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This book is meant to be a guide to help you lead your team's weekly meeting & 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 and 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 Online Team Leader Resource Center



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.

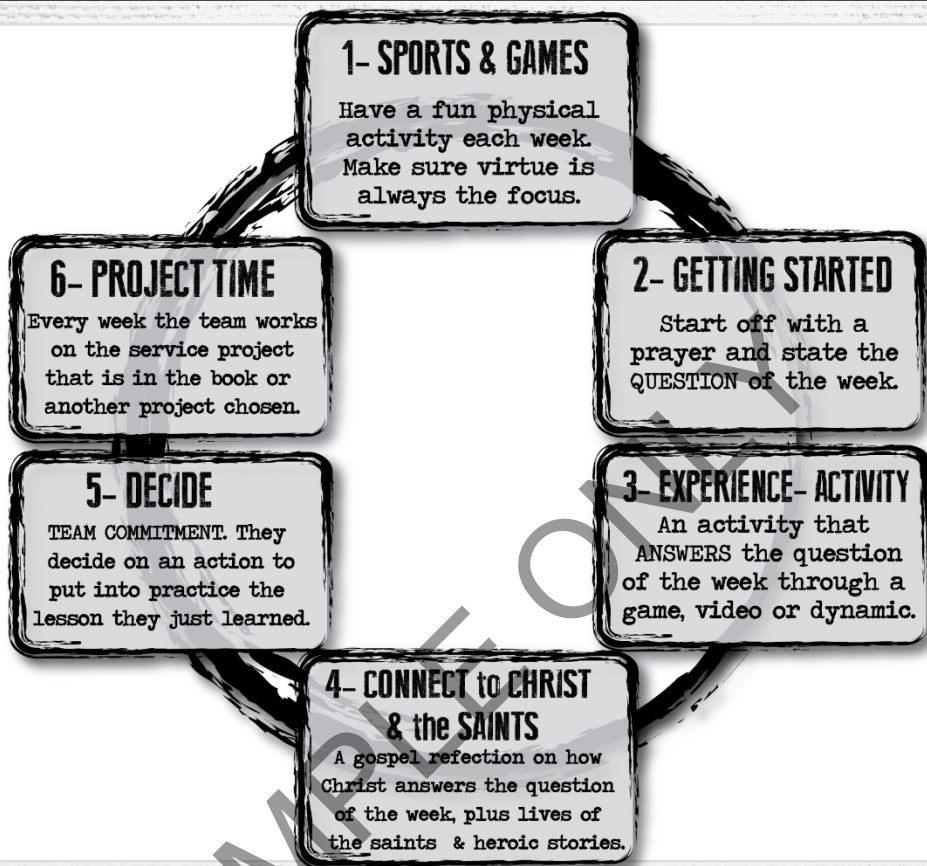
IMPORTANT NOTE:

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



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: AGENT ANGEL

PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM

- Who takes care of you when you are sick?
- Is it the medicine or the loving care of your mother that makes you feel better?
- Did you know that there are sick children and elderly people who have no one who cares about them?
- How would you feel living in a hospital or nursing home with no one to visit you, or where family members only come periodically when they can because they are busy working and raising a family?
- We as Conquest members are called to bring joy and love to others, especially the sick and the elderly who need to know people still care about them.

There are sick and elderly people who need love and joy!



OUR CALL TO SERVE

Let's find a local nursing home or children's hospital and visit those who may be lonely to bring Christ's love. We need to be special "Agent Angels" on this mission!



PROJECT OVERVIEW

WEEK	STEPS	QUESTION OF THE WEEK
1	<p>Plan location: Research what hospital or nursing home the project can take place.</p> <p>Make a List: Have the boys list the needs of the elderly or sick children.</p> <p>Decide and Contact: Call the hospital or nursing home this week.</p> <p>Ask questions: What needs do they have? Would the elderly or kids enjoy a skit, games to play, or just to talk? What can we bring them? A gift/toy?</p>	Where do I fit in?
2	<p>Assignments: Assign each squad / boy responsibilities for project of what to plan or bring.</p> <p>Prepare: Begin preparing the project to respond to the needs at the hospital or nursing home. Presentations, testimonies, skits, games (Bible Jeopardy), etc. but all activities should center around bringing Christ's message.</p>	What do I need to be happy?

