

OUTREACH DEFINED (session 1)

OPENING

Begin by opening up with prayer. Review Introduction and give the group an idea of what the semester will look like.

ICEBREAKER

Take Care: Read the following quiz to your group. Tell them they don't have to answer, just ponder.

1. Who are the five wealthiest people in the world?
2. Name five winners of the Academy Award.

Now, read the next set of questions to them:

1. Name five people who have influenced you in a positive way.
2. Name five people who have brought you joy or made you feel cared for.

Point: The lesson is obvious: on a personal level, fame, wealth, and achievement pale in comparison to care and compassion.

MAIN FOCUS

People will forget what we say or do but they will remember how we made them feel. Our actions toward others should convey the love of Jesus in a way that it makes them want all that He has to offer.

DISCUSSION & SERVE CHALLENGE

Allow participants time to discuss the questions from this week's session. Discuss the Serve Challenge and what the group can expect next week.

PRAYER FOCUS

God help us to be more aware of how our words and actions can point others to you.

SERVE LEADER NOTES

BUILD THE CULTURE (session 2)

REFLECTION

Begin with prayer. Allow time for participants to discuss the previous week's Serve challenge. You can start the discussion by sharing your own experience of "going the extra mile".

ICEBREAKER

Have the participants write down "salt" and "light" and the three attributes of each that are listed below.

<u>SALT</u>	<u>LIGHT</u>
Heals	Removes Darkness
Preserves	Illuminates the Way
Enhances Flavor	Causes Growth

Have the group come up with ways they can be salt and light.

MAIN FOCUS

Life change happens within the context of relationships. We have the ability to shape our society and culture by being salt and light in our sphere of influence. We do this through the relationships we establish when we serve others.

DISCUSSION & SERVE CHALLENGE

Allow participants time to discuss the questions from this week's session. Discuss ways the group can accept the Serve Challenge of being Salt and Light in their environments this week.

PRAYER FOCUS

Lord help us to be vessels that facilitate love, growth, truth, excellence, vision and healing to those around us.

Your Gifts + Your Passion = Your Serve

SERVE LEADER NOTES

DISCOVER YOUR SERVE (session 3)

REFLECTION

Begin the group with Prayer. Allow time to discuss the previous week's Serve challenge.

ICEBREAKER

I Can...

Aim: To get people to thinking about their abilities, gifts and talents and the gifts and talents of others.

Activity: Get the group to think of two skills they have. Allow a few minutes for people to think. Each person takes a turn to share their options.

Then go around the group and have each person say, "I can" complete the sentence with two things they feel they are good at doing.

Example: I can paint and I can pray.

MAIN FOCUS

We are all God's handiwork who have been created for a special purpose. God made each of us the way He wanted, with a specific role so that we can care for each other. (Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

DISCUSSION & SERVE CHALLENGE

Allow participants time to discuss the questions from this week's session. Encourage your group to complete the Growth Track and specifically Discovery 301 as their Serve Challenge. If they have already completed 301 ask them to go back and review their results and to bring to next week's meeting. You can also point them to some online spiritual gifts assessments.

<http://www.spiritualgiftstest.com/test/adult>

PRAYER FOCUS

Lord show us how our gifts and personality have been uniquely created and how we can use it to edify the body of Christ.

SERVE LEADER NOTES

OTHERS FOCUSED (session 4)

REFLECTION

Begin the group with prayer. Allow time to discuss the previous week's Serve challenge. How many learned something new about themselves?

ICEBREAKER

Give each person a piece of paper and have them write down two personality traits or characteristics that they find admirable in others. Have each person share what they wrote down and why they find those traits appealing. After everyone has shared discuss how many of those traits have an appeal because they are "others focused".

MAIN FOCUS

God determines greatness by the attitude of our hearts as we serve people and by our willingness to Serve others.

DISCUSSION & SERVE CHALLENGE

Allow participants time to discuss the questions from this week's session. Encourage everyone to accept the Serve Challenge and serve someone in a way that stretches their faith and ability.

PRAYER FOCUS

Lord help us to look beyond our own wants and desires and to the needs of those around us first.

SHARE YOUR FAITH (session 5)

REFLECTION

Allow time to discuss the previous week's challenge. How many would say that the Serve Challenges have initiated new relationships or strengthened existing ones? Did they notice a difference in themselves or others when they were more focused on serving?

ICEBREAKER

Give each person the opportunity to complete this phrase, "I know I am blessed because_____".

