



TABLE OF CONTENTS

BOOK THEME:

WHY DO I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WORLD AND MYSELF?

HOW TO USE THE GUIDEBOOK	2
PROJECT OVERVIEW	6
WEEKLY ACTIVITIES	
WEEK 1 >>> AM I A GOOD PERSON? WHY DID GOD MAKE ME THIS WAY?	10
WEEK 2 >>> WHY DON'T OTHER PEOPLE UNDERSTAND ME?	20
WEEK 3 >>> HOW DO I KNOW MY CONVICTIONS AND VALUES?	30
WEEK 4 >>> HOW DO I STOP CARING ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK?	40
WEEK 5 >>> CAN I HELP PEOPLE TODAY?	50
WEEK 6 >>> SERVICE PROJECT : TRICK OR TREAT!	60
ONLINE RESOURCE RECAP	62

This book is meant to be a guide to help you lead your team's weekly meeting and activities. There is one service project and 6 weeks of activities per book. The final week is meant to be a hands on apostolic service project with your team. Use your team leader guidebook as a workbook where you write in it, plan and prepare your team activities. You will find other helpful things for the activities on your Team Leader online resource center.

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

Each weekly meeting is an opportunity to help your team members discover something new about God, themselves and the world around them. We all have questions in our hearts and Conquest gives you a unique way to work together to discover the answers to those questions. In Conquest, we have a special way to help the boys discover the answers to their questions:

EXPERIENCE → CONNECT → DECIDE

HOW to USE this GUIDEBOOK

This guidebook is intended for your personal use, the Conquest “teen” team leader, (ideally 2-3 years older than the boys you are leading). The team leader is the most important role in the group, and the success of the team is directly proportionate to your generosity in giving your time and talent for your team of boys entrusted to you. This cannot be taken lightly. This is your mission. In order to help foster this dedication and leadership, the Conquest adult leader is present to actively encourage and motivate you. Ideally he will be reviewing your planning and preparation each week, offering his support, suggestions, and critique, all to form you into the true leader God calls you to be, with an apostolic heart on fire for Christ and His Church! Don’t forget to ask him for your password to the Team Leader online resource center on the Conquest website. This guidebook is broken down into the following areas:

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW SECTION: This is a complete overview of the entire proposed apostolic service project the team should complete in the weeks allocated. Of course you are free to choose any optional project from the online resources or even create your own!

INTRODUCTION PAGE:

Project Name and Logo: This states the suggested name and logo for the apostolic project.

Serves: This indicates who or what is aided. (Poor, Family, Church, Friends, Sick & Elderly, or Community)

Time Frame: This indicates the time of year best to apply this apostolic project.

Present the Need To My Team: This area contains some questions for you to pose to the team to incite discussions on the particular topic that will lead them to the apostolate. It also may contain some references that you can use (Catechism, YouCat, Gospel verses, stories, etc.) to help you motivate the team.

Called to Serve: This is a summary of the apostolic project, and what the team is called to do to directly meet the need.

WEEKLY PROJECT PLANNING: This section lists the activities and planning suggestions to be taken week by week along with the appropriate question of the week.

TACTICS BY AREAS

Location: The suggested place(s) where the project should be executed, along with some practical advice for the location planning.

Provisions: A list of items and materials needed to carry out the project.

Responsibilities: Since each boy needs a responsibility, this suggests some specific ones that will be needed for the project.

SPECIAL SYMBOLS



Indicates a moment to ask the boys a question and get them talking



Indicates you will need a computer or tablet to watch a video clip online



Indicates a reference or quote from the YouCat (Youth Catechism)



Indicates indoor or outdoor activity



Indicates the amount of approximate time needed for an activity (15 min’s to 1 hour)

DEBRIEFING: This area helps you to plan out the final details of the project including any last minute instructions for the team.

Special Ops: Provides key elements and best practices for the team's success.

Contingency Plans: This provides variations of the project. Depending on circumstances, projects can be varied to meet needs of the team or local area.

Roll Call- Organizing the team: This is where you can put the pertinent contact information for all those helping with this project including team members, adult volunteers and other contacts.

Appendices: Some projects may have an appendix which gives you an example or references that may be helpful for how certain aspects of the project can be done.

Project Notes: This area is left blank for you to write down any pertinent information for you to refer back to for this project.

2. WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:

PLAN & PREP: Each week you should review the weekly activity plan with the adult club mentor who can share some tips to help you better prepare for that next weeks activities. Each weekly activity has a "Prep and Plan" section to help you understand the theme.

Question of the Week: This is the actual theme to discuss and you need to gear all the activities to help answer this question.

Need we are Responding To: This presents the deeper need or reason why we ask this question.

Convictions & Decisions: These are ideas and decisions you are trying to help your team understand. Hopefully by the end of the meeting they are ready to live differently.

What is the answer to the question? Brief and summarized answer to present to the team.

