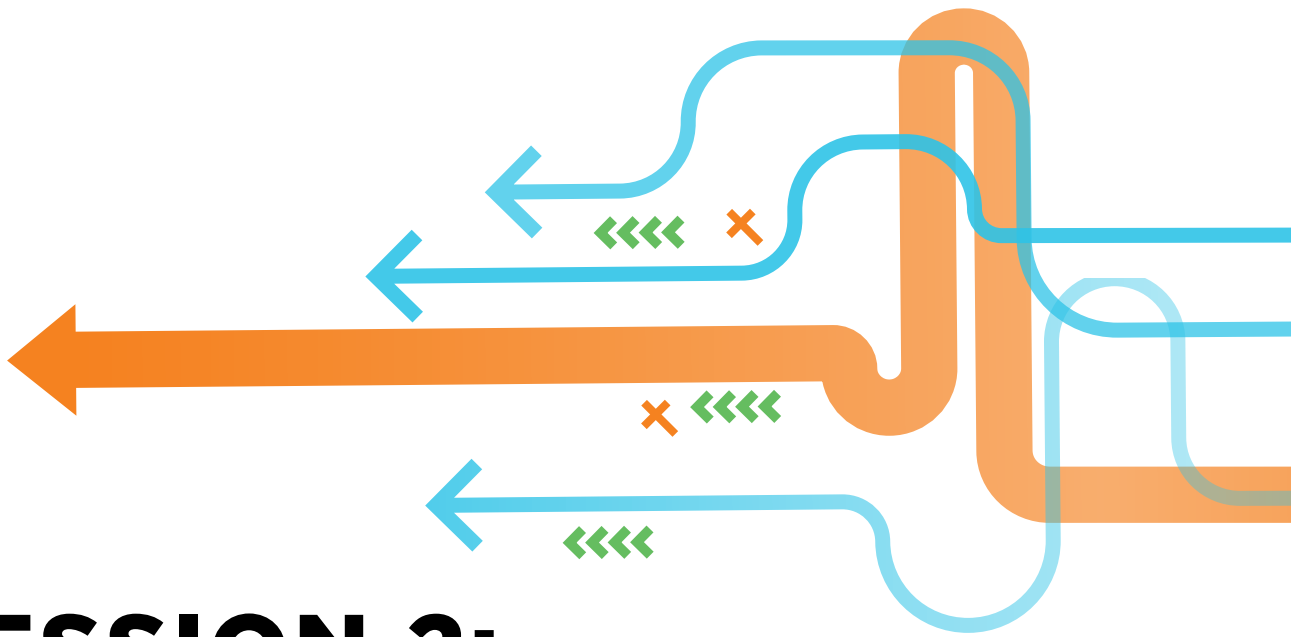
LEADERSHIP JOURNALING

Ask participants to spend time in personal reflection using the note pages at the end of the lesson. Ask them not to talk to others, but to record their thoughts in their booklets.

PRAYER

NOTES





SESSION 2: IN TIMES OF STRUGGLE

OPEN WITH PRAYER

COMMUNITY BUILDING

This can be done in small groups or in one large group. In advance of the session create a ball made up mostly of clear packing tape or saran wrap. Create many layers, some of which should include wrapped candy with something larger at the center. Have small groups of students pass the ball every 30 seconds until they have gotten to the center. Individuals can keep the candy they are able to dislodge, but make sure that everyone get some.

- What was the hardest part of the game?
- Did the game ever seem unfair? Why or why not?
- How did it feel to struggle to get the ball open while others were watching?
- What did it feel like to get through the ball?

VIDEO

LEADER'S NOTE: Make sure everyone has a pen, a copy of the participant guide and their Bible with them. Let them know there is a square at the start of the lesson to take notes or write questions. We will address those in small group time.

SHOW VIDEO #2: IN TIMES OF STRUGGLE

SCRIPTURE DEEP DIVE

LEADER:

There is a lot more to the story of Jacob and Esau than what we are looking at here. In short, they are twins and Esau is the oldest. This should have secured Esau a special blessing as the firstborn of their father Isaac. Yet, through deceit, Jacob receives the blessing instead. Jacob is sent to his uncle Laban where he is married and builds a life. Now God is sending him back home where he isn't sure how welcome he will be.

