



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**BOOK THEME:** CAN I REALLY HELP CHANGE THE WORLD?

<b>HOW TO USE THE GUIDEBOOK</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PROJECT OVERVIEW</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>WEEKLY ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>WEEK 1 &gt;&gt;&gt; CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>WEEK 2 &gt;&gt;&gt; CAN I HELP PEOPLE GET CLOSER TO GOD?</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>WEEK 3 &gt;&gt;&gt; DO MY ACTIONS REALLY AFFECT OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES?</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>WEEK 4 &gt;&gt;&gt; HOW DO I MAKE THE MOST OUT OF MY LIFE?</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>WEEK 5 &gt;&gt;&gt; WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO IN THIS LIFE?</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>WEEK 6 &gt;&gt;&gt; SERVICE PROJECT : CLOTHE THE NAKED</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>ONLINE RESOURCE RECAP</b>	<b>62</b>

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



15



30



45



60

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.

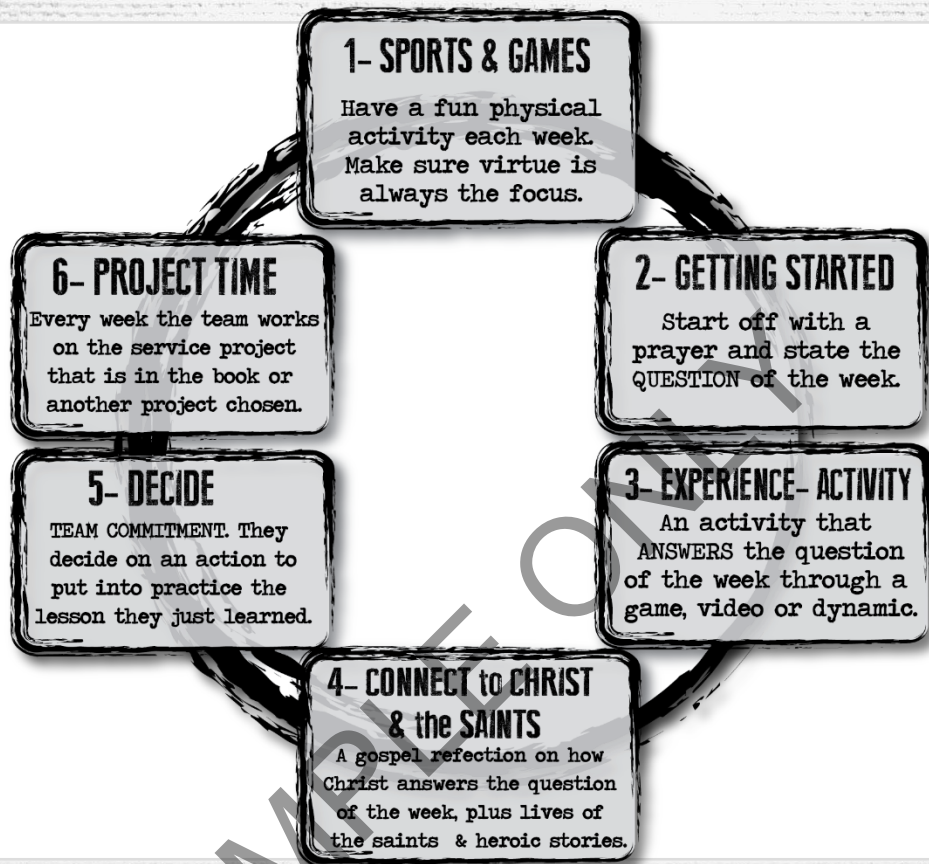
### IMPORTANT NOTE:

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

**[www.ConquestYouthMinistry.com](http://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: CLOTHE THE NAKED

### PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM

- Imagine there is a young man living on the downtown streets. The cold wind whips down the alley between 3rd and 4th street. The young man grabs his ragged blankets and pulls them up to his neck on his cardboard bed and tries to nap for a few hours before the snow comes. His dreams pass to a simple meal as the whistling of the cold wind lulls him to sleep.
- This is not your imagination, this is a reality today in most cities, big and small.
- How can we let people like this suffer in the cold without warm clothing?
- Can we try to relieve some of their misery, to help alleviate Christ's suffering in them?
- What can we do to help these people that do not have enough clothing?



