

Hey Liberty Students Connect Group Leaders!

I pray that you're more excited than ever about the direction of Liberty Students as we're going through the whole Bible in a **GOSPEL**-centered way to **SEND OUT RELATIONAL** students who can make **DISCIPLES** on **MISSION** with Jesus!

Connect Group Leaders, please let me continue to encourage you to raise up your connect group students with the goal of sending them out by **facilitating discussion and conversation** rather than spending most of your time personally teaching and lecturing. One of the best ways to do this is by not reading the curriculum to them during Connect Group, but being prepared to ask questions that lead to the point we are trying to make.

As always, please never hesitate to let me know what we can do for you personally, your family, or your ministry! We love yall!

Only by His grace,
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Series: “All Out” (Worship Through the Book of Exodus)

Date: April 3, 2016

Lesson: Worship Through Singing

Welcome and Announcements (5 mins)

Our LEAD TEACHER for the morning will welcome the Connect Groups while they are coming into the room. This is to bring energy into the room and a welcoming environment for our first timers, guests, visitors, and members. The LEAD TEACHER will then walk through Connect Groups through the announcements of the week.

Lead Teachers, please find one person to click through announcements on the screen for you.

- **CAMP:** Aug 1-5. We will be going to Ridgecrest, NC and our camp this year will be an X-Fuge camp and our theme is Unashamed! Early Bird Price is \$299 only on May 11. After it is \$325 until the end of June and then \$350 in July. A \$100 non-refundable deposit will suffice to reserve your spot at any time starting May 11. The rest of all payments are due July 20th.
- **IMPOSSIBLE SHOT:** Every Wednesday and Sunday, you could have a chance at the “**The Impossible Shot.**”
- If you bring a first timer to Liberty Students, you and that first timer will get a chance at our “Impossible Shot” for \$100. (Hint: you get a chance at \$100 for every first timer you bring.)
- **BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE:** Make sure to post awesome pics and hashtag #LSMhpt to win Best Seat!!

LEAD TEACHER, hand the next 10 minutes over to the Connect Group Leaders for Introductions.

Connect Group Introductions (10 min)

- **Welcome** and personally speak to every student.
- Give special **attention** to any first timers or guests.
- Ask about one special thing that happened in the **students’** week.
- Also tell them one special thing that happened from **your** week.
- **Fill out the “Off-Campus Connect Group or Discipleship Groups”** form by writing the names of your students who were involved in either off-campus connect groups or discipleship groups this past week.
- **Go over the Newsletter and Daily Devos** on your table with your students.
- **Pray** to begin the morning together.



Large Group by Lead Teacher #1 (5 min)

Story: Lead Teachers, the purpose of this opening story is to bring attention to how much we love music, singing, and even dancing. Pastor Chip played “The Sing Off” with the students on Wednesday night. Please tell the students a funny or interesting story about a concert, a time you “got caught singing”, or something to do with music to kick off this portion.

Point: Everyone loves music and singing. We love to go to concerts. We love it when music is playing in the mall we’re shopping, in the airport where we’re waiting, in the gyms where we workout, in the Starbucks where we’re studying. We love to wake up to music from our alarms, go to sleep to music, and fill our lives with music by our headphones. Could it be that the reason we love music so much is because God created it for our lives? What if God created music for a very special purpose in our lives? What if sin creeps in and tries to use music in our lives to distract us from Jesus when God designed music as an awesome way to help us glorify Jesus?

Intro into Discussion: As we turn to Exodus 15 together, watch how God’s people naturally respond immediately after God delivers them from their enemies through the Red Sea.

Connect Group Discussion #1 (20 min)

Leader Note: The purpose of this first Connect Group time is to see how God’s people naturally responded with worship by singing after God saved them through the sea.

Please study this lesson, internalize it, pray through it, and own it so that you don’t have to just read the answers or the teaching points from this curriculum. I realize you will need to read the questions of course, but the more the students hear the answers and the teaching points from your heart, the more they will want to memorize it as well and let it sink deeply into their hearts!

- **What is your favorite kind of music? Who is your favorite singer, group, or band? What is the best concert you’ve ever been to?**
Talking about media and entertainment is always a great way to get students discussing. Leaders, this will also give you a good look into students’ lives, what they are listening to, and the music that is influencing them.
- **Starting with Exodus 1, how much of the story can you remember together as a Connect Group? Tell your Connect Group Leader the story from God’s**



people being enslaved in Egypt to finding themselves on the other side of the Red sea.

Egypt enslaved God's people. God preserved raised up Moses as their leader. God called Moses from the Burning Bush to lead His people out of Egypt. Pharaoh wouldn't listen. God poured out 10 plagues on Egypt but spared His people. Pharaoh finally let Israel go. Israel left Egypt and began their journey through the wilderness to the Promise Land. God led Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night through the Red Sea where He also destroyed the Egyptians.

- **How does this story through Exodus so far picture our salvation?**

Like God's people, we are born into the slavery of sin (Rom 3:10).

Like Moses, God gave us a better leader in Jesus Christ.

Like the Exodus through the Red Sea, God saved us from the slavery of sin. He's destroyed our enemies at the Cross. God has delivered us from eternal death I like He delivered His people from the death of the Red Sea.