WEEK BY WEEK

**SERVES:
SICK & ELDERLY**

**TIME:
SEPT-OCT**

WEEK	STEPS	QUESTION OF THE WEEK
3	<p>Fundraising: Plan fundraising activities for monetary needs – things to buy to bring. Design and print a flyer for the project to ask for donations.</p> <p>Continue Preparing: the project for the children's hospital or nursing home. Prepare testimonies, rehearse skits and games, work on props, etc.</p>	Why did God give me life?
4	<p>Fundraising: Strategize a list of people to ask for donations in the next week. Make sure all the boys have flyers for the project.</p> <p>Continue Preparing: the project for the children's hospital or nursing home. Prepare testimonies, rehearse skits and games, work on props, etc.</p>	Am I cool, just the way God made me?
5	<p>Get Provisions: This week the items are purchased from the fundraising that are needed to bring for the project.</p> <p>Final Preparation: This is the final week to make sure all plans are in place for the visit next week.</p>	Do we all need friends?
6	<p>Early: Make sure the whole team arrives well in advance of the event and have the volunteers there before the kids arrive to organize them and give them a spiritual sense to their mission that day.</p> <p>Visit: Remember to review the Special Ops section with the boys. Host the skits, games, and give testimonies to all the patients. Bring Christ's love to all they encounter! Talk with boys after about their experiences.</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>	

SUPERHERO FOR A DAY

TACTICS BY AREAS

LOCATION

- The boys need to touch a lot of people on this apostolate so you need to choose a place that they can encounter many people suffering.
- Decide on the first week whether to visit a children's hospital or a nursing home. It is best to call in advance of the first meeting, to secure permission and a date.
- Make sure the place is safe for kids, boys should not go into rooms alone with patients without Conquest adult volunteers. Remain in a public areas.

PROVISIONS

- Carpools need to be set up to transport the boys.
- Finding out what the true needs are of the hospital or nursing home is essential. These need to be documented and a plan drawn up for how to address and fulfill those needs.
- Fundraising may need to be done to help out with a specific need that they may ask for such as gifts or toys.
- Various games, props for skits, and testimonies should be prepared for well in advance.
- You could respond to material needs by sponsoring a sick or elderly person who might be kicked out due to lack of funds.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Adult Volunteer Coordinator: A boy should be responsible for getting the needed adult volunteers when apostolate requires it; Conquest is based on youth forming youth. In this case he needs to get dads to set up carpools to drive the boys to the nursing home or children's hospital.
- Each boy should be assigned an activity to plan. If you do a skit, each boy needs a role even if it just as a member of the crowd. If you do a game show you need to divide it so you have one doing the score, one flipping the questions, one announcer, one reading the questions, etc. Testimonies are also to be assigned in week 2. They should be written out in advance and include a message about their Catholic faith.

CONTACTS

- Nursing home or hospital staff: You will need one main contact to work with for the planning, but also need to introduce yourself to the many staff members there upon arrival.
- Patients: The boys should be kind and courteous to all patients and their families when visiting. It is important to prepare the boys ahead of time for what they might encounter such as severely ill patients, hooked up to machines and some dying.
- Benefactors: to reach out to for fundraising. The boys should create a flyer for the project using the project logo (available on the Team Leader Resource Center online) to ask for donations to buy gifts, toys, or other items they may need.



**SERVES:
SICK & ELDERLY**

**TIME:
SEPT-OCT**

DEBRIEFING

SPECIAL OPS

- Ensure that you have permission from the hospital or nursing home to see many different people there before this apostolate begins. Sometime they will not let you in or only let you talk to a few people. This can really dampen the apostolic zeal of the boys before they really get it “revved up.” Effective and complete planning is the key to success!
- You need to have a strict code of behavior for the boys to spread the Gospel. They can’t just go and fool around because that will not spread Christ’s message.
- The boys need a challenging but desirable and achievable outcome for the people suffering. They need to be special “agent angels” for them.
- Make sure to take lots of pictures, and write a story and email it to all the parents of the boys in the club. Also copy the Parish Pastor and the national office at info@conquestclubs.com.