There is a lot more to this story, so reading through this section of Genesis can be a great place to spend some time on your own. For our purposes, we are going to focus on this story of Jacob's wrestling.

Look at Genesis 32:13–29.

If you have time, you might read it more than once. Ask these questions, giving plenty of time for people to look over the verse and think.

- › Jacob is worried about what the next day will bring. Have you ever been in a similar situation? How did it feel?
- › What do these verses tell us about God?
- › What do these verses tell us about Jacob?
- › In the end of the story, how is Jacob changed by his experience?
- › We are clearly not in the same situation as Jacob, but what might this story tell us about how God is present in our struggles?

PAIR SHARE/SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

LEADER:

During the video you had some space to take notes. Did anyone have something that was personally significant to you? What might have been new to you or left you with questions?

LEADER'S NOTE: Take time here to let people share. It's possible they didn't have any notes to share, so don't feel you have to linger here. If they do have questions you aren't confident to answer, be sure to note that participants can follow up with other resources or trusted sources like pastors and other church workers. Don't feel like you must answer everything right now.

LEADER:

When we struggle, we could be talking about a lot of things. It's a very broad term. To help us focus, we are going to talk about some areas of struggle that you might experience.

Struggle can be internal when you try to understand new information or a new way of thinking, especially about topics of faith. This can happen when we start to dive deeply into God's Word or into our Lutheran theology and find something that we didn't expect. Or it could be information from school or even a YouTube video that calls our faith into question. These internal struggles are in our minds. But God doesn't ask us to turn off our brains when it comes to faith. Instead, God gives us Scripture where the Holy Spirit is active for us, trusted people who have studied God's Word and a host of other resources to help us think through difficult issues.

ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

- › Where are trusted sources you can turn to when you are facing this kind of struggle?
- › Part of a walk worthy of the Lord is always learning. How do you continue to learn and grow in your understanding of God?

Struggle can be about identity and vocation. There are lots of people who want to tell you who you should be and how you should use your gifts and skills. There are plenty of voices who tell you that your focus should be on your own happiness, achievement or desires. But that isn't how we understand our baptismal identity, the center of who God has made us to be.

ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

- › How does God remind you of the most important parts of who you are when other voices tell you otherwise?

- › God has given you gifts, skills and experience to care for your neighbor. How does understanding your God-given vocation change how you set your goals and how you spend your time?

Struggle can be relational. We all have family, friends, teammates and coworkers with whom we might struggle. We can have differences of opinions. We or someone we love might sin through lies, hurtful words or gossip. Relationships can be strained when conflict is left to fester. God can and does work in these relationships to help us forgive one another and show His love to each other.

ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

- › What are some of the relationships you struggle with?
- › How can prayer, confession and absolution, and showing God's love change those relationships?

Our God is bigger than any of our struggles. There is no situation, question or emotion that we can't take to God. There is nothing you can struggle with that God doesn't already know. There is no wrestling that God isn't prepared to win. We continue to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, trusting that God will work through us in difficult times. As Christians we can walk shining God's light of hope and truth despite our struggle because of what God has done.

ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

- › How do God's presence and power impact how you wrestle with difficult situations?

WORD REVIEW: WRESTLE

LEADER:

Jacob wrestled with God. We do our own wrestling by taking our struggles to where God promised He would be. Wrestling has two definitions. One is to take part in a fight that involves grappling with one's opponent, like Jacob. The other is struggling with a difficulty or problem, which is closer to what we are talking about today. Wrestling can happen with any struggle, big or small. Our struggles are each unique, but times of struggle are something we all experience.

Give participants a second to answer these questions in their guide and then ask for volunteers to share.

What are some struggles big or small that you have faced in your life?

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How was God present and powerful during those times of struggle?

How has that struggle changed you as God uses you to shine His light to others?

In one of the blank pages given in the back of your student guide, draw something to indicate a wrestling you have had to face. It could be literal, or figurative, but place it on the ground of axiomatic things you drew in the first lesson.

LEADERSHIP JOURNALING

Ask participants to spend time in personal reflection using the note pages at the end of the lesson. Ask them not to talk to others, but to record their thoughts in their booklets.

