

PARTICIPANT GUIDE



LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2021

A Walk Made Worthy

Youth  **Lead**

Youth Lead

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A Walk Made Worthy

— PARTICIPANT GUIDE —



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CURRICULUM INTRODUCTION

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In *A Walk Made Worthy*, we will explore how you can remain humbly confident in your faith through times of struggle, times of joy and times of temptation. As we do, we will encourage you to be lifelong learners who face doubt and challenge by turning to God's Word.

SESSION ONE > **A Walk Made Worthy**

SESSION TWO > **In Times of Struggle**

SESSION THREE > **In Times of Joy**

SESSION FOUR > **In Times of Temptation**

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

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 groups 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.

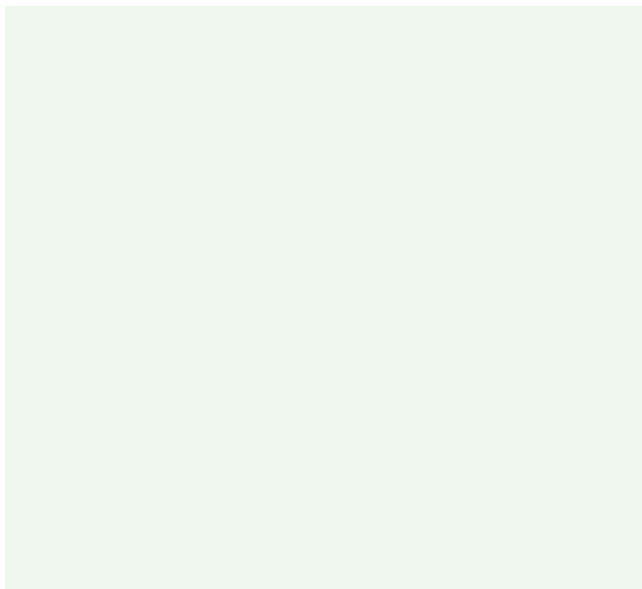
Once a teen has experienced YouthLead Training as a participant, he or she is encouraged to partner with an adult leader to facilitate the training with another group of youth. The adult leader should take the initiative in the event planning and arrangements for the training experience, while the teen 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.



SESSION 1:

A WALK MADE WORTHY

During the video, jot down anything that sticks out to you. It might be something new you hear, something that is personally significant to you or a question you might have.



SCRIPTURE DEEP DIVE

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)

- › 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

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?

- › 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.

- › 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?

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- › How can being a Christian make you stand out in your everyday life?

PAIR SHARE/SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

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.

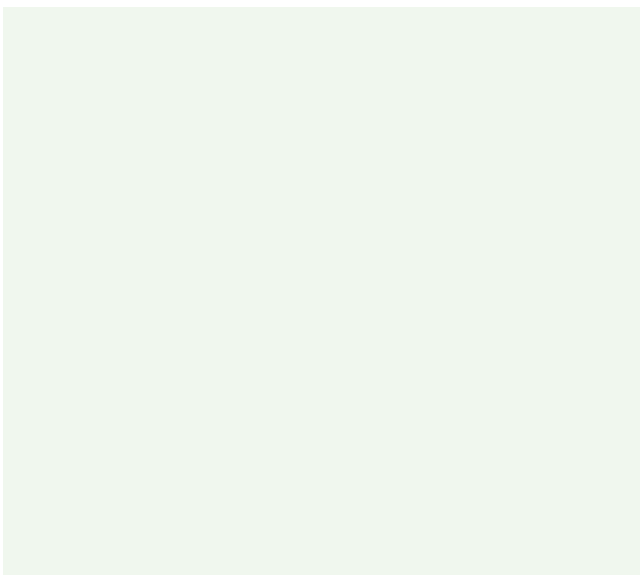
- › What do people notice when the Holy Spirit works through us to share the fruit of the Spirit?

- › How can the Holy Spirit use your walk to encourage other Christians in their walk?



SESSION 2: IN TIMES OF STRUGGLE

During the video, jot down anything that sticks out to you. It might be something new you hear, something that is personally significant to you or a question you might have.