- **Because the story of Exodus pictures our salvation from sin and even baptism (The Red Sea - 1 Corinthians 10:4), please have every student fill out our LSM survey about their personal salvation and baptism. Please ask them to be honest, and help us keep their answers honest.**

- **Read Exodus 15:1 as a Connect Group. What did God's people naturally do immediately after they crossed through the Red Sea to safety?**

The Israelite's naturally worshiped God by singing praises to Him!

- **Write down on your notes page that "Worship is EXALTING God." Study the following verses for different ways we can exalt God by worshiping Him through singing. Write down each point on your notes page.**

1. Exalt God for WHO He is. Read Exodus 15:2. How many ways does this one verse exalt God for Who He is to you? What are they? Take 60 seconds and write down as many descriptions as you can to exalt God for Who He is.

2. Exalt God for WHAT He's done. Read Exodus 15:3-5. How did Israel exalt God for what He had just done in their lives? In what ways did God SAVE us from our enemies of sin and deliver us to safety through His Son? (GOSPEL)



3. Exalt God for WHAT He's doing. Tell your Connect Group what God has been doing lately in your life that you need to exalt Him for.

4. Exalt God for WHAT He will do. Read Exodus 15:18. God is not just a God of the past or the present, but God has also made promises for the future. He will always be on the throne, ruling and reigning over His universe. How many promises can you think of that God has promised to keep for the future?

- **Connect Group Teachers Point:** The reason we all naturally love music and singing is because God created music and singing as an awesome way to worship Him. Israel couldn't help but respond by singing when God saved them through the Sea. In the same way, those whom God has saved can't help but sing to worship Him. Worship is ultimately for believers only. It is our joy and calling to worship God by singing to Him. If you struggle with that, write this down: **"The way to worship God best is being mindful of His Son, Jesus."** Focus on Jesus, who He is, and all He's done for you. Being mindful of Him will motivate your singing to Him!

Large Group by Lead Teacher #2 (5 min)

How many of you love sports? What we love about sports is when our teams win. When we score the winning touchdown, swish the winning three, or hit the winning homer, the crowd breaks out into cheering. The team tackles each other into a huge dog pile. The loudspeakers start playing the victory music! The reason this happens similarly with literally thousands of teams across the world is because God has created to celebrate the greatest victory of all: Jesus' death and resurrection for our salvation! We get to celebrate the greatest victory ever every week together as we worship him together! Don't forget that our worship is a celebration, victory songs, and even fight songs as we're sent out to live our lives for Him and not sin.

Take the next 10 minutes to discuss your personal part in worship. How can God use you as one of many in a church worship service?

Connect Group Discussions #2 (10 min)

Leader Note: The purpose of this section is for our students to see the part they plan when they are worshipping Jesus in a service with the church or their student ministry. Every Christian plays their part when it comes to worship!



- **Read Exodus 15:21. Not only did all of Israel break out into song after God saved them through the Sea, but what also happened?**

Miriam sang to them.

- **What exactly did Miriam sing to them?**

What God just did in their lives.

- **Read Colossians 3:16. Write this down: “Worship God to ENCOURAGE one another.” How is it possible and why is it important to sing as a way to encourage one another?**

When we sing, not only God hears our voices, but also we hear each other’s voices. We remember we’re in this Christian life together, we’re worshiping the same God together, we’re believing the same truths together, we’re on the same mission, same team, same plan together!

- **Read 1 Corinthians 14:24-25. Paul says that if everyone in the church prophesies (speaks truth), then unbelievers and outsiders will be convicted that God truly is among us. Through singing, we are all together prophesying God’s truths about Him, what He’s done, doing, and will do. So how can the way we sing help lead unbelievers to believe in Jesus?**

If we don’t sing at all, just stand there, hands in our pockets, whispering to someone else during worship, we are saying something about “our God.”

If we sing quietly and look really bored, we are saying something about our God.

If we sing with passion, emotion, and mindful of Jesus, we are saying something about our God! Unbelievers pick-up on how we worship. They are watching. They are paying attention.

We need to worship God to exalt Him, to encourage each other, but also to evangelize the lost!

Write this down:

Worship is exalting God.

Worship is encouraging other believers.

Worship is evangelizing unbelievers.

Closing Remarks and Announcements by Lead Teacher (5 min)

Students, the reason God created music and singing was to exalt Him, encourage other believers, and to evangelize unbelievers. We want each of you to think and pray through this for your own life. What does your personal music selection reveal about your heart and worship of God in your own life? How does the way that you worship



God when you're together with the church reflect your desire to exalt Him, encourage others, and evangelize unbelievers? We want to the most powerful, experiential, emotional, and passionate worship services in our student ministry! We beg you to play your part every week by singing to God because of WHO He is, WHAT He's done, WHAT He's doing, and WHAT He's promised to do. If you are a real Christian, you can't help it. Singing to Him in worship is what He's created us to do.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- This Wednesday, we will begin a new weekly contest called **"The Impossible Shot."** If you bring a first timer to Liberty Students, you and that first timer will get a chance at our "Impossible Shot" for \$100. (Hint: you get a chance at \$100 for every first timer you bring.)
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- You are not dismissed until your Connect Group Leader dismisses you.

