SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

STRIKEPOINT

YOUTH • LEADERSHIP • MISSION • DISCIPLESHIP
STRIKEPOINT Week 1: Deeper Discipleship
by Major Lauren Hodgson, Chip Kelly, and Chris Stoker

Opening:
Discuss these questions with your group before watching the video to get you thinking about today’s topic.

1. What do you do when you are hungry?

2. Besides food, are we hungry for anything else in our lives?

3. How do you know when you are spiritually depleted or run down?

Watch the Video:

“The SA took care of me, they gave me a box of food, they cared for me. Why not do what I am doing? I am motivated by the love of God, but I am not the producer of that love — somebody poured that love in me.”

Captain Gerardo Balmori

In the video Captain Balmori outlines a straightforward approach to discipleship.

• Identify the Need
  o He needed some food and someone shared it in Jesus name.

• Meet the Need
  o After people get saved many people ask, what is next?

• Share it with Others
  o I need to do this because I am propelled by the love of the Gospel.

Discipleship has been defined as “The process by which we conform to the image of Christ for the sake of others.” Robert Mulholland, Invitation from a Journey

1. Do the examples in the video line up with this definition and/or the three points above?
2. A healthy disciple has to be able to identify what they need to grow on this journey. In the video they discuss a few ways the Bronx Tremont corps tries to help in this process.

- A disciple knows they are hungry
  - Marriage Enrichment group
  - Open Windows Teen Group
- Knows where to find healthy foods

  “Somebody took the time to share the gospel with me, they opened the bible, they opened their hearts.”
  - Get connected in a small group
  - Personal Study of the word:

- Feeds others healthy foods

  “If I spend time discipling others and training others for ministry, then I will multiply my influence in many other people...so I can extend my arms to and reach more people for the gospel - this is biblical.”
  - Open Windows teen group helping each other

**Application:**

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

This passage describes the first-century model of discipleship.

- Devoted to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship together
- Serving one another and meeting needs
- Gathering regularly
- Growing in favor and numbers

It embodies the definition of discipleship shared earlier in this session: “The process by which we conform to the image of Christ for the sake of others.”
**Personal Application:** Take a moment to think about your own discipleship; resist minimizing it to a program and think of the process. Reflect further by filling in the chart below for yourself.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What's my spiritual diet now?</th>
<th>What is unhealthy in my spiritual life now?</th>
<th>What healthy things am I missing?</th>
<th>How do I feed others?</th>
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**Congregational Application:** Take a few moments to discuss together the questions below as you consider discipleship in a larger context at your corps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How are people discipled in our corps?</th>
<th>Are there obstacles keeping us from discipling?</th>
<th>What healthy things am I missing?</th>
<th>How can we feed others?</th>
<th>What are our first steps?</th>
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STRIKEPOINT Week 2: Skilled Leadership
by Lt. Colonel Carole Bate

Opening:

Discuss these questions with your group before watching the video to get you thinking about today's topic.

1. Is there a difference between a CEO of a major cooperation and a spiritual leader?

2. What skills should be the same?

3. What characteristics should be different?

The following description of Spiritual Leadership below is from a book called “Spiritual Leadership” by Henry and Richard Blackaby. (Broadman & Holman, 2001)

While spiritual leadership involves many of the same principles as general leadership, spiritual leadership has certain distinctive qualities that must be understood and practiced if spiritual leaders are to be successful.

1. The spiritual leader’s task is to move people from where they are to where God wants them to be. This is influence. Once spiritual leaders understand God’s will, they make every effort to move their followers from following their own agendas to pursuing God’s purposes. People who fail to move people to God’s agenda have not led. They may have exhorted, cajoled, pleaded, or bullied, but they will not have led until their people (have adjusted their lives to God’s will.)

2. Spiritual leaders depend on the Holy Spirit. Spiritual leaders work within a paradox, for God calls them to do something that, in fact, only God can do. Ultimately, spiritual leaders cannot produce spiritual change in people; only the Holy Spirit can accomplish this. Yet the Spirit often uses people to bring about spiritual growth in others.

3. Spiritual leaders are accountable to God. Spiritual leadership necessitates an acute sense of accountability. Just as a teacher has not taught until students have learned, leaders don’t blame their followers when they don’t do what they should do. Leaders don’t make excuses. They assume their responsibility is to move people to do God’s will.