### OUR CALL TO SERVE

Over the next few weeks, we can collect clothing and funding to help those people in need! We can then personally deliver these to a local homeless shelter and help out to make a difference in these peoples lives.



Let's try to help clothe 100 people in need!

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

WEEK	STEPS	QUESTION OF THE WEEK
1	<p><b>Call:</b> One boy needs to find a local homeless shelter and call them to try to find out their most urgent needs in the upcoming weeks.</p> <p><b>Flyer Competition:</b> The boys should have a competition during the project planning time to make a flyer for the project – asking for clothing and donations.</p> <p><b>Ask:</b> The team needs to brainstorm ideas of people they can ask (family, friends, parish or school) for clothing and donations, and distribute flyers in the next week.</p>	Can I make a difference?
2	<p><b>Judge:</b> The flyers are judged and the winning flyer design chosen – print out many copies to distribute in the next week.</p> <p><b>Guest Speaker:</b> This week is a good time to invite a guest speaker – or have the dads or boys share their experiences of people in need. Watch a YouTube video of those in need (make sure to screen videos first).</p>	Can I help people get closer to God?

# WEEK BY WEEK

**SERVES:  
THE POOR**

**TIME:  
SEP-OCT**

WEEK	STEPS	QUESTION OF THE WEEK
3	<p><b>Knock for those in need:</b> This is the first week where you go on a planned route and knock on doors to explain the project and hand out flyers informing them that you will come back to collect clothing items next week. You can also ask for donations.</p> <p><b>Ask again:</b> Check on how many flyers were distributed, and make a plan to distribute more – perhaps at the parish after Sunday Masses. Plan a route for next week.</p>	Do my actions really affect other people's lives?
4	<p><b>Get a truck:</b> This week you will need a truck or van with the seats removed for the dads to follow the boys through the planned route to collect clothing and donations.</p> <p><b>Pray:</b> Invite people you visit to pray with you for the homeless and those in need. (An Our Father prayer works well for most Christians).</p> <p><b>Call:</b> A boy should call and confirm a date (for week #6) for delivering the items to the homeless shelter and see how they can help while there.</p>	How do I make the most out of my life?
5	<p><b>Sort and size:</b> Pre-sort the clothes for women, men, boys and girls by sizes. They need to also get rid of unusable clothing.</p> <p><b>Explain:</b> This is the final week to finish any collection of clothing or donations. The boys should explain the project to the younger Conquest program members or to others. They should share a few testimonies with team about their visits to homes. They should come up with a plan on how to continue helping those in need.</p>	What does God want me to do in this life?
6	<p><b>Deliver and serve:</b> This is the week to deliver and to serve at the homeless shelter. This does not have to be a normal club night, but can be a weekend day. If possible, it would be best have the boys personally distribute the clothing themselves.</p> <p>Make sure to take pictures and send them along with a short write up to the Conquest National Office <a href="mailto:info@Conquestclubs.com">info@Conquestclubs.com</a> to get a story on the national website!</p>	

# CLOTHE THE NAKED

## TACTICS BY AREAS

### LOCATION

- The clothing collection route on the street must be planned well in advance since they will go to the same places on two consecutive weeks. An easy way is to print out a map of the area and mark streets visited with a highlighter. Make sure to be aware of neighborhoods that have “No Soliciting” signs posted.
- They should choose a homeless shelter that helps people spiritually, not just physically. Catholic ones are preferred but sometimes non-denominational can provide a great opportunity to evangelize.

