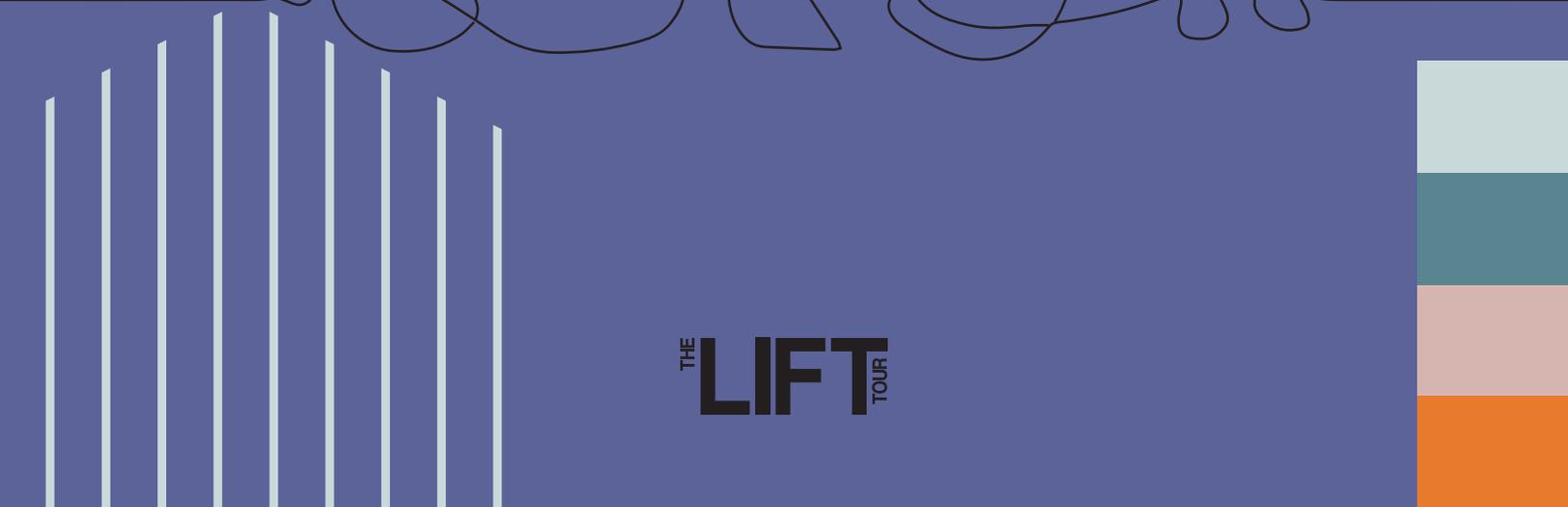




TOGETHER^w LEADER GUIDE



THE
LIFT
TOUR



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Student Pastors & Leaders,

I wanted to take a moment and thank each one of you for taking time out of your busy schedules to be a part of this life-changing experience for the weekend. I recognize and appreciate the great sacrifice you and your leaders are making. I'm incredibly grateful that you would allow us to partner with you to facilitate a spiritual encounter between your students and Jesus. On behalf of our LIFT Tour Team, it's an honor to partner with you and to serve you! The LIFT Tour could not happen without you! Our team has been diligently praying for your students. It is our hope this weekend will change their lives forever.

In preparation for our time together, we've worked carefully through the details to ensure your students will have the best and safest experience. If you were unaware, the LIFT Tour was birthed out of the passage of scripture in John 12:32 when Jesus said, "And I, when I am **LIFTED** up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself." **TOGETHER** we desire to intentionally create an atmosphere where students can Exalt Christ, Engage Scripture, and Be Equipped with the necessary tools to pursue Jesus passionately! To help facilitate flow and synergy, we have designed our main sessions and small groups to connect. During each main session, the Gospel will be clearly presented creatively and innovatively.

The small group sessions will consist of a few discussion questions that will help you cultivate a healthy dialog with your students. Please know, these questions are only a "guide." You know your students; feel free to contextualize any of these questions as you deem necessary. We encourage you to take plenty of notes while listening to the sermons and ask God to give you a few points of discussion for each small group session. If you don't complete all small group sessions because the conversation is rich and eventful, that is okay. The goal is not to complete the questions for the sake of accomplishment, but instead, the goal is to create connections that will lead to application and transformation. Be open and receptive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As you spend time with your students, pray that He will provide opportunities to engage them in spiritual conversations that will lead to more in-depth discussions concerning their salvation and faith journey.