4. Spiritual leaders can influence all people, not just God’s people. God’s agenda applies to the marketplace as well as the meeting place. Although spiritual leaders will generally move God’s people to achieve God’s purposes, God can use them to exert significant godly influence upon unbelievers.

5. Spiritual leaders work from God’s agenda. The greatest obstacle to effective spiritual leadership is people pursuing their own agendas rather than God’s will. Too often, people assume that along with the role of leader comes the responsibility of determining what should be done. They develop
aggressive goals. They dream grandiose dreams. They cast grand visions. Then they pray and ask God to join them in their agenda and bless their efforts. That’s not what spiritual leaders do. (They) seek God’s will, then marshal their people to pursue God’s plan.

Which of these 5 points on Spiritual leadership do you feel strongly about? (explain)

Watch the Video:

1. Can anyone be a leader? Explain your answer.
2. What are some ways you can see the leadership potential in others?
3. How does one grow as a leader?
4. Near the end of the video it is mentioned that true leadership is found in servant leadership. What does this mean to you?

Application:

In your group have someone read aloud the following passages. From each of these passages make a list of what a leader looks like in the Bible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEADERSHIP TRAITS</th>
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<td>2 Timothy 2:2</td>
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<td>Titus 1:4-10</td>
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<td>1 Timothy 3:1-12</td>
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How is leadership different in Bible times than now? Now read the following passages:

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<td>Galatians 3:28-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Peter 2:9</td>
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<td>1 Timothy 4:12</td>
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Do these verses broaden our views on who can be a leader? if yes than how?

Qualifying to be a skilled leader is not determined by background, gender, ethnicity, social status, age. God chose all types of people to lead as demonstrated in scripture.

Here are just a few scriptures for each of these:
(Use a few different translations to enrich discussion)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Background</th>
<th>Exodus 2:11-25</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Judges 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>Acts 13:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Status</td>
<td>Matthew 4:18-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>2 Chronicles 34:1</td>
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Can you name any other scriptures to support these 5 points?

To be a skilled leader must you be a spiritual leader? Is this true? Yes or No explain your answer. (A relationship with God, led by the Holy Spirit - God’s agenda)

To be a skilled leader in what ways should you be trained? (Instruction, discipleship, knowledge of Scripture)

As a potential leader why is it important to have responsibilities? (Given something to do, integrity, work ethic, everyone can do something for the Kingdom of God)

As a servant leader what are the skills you would need? (Have a servants heart, others before yourself, acts of service and see the potential for leadership in others. Least will be greatest- Luke 13:30, Jesus washing feet of Disciples- John 13:11-13)
**STRIKEPOINT Week 3: Young Adult Empowerment**

by Major Kim D’Amaro

**Opening**

Discuss these questions with your group before watching the video to get you thinking about today’s topic.

1. Who helped to shape and empower you as a young person?

2. At what age is someone considered to be old enough to become a leader?

3. How can we prepare and empower our youth to be leaders of today & tomorrow?

**Watch the Video:**

1. Were you challenged or inspired by the Corps highlighted in the video?

2. Are you motivated to do anything similar in your Corps or Community? Explain.

3. What specific things is your Corps doing to empower the youth in your congregation & community?
Questions:

In your group read aloud the following passage:

I Samuel 3:1-21
New International Version (NIV)

“The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. 2 One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. 4 Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.” 5 And he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” But Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” So he went and lay down. 6 Again the LORD called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” “My son,” Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. 8 A third time the LORD called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. 9 So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” 11 And the LORD said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. 12 At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. 13 For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God,[b] and he failed to restrain them. 14 Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, ‘The guilt of Eli’s house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.’”

15 Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, 16 but Eli called him and said, “Samuel, my son.” Samuel answered, “Here I am.” 17 “What was it he said to you?” Eli asked. “Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you.” 18 So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, “He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes.” 19 The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. 20 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD. 21 The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.”

Questions:

1. What role did Eli play in Samuel’s life?

2. How do you think Eli felt when Samuel came to him three times during the night?

3. What instruction did Eli give Samuel about how to respond when he was called?
Are you surprised that God would choose to speak to a child?

Do you think that Eli was surprised that God chose to speak to Samuel?

