

The logo is centered on a vibrant green golf course background. It features the text "Men's League" in a large, black, serif font. Above and below the text are decorative flourishes consisting of two curved lines that meet at a central point, with a small 'X' symbol at the top and bottom intersections. Below the main text, the phrase "Building Character" is written in a smaller, black, serif font.

Men's League

Building Character

LEADER GUIDE

Spring 2015

Men's League Leader Guide

Session 1: Disciples' Cross

Session 2: Spend Time with the Master

Session 3: Live in the Word

Session 4: Pray in Faith

Session 5: Fellowship with Believers

Session 6: Witness to the World

Session 7: Minister to Others

Session 8: PLACE review

Group Session 1: Disciples' Cross

1. Begin with Disciples' Cross: Review from first main session

Begins with a blank paper

I. Luke 9:23- top right corner

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Ask: What phrase stands out to you in this? Why?

Ask: What part do you struggle with the most?

II. Disciples' Cross

1. Luke 9:23
 - a. Deny- Luke 14:26
 - b. Take up cross- Luke 14:27
 - c. Follow- Matthew 4:19
2. Circle:
 - a. Begins with an empty circle
 - i. Ask: What does the empty circle represent?
 - b. Give him the first priority: write Christ in the middle, then John 15:5
 - c. This is where we are called to abide in Christ
3. Cross
 - a. Jesus' symbol of sacrifice for us and others
4. Word- lower portion
 - a. Discipline of living in the Word
 - b. Write John 8:31-32
 - c. Keeps us related to Christ
 - d. It is the power for our lives
5. Prayer in faith- upper portion
 - a. We learn to pray on the basis of His Word and living in Him
 - b. Write John 15:7
 - c. He delights in answering our prayers
6. Word and Prayer deal with our vertical relationship with God, the next two deal with our horizontal relationship with others.
7. Fellowship- right portion

- a. Fellowship emphasizes how we love one another
 - b. Write John 13:34-35
8. Witnessing to the World- left portion
- a. We are called to bear much fruit- not just characteristics, they are realities in our lives
 - b. John 15:8
 - c. Galatians 5: as people see the fruit it should lead others to bear fruit
9. Ministries are resulting: Crossbars at the end of each arm
- a. Word- teaching that grows out of this discipline
 - b. Fellowship-nurture: nurture to maturity
 - c. Prayer- worship to God and intercession for man
 - d. Witness- evangelism- all kinds
10. Who do we serve?- John 15:13
- a. Serving the lost- left side under witnessing
 - b. Serving the church- right side under fellowship

Ways to remember- top left corner

1. Lord-emptying self
2. Relationships-God/others
3. Commitments- deny/take/follow
4. Resources- Word, prayer, fellowship, witness
5. Ministries- teaching/preaching, intercession,/worship, nurture, evangelism, ministry
6. Disciplines: abide in Christ, living in the Word, prayer in faith, fellowship with believers, witnessing to the world, ministering to others/church

Questions:

- What discipline are we strongest in/weakest in
- We do not want to emphasize just one, we want to become a well-rounded disciple
- If you are doing this on the board, this would be the time to use the great illustration of wiping your hands through it all, showing your dirty hands then say: Your cross may have looked perfect, but this is a picture of discipleship; it's a dirty process. It requires us to get to know each other; it requires us to reveal ourselves to the Lord and to each other in order to grow. I'm willing to help along the way if you are.

Group Session 2: Spend Time with the Master

Open with prayer and any prayer requests

1. Have someone get up and draw the disciples' cross at the beginning of the class: If you want, you can have someone else explain it. They don't have to know all the Scriptures, but it is good to remind them of the basics of what each one says, according to where it is placed in the cross.
2. Review the Weekly Activities on page 10 and the Memory Verse of the week (John 15:5)
3. Explain: this week we dealt with our identity in Christ. How much time we spend with Jesus as our Master is an indication of our identity as believers.
4. Ask: What kind of disciple does Jesus want? Ask the question from page 11: Am I going to be a disciple who gives everything to Christ?
5. Draw the picture of the empty circle. Explain how it is so easy to fill our circle up with things that are not of Christ, when Christ is to be our first priority.
6. On page 14: What were your three priorities that you listed? How easy can it be for us as men to find our identity in these things before Christ? Even though these things are generally good to be identified as: a good husband, a good father, a good worker; how can we put these things before being a child of God and follower of Christ?
7. Ask: What motivates you in serving God? Explain: Sometimes when we check our motivations as realize that the focus of our lives is on ourselves instead of on Christ. How can this be dangerous? Read Luke 14:26-33 together and see in what ways Jesus was teaching the people to not put the focus on self and on following Him.
8. It is important to emphasize that you don't have to hit a grand slam of spending an hour in studying the Bible every day, but the first step is simply focusing on being obedient and spending some time in the Word. Explain: Obedience is a sign of our trust in God but it also is the way that we identify our lives with Christ's commands. Spending time in His Word is a way that we are obedient and learn to be obedient in our lives. Review on page 19 how to have a quiet time. Ask: What struggles do you find in having your quiet time? Ask: what small step could each person do in moving towards having a daily quiet time?
9. Go to page 24: Review the part: Suppose you live in a country that wanted to put you in jail for being a Christian. Would members of a court of law be able to prove that you are a Christian? What evidence would they see in your life? (Note: this may be convicting, but it's a good question to get men thinking about how they show their obedience but also how Christ abides in their life. This is a great time to be transparent as well as encouraging in taking the next steps of growth as a disciple)
10. Based on the Discipleship Inventory (page 29-30) ask what is their personal overall evaluation of their discipleship.