SCRIPTURE DEEP DIVE

Look at Genesis 32:13–29.

- › 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

Internal Struggles

- › 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?

Identity and Vocation Struggles

- › 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?

Relational Struggles

- › 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.

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

WORD REVIEW: WRESTLE

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?

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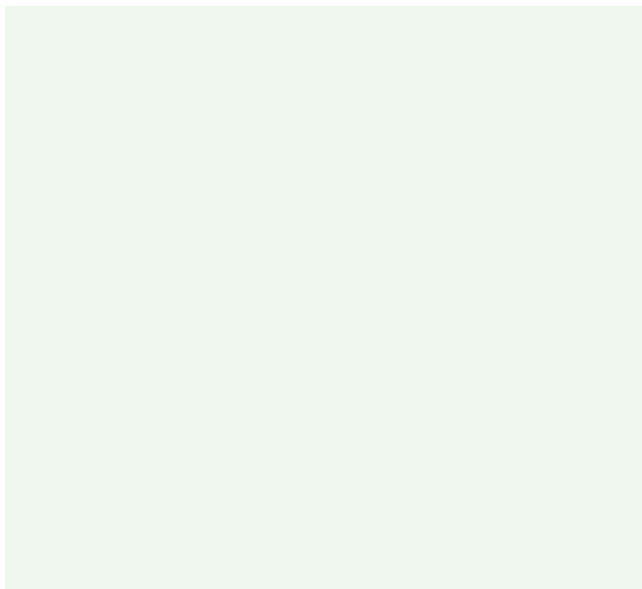
- › What struggle are you wrestling with right now? How is God making Himself present in that struggle?

- › How might God use this wrestling to help you to love and serve others in His name?



SESSION 3: IN TIMES OF JOY

During the video, jot down anything that sticks out to you. It might be something new you hear, something that is personally significant to you or a question you might have.



PAIR SHARE/SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- › 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?
- › 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

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.

- › 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

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?

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- › What are some of your roles and responsibilities right now? How might God be empowering you to share God's love in those places?

- › How might God be using moments of joy, achievement and success to help point other people to Him?



SESSION 4: IN TIMES OF TEMPTATION

During the video, jot down anything that sticks out to you. It might be something new you hear, something that is personally significant to you or a question you might have.

SCRIPTURE DEEP DIVE

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.

- › 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

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?

PAIR SHARE/SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- › 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.

- › 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?

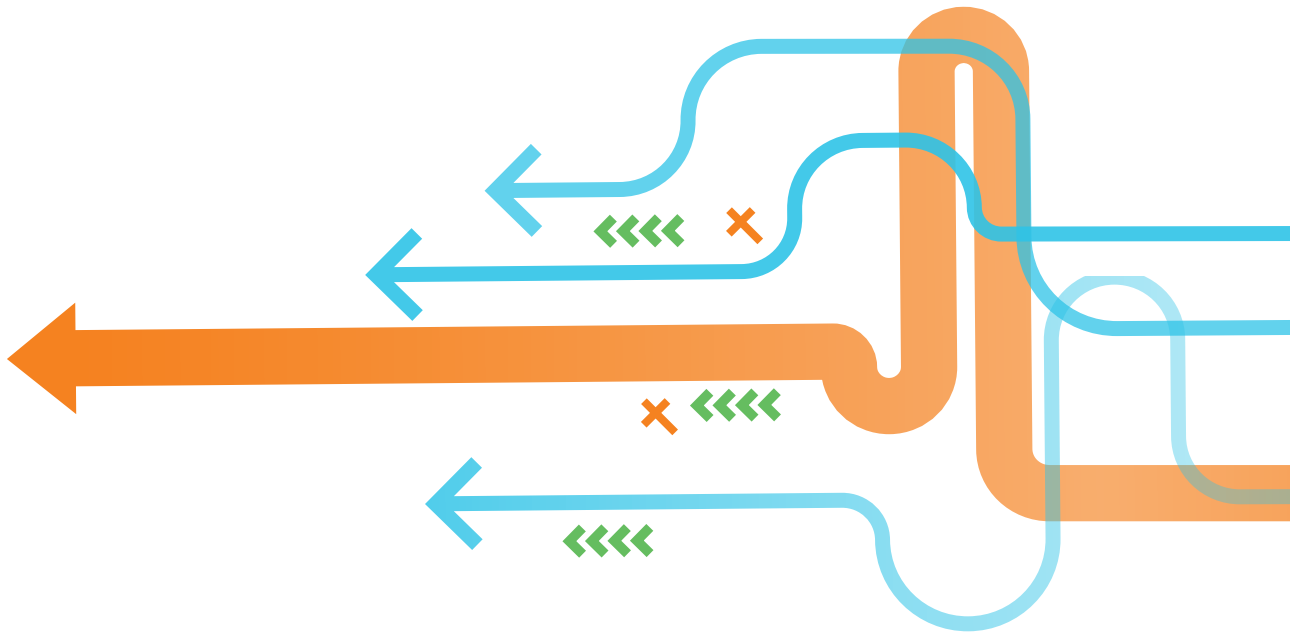
As disciples of Jesus, we are confident in what comes next after this world. Nothing, not our sinful nature, the world or the devil, can separate you from God's love and mercy. Just like the man described in *The Screwtape Letters*, God's work can triumph in your life and open you to perfect joy in heaven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