PRAYER

NOTES





SESSION 3: IN TIMES OF JOY

OPEN WITH PRAYER

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Encourage each participant to take five minutes and plan their perfect day. Who would be there? What would you do? Where would you be? What would you eat? Encourage them to be as detailed as possible. Then have them compare their perfect day with a few other people's.

- What was the same or different about your perfect day and someone else's?
- Were there aspects you didn't think of that other people did? What might that say about your priorities?
- Where is God in this imaginary best day? Did you include Him in any way or was He a side thought?
- How does your relationship with God change in good times in comparison to bad?

VIDEO

LEADER'S NOTE: Make sure everyone has a pen, a copy of the participant guide and their Bible with them. Let them know there is a square at the start of the lesson to take notes or write questions. We will address those in small group time.

SHOW VIDEO #3: IN TIMES OF JOY

PAIR SHARE/SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

LEADER:

During the video you had some space to take notes. Did anyone have something that was personally significant to you? What might have been new to you or left you with questions?

LEADER'S NOTE: Take time here to let people share. It's possible they didn't have any notes to share, so don't feel you have to linger here. If they do have questions you aren't confident to answer, be sure to note that participants can follow up with other resources or trusted sources like pastors and other church workers. Don't feel like you must answer everything right now.

LEADER:

Times of difficulty tend to make our dependence on God more obvious than when things are going well. When our life is easy and happy, there is a danger that we will think we can do it all on our own, that we need God less. But that isn't the truth. We are sinners all the time and we need Jesus just as much in the good times as we do the bad.

**ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER
THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

- › What are ways that we can remember to focus on spiritual practices like prayer and Scripture reading when things are joyful in our lives?
- › What helps you to remember that your success and achievement are from God and should give glory to God?
- › How does using the lens of vocation (that God is working through us every day to care for our neighbor and creation) help to keep us humble?

LEADER:

In our world today, we often judge how well a person is doing by their achievements. We want

to know how many followers someone has, how much money they make or how much power they have. The number one thing that Generation Z says is important to their identity is their educational and work achievements. But those aren't the markers Jesus is looking for in His followers. Jesus isn't looking only to have those with the most likes or the most money with Him in heaven. Instead, God wants to give us saving faith through Jesus' death on the cross and to use our lives to point others back to Him. Yes, God wants us to use our gifts, skills and experience to the best of our ability. But not for achievement, but so that others might see God at work through us.

**ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER
THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

- › What achievements or goals in your life might draw you away from your focus on God and His gifts?
- › How can success cause us to be focused on ourselves and our own goals, rather than what God wants?

- › How do our plans for using our gifts, skills and experience change when we focus on how the Holy Spirit wants to use us to share the Gospel and to love others in Jesus' name?

SCRIPTURE DEEP DIVE

LEADER:

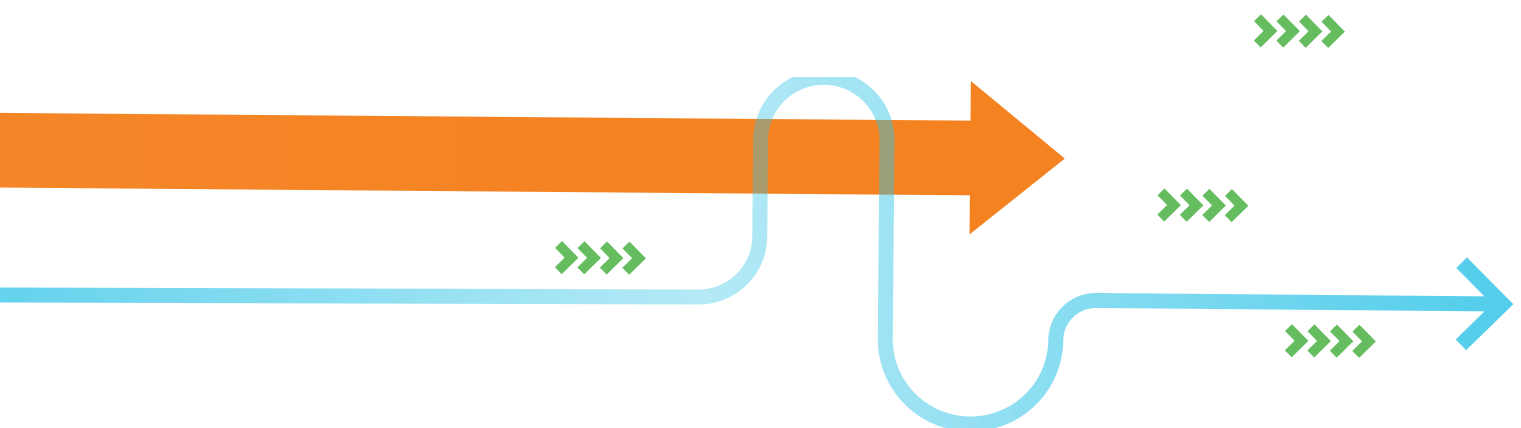
One of the pieces of Scripture we have looked at several times in this study is the fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5. This section even starts with a reference to walking by the Spirit.