Conclude in prayer

Group activity: Choose a place to gather and pray for Revival on February 15th on a Sunday morning before worship begins.

Group Session 3:

Live in the Word

Open with prayer and any prayer requests

1. Have someone get up and draw the disciples' cross at the beginning of the class: If you want, you can have someone else explain it. They don't have to know all the Scriptures, but it is good to remind them of the basics of what each one says, according to where it is placed in the cross.
2. Review the Weekly Activities on page 31 and the memory verse
3. Explain: this week taught us about living in the Word. Just as last week we learned how our identity in Christ can be shown by how much time we spend with Jesus as our Master, so also spending time in His Word and applying it to our lives is critical for our growth as disciples.
4. Review the memory verse for the week (John 8:31-32). Explain: There are times that this verse can be used out of context in order to get someone to confess to something they did wrong. When you look at the verse and how Jesus was using it, he was making a relation to the truth He was teaching them and then for them to know Him as the Truth (John 14:6). Yes we are set free when we know and express the truth, but this verse goes beyond this and it helps us to have a greater understanding of Jesus and His teaching.
5. Ask: What was one thing that you learned from reading God's Word this week?
6. Review the reasons for having a quiet time:
 - a. To know God through fellowship with Him
 - b. To receive direction and guidance for daily decisions
 - c. To bring needs before God
 - d. To bear spiritual fruitAsk: Which one of these have you never thought of as a reason to have a quiet time?
7. Ask: What can be hindrances that we face in having a quiet time or learning how to live in God's Word?
8. Page 46 states: God does not want you to work for Him. He wants to work through you. Ask: How can this be a struggle for men today to accept this truth?
9. Review on page 48: How to have an effective quiet time.
 - a. Schedule a regular time for it
 - b. Find a place to be alone with God
 - c. Follow a procedure.Remember to keep encouraging men that if they are still struggling to do a daily quiet time to keep taking small steps towards obedience.
10. Ask: Based on where you were in your walk last week compared to this week, do you feel that you have grown closer to God?

Conclude in prayer

Group activity: Challenge each person to invite one person or family to revival.

Group Session 4:

Pray in Faith

Open with prayer and any prayer requests

1. Have someone get up and draw the disciples' cross at the beginning of the class: If you want, you can have someone else explain it. They don't have to know all the Scriptures, but it is good to remind them of the basics of what each one says, according to where it is placed in the cross.
2. Review the Weekly Activities on page 53 and the memory verse
3. Explain: this week we focused on praying in faith. Read the statement in the margin on page 55: *We need to hear God's voice so that we will know what to pray.* Prayer and spending time in God's Word are two sides of the same coin when it comes to having a quiet time. We need to hear what God is speaking to us through prayer as well as through His Word.
4. Ask: When you have a major decision in life, where or who do you look to for direction? Why? Explain: Prayer helps us to keep Christ in the center of our life not just for major decisions but for anything that comes up in our lives.
5. Explain: When you enter into a time of prayer it relates to the process that was involved in entering the temple (page 57). We can often think that these same levels of access exist, but the reality is that when Christ died on the cross and the veil was torn, access was freely provided to God's presence through Jesus Christ.
6. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Ask: What parts of that verse speak to you the most in relation to prayer? What does it mean to "enter into His courts with thanksgiving" after reading these verses?
7. Review the names of God for Day 3 (pages 61-62). Ask: which name do you relate to the most?
8. Explain: there are two ways that we are asked to pray beyond being thankful; 1. We bring our needs to God (petition) 2. We can pray for others (intercession). Ask: Which one do we struggle with the most?
9. Ask: did you begin to keep a Prayer-Covenant list? Explain: The value of writing down our requests becomes special when we look back and see how God answered our fervent prayer.
10. Ask: Based on where you were in your walk last week compared to this week, do you feel that you have grown closer to God?

Conclude in prayer

Group activity: Send a note of appreciation to your Life Group (Sunday School) teacher for all they do in preparing to teach God's Word.