### PROVISIONS

- For week 4 you need two dads to drive the boys to the neighborhoods planned. This is critical because at least one of them has to have a large enough vehicle to collect the clothes. The dads should stay on the street to watch all the teams, encourage the boys between houses and organize clothes in the back of the vehicle.
- Flyers need to explain the need and what types of clothes you are looking for. You do not want rags as they can't protect anyone from the cold.
- Club shirts should always be worn out in public so the boys look and feel like a real team and appear as professional as possible.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- At least one boy from each squad should compete to design the flyer. It should be small, simple and direct, but be able to move people to give their old clothes.
- When the boys go out both to deliver flyers and collect clothing they should go in teams of two or three and work down both sides of the street to ensure they are all close enough to the dads.
- Several boys, who were particularly moved, should prepare testimonies for week 5 to explain to the whole club how they felt working with strangers collecting the clothing and donations. (Conquering their fears and going outside their comfort zone.)





**SERVES:  
THE POOR**

**TIME:  
SEP-OCT**

## **DEBRIEFING**

### **CONTACTS**

- Homeless Shelter Director: These people need to know you are real. If you can mention other specific projects your team has previously done, they are more likely to let you help. You can show your professionalism by mailing him a letter and flyer.
- When you go to the door to ask for clothes you need to make the connection immediately and show professionalism with your flyer. If you show that you are working with an established shelter and you are organized enough to go to the same houses for two consecutive weeks you should get a good response.
- At the homeless shelter the boys need to be charitable with the homeless. The team leader should explain to the boys on the trip there that they are on a mission. He should encourage them to not be afraid to speak of spiritual themes with the homeless. A rosary should also be prayed on the return trip.

### **SPECIAL OPS**

- Never enter any house. The boys should always be within the vision of the dads. If they leave his vision; he must immediately respond and find them.
- It is best that the kids go to their own neighborhood as they will then be easily able to compare their own wealth with the poverty of the people at the homeless shelter.
- Each boy should be encouraged to offer some money to buy clothes for the poor.
- The boys can be asked in week 1 or 2 to go home and check in their closet and dressers. What clothes have they not worn in months? They can start by giving what they have. What clothes does their parents and siblings have as well that they could donate? This could be a competition between boys or squads.

### **CONTINGENCY PLAN**

- The plan is to help a homeless shelter, but a home for unwed mothers, a foster-care organization, a thrift store that will re-sell clothes and buy food for the poor, or some other charity works just as well.
- Collecting other items such as standard toiletry items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, etc.) is also recommended if the homeless shelter will accept them.
- If you can find a poor parish or a trailer park where you can go, that will probably even work better. In this case the boys would need to visit to find out what they need and then go ask for these things in their neighborhood.
- Asking for donations to sponsor people through rehab or a job training program also may be an opportunity to investigate.

## WEEK# 1

# CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

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 know that I am important; I am called to be a hero.

### CONVICTIONS & DECISIONS TO REACH IN THE ACTIVITY:

I have a unique mission to fulfill in this life. I will leave a lasting, positive impact on this world and on the Church.

### WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION?

Yes, each one of us makes a difference in the world around us. If you do not transform the world into a Christian society, who will? We are Christ's new apostles. He needs people to be his mouth, eyes, hands and feet here in the world today. You are an irreplaceable link in the chain of mankind's salvation. Your actions are not indifferent.