IMPORTANT NOTE: During at least one of our sessions, our speaker will extend a public invitation and allow your students an opportunity to respond. We desire to inspire and encourage your students to experience a personal relationship with Jesus. This invitation will not feel manipulative or come across as unauthentic. While the invitation is being presented, please be prepared to receive your students and counsel them. We want to make sure every student understands the decision they are making. Our entire team is praying to see God change lives forever this weekend! Thank you for allowing us to serve you and your students. I hope and pray that every student has an experience this weekend that will change the trajectory of their lives forever!

Praying for you always,



Jeff Wallace
Executive Director of the LIFT Tour



TOGETHER WE | THEME

Just one thing: *“As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel, not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your salvation—and this is from God.”* **Philippians 1:27-28**

There are seasons in every culture that leave an unforgettable and indelible impact. Such was the chapter, or season, in our culture known as COVID-19. This global pandemic will truly be an unforgettable moment in history. It will be remembered as a worldwide event that impacted virtually every aspect of society and daily life. A mysterious and narcissistically shifty virus literally brought the world to a standstill. And yet, through all the quarantining and social distancing, the communal spirit of the church began to rise.

In the name of Jesus, consistent with bygone eras that witnessed plagues and injustice of all kind, the church met the challenge with courage and love. Caring for each other, and those they had never met, the church was strong throughout the epidemic and stronger still in its aftermath. In the wake of tragedy, the community of Jesus followers rediscovered what has always been true but is sometimes forgotten: **we love better...are stronger...are healthier, when we are together.** Therefore, this year, our team wants to invite you to join us at **The LIFT Tour** to discover and become enthralled with hope, encouragement, and great possibility! Why? Because... **‘TOGETHER we’:**

SESSION 1: ARE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

SESSION 2: ARE ONE

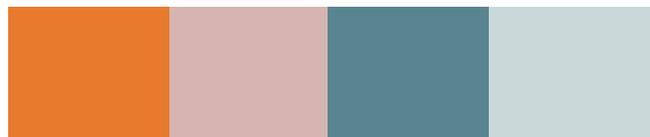
SESSION 3: HAVE MANY OPPONENTS BUT ONE TRUE ENEMY

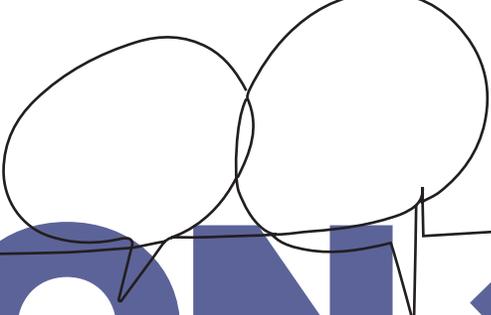
SESSION 4: ADVANCE GOD’S MISSION

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FACILITATING DISCUSSION:

- Remember, you can never teach a person anything; you can only help them discover it. This is the purpose of the discussion/small group questions. It is an opportunity for you to guide your students to discover the truths revealed in the passages. This is most effective when they are given the opportunity to answer the questions rather than being spoon-fed the answers.
- You can follow the curriculum just as it is laid out.
 - 1) Read the passage (allow students to read as much as possible).
 - 2) Present the discussion questions. *Allow time for students to come up with the answer. If it’s quiet at first, it’s likely that they are thinking. This is what you want.*
- After they have given their answers, you can share your own. Don’t get caught up or waste a lot of time on a question they may not understand. Just go on to the next question.
- There is not necessarily one right answer for each question; however, you want to listen to the answers. This will help you get an idea of the level of understanding for each student who participates.
- Don’t ignore wrong answers but do your best to be diplomatic in pointing toward the truth. You can say something like, “Hmmm, that’s an interesting thought but what if we look at it this way...” You want to do your best not to embarrass anyone, but some in your group may not know the Lord as Savior. You want to listen carefully if their answers reflect that.

NOTE: If a question is in the student guide, there will be a notation, () next to those questions. For more in-depth conversations, feel free to go off script as needed with additional questions.





SESSION 1

TOGETHER WE ARE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN

OPTIONAL ICE BREAKER

Compile a list of all of the things your students are a member or citizen of.

Think nationality, clubs, sports, etc.

Ask them what it means to them to be apart of those things.

