

## **Liberty Student Connect Group Leaders,**

I am absolutely loving the Global Student Pastor position here with Liberty Students. Michelle and I are thankful God has called us here, and we truly feel at home with you. Thank you so much for our warm welcome. We look forward to growing in Jesus and doing life together with you over the years to come. God is good all the time!

The mission of our Liberty Students Connect Groups is “Changing Lives, Communities, and the World.” Our strategy to accomplish that is through these four words—“Gospel, Relational, Disciple, Missional.” Please keep those four words in mind as you lead our students. You are not primarily a teacher; rather, you are primarily a leader, mentor, and discipler. Students get plenty of teaching these days. Our Connect Groups are designed as a safe environment for our students to process, discuss, and apply what they have already learned.

Please be patient with me as I try some new approaches for LSM:am’s. I will absolutely value your feedback every week. I do believe it is wise to change up the routine while keeping the philosophy the same. At the same time, I think it is wise to go over on Sundays what we learned on the previous Wednesday night. Repetition is the key to memory! I want the Sunday lesson to be an opportunity for our students to process, discuss, and apply what they learned on Wednesday, as well as the students who weren’t able to attend the previous Wednesday.

As we try new things together, the aim is to get in a groove without staying in a rut. I already love and appreciate you all. Thank you for your ministry, love, and sacrifice you make for our students on a regular basis. I firmly believe your hearts are to point your students to Jesus!

With that being said, below is our lesson for this Sunday.

**Only by His grace,  
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**Series:** GAMEPLAN

**Date:** September 13, 2015

**Lesson:** LSM Strategy Overview

## **Introduction (10 min. Connect Group Conversations)**

- Welcome and personally speak to every student.
- Make sure to special give attention to any first timers or guests.
- Quickly pray to begin the morning together.
- Ask one or more of these questions that will lead into the lesson:
  1. What are you best at in life? (an instrument, sport, subject, etc)
  2. What has been your strategy to get better at it?
  3. What is your goal with it? What do you ultimately want to accomplish?
  4. What do you think our Student Ministry's goal and strategy is to accomplish our goal?

## **Gospel (5 min. Large Group Teaching)**

God has gifted everyone with something we've gotten good at. He has also created us in such a way that we naturally learn strategies to improve what we enjoy doing. The reason God has created the world this way is because all of our goals and strategies in life are a sign that God has one major goal and strategy in life.

God's main goal in life is that we glorify Him as our God by living our life for Jesus in submission and talk about Him to others.

*Philippians 2:9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

If living for Jesus is God's goal for our life, then what is God's strategy for us to accomplish this? In other words, how can we live in such of a way that our lives are all about Jesus? In Luke 24, God has given us 4 words that should be not only our life strategy, but also our student ministry

strategy to accomplish God's goal: ***Gospel, Relational, Disciple Missional.***

By **Gospel**, we mean "**Our Life is Centered on Jesus.**" Read Luke 24:6b-7 "*Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.*" Discuss together how our focus can be more on the Gospel.

### **Gospel (10 min. Connect Group Conversation)**

- In Luke 24:6b-7, what are the two most essential elements of the Gospel? (Answer: Jesus' death and resurrection)
- Why are those two truths the most important events that have ever happened in history?
- The angels told the women to "remember" that Jesus told them He was going to die and rise from the dead. Why do you think it is so easy for Christians to forget Jesus' death and resurrection at times during our day?
- How does a person's life look different if they live in such a way that they always remember Jesus' death and resurrection? List 5 ways as a group.
- What are the main differences student ministries whose focus is the Gospel verses student ministries whose goal is to just hang out?

### **Relational (2 min. Large Group Teaching)**

By **Relational**, we mean "**Our Love is Centered on Others.**" Read Luke 24:13-15, "*13That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.*" Discuss together how we can live more relational lives.

### **Relational (10 min. Connect Group Conversation)**

- What is the longest walk and talk you've ever experienced in your life?
- While they are walking for 7 miles to Emmaus, they are talking the entire time about Jesus raising from the dead. Why do you think "Christian" teenagers today don't have regular, daily conversations about Jesus?

- While they were walking and talking, Jesus showed up and joined them. How old were you when Jesus showed up in your life began a relationship with you?
- List 5 reasons together as group as to why it is important for a Christian teenager to have Christian friends to talk about their life with Jesus.
- How can LSM be more relational and love everyone around us while we are together on Sundays and Wednesdays? List 5 ways.

### **Disciple (2 min. Large Group Teaching)**

By **Disciple**, we mean **“Our Growth is Centered on the Word.”** Read Luke 24:44-46, *“44Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.”* Discuss how we can deepen in our discipleship.

### **Disciple (10 min. Connect Group Conversation)**

- Jesus took His disciples through the entire Old Testament (Moses - Prophets or Genesis - Malachi) and showed them how everything was written about Him. Have you ever read through the whole Old Testament before? What do you love about the Old Testament? How do all of the stories in the Old Testament ultimately point us to Jesus?
- Jesus then “opened” their minds to understand the Scriptures and showed them how everything written in the Bible is teach us how He died and rose again. How does everything in the Bible teach us not only about Jesus, but deepen our understanding in the Gospel as well?
- Notice how Jesus opened their minds to understand how the Bible is all about the Gospel of Jesus. That’s how He went deep with them in discipleship. Getting deep in the Bible is getting a better understanding of the Gospel. What are some wrong definitions of “getting deep in the Bible?”
- How can you as a Christian deepen your discipleship daily?
- How can we as a student ministry deepen our discipleship together?

### **Missional (2 min. Large Group Teaching)**

By **Missional**, we mean “**Our Service is Centered on the World.**” Read Luke 24:47-48, “*47and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48You are witnesses of these things.*” Discuss how we can live more on mission.

### **Missional (10 min. Connect Group Conversation)**

- In order to live life on mission (serving the world to share Jesus with them), we must first live personally what we want to share. How can a Christian teenager in today’s culture practice personal repentance, forgiveness, and proclaiming Jesus on a daily basis?
- If you repentance means to turn from sin to Jesus, why is that something we should share with the world?
- If forgiveness means for God not to hold our sin against us, why is that something we should share with the world?
- Verse 47 also says that we should proclaiming Jesus name to everyone! List 5 ways on a regular basis we can simply speak Jesus’ name to people we are in conversation with.
- How can a Christian teenager today live a life more on mission?
- How can we as a student ministry live lives that are more on mission together?
- Pray together that God’s hand would be on our personal lives and we would live led by His Spirit as a student ministry accomplish His goal (Jesus’ glory) by living His strategy (Gospel, Relational, Disciple, Missional)

### **Announcements (2 min. by Large Group Teacher)**

- Fall-Kick Off Tailgate this Wednesday night! Tailgate officially begins at 5pm with free hamburgers, hotdogs, pizza, and drinks. Tailgate also includes cornhole, spikeball, basketball, ladderball, frisbees, football, an inflatable, and a chance to win \$50 cash if you win our football passing accuracy contest (anyone can win this!). There will be more opportunities for prizes as well as a drawing for a \$250 grand cash prize for all first timers and their bringers. Pass out the Tailgate Tickets and get your friends here this Wednesday night! Most importantly, we’ll preaching on who Jesus really is and your friends will have a great opportunity to give their life to Him!

- Don't forget LibertyFest next Sunday! This is a great way to get your friends and their families connected to our church. We're giving away a free car!
- No Connect Groups next Sunday due to LibertyFest.
- Have a great week, and live out the Gospel!