Has God spoken to you in a specific way? If so, share about it. What is the next step on this part of the journey? Ask others to join together and pray consistently for you.

Additional Scripture to Consider:
2 Kings 22:1-2
New International Version (NIV)

“Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. His mother’s name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah; she was from Bozkath. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.”

1. In this passage it says that Josiah did not turn “aside to the right or left.” What does this mean? How does it look in real life?

2. In the video, Captain Alverio says that the kids would normally be home on a Saturday night bored with nothing to do, and now they have a focus and place to be. Is this a practical example of living out the words at the end of verse two above? Does it help keep them from turning away to the right or left?

Application:

Discuss the following quote by David Kinnaman, the author of “You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving the Church...and Rethinking Faith”

“Apparently they are a generation (young adults) prepared to be not merely hearers of doctrine but doers of faith; they want to put their faith into action, not just to talk. Yes, many young dropouts are stalled in their spiritual pursuits, yet a significant number of them are reinvigorating their faith with new ideas and new energy. From this generation, so intent on reimagining faith and practice, I believe the established church can learn new patterns of faithfulness.”
1. What can we do to invest in younger generations as a Corps and as individuals?

2. Are there youth, teens and young adults that we can pray for just now? How can we mentor and encourage each other to raise up “A YOUNG STRIKEFORCE”?

3. Identify an area of need or ministry within your community that could reach young people and engage them in a relevant way; empower them to see what is possible and provide an encounter with the living God. Pray about this as a group.
**STRIKEPOINT Week 4: Integrated Mission**

by Doug Berry and Chuck Goodin

**Opening**

In the book of Matthew, Jesus gives his followers the Great Commission by commanding them, “to go and make disciples of all nations.”

Consider the two scenarios:

* An Officer accepting their commission
* A Christian employee working at Starbucks

Which person is more on Mission? (or in God’s will?) Explain your answer.

Are there professions/jobs that are more secular/sacred?

Do you believe people can be called to become a bank teller just as someone can be called to be an Officer/Missionary? Explain your answers.

**Watch The Video**

1. What inspired you most about the story in the video?

   Are you motivated to do anything similar in your community? Explain.

   (Question about partnership between Kroc Center & College)

2. Who is More Responsible for Meeting the Needs in Your Community?

   * Corps Officer
   * Social Worker
   * Local Government
   * My Small Group
   * Me

**Questions:**

In your group have someone read aloud the following passage:

**Luke 22:8-13**

New International Version (NIV)

8 Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.”
9 “Where do you want us to prepare it?” they asked. 10 He replied, “As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, 11 and say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ 12 He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there.” 13 They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.
1. What role did the “man carrying a jar of water” have in the Passover meal?

2. Was his role important?

3. Do you believe God can place you at the right place at the right time to reach other people? If so, what is your part to make this happen?

4. Do you think the man carrying the jar of water saw the results of his faithfulness? Do you think he saw his water being used in the last supper? Is it important that we see results in our mission? Why or why not?

5. Do you think the man understood the big picture as to what his water was being used for? Does it make a difference?

6. What does it mean to be faithful or obedient?

Application:

Read aloud the following quote by Teresa of Ávila:

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

If we are the hands and feet of Jesus, how can the people of God show the world what Jesus is like?

Consider the following scriptures:

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (NIV)

14 For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come! The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
Action:

1. How is God making His appeal to the world through you?

2. Are there needs in your community that you would like to see met through your congregation or small group?

3. What is one thing your congregation or small group could do to show your community what Jesus is like?

   Be imaginative. Think outside the box. It is ok to start small.
   Make a plan and commit to being Jesus in some way to your community.

Don’t be discouraged if you don’t see results or change immediately. Be confident that the seeds you’re planting are being watered by the power of the Holy Spirit. Be obedient and faithful enough to continue the work the Lord has called you to do even if you never see the outcome.

Currently there is a buzz word in Christianity, missional. To be missional begins with recovering a missionary understanding of God. By his very nature God takes the initiative to redeem his creation. This idea is causing many to redefine their understanding of the church. Because we are the "sent" people of God, the church is the instrument of God's mission in the world.

Follow the links below to find simple ways to be “missional” in your neighborhood, community or place of work.

“Ways To Be Missional”

http://www.vergenetwork.org/practical-ways-to-be-missional/