EXAMPLE: What does it mean to you to be a citizen of America?

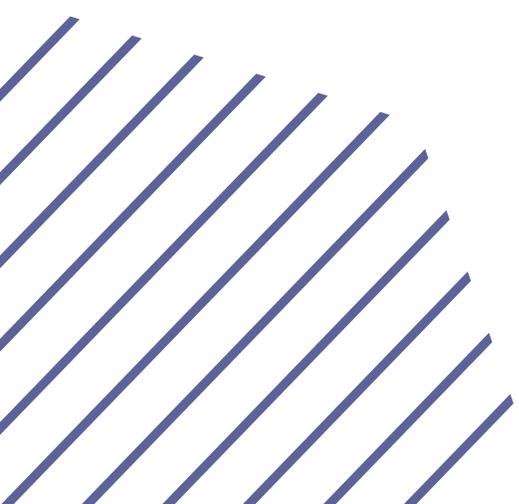
What does it mean to you to be a member of National Honor Society?

What does it mean to you to be a member of the “Smith Family”?

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:21-27 & PHILIPPIANS 3:20

“For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Now if I live on in the flesh, this means fruitful work for me; and I don’t know which one I should choose. I am torn between the two. I long to depart and be with Christ—which is far better—but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. Since I am persuaded of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that, because of my coming to you again, your boasting in Christ Jesus may abound. Just one thing: As citizens of heaven...”

“But our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”



SESSION ONE NOTES

A Citizen of Heaven is REDEEMED

The church of Jesus Christ isn't powerful because of tolerance; it is an unstoppable force because of its togetherness. And what makes togetherness so powerful? The tie that binds: redemption.

A Citizen of Heaven is FAMILY

TOGETHER we begins with the understanding that "I am redeemed and fellow believers are family."

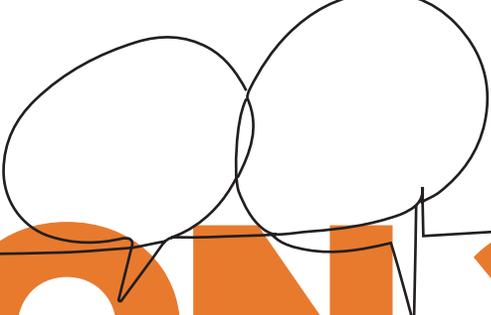
A Citizen of Heaven lives WORTHY

Togetherness begins with understanding identity. We are all woven into the fabric of God's redemptive story and have thus been granted heavenly citizenship.

*"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and test of our civilization."
– Gandhi*

POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- 📖 In your opinion, what does it mean to be "citizens of heaven" (Philippian 1:27)? Does this truth change how you see yourself? Why or why not?
- 📖 What are a few things that stuck out to you most from this session?
- 📖 What are some ways you can help your friends and family understand and adopt these truths?
- 📖 Out of the three statements, which one (if any) do you struggle with most?
 1. Living redeemed
 2. Seeing yourself a part of God's family
 3. Feeling worthy
- 📖 What are some personal changes or adjustments you can make in your life to make sure you are living as a "citizen of heaven"?



SESSION 2

TOGETHER WE ARE ONE

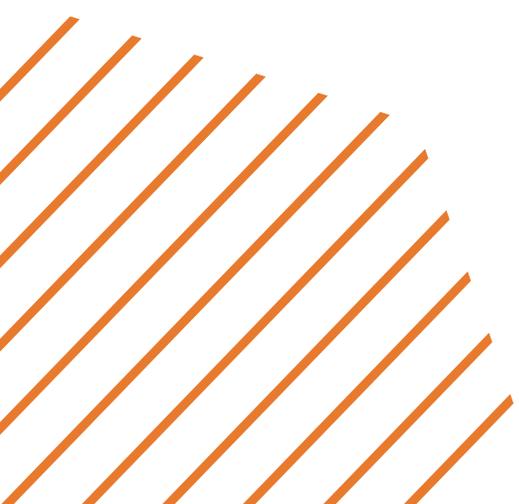
OPTIONAL ICE BREAKER

- Think of your friends... what is one thing you all have in common that unites you as a friend group? Does that one thing that unites you bring you closer together? Has that one thing ever caused you to grow farther apart?
- Think of a team that you play on. (sports, math, chess) Is it easier to play as a team when you all understand what is going on? Can you imagine how you would play as a team if you all thought you were supposed to be doing something completely different? It wouldn't work! You would likely lose the game or whatever you were competing. Some of the most legendary sports teams' greatest accomplishments didn't happen because of one particular player, but because of how they worked as a TEAM.