Main Ideas: Usually a few ideas that help answer the question. Ideally, it is best to use this as a personal resource only for you to gain an understanding and come up with ideas to transmit this theme to the team. It is not meant to be read word for word, but rather summarized in your own words and stories.

What does the catechism say about this question? YouCat numbers are listed and quoted to help better answer the question of the week.

How would you summarize the answer and main ideas in your own words? A place for you to take notes to present the question and answer points to your team.



YOU WILL SEE THESE ICONS IN THE GUIDEBOOK TO HELP YOU.



Indicates videos on the Conquest YouTube Channel Team Leader Playlist



Indicates materials you will need for the activity



Very important! Indicates there are additional materials on the Team Leader online resource center

HOW to USE this GUIDEBOOK

This weeks meeting at A glance: A breakdown of the 6 steps of the weekly meeting and approximate time per step.

Material you will need for this week's meeting: A list of supplies and materials for you to plan ahead of time to bring. Adult leaders should help you obtain them.

What is on the team leader online resource center for this week?: A list of files, handouts and videos you will need for the activities.

EXECUTE: TEAM ACTIVITY TIMELINE

After you prepare, there are 6 steps to execute each week during your Conquest weekly activity.

STEP 1 - SPORTS & GAMES: Some suggestions are offered for an active activity that also ties in with the theme.

STEP 2 - GETTING STARTED: Always take attendance and choose someone to lead the opening prayer.

STEP 3 - EXPERIENCE: -> DYNAMIC ACTIVITY: This is the formative activity that will help you answer the question and get across the key ideas of the weekly theme. You want the boys to have an experience that helps them to better understand the question and the answer. Usually a game and video(s) for discussion.

STEP 4- CONNECT

TO CHRIST -> GOSPEL READING & REFLECTION: One member should be chosen to read the Gospel passage. At the end, instruct the members that there will be 1-2 minutes of silence. You then ask if anyone would like to share any lights or inspirations. Insights and questions are also provided to assist you in leading the boys.

TO OTHERS-> SAINTS & INSPIRATIONAL STORIES: This is the time when you can tell them the story of a saint or modern day hero who also had this question of the week and found an answer.

STEP 5- DECIDE -> TEAM COMMITMENTS: The final connection should be to the boys own lives and they should want to live differently and make a decision – individually and as a team to do something that week. Suggestions are offered here for a commitment that the team can do. Review last weeks commitments, and how many team members fulfilled it.

STEP 6 - PROJECT TIME & WRAP UP: Review the previous weeks planning, action items and record this weeks new actions to be completed. Wrap up and closing prayer.

3. PROJECT EVALUATION

This area is great to evaluate how well the team did overall for this project. There are questions for you to answer and review with the Adult leader and your team.

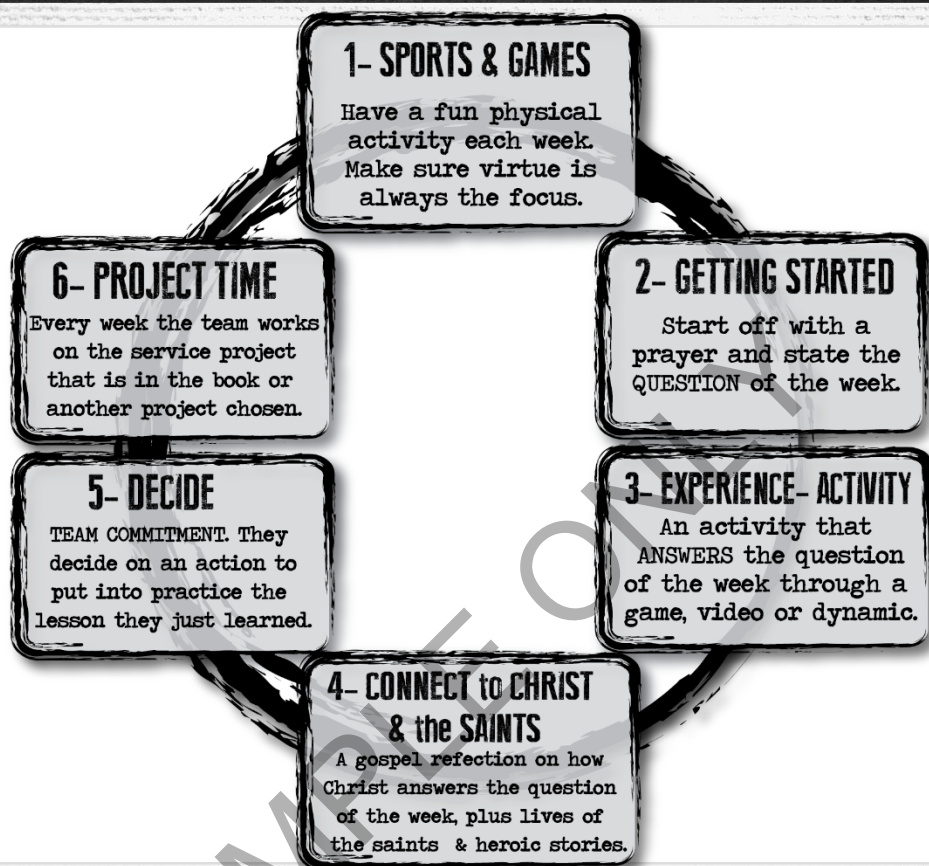
IMPORTANT NOTE:

You will need to access the following websites for resources for this team leader guidebook.

www.ConquestYouthMinistry.com : Click on “Resources” along the top menu, then click on the “Login” button under the Team Leader Resource Center & Training section. Make sure to obtain your password from your Conquest Adult Leader. Also, he should ask you to watch the Team Leader Online Training Modules, take the short quiz at the end, and print your certificate and provide it to him.