- › 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?

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- › What temptations are you facing now that you need God's forgiveness and strength to walk away from?
- › What sins and temptations do you need to bring to God to confess and hear His forgiveness?





SESSION 5: WHAT'S NEXT ON YOUR WALK?

During the video, jot down anything that sticks out to you. It might be something new you hear, something that is personally significant to you or a question you might have.

SCRIPTURE DEEP DIVE

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)

- › 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

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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PERSONAL REFLECTION

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?

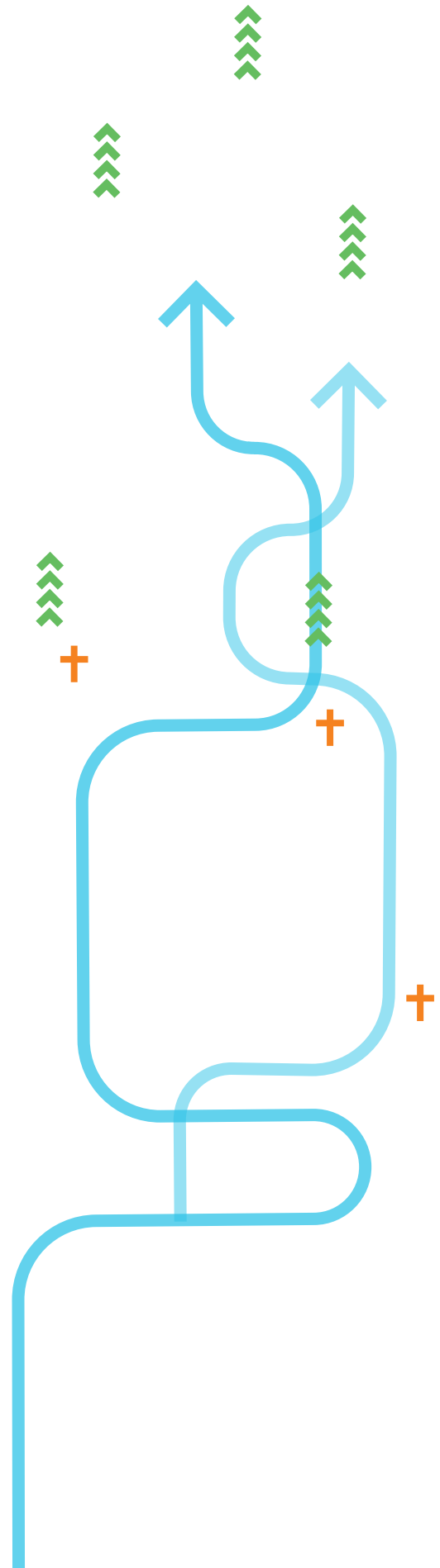
- What is one struggle you have faced that makes you more empathetic? How can God use your experience to share His love with others?

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?



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