Look at Galatians 5:16, 22–23.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

If you have time, you might read it more than once. Ask these questions, giving plenty of time for people to look over the verse and think.

- › What are some things that get in the way of your bearing the fruit of the Spirit?
- › What do these verses tell us about God's perfect love for us?
- › When others see the fruit of the Spirit in us, can that jeopardize what we or others might view as success or achievement?
- › As the Spirit empowers us, how does His fruit make us stand out to others? How does it change our walk?



WORD REVIEW: GRATEFULNESS

LEADER:

In times of joy we are especially grateful to God for all we have. While we might be tempted to think we achieved or found joy all on our own, even in the best of times we are sinners in need of saving. Times of joy are an opportunity for us to be grateful for just how much God has given us. God is the giver of all things, including the gifts and skills we have, to be His hands and feet in the world.

Give participants a second to answer these questions in their guide and then ask for volunteers to share.

What are some joys big or small that you have experienced that you are grateful for?

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How did your time of joy help you to be grateful for what God has provided?

In one of the blank pages given in the back of your student guide, draw something to indicate the joy you are grateful for. It could be literal, or figurative, but place it on the ground of axiomatic things near where you put the struggles you wrote in the first lesson.

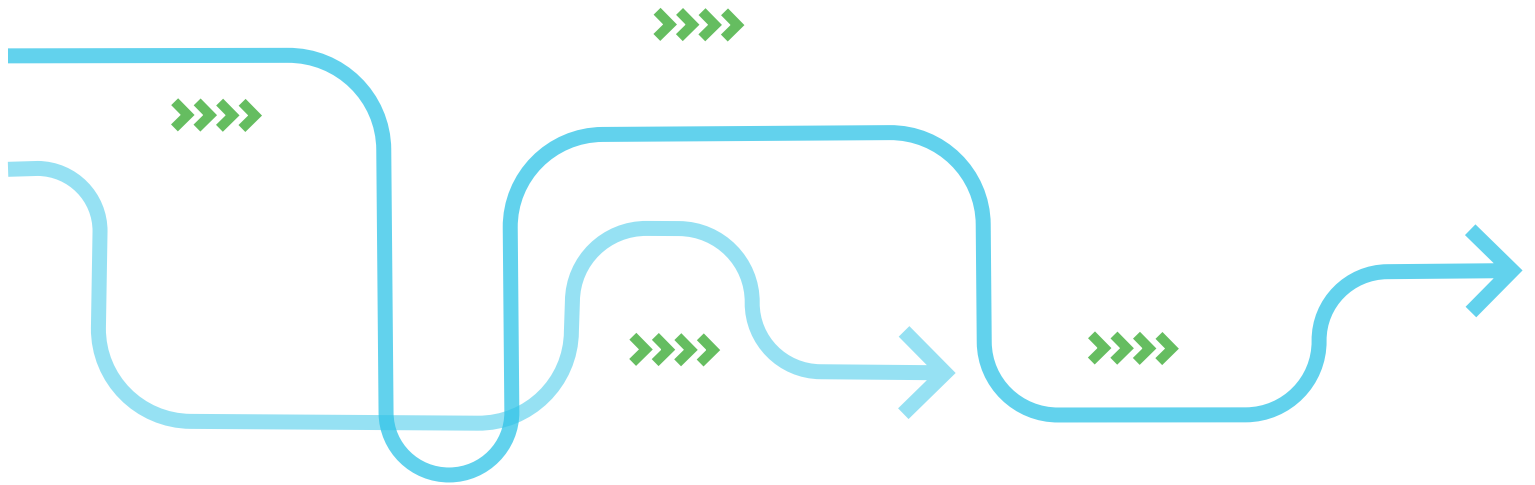
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Ask participants to spend time in personal reflection using the note pages at the end of the lesson. Ask them not to talk to others, but to record their thoughts in their booklets.