THE 6 PARTS OF THE CONQUEST WEEKLY MEETING

FOLLOW THE TABS ON THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGES TO KNOW WHAT PART OF THE MEETING YOU ARE ON.



1 2 3 **4** 5 6

THE WEEKLY GUIDE SHEET HANDOUTS

CONQUEST WEEKLY ACTIVITY GUIDE

AM I GOOD? WHY DID GOD MAKE ME THIS WAY?

#280 What reasons do Christians give for human dignity? Every person, from the first moment of life in the world, has an inviolable dignity, because from all eternity God wills, creates, and sustains that person and bestows him for eternal happiness. Christians believe that human dignity is, in the first place, the result of God's respect for us. He looks at every person and loves him as though he were the only creature in the world.

#291 How can a person tell whether his action is good or bad? A person is capable of distinguishing good actions from bad ones because he possesses reason and a conscience, which enable him to make clear judgments.

SAINTS & INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

St rose of lima
St Rose of Lima was known for her eternal and external beauty. Her good heart and kind nature was known by all. God made her the way she was so that she could lead people to him and show his love with her faith and hope.

St louis king of france
St Louis was known to be a good and just king. God gave him talents and a strong character that would help him to lead his people with kindness. To be a better person, St Louis went to Mass daily, would pray often and spent time with his people in order to understand them. It took constant effort to be a good person.

GOSPEL ANSWERS
A man there named Zaccheus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd. For he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus. — **Luke 19: 1-10**

ANSWER IN YOUR OWN WORDS:

5TH & 6TH GRADE SERIES 2

The Team Leader online resource center has the weekly meeting guide sheets that you can print and hand out each week to your team members. You or the Adult Leader can also email them to the member's parents so they can see what their son learned and discussed that week.

EACH MEETING GUIDE SHEET HAS:

- The question of the week and a few YouCat numbers that help answer the question
- A passage from the Gospel that helps answer the question
- A recap or quote from the saint and stories of the week that help answer the question
- A place to jot down the answer of the week in your own words.



SERVICE PROJECT: TRICK OR TREAT!

PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM

- Halloween is a time for trick or treating. We go door to door to collect candy for ourselves, and it is really all about the candy, right?
- What about others who not only do not have candy, but do not even have enough food to eat?
- There are many poor people and families in need that could use our help.
- What if there was a way to go trick or treating for the poor?
- Instead of just collecting candy for ourselves, we could also collect can and box food for the poor at the same time!



OUR CALL TO SERVE

Let's organize a Trick or Treat for the homeless and poor! We will go door to door collecting not only candy, but also food for families in need!

TRICK OR
TREAT WITH
A TWIST!

PROJECT OVERVIEW

WEEK	STEPS	QUESTION OF THE WEEK
1	<p>Plan: First you need to plan the locations you will trick or treat. They need to be neighborhoods that do not have signs posted (no solicitation). Ideally it should be in neighborhoods close by.</p> <p>Decide: Investigate and decide what non-profit charity you will donate the food items too.</p>	<p>Am I a good person? Why did God make me this way?</p>
2	<p>Logistics: How many houses are in each neighborhood you will trick or treat in? Plan to have about 3-4 boys and a dad on each side of the street. You could send some boys and dads to different neighborhoods at the same time to be the most effective in handing out flyers (1 week in advance) and collecting food on Halloween night.</p>	<p>Why don't other people understand me?</p>

WEEK BY WEEK

**SERVES:
THE POOR**

**TIME:
SEPT-OCT**

WEEK	STEPS	QUESTION OF THE WEEK
3	<p>Flyer: Make a half-page flyer for each house in each neighborhood that you will visit on Halloween night. It should state the charity you will help, and give the approximate time you will be coming through collecting non-perishable food items on Halloween night.</p> <p>Parish: You could expand the food collection by getting the parish involved. You would need to promote the food drive well in advance. See Special Ops section.</p>	How do I know my convictions and values?
4	<p>Print: Make sure to print enough copies of the flyer for all houses you will visit.</p> <p>Provisions: Assign boys things they will need to bring for the project on Halloween night (such as large totes/bins or paper bags to place food in)</p> <p>History of Halloween: Watch the YouTube video "History of Halloween" found on the Team Leader online resource center. You should also have a discussion!</p>	How do I stop caring about what other people think?
5	<p>Pray: Ask the boys to pray the next week for the success of the project to help the most people possible.</p> <p>Flyer Route: The boys and dads hit each neighborhood to leave flyers on/in doors. Do not place them in the mailbox, as that is against the law.</p>	Can I help people today?
6	<p>Trick or Treat!: There is a short Gospel reflection to help the team before the project starts. (see week 6 towards the end of the book) Make sure to give the boys a talk on how they will be role models, young Christ-like examples to all residents of young men who care about others first, not just themselves – even when Halloween is all about the candy. Collect the food, and ideally try to have the whole group deliver it the following week to the charity in person.</p> <p>Make sure to take pictures and send them along with a short write up to the Conquest National Office info@Conquestclubs.com to get a story on the national website!</p>	