CONTINGENCY PLAN

- A similar event can be held with a group of kids at a parish in a poor part of town. Then the issue will be poverty not illness, but the boys will get a lot out of it. In this case they may need to bring personal hygiene supplies or food to help the kids’ families.
- The boys could also host a small fun festival if visiting a children’s hospital. They can plan game stations and have trinket prizes for the kids.
- This project can expand into a longer project if the boys see some other concern to help with when they are at the nursing home or children’s hospital. They can use the Conquest project “Bethlehem Shop” to raise funds for giving Christmas gifts to the elderly or kids.

PROJECT NOTES:

WEEK# 1

WHERE DO I FIT IN?

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 be a friend and have friends.

CONVICTIONS & DECISIONS TO REACH IN THE ACTIVITY: I can and want to be happy in this life. I want to be true to myself. I can be confident in myself because I know that God created me, loves me, and believes in me.

WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION? God made me just the way I am and he wants me to be happy. He gave me my particular talents that are perfect for the mission he calls me to and the life I will live. I can be sure that there is a place for me in this world and in heaven. If I am true to myself, I will find that place and be happy.

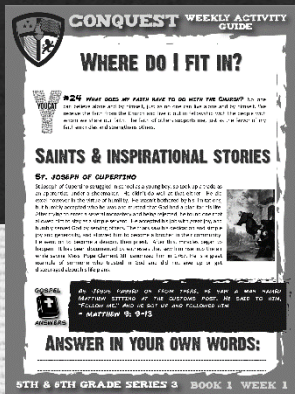
MAIN IDEAS:

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 made me just the way I am so I should be true to who I am. Everyone is unique and has different talents. Some people are very good at sports, or school, or computers, or music. Some people are good listeners and other people are good talkers. No two people are alike. God made me who I am with unique talents, personality, and a mission that only I can do! God doesn't make mistakes!
2. God wants me to be happy and to have friends that help me to be happy. I can best find these friends by trying to be true to how God made me. So, I don't need to change who I am to fit in. I can find real friends who can care about me and accept me for who I am.
3. Sometimes we feel left out or like we're not important. This is never true, however, because we are always important to God, and he has a plan for us! Sometimes we simply need to wait to find our place. "Why fit in when you were born to stand out?" – Dr. Seuss

HOW WOULD YOU SUMMARIZE THE ANSWER AND MAIN IDEAS IN YOUR OWN WORDS?

**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.

WHAT DOES THE CATECHISM SAY ABOUT THIS QUESTION?



YOUCAT #24: What does my faith have to do with the Church?

No one can believe alone and by himself, just as no one can live alone and by himself. We receive the faith from the Church and live it out in fellowship with the people with whom we share our faith. The faith of others supports me, just as the fervor of my faith enkindles and strengthens others.

NOTES:

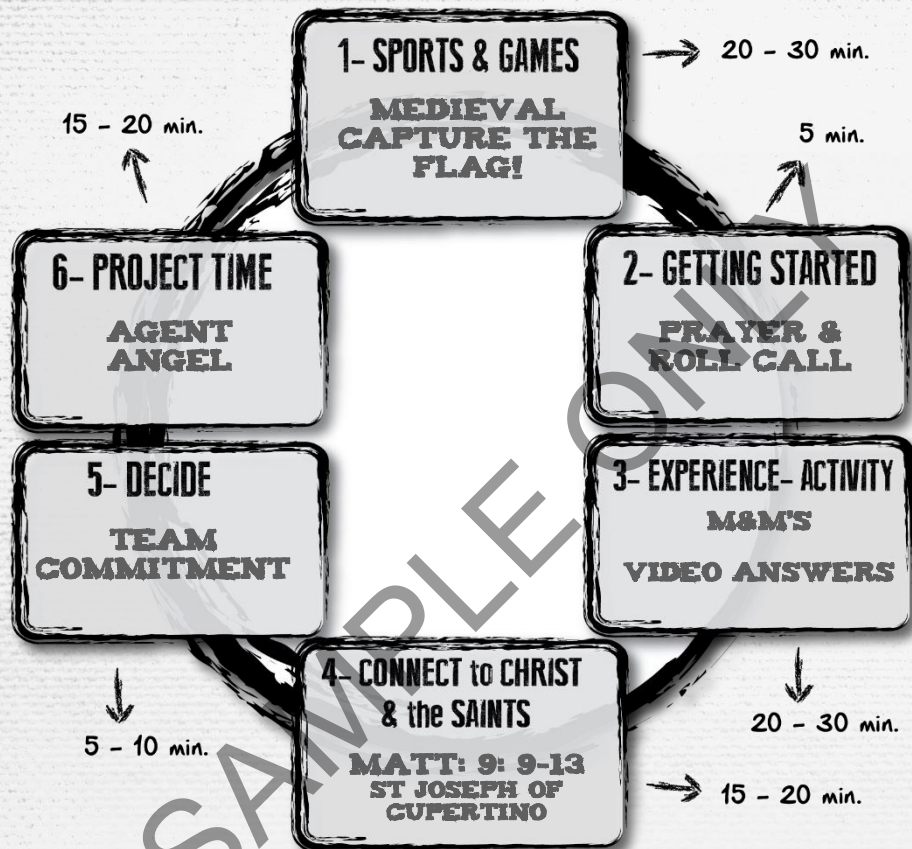
PREP & PLAN

BEFORE ACTIVITY

WEEK# 1

WHERE DO I FIT IN?

WEEK 1 MEETING AT A GLANCE



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

- FILE: 5-6-1 ser3 wk1 Meeting_Guide.pdf
- VIDEO: 5-6-1 ser3 wk1 – Dr Seuss The Sneetches
- VIDEO: 5-6-1 ser3 wk1 – Saint Joseph Cupertino – The Flying Saint

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED:

- A computer or tablet to show videos
- Medieval Capture the Flag!
 - A deck of playing cards
 - Something to identify teams (wrist or arm bands, etc.)
 - Some things to throw (balled up socks, dodge balls, water balloons, etc.)
- M&M's
 - A regular sized bag of M&M's.
 - A super large size bag of M&M's (but keep it hidden)



PREP & PLAN

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

MEDIEVAL CAPTURE THE FLAG



CHECK IT OUT:

Capture the Flag with a twist!



MAKE IT HAPPEN:

1. The boys are divided into two teams, and then each boy is given one of the following roles; each has a specific ability:
 - **KING:** is the strongest player and can capture any other player except the Spy (1 per team)
 - **KNIGHT:** can capture all except the King (1-2 per team)
 - **ARCHERS:** can capture all players except Knights and the Flag but only by throwing “arrows” at them. (“arrows” can be water balloons, balled up socks, soft foam balls, etc.) However, any rank (except for the Flag) may capture an archer by tagging them. (1-4 per team)
 - **INFANTRY:** can capture archers, the Spy, and the Flag (1-10 per team)
 - **SPY:** The spy has two roles: he can capture the King and free prisoners from the dungeon. (1 per team)
 - **FLAG:** There is only one flag per team and when the flag is captured the game ends. The flag can be captured by being tagged by a player of any rank. (1 per team)
2. Each team needs at least one of each rank. Establish ranks by giving boys a playing card: for example, King=King, Queen=Knight, Jack=Archer, 10=Infantry, Joker=Spy, Ace=Flag. Then, each team should designate an area to be the “dungeon” where all captured players must go.
3. Players are captured by being tagged by an opposing player.

WEEK # 1

WHERE DO I FIT IN?

4. Once a tag has been made, each player reveals their rank (by showing their card) and the player of higher rank brings the other player to the dungeon. If players have the same rank, the defending player (the one who got tagged) wins.
5. Players may not be tagged while bringing an opponent to the dungeon.
6. The spy can free all players from the dungeon by tagging one prisoner. However, if the spy is captured, he cannot free himself or anyone else.
7. The game ends when one team captures the opposing team's flag.



WRAP IT UP:

1. Ask the boys the following or similar questions:
2. Did any of you wish that you had a different rank? If so, what rank would you want and why?
3. But weren't all of the ranks very important to the success of your team? What was it like when your Spy got captured?
4. Sometimes we might wish that we were different from how we are, or that we have talents that we see other kids have.
5. Just as the rank that I did have was important for my team, so too does God have an important role for me, no matter what talents and gifts he has given me.
6. Help them to see that we all have a place in God's plan. He doesn't give everyone the same gifts and talents and that is a good thing! Imagine if everyone on your team was a King! You'd never win! In the same way, God has given you unique gifts for a unique role in life that only you can fulfill!