PRAYER

NOTES





SESSION 4:

IN TIMES OF TEMPTATION

OPEN WITH PRAYER

COMMUNITY BUILDING

You will need to get balloons in advance, at least one for each person. For this game you will have between 2–5 participants blow up their balloon. When you say go, they will throw the balloon in the air and put their hands behind their back. The goal is to keep your balloon up off the ground longer than anyone else. You cannot use your hands or touch someone else's balloon. If your balloon hits the ground, you are done.

- Was this game easy or hard?
- Were you ever tempted to use your hands or to purposefully hit another person's balloon?
- How did you resist breaking the rules?

VIDEO

LEADER'S NOTE: Make sure everyone has a pen, a copy of the participant guide and their Bible with them. Let them know there is a square at the start of the lesson to take notes or write questions. We will address those in small group time.

SHOW VIDEO #4: IN TIMES OF TEMPTATION

SCRIPTURE DEEP DIVE

LEADER:

We are not alone in our temptation.

Look at Hebrews 4:14–16.

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

If you have time, you might read it more than once. Ask these questions, giving plenty of time for people to look over the verses and think.

- › What do these verses tell us about God?
- › What do these verses tell us about how God relates to us? What God's mercy provides us?
- › How do these verses help us as God empowers us to avoid temptation?

WORD REVIEW: TEMPTATION

LEADER:

Temptation attempts to lure us away from God and His ways. It can come from our sinfulness, from the devil and from the world. Regardless of where it comes from, temptation tries to lead us to sin, despair and false belief.

Give participants a second to answer these questions in their guide and then ask for volunteers to share.

If there was someone writing letters about how best to tempt you, what might they say?

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When you sin and fall into temptation, how do you feel? If you feel shame, loneliness or fear, how can that further prevent you from confessing your sin?

God breaks the chains of sin and shame. In their place, Jesus grants you forgiveness and new life. How does that change your walk?

In one of the blank pages given in the back of your student guide, draw something to indicate temptations that occur on your walk and how you might be empowered by the Holy Spirit to avoid them. It could be literal, or figurative, but place it around the top of your picture.

PAIR SHARE/SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

LEADER:

During the video you had some space to take notes. Did anyone have something that was personally significant to you? What might have been new to you or left you with questions?

LEADER'S NOTE: Take time here to let people share. It's possible they didn't have any notes to share, so don't feel you have to linger here. If they do have questions you aren't confident to answer, be sure to note that participants can follow up with other resources or trusted sources like pastors and other church workers. Don't feel like you have to answer everything right now.

LEADER:

Temptation comes in a lot of different forms. C.S. Lewis's book covers a host of temptations a person might experience and it doesn't even scratch the surface.

ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

- › Give some examples of sins of commission. Give some examples of sins of omission. Why do we include both in our confession and absolution during worship?
- › What are some ways we are tempted by our own sinful nature?
- › What are some ways we are tempted by the devil or the world?
- › How can temptation act slowly and gradually in our lives?

God's grace makes us generous in offering forgiveness to others. We walk with people in their temptations, pointing them to grace, rather than heaping on shame. We don't hold grudges. Instead we can be confident that God uses sinners like us to share His grace and love with others.

ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

- › Have you ever had someone hurt you in a way you didn't think you could forgive? How did you respond?
- › When we receive forgiveness, how does that change how we deal with others?
- › Does forgiveness mean that there are not consequences for our actions or the actions of others?
- › How does God provide the ability to forgive others, even when we don't feel it ourselves? How can forgiving others help point them to Jesus?

As disciples of Jesus, we are confident in what comes next after this world. Nothing, not our sinful nature, the world or the devil, can separate you from God's love and mercy. Just like the man described in *The Screwtape Letters*, God's work can triumph in your life and open you to perfect joy in heaven someday.