TRICK OR TREAT!

TACTICS BY AREAS

LOCATION

Neighborhoods:

- Make sure to choose neighborhoods that do not have “No Solicitation” signs posted.
- Ensure the neighborhood is well lit for safety of the boys
- Choose a few close together for logistics of keeping the groups close (not across town)
- When passing out the flyers the week before Halloween, make sure hit several neighborhoods at one time by breaking the boys and dads up into groups.

PROVISIONS

- Flyers for doors
- Storage bins or lots of bags for collecting and delivering the food items
- Costumes for trick or treating
- Vans / Trucks: Dads will need extra room for food items collected while going through the neighborhoods.
- Maps: Planned routes should be printed so all know where everyone is going to be. Cell phone numbers should also be put on maps of group leaders for each neighborhood.
- Wagons: Wagons work well, as they can be pulled house to house to collect food items, until the dad with a truck/van comes by to pick them up.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Flyers (one or two members)
- Maps (one or two members) print and highlight trick or treat routes for each neighborhood.
- Organize carpools (one or two members)
- Trucks/Vans: Food transport – one or two members should work with the dads to obtain a truck or two that could drive through neighborhoods and collect food from boys.
- Wagons: One or two members should be in charge of getting a few wagons for collection/trick or treating routes.

CONTACTS

- Charity: Find out when and where to drop off food collected in the project.
- Pastor: If expanding to a food drive for the parish as well.
- Parents: Should be asked to help and participate in this project, as lot of transportation and chaperones will be needed.
- Residents: People who you ask to donate food items, need to see you are mature (not fooling around) and genuinely concerned about others and want to help.

DEBRIEFING



**SERVES:
THE POOR**

**TIME:
SEPT-OCT**

SPECIAL OPS

- NEVER let boys enter into a house. Dads / chaperones should always accompany them and never let them leave their sight of view.
- Having a truck driving through the neighborhoods on a continuous route stopping and picking up food from the boys wagons works very well.
- Parish Food Drive project expansion option: You could easily promote at Masses and in the bulletin two weeks prior to Halloween. Ask people to bring a non-perishable food item to Mass the weekend before Halloween. Boys would need to be scheduled for each Mass to collect the food. This could possibly double the amount of food collected for the project.
- Encourage the boys to dress up like saints instead of ghosts, superheroes, etc. to spread the message of faith. They could even incite conversation by asking the residents who they think they are dressed as.

CONTINGENCY PLAN

- This project is easy to do, and you can make it as small or large as you want.
- You could have the boys each donate ½ their candy for the homeless or other good cause, helping to teach them sacrifice.
- You could do a simple food drive at the parish or in a neighborhood anytime separate from Halloween.

PROJECT NOTES:

Handwritten notes area with horizontal lines for writing.

WEEK# 1

AM I A GOOD PERSON? WHY DID GOD MAKE ME THIS WAY?

This section is meant to be a guide to help you prepare the activity for your team

PREP and PLANNING FOR THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

NEED WE ARE RESPONDING TO: I need to get to know myself and be myself.

CONVICTIONS & DECISIONS TO REACH IN THE ACTIVITY: I know I can be happy in this life as a Christian. I freely choose to be an authentic Christian.

WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION? God created everything good and God created you. Therefore, you are good. God looks at each of us with eyes of love. He thinks of us and loves us more than our parents can possibly love us.

MAIN IDEAS:

These ideas will help you answer this weeks question. Highlight the main ideas that jump out at you so that you can have them clear in your mind.

