

Liberty Student Connect Group Leaders,

I can't even tell you how blessed Michelle and I have been to lead LSM and serve Jesus alongside you this past month. Did you know that God has moved so much that 45 students have made professions of faith (salvations) on Wednesday nights this past month in LSM? Please keep praying as God is already doing a huge work by His power and for His glory!

Please remember what one word best describes our Sunday AM Connect Groups: **RELATIONAL!** We want our connect groups to encourage students in their relationship with Jesus, their relationship with you and the others in the their group, and challenge them to live relationally among the lost of this world. Here are a few ways to make sure your connect group will grow relationally together:

1. **Don't teach too much.** Students are already getting a sermon Sunday morning, a sermon on Wednesday nights, getting taught at in school, and getting talked to at home. Our Connect Groups are the perfect way for students to process, discuss, and apply what they are learning. We aren't necessarily trying to teach them more, but we are wanting to teach them to understand better what they already know.
2. **Ask more questions than teach a lesson.** I believe the best way to teach a lesson so that your students own what you want them to know is by asking them questions. Leading a student to an answer is far better than giving them the answer. Come prepared with great questions that will lead them to the answers that we want them to know.
3. **Tailor your lesson to your connect group's age and gender.** The lesson we give you each week is not the law, but it is a guide. Yes, we want every connect group to lead and facilitate discussions on the same theme each Sunday morning, but there's no way we can possibly write a curriculum to hit each age group from 6th - 12th grade and both genders. We will do our best to keep our curriculum as generic as possible. Feel free to use personalized questions, illustrations, and discussion points for your connect group's age and gender. Use our curriculum simply as a guide for us all to end up at the same destination - the main point of the lesson
4. Lastly, please give me as much feedback as possible. I prefer negative feedback to be a conversation with me one on one. Being new here, I want to learn you, your groups, and the best way to lead these students into faithful lives for Jesus. I absolutely invite you to bring any personal concerns you personally have to me.

Lastly, thank you for ALL you do to make our connect groups incredible each and every week. If there's ever anything I can do for you, your family, or your connect group, don't hesitate to ask!

Only by His grace,
Pastor Chip
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Series: GAMEPLAN

Date: September 27, 2015

Lesson: The Work of Jesus (His life, death, and resurrection)

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.
- Ask about one special thing that happened in their week. Also tell them one special thing that happened from your week.
- Quickly pray to begin the morning together.

Teach Overview (5 min. Large Group by Lead Teacher)

This morning we are continuing our series through the fall that we're calling "GamePlan." GamePlan is all about getting on the same page together as a student ministry to know our STRATEGY, to grow in Jesus, and to go into the world sharing the Gospel. Football teams this fall are practicing with a strategy to win their championship. Volleyball teams are doing the same. Students are studying with a strategy to get the "A." Bands are rehearsing with a strategy to be their absolute best.

Strategies are crucial in life to win whatever we're competing at. In the same way, God has given us a strategy to defeat our enemy (the devil) and to win the victory in life. This morning, we're talking about the absolute most important part of our strategy: Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. You need to know these 3 truths in a rock solid way in order to win at life. Take the next 10 minutes in your group now to discuss Jesus' life together.

Discuss Jesus' Life (10 min. in Connect Group)

- Read Acts 2:22 together as a group.
- Who was speaking this?
- Who was Israel?
- Why was Jesus commonly called Jesus "of Nazareth"?

- What did Peter mean by “signs and wonders” that God did through Jesus?
- What was your favorite miracle that Jesus did during His life? Why?
- If you could do any miracle that Jesus did, which one would it be?
- What was your favorite saying or teaching Jesus gave during His life?
- Are you more amazed by the fact that Jesus never sinned or that everything Jesus did was fully obedient to God’s law (Matt 5:17)?
- How would you answer a friend who asked you, “How did Jesus live?”
- What one word comes to mind that best describes Jesus’ life?

Review Jesus’ Life (5 min. Large Group by Lead Teacher)

You just talked about the most incredible life that has ever been lived on earth: the life of Jesus. Jesus’ life was so special and so powerful because He lived as the ultimate human by living perfectly in our place since our lives are so sinful. Jesus’ life is often the most forgotten aspect of the Gospel. If Jesus didn’t live perfectly and sinlessly, then He would not be an acceptable sacrifice for our sin to God. Jesus’ life was necessary for our salvation! Jesus’ life not only made our salvation possible, but it also is the best example and inspiration for our lives as well.