### MAIN IDEAS:

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

1. Apostle means "one who is sent." An apostle is a person God chooses and sends out to fulfill a mission – to transmit his message and help many other people to get to know him, love him, and follow him. All baptized people are apostles, because through baptism, God makes us into his children and members of the Church. He sends us into the world in which we live to give witness to him and to teach his gospel. Apostles make a difference in the world because they bring the Christian message or Good News – that God exists, loves us and came to save us. You are called to be an apostle, a Christian Catholic to bring hope to a world that needs God and that makes a big difference.
2. The history of salvation is like a chain. The mission of each of us is to be a link on that chain. You have received the faith thanks to thousands of apostles – "chain links" who have been faithful to their mission of transmitting Christ's message for 2000 years. Now it is up to you to make a difference, and continue the tradition of passing on the Good News of the Gospel to others!
3. Think about how Jesus made a difference. He was not satisfied with bringing together a few men from around Nazareth. He traveled throughout Galilee and Judea and went as far as Jerusalem, the nation's capital. St. Paul and St. Peter took their preaching as far as Rome, the capital of the empire. Consider Pope John Paul II: he traveled more than a million miles, made more than seventy international trips, and traveled the equivalent of ten trips around the world preaching the Gospel. Making a difference means going well outside of your comfort zone. If you are uncomfortable and perhaps even a bit scared, then you know you are doing it right and will surely make a difference!

## PREP & PLAN BEFORE ACTIVITY





## WHAT DOES THE CATECHISM SAY ABOUT THIS QUESTION?



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

## PREP & PLAN

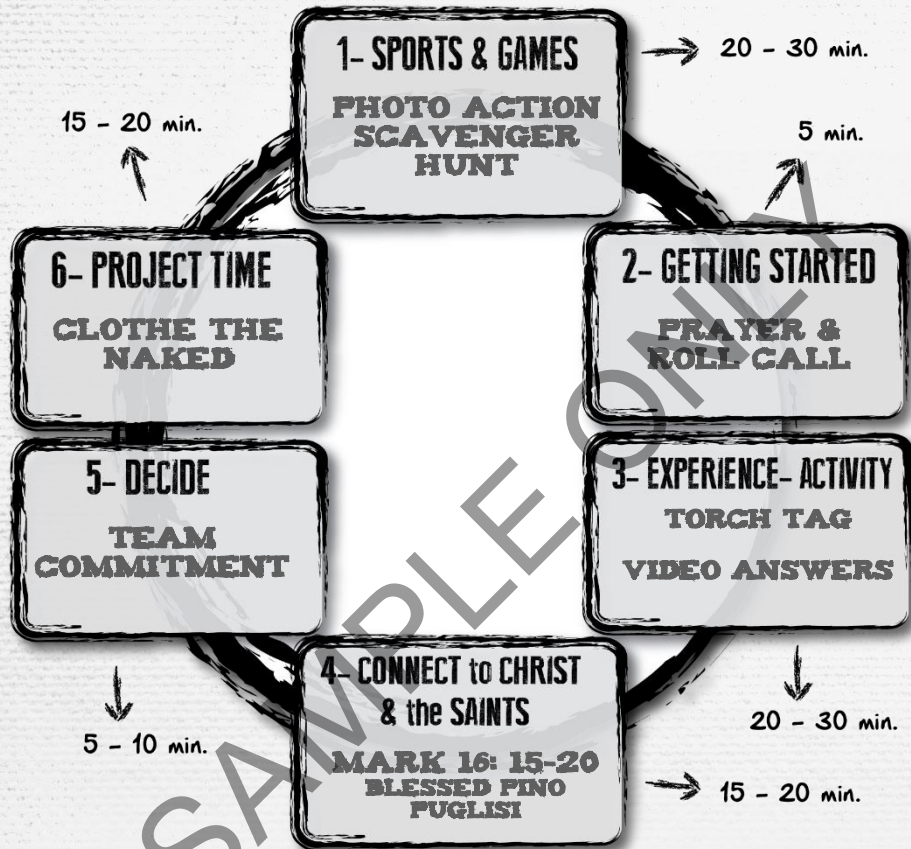
11



## WEEK# 1

# CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

## WEEK 1 MEETING AT A GLANCE



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

- FILE: 7-8-1 ser3 wk1 Meeting\_Guide.pdf
- FILE: 7-8-1 ser3 wk1 Photo Scavenger Hunt.pdf
- FILE: 7-8-1 ser3 wk1 Torch Tag.pdf
- VIDEO: 7-8-1 ser3 wk1 – 'Start Here: Doing Hard Things Right Where You Are' by Alex Harris & Brett Harris
- VIDEO: 7-8-1 ser3 wk1 – Progetto - Don Pino Puglisi

### MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED:

- A computer or tablet to show videos
- Photo Action Scavenger Hunt
  - A digital camera or camera phone for each squad (just ask the boys to bring them).
  - An odd object (see step 2 in actual activity).
  - A list of action pics to take for each squad (pick ideas from the list found on the Team Leader Resource Center online. Tilt the points towards positive things as opposed to goofy ones).
  - A pen and a few sheets of paper for each squad.
- Torch Tag
  - Torch Tag labels printed from the file on the Team Leader Resource center online.
  - A label sheet for each boy or regular paper and tape.



## PREP & PLAN

## BEFORE THE ACTIVITY





## SPORTS & GAMES

# PHOTO ACTION SCAVENGER HUNT

**CHECK IT OUT:** Are the boys ready for an adventure?

Lights, camera, ACTION!

**MAKE IT HAPPEN:**

1. Make new squads from your team members.
2. Give each squad an odd and embarrassing item they have to carry around and which has to appear in every picture. Some ideas are a pumpkin, a balloon saying "it's Sporty to be Forty," or a set of funny big glasses.
3. Give each squad a list of things they must accomplish in a set amount of time (recommended 15 minutes) with a set point value for action shot they take. You will need to edit the lists available online for the particular circumstances / location of your program. Be creative and make it fun!
4. Send the squads out.
5. Have everyone meet back at the assigned place and time. Penalize late squads 10 points per minute or part.
6. Tally up the points for all the action shots. Dads can be judges.
7. Funny shots should be shared with the whole team. Make sure to include bonus points.

**WRAP IT UP:**

This activity probably helped you form a strong bond with your squad, and pushed you out of your comfort zone. As a squad member, you realized you can make a difference. Sometimes like this game, it is not always easy. It requires you to go outside your comfort zone and do challenging and daring things to really make a difference for others.

**CHANGE IT UP:**

There are tons of other items that can be done. Use creativity and make it even more fun. It is fun to play this game for hours – like on a retreat weekend.



Photo  
Scavenger  
Hunt

TALK  
ABOUT IT!



## 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**




### 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

# CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

### 3 EXPERIENCE: DYNAMIC ACTIVITY

#### TORCH TAG



#### CHECK IT OUT:

This will get the boys hyper and running around quickly! The idea is to light a fire and pass your torch to someone by sticking them with virtues or good action tags!

#### MAKE IT HAPPEN:

1. Each team member is given a sheet of 6 stickers or labels with one virtue or good action written on them. These labels (tags) can be found and printed on the Team Leader Resource Center online or on the Team Leader Resource Companion Disc.
2. Basically it is a big game of tag where everyone is “it”. You need a large open space so they can run and play freely. The goal is to be the last person standing with the least number of stickers or labels left on your sheet and on you.
3. The rules of Torch Tag are simple. Everyone is “it” and runs around trying to “pass their torch” and tag as many people as possible with their specific label. You tag someone by literally sticking one of your tags or labels anywhere on them.
4. If you get 5 tags stuck on you, you have to sit down for the rest of the game and cannot move. The “sitting ducks” can still have labels on them and they can still reach out and tag or label others who walk by them.
5. You cannot tag the same person twice. If you run out of labels on your sheet, you can take the stickers off of yourself and tag others with those. If you are completely out of labels, run to avoid being tagged.
6. The game ends one of two things happens : (1) Everyone except 1 person is sitting. (2) The people standing have run out stickers and at that point you count to see who has the least on their backs.