1. God looks at each of us with the loving gaze of our parents. Each one of us loves our parents very much. We also know that there are things we don't like about our parents. There are things that they don't let me do, play, or certain friends that they don't let me hang out with. Does that mean that they don't love me? Our parents are much like God. They're so good in so many ways. Here's where they're different. God is so much better!
2. Am I a good person? Do you think God judges you as if he were just another kid at your school? Do you think he looks at the way you dress? The way you laugh or walk and think? "He's cool" or worse, "He's not cool" or, "I'm not hanging out with him."??? God looks at us with eyes of love. He thinks of us and loves us more than our parents can possibly love us. AM I A GOOD PERSON? What a silly question...at least for God it is. God created everything good. God created you. Therefore, you are good. However, there is a big BUT! He reaches out as no other friend, brother, teacher, coach or parent can. The more important question he has for us is, "ARE YOU WITH ME OR ARE YOU NOT?" In this question or invitation he asks us for our cooperation and our friendship in a mission that reaches beyond our wildest horizons.
3. ARE YOU WITH HIM OR ARE YOU NOT? Every Christian is called to participate in a two step mission.
 - STEP 1: Me. I need to Grow in Holiness. Love God. If I'm really "WITH HIM" and I'm really on his side than I'm going to try to become like him. The best example he gave me is in His Son, Jesus. I can find out about Jesus in the Gospels and in the Eucharist.
 - STEP 2: Others. I need to love and serve others as Jesus did. Love others well. Are you with Him or are you not? What's your answer? You can go on asking the question: Why did God make me the way I am? Maybe you would like to be taller, swifter or smarter, etc.; Well, God didn't make you that way. Sorry. Maybe you think you can work at it and things will change. Well, maybe.

PREP & PLAN BEFORE ACTIVITY



REMEMBER THE WEEKLY MEETING GUIDES

Print out the Meeting Guide from the Team Leader online resource center for this week. The Meeting Guide Sheet for the team members has the numbers from the YouCat, gospel quote, saint stories and team discussion questions to help answer the question of the week.

Listen, there are only going to be a few things you can change in your life. They mainly have to do with the question: ARE YOU WITH ME OR ARE YOU NOT? Are you with Jesus or are you not? Does anything else really matter? When you get to Heaven, or if you get to Heaven, do you really think God cares if you had a six pack of abs or if you could dunk a basketball? Or if you hung with the “cool crowd” in middle school or were the most popular kid in your class? What matters is how we loved, how we love others as Jesus did. There are many opportunities to be a good person everyday and spread Christ’s love through your actions.

WHAT DOES THE CATECHISM SAY ABOUT THIS QUESTION?



#280: What reasons do Christians give for human dignity?

Every person, from the first moment of his life in the womb, has an inviolable dignity, because from all eternity God willed, loved, created, and redeemed that person and destined him for eternal happiness. If human dignity were based solely on the successes and accomplishments of individuals, then those who are weak, sick, or helpless would have no dignity. Christians believe that human dignity is, in the first place, the result of God’s respect for us. He looks at every person and loves him as though he were the only creature in the world. Because God has looked upon even the least significant child of Adam, that person possesses an infinite worth, which must not be destroyed by men.

#291 How can a person tell whether his action is good or bad?

A person is capable of distinguishing good actions from bad ones because he possesses reason and a conscience, which enable him to make clear judgments. The following guidelines make it easier to distinguish good actions from bad ones: (1) What I do must be good; a good intention alone is not enough. Bank robbery is always bad, even if I commit that crime with the good intention of giving the money to poor people. (2) Even when what I do is truly good, if I perform the good action with a bad intention, it makes the whole action bad. If I walk an elderly woman home and help her around the house, that is good. But if I do it while planning a later break-in, that makes the whole action something bad. (3) The circumstances in which someone acts can diminish his responsibility, but they cannot change at all the good or bad character of an action. Hitting one’s mother is always bad, even if the mother has previously shown little love to the child.