CHANGE IT UP:

If you have a lot of players, change the rules so that only the Infantry can capture the flag. You probably want to have at least 4 infantry in order to do this.

WRITE DOWN TEAMS / ROLES:





GETTING STARTED

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



NAMES		

NOTES:

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.

WHERE DO I FIT IN?

3 EXPERIENCE: DYNAMIC ACTIVITY

M&M'S



CHECK IT OUT:

You bring in little bags of M&Ms for the boys but there aren't enough to go around!

MAKE IT HAPPEN:

1. Announce to the boys that you brought M&Ms for all of them and start handing them out, a few to each boy, but purposely you don't give any to a few boys.
2. Tell them, "I'm sorry, that's all I have, maybe next time!" Then see how the other boys react.
3. Did those who got candy share? How do those who don't get any react?
4. Let this play out for several minutes and pretend to go on with the next activity.
5. After some time, suddenly "find" a few a large bag of M&M's so that now there is enough for everyone.

WRAP IT UP:

Ask them some of the following questions:

- How did you feel when you realized there wasn't enough for you?
- Were you happy to be left out?
- How did you feel if you got candy?
- If someone shared, how did that make you feel?
- If you shared, why did you? Were you glad that you shared?
- What if nobody was willing to share with you, what would you have thought?

Then, point out that sometimes we don't invite other kids to join us in a game, activity, party, etc. How do you think they might feel? By looking to include those who are left out, we can be a real friend to someone who needs a friend!

CHANGE IT UP:

Instead of the candy, you could propose to everyone to play an awesome game such as a water balloon fight, flag football, Nerf gun fight, etc. A game that would require special equipment, but make sure you do not have enough to begin with. Then after letting the same scenario play out as with the M&M's, ask the same questions. Make sure you do have enough equipment so all can play in the end!



This week we are going to watch a fun video from the famous Dr. Seuss called “The Sneetches”. Dr. Seuss was famous as a writer for his children’s books since 1937, animated children’s TV shows, and movies. Almost everyone today is familiar with “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”. He is also famous for “The Cat in the Hat” and “Green Eggs and Ham”. Enjoy the video!

VIDEO



ANSWERS



Video – 5-6-1 ser3 wk1 – Dr Seuss The Sneetches



This was a crazy and fun Dr. Seuss video that shows how silly it is to want to be exactly like everyone else. Our desire to want to belong to a family or community is normal and important. But we need to realize that all of us bring a unique element to the world. Ask the boys some questions about the video and what they thought.



CONNECT: TO CHRIST in the GOSPEL REFLECTION

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 9: 9-13

THE CALL OF MATTHEW

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” He heard this and said, “Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

GOSPEL INSIGHTS:

- Matthew was a tax collector. Tax collectors in Jesus’ day were hated by almost everyone. The Romans had taken over the land and were imposing taxes that the people were not happy about paying. Because tax collectors worked for the Romans, people considered them to be traitors, and therefore hated them. Also, they usually charged more than they had to and then kept the extra for themselves.
- The Pharisees on the other hand were religious leaders and were very popular among the people. People looked up to the Pharisees and wanted to be liked by them. However, they didn’t practice what they preached. They were proud and thought they were better than everyone else, and tried to show off and brag to prove how great they were. Even though Matthew was hated by everyone, and especially by the Pharisees, Jesus called him to be an apostle. Jesus doesn’t care about who is the smartest, most athletic, or most popular; He knows what special gifts he has given to each person.
- God made Matthew for a great mission, to be one of Jesus’ 12 disciples and apostles! Matthew even wrote one of the four Gospels – so now we know about Jesus! What an awesome mission for someone who wasn’t part of the popular group of Jesus’ time. Matthew became a great Apostle because of Jesus! In the same way, we find our own greatness by following Jesus.
- When Matthew followed Jesus, he found a group of true friends: Jesus and the other apostles!

WHERE DO I FIT IN?