NOTES

ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

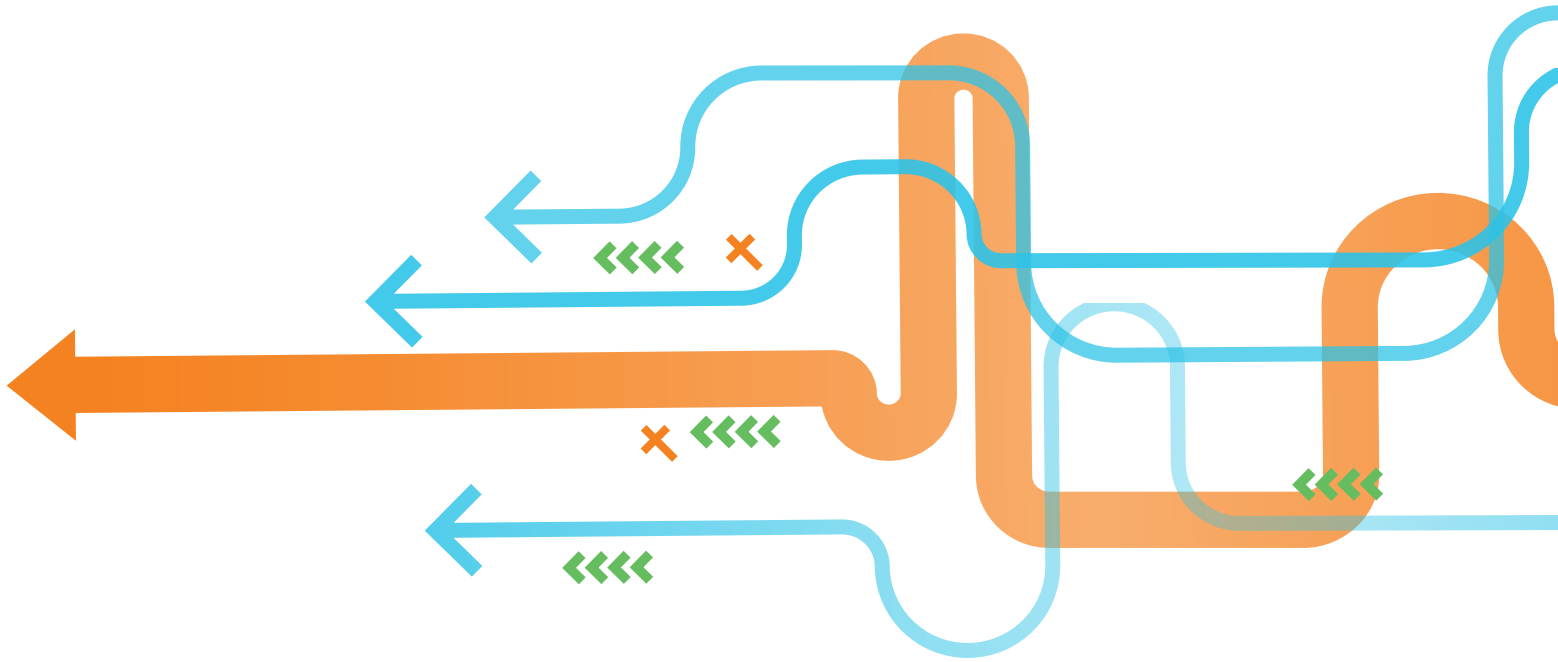
- › Is there anything this world can do to separate us from God's love?
- › As forgiven children, how does our confidence in Jesus change our work through life?

LEADERSHIP JOURNALING

Ask participants to spend time in personal reflection using the note pages at the end of the lesson. Ask them not to talk to others, but to record their thoughts in their booklets.

PRAYER





SESSION 5:

WHAT'S NEXT ON YOUR WALK?

LARGE GROUP

Gather the group together. Convey these instructions clearly, but in your own words.

LEADER:

In our final session we are going to bring all of what we have studied together. This time will help you develop your own action plan which will help you apply everything that you have learned.

Don't misunderstand the purpose of your action plan. We don't strive to serve God in order to be saved. The desire to serve God is a response to the salvation He has freely given us in Christ. It is vital to remember that God did all the work for your salvation. Jesus paid the price for your sins. By God's grace through faith in Christ, you are welcomed to be with Him in heaven forever. He did it all. Our response to that incredible love and forgiveness is the desire to walk worthy in the faith He has given us and to share it with others.