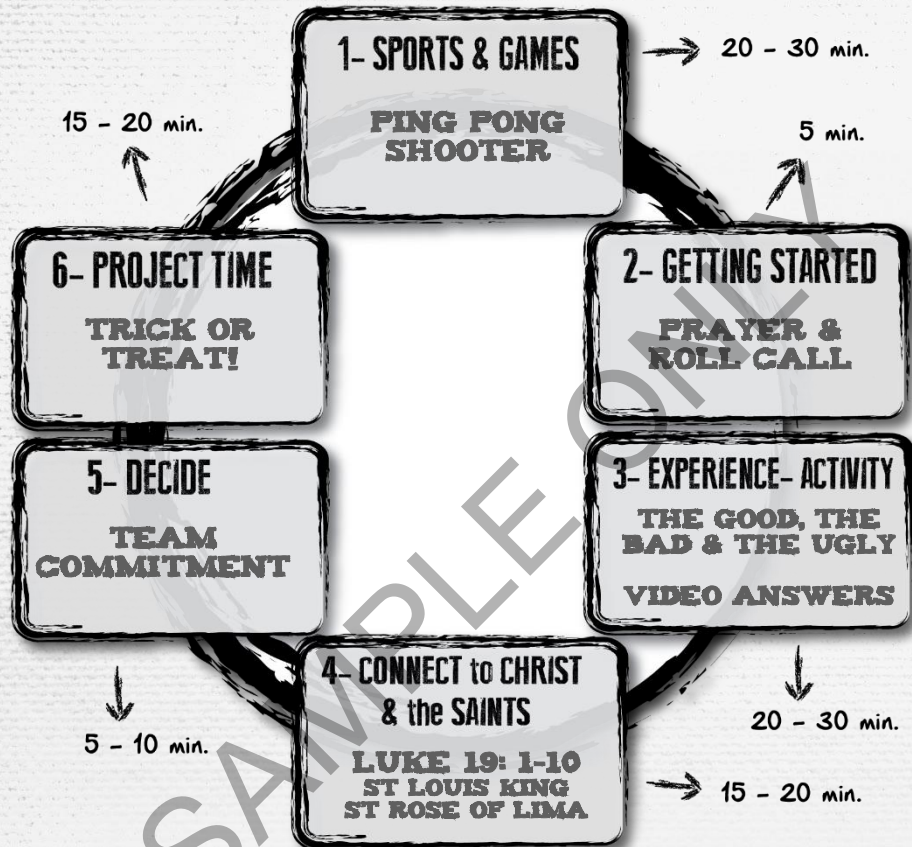
PREP & PLAN

BEFORE ACTIVITY

WEEK# 1

AM I A GOOD PERSON? WHY DID GOD MAKE ME THIS WAY?

WEEK 1 MEETING AT A GLANCE



WHAT IS ON THE TEAM LEADER ONLINE RESOURCE CENTER FOR THIS WEEK?

- ✓ FILE: 5-6-1 ser2 wk1 Meeting_Guide.pdf
- ✓ FILE: 5-6-1 ser2 wk1 Balloon-Pong_Ball.pdf
- ✓ VIDEO: 5-6-1 ser2 wk1 – Man or Muppet Music Video
- ✓ VIDEO: 5-6-1 ser2 wk1 – Muppet Man Film Clip

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED:

- ✓ A computer or tablet to show videos
- Ping Pong Shooters Activity:
 - ✓ 2 balloons for game with “YOUR LIFE” written on them
 - ✓ Plastic cups, scissors, small balloons, tape
 - ✓ 20-40 ping pong balls (2 different colors) with letters written on them
 - ✓ Painters tape to mark playing court
- The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly Activity:
 - ✓ 10 sheets of paper and scotch tape
 - ✓ Bag of rubber bands
 - ✓ Table or desk



PREP & PLAN

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY



SPORTS & GAMES



BALLOON PONG BALL

CHECK IT OUT:

Ready to shoot ping pong balls from your specially made pong-shooter?

MAKE IT HAPPEN:

1. Create and setup: Before you can play balloon-pong, you need to have the team make the ping pong ball shooters out of plastic cups, balloons and tape. The instructions can be found on the Team Leader online resource center. They just cut the bottom of the cup, put tape around the sharp edges to avoid scrapes and cut the end off of a balloon. The boys put the ping pong ball in the cup, pull the balloon back and shoot. There should be two colors of ping pong balls for the two different teams. There should ideally be about 2 or 3 ping pong balls for each boy. Before the game, the team leader needs to write the letters O-P-P-O-R-T-U-N-I-T-I-E-S T-O D-O G-O-O-D on each team's ping pong balls. The boys should not know what the phrase is until they figure it out at the end of the game. The "game court" is simply three parallel lines of tape on the floor that should be about 10 feet apart. The teams needs to have half of their team mates sit behind the far left line and the other half of the team sits on the far right line, so that the teams are mixed. Two different color balloons (one for each team) should be put on the middle line and the words "YOUR LIFE" should be written on the balloon.
2. Explanation: Each boy gets three ping pong balls to use as ammo to hit a balloon. The goal is to get your team's balloon to cross one of the end lines by hitting the balloon with ping pong balls. No hands and no blowing the balloon. The twist is that the team members need to work together on opposite sides of the lines to make sure they are pushing the ball in the right direction. They can also hit the other team's balloon to make it go the wrong way. They can grab any ping pong balls that come their way to re-launch.

WRAP IT UP:

After the game, have each team collect the team's ping pong balls and try to figure out what phrase the letters on the ping pong balls spell out. Discuss the meaning of the game. You can explain that our lives are full of opportunities to do good that are thrown at us every day. These good things we can do are actually pushing us towards heaven, like the ping pong balls push the balloon.. We have to stay focused on our goal in life and know where we are heading. We can be better people every day by responding to little acts of kindness to other people.

ROLL CALL

List each member in attendance, and record a check mark if they brought their Conquest Member Book and are wearing their T-shirt

NAMES





GETTING STARTED

OPENING PRAYER

Ask a team member to lead the opening prayer (Invocation of the Holy Spirit) in the Conquest Member book. Ask the boys if they have any special intentions.



3

4

5

6

WEEK # 1

AM I A GOOD PERSON? WHY DID GOD MAKE ME THIS WAY?

3 EXPERIENCE: DYNAMIC ACTIVITY

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY

CHECK IT OUT:

Based upon the classic Clint Eastwood 1967 film, we are going to shoot things up!