Group Session 5

Fellowship with Believers

Open with prayer and any prayer requests

1. Have someone get up and draw the disciples' cross at the beginning of the class: If you want, you can have someone else explain it. They don't have to know all the Scriptures, but it is good to remind them of the basics of what each one says, according to where it is placed in the cross.
2. Review the Weekly Activities on page 73 and the memory verse
3. Read the statement on page 74 under the heading "LOVING ONE ANOTHER." Ask: Can anyone give a testimony of how being a part of the church strengthened you?
4. Ask: Why did Christ put such a value on showing love as a disciple? (It is a love that is based in who Christ is and based in His truth.)
5. Explain: read the section on page 78 "GOD WORKS THROUGH OTHERS." Ask: How is accountability and fellowship connected in discipleship?
6. Read the statement in the margin on page 80: Fellowship with other Christians is also crucial to avoid withering in your Christian life. Ask the question at the bottom of the page and ask for responses. Explain: one of the greatest ways that we can provide help for those around us is through our Life Group (Sunday School) ministry. When someone is connected to our Life Groups it is that group's responsibility to provide a network of support.
7. Ask the question on page 82: Why are you to love other persons? Explain: We are called to love people even when we may not agree all the time. For the sake of Christ we put aside our differences and we are called to push forward. Many times we allow our love for one another to get sidetracked through disagreements or conflicts. Ask: have you ever had a time that you disagreed with someone in the church? Did you hand the conflict in the way the Bible speaks of in Matthew 18 15?
8. Explain: how we spend our time is a reflection of our priorities. Read the section called REDEEMING THE TIME. Ask for ways that prioritizing your time relates to growth as a disciple.
9. Read the section on page 87 "MOVING BEYOND YOUR COMFORT ZONE". Explain: God calls us consistently to move beyond our comfort zones to get to know new people both inside and outside the church. Ask: did you have a chance to befriend someone new this week outside of your usual group of friends? What benefit do you see in befriending them towards them growing or even becoming a disciple?
10. Ask: Based on where you were in your walk last week compared to this week, do you feel that you have grown closer to God?

Conclude in prayer

Group activity: Plan a time to get together outside of church for a meal or coffee.

Group Session 6

Witness to the World

Open with prayer and any prayer requests

1. Have someone get up and draw the disciples' cross at the beginning of the class: If you want, you can have someone else explain it. They don't have to know all the Scriptures, but it is good to remind them of the basics of what each one says, according to where it is placed in the cross.
2. Review the Weekly Activities on page 91 and the memory verse
3. Read the section on page 94: "THE FRUIT OF NEW BELIEVERS".
4. Ask: Why does the bearing of fruit relate so closely to witnessing? What should be the result of our witnessing? (Not just someone converted but someone that will bear fruit as well- this is multiplication).
5. Read the last paragraph on page 96. Ask: Why do we think that the bearing of fruit is for someone else besides us? (We can think it is only for the ministers, we can think we are not worthy to share the message, we are not willing to take on the persecution that may come.)
6. Read the section on page 99 "THE PROMISE OF CHRIST'S POWER". Ask: How much do we truly rely on the Holy Spirit in witnessing?
7. Explain: we have a responsibility to grow in our faith and be prepared to share at all times to honor Christ. Even though we cannot save the person, we can lead them to the Savior and this is what we are called to do.
8. Ask: What does the following statement mean to you? *The more that someone understands the difference Christ has made in their life, the more willing they are to share Him with others.*
9. Review the Roman Road on page 103-107. Ask: are we truly willing to go and share the good news of Christ because of what He has done?
10. Ask: Based on where you were in your walk last week compared to this week, do you feel that you have grown closer to God?

Conclude in prayer

Group activity: Plan to attend GROW together as a group on the following Tuesday.

Group Session 7

Minister to Others

Open with prayer and any prayer requests

1. Have someone get up and draw the disciples' cross at the beginning of the class: If you want, you can have someone else explain it. They don't have to know all the Scriptures, but it is good to remind them of the basics of what each one says, according to where it is placed in the cross.
2. Review the Weekly Activities on page 114 and the memory verse
3. Ask for the responses of the two questions on page 115: *Describe an occasion when you served someone sacrificially. What opportunities for service do you have that you are not taking advantage of?*
4. Based on the statement on page 117: *A disciple ministers to others, even if you have to experience hardship or give your life.* Ask: What hardships are we truly willing to face in order to minister to others around us?
5. Review each of the ministries that come from the resources in the disciples' cross.
 - a. The Word leads to a ministry of teaching/preaching
 - b. Prayer leads to a ministry of worship/intercession
 - c. Fellowship leads to a ministry of nurture
 - d. Witness leads to a ministry of evangelism
 - e. Fellowship and witness lead to a ministry of service.
6. Explain: teaching is valuable to both the saved and unsaved. For the saved person, they learn to grow in their faith by how they are taught God's Word. For the unsaved person, they can come to faith by how they are taught the truths of Scripture. Ask: how has the teaching of God's Word benefited your growth both before and during Men's League?
7. Ask: How do you think God wants you to use the resource of prayer in a ministry of worship and intercession? (find people and ways that you can pray for people on a consistent basis)
8. Read the box on page 123 about discipleship. Ask: In what ways is this definition helping you to understand the value of nurturing other believers in their faith?
9. Review the ways on page 124-125 that people can participate in the ministry of evangelism. Ask: in what ways do you see you could participate in one of these in the next week, month, or year? Ask: in what ways could you see yourself ministering to the lost? To the church?
10. Ask: Based on where you were in your walk last week compared to this week, do you feel that you have grown closer to God?

Conclude in prayer

Group activity: Hold each other accountable to take the PLACE assessment this week.