CONNECT: TO CHRIST in the GOSPEL REFLECTION

REFLECTION QUESTIONS TO TALK ABOUT:

- Imagine being Matthew and knowing that you are not accepted by your neighbors.
- How do you think he felt before he met Jesus ?
- Think about the moment that when Jesus called Matthew to be part of his apostles. Peter and John were from around there so Matthew probably knew about this group being formed. How do you think Matthew felt in that moment? Do you think it was hard for him to give up his old life and mean ways? Or do you think he would have given up anything for Jesus?
- Think about the dinner scene when the Pharisees come in and start bashing you in front of everyone. Then Jesus sticks up for you in front of all of them. What would you think? How would this make you feel? At that moment would you prefer to be Matthew or the Pharisee?



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

- God made each one of us unique and special, just like he made Matthew.
- Even though we may not always feel accepted by everyone, we are accepted by God. He wants us to be his apostle, just like Matthew.
- Matthew found a group of friends with the other 12 apostles.
- God has plans for all of us and if we listen to him in prayer he will help guide us to where we need to be.
- We will always fit in with God and he wants us to be happy.

GOSPEL NOTES:

Handwriting practice lines for Gospel 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 JOSEPH CUPERTINO



As a boy, Joseph of Cupertino seemed to be good at nothing. Other boys of his own age were clever and smart; he was easily the dumbest of them all. Others were popular, nobody ever wanted him. People often praised other boys, but people only pitied him. He went to school with the rest of the children in the village, but he did not succeed in anything. He was absent-minded, he was awkward, he was nervous; a sudden noise would make him drop his schoolbooks on the floor. Since he struggled in school, his mother apprenticed him to a shoemaker, but he didn't do well at this either.

He did excel, however, in the virtue of humility. He wasn't bothered by his limitations, but humbly accepted who he was. One day, when Joseph was already seventeen years of age, there came into his village a begging friar. Joseph thought, "I could be a simple friar like him!" He left home to try to enter a monastery, but quickly found that none were willing to accept him since he wasn't a good student. Finally, one community let him stay as a lay brother, but after a short time, even they expelled him.

He eventually went home, but his mother would not let him stay. Finally, the monastery allowed him to return as a servant. Joseph was assigned the task of caring for the mule, and given a bench in the stable to sleep on. He accepted this job with great joy, humbly serving God by serving others. Before long, the friars noticed Joseph's joy and humility and decided to give him another chance as a brother. The friars had little hope that Joseph would ever be able to learn enough to be ordained a priest, but God had other plans. He was soon ordained a deacon, and then a priest. After this, miracles began to happen. It is documented by witnesses that over 70 times people saw him rise into the air while saying mass. He also entered states of ecstasies where he would speak with God himself. Pope Clement XIII canonized him in 1767. He is the patron saint of air travelers and pilots.



VIDEO – Saint Joseph Cupertino – The Flying Saint
Short video available on the Team Leader Online Resource Center

WHERE DO I FIT IN?



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?

Where do I fit in?

WHAT DID WE FIND OUT? WHAT WAS OUR ANSWER?

- God made me just the way I am, so that I could be happy.
- He gave me my particular talents that are perfect for the mission he calls me to.
- I can be sure of myself because God loves me and if I follow him, I can do great things, regardless of what others think of me!

SUGGESTIONS FOR PERSONAL COMMITMENTS:

- I will thank God everyday this week for all of the gifts and talents he has given me.
- If I feel lonely or left out, I will remember that God is always there and loves me.

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

- Ask our parents to bring us to the Church this week and spend 15 minutes with Jesus in the Eucharist thanking him for who you are and asking what his plan is for you.
- Instead of cutting them down, give one of my siblings a compliment every day this week.
- Include someone who often gets left out in a game, at lunch at school, or in another activity.

>>> OUR TEAM COMMITMENT FOR THIS WEEK:



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PROJECT PLANNING & WORK

THIS WEEK'S PROJECT ACTION ITEMS

WHO	ACTION ITEM	NOTES
	Plan location: Research what hospital or nursing home the project can take place. Make a List: Have the boys list the needs of the elderly or sick children.	
	Decide and Contact: Call the hospital or nursing home this week. Ask questions: What needs do they have? Would the elderly or kids enjoy a skit, games to play, or just to talk? What can we bring them? A gift/toy?	

REMEMBER the VIRTUE

>>> OF THE MONTH <<<

SEPTEMBER: LOYALTY
OCTOBER: FAITH

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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