



The Leadership Group [HS] Summary, Syllabus, and Schedule

Purpose and Objectives

The Leadership Group is designed to equip students to lead their peers and then send them to lead in the community and in the church. The goal is not simply to teach more information, but to cultivate awareness and action—alongside the accumulation of knowledge. We want students to be disciplined in a way that makes them more like Jesus, while also helping them live like Jesus with those around them. As such, the group has the following objectives:

- The student will be able to share information with others about the Gospel, self-awareness, and what is true about people in God.
- The student will be able to relate and empathize with people in need, people who are new to church, and to people who need help.
- The student will be able to identify a place where help is needed and take the initial steps to problem solve and help.

In order to achieve the main purpose and objectives of the class, we will utilize a variety of different teaching tools, including class discussion, videos, lecture, reading assignments, service assignments, contemplation, prayer exercises, and more. The utilization of these things are outlined in the “Class Schedule and Topics” below.

Class Books and Resources (provided by class fee)

- “The Gift of Being Yourself” by David Benner
- Your own hard-copy of a Bible
- Theology Readings (assigned by High School Minister)

Class Schedule and Topics

Date	Topic and Purpose	Reading Due	Assignment Due
Sept. 9	Introduction. “Knowing God and knowing yourself.”		
Oct. 7	Practical discussion: “Knowing God	Benner, Chapters 1-3	Return personality

	and knowing yourself.”		assessments
Oct. 14	“Listening, empathizing, and helping others.”	Benner, Chapters 5-6	
Nov. 4	“Your story and God’s story.”		Personality Assessment
Nov. 11	Practical discussion: “Your story and God’s story.”	Theology Reading #1	
Dec. 2	“Seeing need, finding opportunity, and stepping up”		Youth Group Visit Due
Dec. 9	Serve Day: Serving in the church	Theology Reading #2	
Jan. 6	“Communicating truth in love”		
Jan. 13	Debrief of “Different Perspective Assignment”	Theology Reading #3	Different Perspective Assignment Due
Feb. 3	“Evaluating and relating culture and media”		
Feb. 10	Practical Assesment of media and culture	Theology Reading #4	Movie Evaluation Due
Mar. 5	“Establishing your testimony and communicating truth”		
Mar. 12	Guest Spaker	Theology Reading #5	
Apr. 7	Leadership Speeches		Leadership Speech
Apr. 14	Leadership Speeches	Theology Reading #6	
May 5	“Disciplines of the Christian Faith”		
May 12	“Serving and Growing”	Theology Reading #7	Self-Evaluation Due
Summer			Disciplines and Service Log

Assignments

Devotionals

Each student should maintain Bible reading and prayer as a part of their daily and weekly lives. At least once a semester, a student will be asked to bring a short 3-5 minute devotional to the class in order to show what they have been learning in their own reading time.

Readings

On certain days, classes will have reading assignments due. You need to arrive to class (a) having read the material, (b) with demonstratable proof in the form of highlights, underlining, questions, or insights that you read the material, and (c) and readiness to discuss the material in class.

Personality Assessment

During the September 9 class, you will receive a personality assessment. You will follow the instructions on it and turn it in to Matt on October 7. On October 14, he will return these to you and provide a worksheet for you to do. On November 4, you will turn in your assessment and the worksheet and be ready to discuss insights learned from this exercise.

Youth Group Visit

You will attend a youth group at a different church. After that visit, you will fill out the worksheet that Matt will provide that will help you walk through your experience. A few recommended youth groups are:

- Rock Harbor—Sunday nights at 6:30
- Ten Mile Christian—Monday nights at 6
- Canyon Springs Christian Church—Wednesday nights at 7
- Eagle Life Church—Sunday nights at 6

Different Perspectives Assignment

You will schedule and have a approximately one hour conversation with someone who holds a vastly different point of view on life than you. This can be a fellow student, but it is recommended that you use a teacher, older friend, or boss for this assignment. In this conversation, unless they ask, you should not push back on their opinion, argue with them, or aggressively question their beliefs. Instead, your primary focus is active listening, asking questions that will help you learn, and understanding why they believe what they believe. You will write a one page summary of your experience and what you learned from it.

Movie Evaluation

As a class, we will watch the movie “Inside Out.” Ideally, this will happen at a “Movie Night” outside of the normal class time; however, if that is not possible, students will need to watch it on their own. As you watch, fill out the worksheet that Matt will provide. On February, you will bring this filled out worksheet to class for a debrief and discussion on it. If you would like a more “difficult” movie to evaluate, try doing the same worksheet with “Inception” or “Interstellar.” If you prefer evaluating a TV show, we recommend watching the first three episodes of “The Good Place.” For an extra challenge for older students, we recommend the first three episodes of “Community.”

Leadership Speech

You will give a 5-7 minute speech in front of the class, utilizing the skills learned in the class. Matt will provide the topic for the leadership speech several weeks before it is due.

End of Year Self-Evaluation

As a concluding piece of the class, you will fill out a self-evaluation form about your personality, strengths, weaknesses, and questions at the end of the year. Matt will provide this form, but your work should be thorough and thoughtful.

Other Assignments

Over the course of the year, Matt may assign other small assignments or tasks for each person to do. These will largely overlap with things you are already doing so that they do not require vast amounts of extra time.

Disciplines and Service Log (for returning students)

If you are planning to be in TLG again in the Fall, you will need to track your spiritual disciplines and service to others over the course of the Summer. This will be due in September 2019.

Class Agreements

The goal of this group is not to create another thing for you to do or to further overwhelm you if your schedule is busy. However, in order for this group to work, we will need people to be regularly present, prepared for discussion, and actively engaged in the class. Due to this, we are asking that everyone agree to the following:

- Joining the group is conditional upon filling out an application, paying Matt for the class, and being accepted into the group. We expect to accept each student who applies, but we do want to make sure that students are serious about joining.

- Students should plan to attend at least 75% of the scheduled class meeting times. These meeting times are provided in the syllabus, so the student should take the initiative to let Matt know about what days they must miss. Exceptions will be made for sickness or unexpected trips out of town. However, missing class due to oversleeping or because you were up too late watching Netflix is not a good reason to miss class.
- Similarly, the class assignments are designed to not be overly heavy or burdensome; however, they are necessary to the class's progress. These assignments are not graded, but students need to demonstrate that they are taking the assignments seriously.
- By joining the class, students are agreeing to the following behaviors in and out of class:
 - Active listening and respectful speech to the people in class.
 - Only using a cell phone to respond to urgent texts or messages.
 - Doing their best to set the example of godliness for each other, other students in youth group, and Middle School students. Comments like, "Ew, freshman!" or "Ew, Middle Schoolers are gross" will not be tolerated.
 - Using social media in a respectful and responsible manner—this includes not posting cuss words, gossiping, and other things that "tear down" rather than "build up."
 - Saying "no" to substances and alcohol.
 - Striving to do their very best to follow Jesus and live a life that reflects Jesus.