MAKE IT HAPPEN:

1. Take sheets of paper and cut them into quarters (4 equal square pieces).
2. Roll each square of paper into a tube (target) about 1 inch diameter and place a piece of scotch tape on it to keep it rolled up. Make about 15-20 of these targets.
3. Write on each rolled up paper tube length-wise one of the following: GOOD or BAD or UGLY. If you make 15 rolls, you should have 5 GOOD, 5 BAD, and 5 UGLY.
4. Stand the targets all up in a line on a table or desk about 1 inch apart from each other, so you can see clearly the name on the target facing forward.
5. Make a shooting line on the ground / floor about 10-12 feet from the targets.
6. Have each squad take turns shooting rubber bands at the targets (3 or 4 shots each person) to see how many "GOOD" targets they can knock down. Tell them NOT to hit the "BAD" or "UGLY". They must AIM TO DO GOOD things everyday.
7. Once everyone in the squad has gone, count up the targets. GOOD targets are 1 point each. BAD & UGLY targets are -1 point each.



WRAP IT UP:

God has created us to be good, and even though we try our hardest not to do bad things we sometimes miss on our aim and slip up. The bad things that we do can sometimes take away all the good that we do as in this game of points. Bad things can even turn UGLY, especially if we judge others or spread gossip. We need to follow Christ and serve others to be the good person God has created us to be.

CHANGE IT UP: You can also use marshmallow guns to have a "BLAST" of a time!

NOTES:

3

EXPERIENCE: VIDEO ANSWERS

Let's watch two short videos that will help us answer the question of the week.



Video #1 – 5-6-1 ser2 wk1 – Man or Muppet Music Video



Ask the team what they think this has to do with the question of the week. The answer is that everyone asks themselves who they are and if they are good enough. Sometimes we just need to take a moment and stop to think and we will realize that God made us the way we are for a reason.



Video #2 – 5-6-1 ser2 wk1 – Muppet Man Film Clip



Ask the team what they think it has to do with the question of the week. The answer is that we look silly when we try to be something we are not meant to be. When we are not good, something is wrong because God made us to be good. When we see someone do something wrong we say - "That is not right!" because we are made to try to be good. Goodness is possible and we need to believe it.

VIDEO



ANSWERS

4^G

CONNECT: TO CHRIST in the GOSPEL REFLECTION

GOSPEL READING:

LUKE 19: 1-10

JESUS AND ZACCAHEUS

He came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

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EXPERIENCE & CONNECT

AM I A GOOD PERSON? WHY DID GOD MAKE ME THIS WAY?



CONNECT: TO CHRIST in the GOSPEL REFLECTION

GOSPEL INSIGHTS:

Read the Bible cover to cover and you will not find anyone called “short”...other than Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was not only short, he was a tax-collector, so he was not liked. If you have any doubts, ask your parents if they like paying taxes. Back then tax collectors were considered to be traitors, because they collected taxes for the Romans who had invaded and governed Jerusalem. According to his own townspeople he was the worst possible person around. Since Jesus was good, they probably thought he would have been the last person thinkable to meet up with Jesus. The people of Jericho judged Zacchaeus and because Jesus was with him, they judged Jesus too. Jesus did not care that he was a sinner or that he was short and looked silly. Jesus stuck up for him and then Jesus helped him to become a better person. Jesus saw the goodness in Zacchaeus even when other people did not, and even when maybe even Zacchaeus did not see good in himself. Jesus never lost hope.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS TO TALK ABOUT



- Do you think Zacchaeus thought of himself as a bad man? Why do you think he continued to act in that way?
- Would you be like the people of Jericho that “grumbled” and judge Zacchaeus and Jesus for being with him?
- Do you think God ever stops seeing the goodness in us even when we may doubt ourselves?
- What does Jesus ask Zacchaeus to do to show that goodness?

HOW DID CHRIST HELP US ANSWER THIS WEEK'S QUESTION IN THIS PASSAGE?

Christ answers the question of the week by showing us how he saw the goodness in Zacchaeus. God made Zacchaeus good at math and he ended up being a tax collector. Because of that he was able to help other people after his conversion.

GOSPEL REFLECTION NOTES:

Remember – the goal of this moment is to help the boys realize that they are not the only ones who have dealt with this question. Share the story of the saint or other inspirational story.

ST LOUIS KING OF FRANCE



Louis was born in 1214 in France. His father was the king of France Louis VIII and his mother was Queen Blanche. His father died when he was only 12 years old and he was named the King of France. Louis was too young to rule the country on his own, so his mother did. She knew that one day Louis would take his place on the throne so she inspired him with a love for holy things, guiding her son and teaching him well so that he would become a just and courageous king. In 1234, he married Margaret. Louis took over from his mother when he turned 21. The night before he was crowned, he fasted and prayed. Everyday, after the morning Mass, King Louis IX would ride his horse out into the country to see how he could work to make life better for his people. He would often stop in villages to listen to what the people had to say. He checked that wealthy, powerful nobles were not abusing people. When he heard that the nobles unjustly took from people who had less, he forced the nobles to give back what they had taken. He listened to people's ideas for how to improve their country, and he passed laws to protect those who were vulnerable. The king ordered churches and hospitals built throughout France. In his travels, the king himself would often visit and care for those who were sick. He listened to the needs of others. As a man given the power to guide his country, he could do great good for his people. He worked for peace in the world, and when he did fight, he was merciful to those he captured. In 1244, King Louis led a Crusade into the Holy Land. As king, he chose to share the hardships of his soldiers. Once, the king was captured. While in prison, he prayed every day. In 1270, he was stricken by the pestilence at the siege of Tunis, and after receiving the Last Sacraments, he died. Louis stayed close to Jesus his whole life, and thus not only was a good person, but became a Saint.