VIDEO

WATCH VIDEO #5: WHAT'S NEXT ON YOUR WALK?

SCRIPTURE DEEP DIVE

LEADER:

As we end, we are going to go back to that passage from Colossians again. Now that we have seen what a walk made worthy looks like from several different perspectives, the Holy Spirit might show us something different in the verses now.

Read the Scripture passage from Colossians again.

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (COL. 1:9-12)

If you have time, you might read it more than once. Ask these questions, giving plenty of time for people to look over the verse and think.

- What stands out to you now as you read this passage?
- Where does God remind us of our need for Him?
- Where does God promise to go with and empower us?
- How does the Holy Spirit excite you to live out what you hear in this verse?

WORD REVIEW: WALK

LEADER:

We don't ever know where life will take us. As Bilbo Baggins says, "It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's no knowing where you might be swept off to." You have lots of time in your life to experience a whole host of things.

Give participants a second to answer these questions in their guide and then ask for volunteers to share.

Where are some places you would like to walk with the power of the Holy Spirit? These could be physical places, things you want to accomplish, or skills you want to develop in order to share the Gospel.

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LEADER:

God will be with you wherever you go and whatever you do. If you get to these places you would like to walk or not, God will continue to love you, forgive you and work through you in all your vocations. You will meet new people, face new circumstances or crises, and engage challenging situations. It's impossible to see what will come, but we can trust the God we walk with. Regardless of what's next, God will be with you, fulfilling His promises to you.

In one of the blank pages given in the back of your student guide, draw a cross and place a Bible verse that reminds you that as you walk through everything in life, God will be with you.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

LEADER:

You did it! You've listened to the speakers, discussed the concepts and participated in processing activities. Now it's time to put it all together. In this session, you have the opportunity to apply everything that you've learned. This strategy builder will guide you through the process of developing your own action plan.

Now you will be given time on your own to internalize and digest all you've learned. You will have some time alone to think things through for yourself and be challenged to form your thoughts and opinions into written words. In section one, you will focus on resiliency and humble confidence.

LEADER'S NOTE: Encourage people to find space to work through the next section on their own. Make sure they have the ability to focus their thoughts and space where they can read and write comfortably. Give them 30 minutes and then a five-minute break before returning for the final section.

Write a response for each of the following sections before going on to the next one. It's OK if you don't know exactly what to write; just write whatever comes to mind. Writing an answer forces you to put your response into words, even if you are just developing your thoughts. Just the process of writing any response will help you to form an action plan. You can go back and change your answers at any time; just don't leave a blank.

Begin with prayer asking God to give you clarity and wisdom as you work through these pieces, pulling information from each of the sessions.

What is one thing you want to carry with you about who God is and what God has done for you in each of these sessions?

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Resiliency

- What are the greatest challenges to your walk made worthy right now?
- What are three thoughts that might help you as you face those challenges?
- With the power of the Holy Spirit, how do you want your walk to appear to other people?

Humble

- › What are ways you can be a lifelong learner when it comes to your faith?

- › What book/podcast/book of Scripture do you plan to dive into in the next few months?

- › What is one struggle you have faced that makes you more empathetic? How can God use your experience to share His love with others?

Confidence

- › What is a reminder you can give yourself on your phone or somewhere where you will see it regularly that God is with you in good times and bad?

- › Who is someone you need to forgive because God has forgiven you?

- › How does your confidence in God's love and forgiveness impact your walk and how you share the Gospel?

In the second section we will focus on the Scriptures and spiritual practices you would like to focus on in the upcoming weeks and months.

- › Write three important points from this training resource that are significant or meaningful to you.

- › Write out the Bible passage that you found most helpful.

- › What is one spiritual practice you want to make sure you do regularly to support your faith walk?

PRAYER BANDS

LEADER'S NOTE: *Bring everyone together and give each one a strip of paper that is long enough to be tied around a wrist. You will also need packing tape.*

Have students go around and share prayer requests based on the time they just spent in their action plan. As they do so, have people write a word or a name on their bracelet for that request. When they are done, use packing tape to cover them and tape them on their wrist. Encourage them to keep it on for as long as they want and then put them somewhere they can pray for the people in their group.

NOTES

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