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:27-28

“Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel, not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your deliverance—and this is from God.”

ALSO REFERENCED IN THE SESSION ACTS 2:44-47



SESSION TWO NOTES

TOGETHERNESS CONSISTS OF TWO KEY INGREDIENTS:

One Spirit: Togetherness begins with attitude

Christians can have the right attitude because they have been redeemed by the work of Christ and are indwelled with the Holy Spirit. In short, God has given us the necessary resources to have a good attitude. Therefore, we must choose to have an unwavering focus on the gospel throughout any event, especially during times of plenty and comfort.

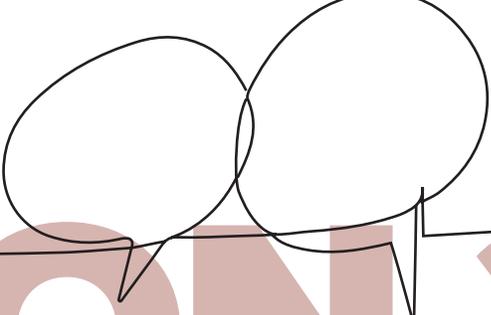
One Mind/Accord: Togetherness is solidified in the will of the believers

A steadfast attitude leads to a consolidation in gospel-centered thinking and activity among the community. The word that is translated as mind can also be translated as soul. The idea here is that we be united not just because of a right attitude but also because of a united heart or mindset.

*“I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot;
TOGETHER we can do great things.” – Mother Teresa*

POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- 📖 What stood out the most to you about this session? Why?
- 📖 Out of the two ingredients discussed, which do you struggle with the more? Why?
- 📖 In Philippians 1:27, Paul emphasis, “...I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord...” Based on what was shared in this session, why do you think it is so hard for people to live together in “one spirit” and in “one accord” today?
- 📖 Based on your response to #3, how are you helping people to consider or desire living in “one spirit” and in “one accord”?



SESSION 3

TOGETHER WE HAVE MANY OPPONENTS BUT ONE TRUE ENEMY

OPTIONAL ICE BREAKER

- Have you ever had a task that you needed to do and kept putting it off? Have the students share some examples. Why were you putting it off? Were you afraid of what the outcome would be? Did you think it was going to be too hard? Were you just being lazy? And then what happened when you finally did the task? Was it as hard as you thought it would be? No, it probably ended up taking you less amount of time than you thought and was way easier than you had dreaded.
- Have you ever watched a movie and the person you thought was the bad guy actually ended up being a good guy? Have the students share some examples. How often do you think we underestimate the things that Lord has set before us because we automatically think it might be bad, hard or difficult just because of the way it appears?

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:27-28

“Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel, not being frightened in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of destruction for them, but of your deliverance—and this is from God.”

POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- 📖 After listening to this session, what’s your interpretation of “we have many opponents, but one true enemy”? Do you believe we have one true enemy? Why or why not?
 - 📖 Read 2 Timothy 1:7. How does this verse relate to what you learned in this session? (Hint: Review the first point)
 - 📖 How have you handled opposition or hardship before? Examples: Opposition in life, faith, family, school, or sports
 - 📖 Read and reflect on John 16:33. What two truths are shared in this verse? Hint: In life, you will have _____, but God has _____.
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SESSION THREE NOTES

AS CITIZENS OF HEAVEN, WE HAVE:

One Enemy: Don't be afraid of what Christ has overcome

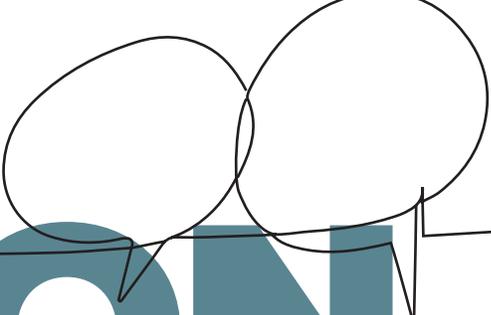
God has never looked at a sunrise and thought to Himself, you know, this is gonna be a tough day. Or, man, I don't know how we're going to handle all that stands in the way of My desired will. God has never been stressed or anxious; God has never worried or wondered how a day would end. In the same manner, we as followers of Jesus should stand united and undaunted by any opponent, unalarmed by any unforeseen circumstance. God has never been intimidated, and neither should anyone on Team Jesus.