ST ROSE OF LIMA



She was born in 1586 in Lima, Peru and was named Isabel de Flores. She was such a beautiful baby that people called her a “rose” and Isabel’s mother declared that this child would be called “Rose” from then on. As she grew older, she became more and more beautiful, and one day, her mother put a wreath of flowers on her head to show off her loveliness to friends. But Rose had no desire to be admired, for her heart had been given to Jesus. Rose did not attend school. She stayed at home and worked in the garden. She also learned to embroider on silk and to create designs, usually of flowers. Rose took Saint Catherine of Siena as a model. She also built a prayer hut for herself in the backyard. Then her parents experienced financial difficulties. Rose planned to enter a convent. Her parents wanted her to marry so that they could get financial help from her husband. Finally, Rose found an answer to this problem. To help her parents, she stayed home and sold her needlework and the flowers she raised, but she joined the Third Order of Saint Dominic as well. She began to live in her hut. In her parents’ home, she set up one room as a free medical clinic for children who were poor and people who were elderly. This became the beginning of social service in Peru. In the last years of her life, Rose became very ill, and she died on August 24, 1617. By then, she was widely known and loved by both rich and poor people. Many miracles followed her death. She was canonized in 1671 by Clement X. She was the first Catholic in the Americas to be declared a saint. She is the patroness of indigenous people of the Americas; of gardeners; of florists; of people misunderstood for their piety and of the resolution of family quarrels.

WEEK# 1

AM I A GOOD PERSON? WHY DID GOD MAKE ME THIS WAY?



DECIDE: TEAM COMMITMENT

TEAM REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S COMMITMENT

WHAT WAS THE Q & A FROM LAST WEEK? >>>

WHAT WAS OUR COMMITMENT FROM LAST WEEK? >>>

HOW DID WE ALL FULFILL THE COMMITMENT FROM LAST WEEK?

Every team member should indicate how well they did in fulfilling their commitments over the past week with a thumbs up, to the side, or down. The Team Leader should track each result by placing an "x" under the appropriate thumb symbol, then circle the hand with the most marks to indicate how well they performed their commitments as a team.



THIS WEEK'S TEAM COMMITMENT

Lead your team to come to a decision to live their lives differently after this activity. . .

WHAT WAS THE QUESTION WE STARTED OUT WITH? Am I a good person? Why did God make me this way?

WHAT DID WE FIND OUT? WHAT WAS OUR ANSWER?

- God loves each one of us even more than our parents can!
- God does not judge us like others do, but rather sees what is in our heart. We are created in God's image and likeness, and God only creates good.
- Are we with Him or not? We have to grow in holiness and love and serve others as Jesus did.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PERSONAL COMMITMENTS:

1. Make a list of all the good qualities that I have, and thank God for them in prayer.
2. Pray each day to become more holy and to be able to see and respond to the needs of others better.

WHAT IS SOMETHING WE CAN WORK ON TOGETHER AS A TEAM AND PUT THIS INTO PRACTICE?

- We can all commit to do something kind for someone in need each day this coming week.
- Everyday in the coming week we will place our needs last, and others needs first.
- Before going to bed each night, we can do a quick examination of conscience and ask God for the grace to be more aware of others needs and to put aside my selfishness to be a better person.

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DECIDE: COMMITMENT

>>> OUR TEAM COMMITMENT FOR THIS WEEK:



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PROJECT PLANNING & WORK

THIS WEEK'S PROJECT ACTION ITEMS

WHO	ACTION ITEM	NOTES
	Plan: First you need to plan the locations you will trick or treat. They need to be neighborhoods that do not have signs posted (no solicitation). Ideally it should be in neighborhoods close by.	
	Decide: Investigate and decide what non-profit charity you will donate the food items too.	

REMEMBER the VIRTUE

>>> OF THE MONTH <<<

SEPTEMBER: OBEDIENCE
OCTOBER: MERCY

Review the Conquest Member Calendar and remind all members of the particular Virtue of the Month. Discuss with the team how they can conquer this virtue this month and work on ways of living the virtue each and every day. Make sure they take notes in their Conquest Member Book and all commit to working on this virtue.

WRAP UP & CLOSING PRAYER

V: We give you thanks Almighty God for all your gifts, living and reigning now and forever.
 R: Amen.
 V: Christ our King!
 R: Thy Kingdom come!
 V: Mary Most Pure, Queen of the Family!
 R: Pray for us!

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