#### WRAP IT UP:

At the end of the game, point out to the boys how each one of them passed their torch to someone else by tagging them. Life is a lot like this. We all affect the people around us by our actions and words. Each day we “tag” people with our example for the good or for the bad. We do make a difference. In some cases, we give and share things that we learn from other people (like the stickers on your back that you re-stuck on other people.) Sometimes other people will pass along things they have learned or seen from us. Everyone can make a difference everyday. People are not indifferent to the actions or words of people around them. Think about the people you have affected today. What torches did you pass today? Or what did you do or say that “stuck” with other people?



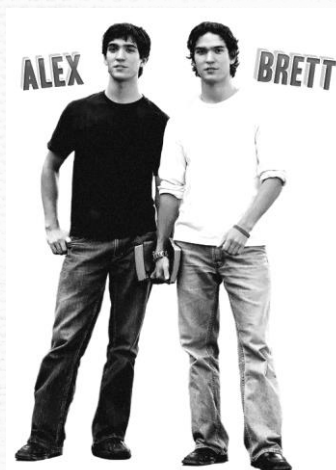


**VIDEO ANSWERS:** Read the story below to the team, then show the video.

VIDEO



ANSWERS



Alex and Brett Harris are twin sons of home-school pioneers Gregg and Sono Harris in Oregon. At age 16, twins Alex and Brett Harris from Oregon had a message they were passionate about communicating to their fellow teens. They decided to start a blog to reach more teens with their message... Due to its success, their blog soon became a full fledged website with thousands of teen visitors. When they were 16 another opportunity arose: they were asked to be Supreme Court interns, a job usually reserved for law school students and exceptional undergraduate students. And they hadn't even graduated from high school! The staff attorney in charge of the intern program in Justice Tom Parker's office who had been reading their blog, was willing to take them up on their premise that teens have enormous untapped potential. They worked their way up as they proved their competency: from delivering mail to accompanying Justice Parker to

prestigious events, from editing opinions for punctuation and spelling to actually contributing paragraphs of final wording, even occasionally drafting internal memorandums to the other justices. After their great accomplishments here, they, still 16 years old, were invited back to Alabama to serve as grass-roots directors for four simultaneous statewide campaigns for the Alabama Supreme Court! By age nineteen, twins Alex and Brett Harris were among the most widely read teen writers on the Web and co-authored 2 books that soon became the best-selling *Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations* and *Start Here: Doing Hard Things Right Where You Are*. At age 18, they began speaking out about their message through "The Rebelution" Tour conferences featured across the states and even in Japan and the Philippines. They have been featured nationally on CNN and The New York Times.



Video: 7-8-1 ser3 wk1 "Start Here\_ Doing Hard Things Right Where You Are"



Start a discussion and ask the question if the team thinks that these twins did and still do make a difference? It is always possible for them too to make a difference, every day in even small things.



# CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



## CONNECT: TO CHRIST in the GOSPEL REFLECTION

### GOSPEL READING: GO OUT TO THE WORLD

MARK 16: 15-20

He said to them, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. Then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

### GOSPEL INSIGHTS:

This passage is right after the Resurrection before Jesus ascends ( goes up) to heaven to be with his Father. These are his last marching orders for his apostles. He wants them to leave Jerusalem and venture out to different parts of the world to spread the good news. Back then they did not have Google Maps or the internet so the world was pretty much unknown to them and they could not just jump on a plane or bus. Jesus asked them to take a leap of faith and set out on boat, foot or donkey to start spreading his message. The apostles had no idea what awaited them, but as this passage and history tells us, they went out and preached everywhere. This gospel confirms that the Lord was with them and sent them signs that he was giving them the strength to keep going. Following Jesus' message to go out into the whole world took a great deal of faith for these men because they did not know if what they did would truly make a difference in the world. They did not know how people would receive them, but they trusted in Jesus and what he was asking of them.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS TO TALK ABOUT:



- Do you think Christ would ask you for something that you're not able to do? (No, he knows what he is asking for from you, and he asks it is because you are able to do it, since he gives you the means you need.)
- Many people today think that we don't need to preach the gospel or that preaching is for priests or nuns. What do you think after reading this passage? (Christ came into the world to teach us the truth and the way to the father, and it is clear that his commandment is to bring his saving message to ALL.)