In LSM, we will use Jesus’ life as our strategy. No matter what topic we are teaching, we will always look into Jesus’ life to see how He lived in that way. We will always preach about Jesus’ life in every sermon so that your friends will hear how we’re trying to live like Him. And Jesus’ life will always be our motivation to live like Him so that God can use us to bring our friends to salvation. Now, take the next 10 minutes in your group to discuss Jesus’ death.

Discuss Jesus’ Death (10 min. Connect Group Conversation)

- Read Acts 2:23 as a group.
- Why was it God’s strategy (plan) to have His Son delivered into, crucified, and killed by the hands of lawless men?

- If it was God's plan, why does the Bible say that it was lawless men that killed Him? Who's fault was Jesus' death? God's, Jesus' executioners, Israel's, ours, or all of the above?
- How many different torturous and agonizing experiences can your group name that Jesus went through during his persecution and crucifixion?
- Which part of all that do you think was the worst that Jesus went through?
- Why did Jesus, God's Son, have to die for God to forgive your sin?
- Why do we as a church often sing about the worst death in history as worship?
- How would you answer a friend who asked, "Why do you believe that Jesus died?"
- What one word would you use to describe Jesus' death?

Review Jesus' Death (5 min. Large Group by Lead Teacher)

Jesus' death was the darkest day in history. Not only was Jesus' death the most unjust execution that has ever happened, but Jesus' death was also the most important death that ever will happen. Jesus' persecution, crucifixion, and execution was not only the Jews and Romans strategy to kill Him, but it was also God's strategy to save us. There was no other way that God could forgive us following Satan than to send His Son to live and die as a human being in our place.

In LSM, we will always teach the death of Jesus in everything we teach. The death of Jesus is God's strategy for our lives to forgive us of our sin. When we hear the death of Jesus on a regular basis: we confess our sin more, we turn from our sin quicker, and we resist sin better. Jesus' death is our strategy to overcome our sin. Now, take the next 10 minutes to discuss Jesus' resurrection.

Discuss Jesus' Resurrection (10 min. Connect Group Conversation)

- Read Acts 2:24 as a group.
- This passage says that God raised Jesus from the dead. Other passages in the Bible says that Jesus raised Himself up. How can both be possible?
- What does "loosing the pangs of death" mean?

- Why was it impossible for Jesus to be held down by death?
- Did Jesus have to rise from the dead for us to be saved?
- Does someone have to believe in Jesus' resurrection to be saved? (Rom 10:9)
- How would you answer a friend who asked, "What's the big deal about Jesus rising from the dead? Its not even possible! How could you even believe that?"
- What one word would you use to describe Jesus' resurrection?

Review Jesus' Resurrection (5 min. Large Group)

Jesus' resurrection is the absolute most important event in all of history! Without the resurrection, Jesus' birth, life, death, or burial wouldn't even matter. Without the resurrection, God creating the whole world wouldn't matter because it would all go to hell anyways. But because of the resurrection, there is always hope in our pain, our hurt, and even in our sin. Jesus' resurrection power is the same power that saves us, that lives in us, that overcomes our sin, and that gives us the power to obey God. If we are saved, we all have Jesus' resurrection power inside us.

In LSM, Jesus' resurrection will always be our strategy to follow Jesus, to obey Jesus, and to live our lives for Him. Every Wednesday and every Sunday, we will always talk about His resurrection because we want to remind you of hope and tell the world about hope!

As a final review: today we talked about **Jesus' life as our strategy to live like Him. Jesus' death is our strategy to overcome our sin. And Jesus' resurrection is our strategy to live for Him.** The Gospel is God's strategy for our lives to glorify Jesus! After these closing announcements, spend your final group time in prayer that we would live in light of the Gospel as as student ministry together.

Closing Announcements (5 min. Large Group)

- Liberty Loves Hampton Roads is October 10-16. Nothing grows a Connect Group closer together than serving Jesus together. Find a project and let's love Hampton Roads. We are asking everyone to either

serve together as your Connect Group or find another LLHR team to be a part of. You can find LLHR projects online at libertylive.com.

- This Wednesday, your student pastor will be preaching on how we are to live our lives as a response to all that Jesus has done for us. Did you know that over 45 students have been saved during the last 4 weeks of LSM Wednesday night services? Make sure to attend this Wednesday night to find out why!
- Be praying for our Greenbrier LSM as they kicked off this past Wednesday and will officially launch next Sunday, October 4th.
- Our next Tailgate (like the Fall Kick-Off Tailgate) will be Wednesday, October 7th. Get ready!