One Outcome: The earthly opposition you experience, is evidence of your heavenly deliverance

This is not to say there won't be suffering or hardship. Suffering is part of the Christian life. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:12, "In fact, all those who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." No believer's journey has ever occurred divorced from difficulty. The road to heaven isn't an amusement park ride you just board and get off once the ride is over.

We journey through the wilderness of this broken world getting banged up and bruised along the way. Because the opposition is real, there will be suffering, but we are not alone. This is why Paul writes about the togetherness of the church, and in other places, the sufficiency of God's grace. If anything, we learn that the enemy in his attack bears witness to the authenticity of our faith . . . we learn from these instructions to take heart when we suffer, for when we are suffering, we are becoming like Jesus.

"The enemy only has one weapon...lies. But God has equipped you with the most powerful weapon of all...His TRUTH!" – Anonymous



SESSION 4

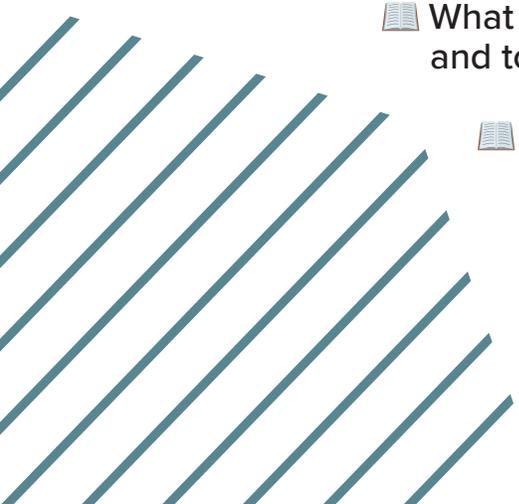
TOGETHER WE ADVANCE GOD'S MISSION

OPTIONAL ICE BREAKER

- Have your students share examples of things they can do better together than on their own. Ask them why those things are easier to do with others than on their own.
- Share with them about a time when you thought you could do something on your own but later realized it would be so much easier with someone else.

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:27-28 AGAIN

POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- 📖 After listening to all of the sessions, what is our one mission TOGETHER?
 - 📖 Have you ever been a part of any type of team (sports, cheer, band, debate, club, etc.)? If so, what are some important characteristics or traits that make up a winning team?
 - 📖 When you hear the phrase, “Contending is motivated by conviction, not compromise”, what does that mean to you?
 - 📖 As you witness all of the difficult things that as gone on in the world, since COVID-19, what breaks your heart the most? What encourages you the most?
 - 📖 What are some things you can do to help promote a spirit of unity and togetherness with your generation?
 - 📖 What are some practical “next steps” that you are willing to commit to (individually and collectively)?
- 

SESSION FOUR NOTES

One Mission: Contending together is a team sport

The Irish biblical scholar J. A. Motyer put it this way: “There is no agreement unless there is agreement as to what constitutes the gospel . . . the unity of the church is a unity in the doctrine and the experience of salvation.”

One Motive: Contending is motivated by conviction, not compromise

The church is most effective when its togetherness for the gospel is intact. With the wardrobe of grace as our team jersey, and the Messiah Himself as our captain, ours is a team supernaturally bound together. We are one in the mission, that being the chief objective of Team Jesus, because the mission at some point collided with our lives, and we have never been the same.

CLOSING THOUGHT:

Excerpt taken from FROM MOMENTS TIL MIDNIGHT by Brent Crowe, Ph.D

With the passing of time, many things change and so much doesn't. The struggle for ministries and churches to remain united as one body, steadfast in their demonstration of the togetherness for the gospel, is real and sometimes publicly evident. My hope is that in a world of tolerance, we would realize God delights in His people's togetherness. Just as children are not born orphans but rather part of a family, so the sons and daughters of God are born—or rather, born again—into and thus part of the family of God. Something powerful and special can happen when we realize we are one church, part of one unstoppable force that is the movement of Christianity. Steadfastly united, there is no limit to the amount of good the church can do in a broken world; disobediently divided we will only end up on the sidelines as a parade of injustices passes us by. Tolerance may be the path of least resistance, but togetherness affords the church the opportunity to stand in the arena of culture and be a catalyst for what God wants, desires, and hopes for His world.