Encourage individuals to share something that God has done in their life that has changed them for the better.

After everyone has had a chance to share how they have been blessed, discuss how sharing what God has done can increase the faith of others.

MAIN FOCUS

Sharing your faith with others about how you came to know Jesus and the difference He has made in your life can help them discover how they too can know and experience God personally.

DISCUSSION & SERVE CHALLENGE

Allow participants time to discuss the questions from this week's session. Also encourage everyone to take time this week to prepare their testimony. Encourage participants to attend Essentials 201 for the first time or as a refresher to help with conveying the essentials of our faith.

PRAYER FOCUS

God give us eyes to see the opportunities to share our testimony with those who do not know you personally and help us convey it in a way that glorifies You.

SERVE LEADER NOTES

PLAN THE SERVE (session 6)

REFLECTION

Allow time to discuss the previous week's challenge. Share experiences of sharing your story of faith and how it was received.

ICEBREAKER

Prior to the group beginning, tell only one participant that once he/she is placed on a team to share with his/her team that they are to build a platform that will hold a cell phone in a vertical position.

Divide your group into two teams. Provide an adequate supply of objects like Lego, blocks, paperclips, etc. that the teams can choose to use for building. Instruct the teams to build a platform that will hold an object. Give them five minutes or so to construct the platform and ask them to stop. Now reveal to the teams that they are to use their platform to hold a cell phone in a vertical position.

Obviously, the team who knew ahead was able to plan accordingly; choosing the right materials and constructing the platform for the purpose it was intended.

MAIN FOCUS

Excellence inspires people and honors God. We are to give God our best and that requires us to plan and be prepared.

DISCUSSION & SERVE CHALLENGE

Allow participants time to discuss the questions from this week's session. Also, together as a group, plan a simple Serve that you can do together at the next meeting.

PRAYER FOCUS

Lord help us to show honor to You by serving with excellence so that we inspire others to give their life to You.

SERVE LEADER NOTES

LEAD THE SERVE (session 7)

REFLECTION

This week you will review the plans you made last week and execute the Serve. Make sure everyone understands the vision of the Serve. What is the win? Does everyone know their role in the Serve? Is there an order or a timeframe that needs to be followed?

Remind everyone to incorporate all the other things they have learned over the last few weeks as you serve.

ICEBREAKER

For this activity you will need one sticky note per person. On each note write a different job or role. Use a different job/role for each note. Place a sticky note on the back or forehead of each participant. The participants are to figure out what their job is, but can only do so in the following manner. Find a partner and read each other's sticky notes. You may ask the other person three questions to which they may respond with yes or no answers. Once your questions have been asked and answered, make a guess as to your identity. If you are correct, move the sticky note to your chest and you become a "consultant" who gives clues to those still trying to figure out their identities. If you are not correct, find a new partner and repeat the process.

MAIN FOCUS

We are the hands and feet of Jesus. It is through us that Jesus can touch the lives of others. As His ambassadors we should work together with all our heart as though we are working for the Lord.

DISCUSSION & SERVE CHALLENGE

Challenge participants to go home and journal about the Serve experience. What were the wins? What could have been done better? How did it make them feel?

PRAYER FOCUS

Lord help us to serve with excellence so that we can bring honor and glory to Your name.

Your Gifts + Your Passion = Your Serve

SERVE LEADER NOTES

NEXT STEPS: SERVE (session 8)

REFLECTION

Allow time to discuss the previous week's Serve. Have the participants share their thoughts on the wins, ways it could improve and what they learned from the experience.

ICEBREAKER

Go around the room and let each person share what gifts and talents they feel God has revealed to them that they can use to serve others and where they feel God is directing them to serve.

MAIN FOCUS

God has equipped you for a purpose. Your spiritual gifts and passions can come together to form the unique way God has wired you to serve.

DISCUSSION

Allow participants to ask questions about serving and leading an Outreach small group. Discuss how leading a small group can allow them to connect with others who share similar interest and passions. Make sure they know when and where the next available small group leadership training will be held.

PRAYER FOCUS

Father, I know You made me on Purpose. Of this, I AM certain. I AM here on Purpose for You, to do Your Will. My desire is to please You, to follow You and do whatever it is that You Purposed for me.

My mind is open, my heart is willing and my body is able. Ever Loving Father, I ask you to fill my spirit with Your Holy Spirit so that I may hear and see; do and speak what is pleasing to You.

Your Gifts + Your Passion = Your Serve