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

Christ answers this question by his words to the apostles to go out and make a difference and spread the good news. Sometimes we can be afraid but we need to remember that Jesus is with us and will send us signs that we are on the right path.



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.

## BLESSED PINO PUGLISI



Giuseppe "Pino" Puglisi was born in Italy in 1937 in the working-class neighborhood in Palermo (Sicily), into a family of modest means. His father was a shoemaker and his mother a dressmaker. He entered the seminary at age sixteen. Following his ordination as a priest in 1960, he worked in various parishes. In 1990, Puglisi returned to his hometown and became the priest of a parish there. He spoke out against the Mafia who controlled the area and opened a shelter for underprivileged children. Puglisi had been offered other parishes by the local curia, in less troublesome neighborhoods, but he opted to stay there. He tried to change his parishioners' mentality, which was conditioned by fear, passivity and silence. In his sermons, he pleaded to give leads to authorities about the Mafia's illicit activities. He refused their contributions when offered in the church, and would not allow the men involved with the mafia to march at the head of religious processions. He

tried to discourage the children from dropping out of school, stealing, doing and selling drugs. Those parishioners who tried to support Fr Pino and improve their town found the doors of their houses torched, and they would receive threats. On September 15, 1993 the day of his 56th birthday—he was shot and killed in front of his parish. One of the hitmen who killed Puglisi, later confessed and revealed the priest's last words as his killers approached were "I've been expecting you."

His murder shocked Italy. During his visit to Sicily in 1994, Pope John Paul II praised Puglisi as a "courageous exponent of the Gospel." He urged Sicilians not to allow the priest's death to have been in vain and warned that silence and passivity about the Mafia was tantamount to complicity. In 1998, four men received life sentences for the killing of Puglisi. Fr Pino's favorite saying was "If everyone does something, then we can do a lot". In 2012 he was declared a martyr in hatred of the faith and he was beatified in 2013. His life story has been portrayed in a film, *In the Sunlight* (2005).



VIDEO – Progetto – Don Pino Puglisi (in Italian, but powerful)  
Short video available on the Team Leader Online Resource Center



**WEEK# 1**

# CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



## 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?

Can I make a difference?

WHAT DID WE FIND OUT? WHAT WAS OUR ANSWER?

We found out that the world needs each one of us and that our actions definitely can have an impact on people's lives. Nothing we do is indifferent to other people and definitely not indifferent to God. He wants us to make a difference in the world and go out and preach to everyone. Many kids our age have done inspiring things to change the world.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PERSONAL COMMITMENTS:

I can go beyond my comfort zone and speak with someone about Jesus in this next week.

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

Every day I can make a difference in people's lives around me even with a simple smile. I will smile at someone each day in the next week that I normally wouldn't pay any attention to.

1 2 3 4 5 6

DECIDE: COMMITMENT



## >>> OUR TEAM COMMITMENT FOR THIS WEEK:

---



---



---



6

## PROJECT PLANNING & WORK

### THIS WEEK'S PROJECT ACTION ITEMS

WHO	ACTION ITEM	NOTES
	<p><b>Call:</b> One boy needs to find a local homeless shelter and call them to try to find out their most urgent needs in the upcoming weeks.</p> <p><b>Flyer Competition:</b> The boys should have a competition during the project planning time to make a flyer for the project – asking for clothing and donations.</p>	
	<p><b>Ask:</b> The team needs to brainstorm ideas of people they can ask (family, friends, parish or school) for clothing and donations, and distribute flyers in the next week.</p>	

## 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!

1 2 3 4 5



PROJECT WORK & WRAP UP