

ELEVATE: Finishing Well Wrap-Up

Session #2: Go Forth & Do Great Exploits!

Session Objective: Following up from last week's focus on reflecting, evaluating and celebrating, the objective for this session is to equip and commission students for the summer (jobs, travel, camps, ministry, etc.) and beyond (with a special focus on students who are graduating or moving). A secondary focus will be thanking your leadership team for their ministry this year.

Minimum Prep: Read through the entire session outline.

- Personalize the examples in the Leader Preamble – i.e. add names and places, etc.
- Choose whether or not you would like to commission students who are leaving the group this year as a large group (see small group questions 5 and 6).
- Have small group leaders ready to collect any summer mailing addresses or fall university/college/ministry addresses.

Extended Prep:

- To celebrate the ministry year in a memorable way, invite all students to dress-up and go out for dinner or dessert (a cheaper alternative) together. To honour graduates, have the ministry pick-up their tab. **Note:** The session could fit before, during or after your outing – you choose how it would fit best and alter the session accordingly.
- Prepare a PowerPoint slide with the job description from the Leader Preamble.
- Present each student who is graduating or leaving this year with a framed group picture. A color photocopy could work well and you could add some inspirational words along the bottom (i.e. "Remember, you aren't alone – we stand together").
- Ask one student to be ready to share a short and personalized thank you for each of your adult volunteer leadership team. Then, pray for your volunteer team. This time can be quite meaningful to weary volunteers and could be done as a large group during the session or at your outing, etc.

Session Outline

Leader Preamble:

How many people would like to be described as ‘adventurous’?

I was recently reading a summer job description that sounded quite adventurous and since I know many of you are still looking for summer work, I thought I’d pass it on...here it is...

“People wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in case of success.”

How many people would be up for applying?

Believe it or not, this job description was published by a man named Ernest Shackleton back in the early 1900’s. Twenty-seven men applied and became part of the crew for his expedition to be the first known people to cross Antarctica by land. Unfortunately, after sailing nearly 20,000 kilometres to get to Antarctica, their boat, “The Endurance” became trapped in ice less than 200 kilometres from shore. These adventurers then spent the next 2 years stuck in the ice (until their ship broke apart), then they trekked 150 kilometres while Shackleton and a few others travelled over a thousand kilometres to get help. Although they didn’t complete their adventure, all survived.

With the end of the school year, many of you are preparing to begin new adventures through the summer and beyond. I know that some of you will be (insert your personalized input here: serving at camps, travelling, working, moving, making preparations for going to college/university in September and I know some of you are trying to figure out how to make this summer an adventure). With all adventures there comes a wide range of feelings – from excitement and anticipation to anxiety and fear. Also, with all adventures comes tremendous opportunity for accomplishment as well as tremendous temptation for compromise.

Our time today is going to be an opportunity to share our next adventures with one another – sometimes it’s good to be reminded that we aren’t alone - that others understand and are present for us – that God understands and is with us.

Small Group Questions

What are your plans for the summer and/or fall?

With any adventure there are both opportunities and temptations. When I think about opportunities for your summer, I think about Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Whatever you are doing this summer – camp ministry, McDonald’s or hanging with your family, there are opportunities for good works that God has prepared in advance for us. **Can you think of any specific opportunities or good works that God could be preparing for your summer?**

Opportunities could include being an ambassador for Christ at a workplace or summer ministry opportunity. You could also brainstorm some ideas for students who are ‘hanging out’ all summer – acts of kindness, etc.

With an adventure, there are also tremendous temptations for compromise. One of the reasons why summer can be a significant challenge is because it’s easier to get disconnected from supports like our group. Read 1 Peter 5:8 – “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him...” **Can you think of any specific temptations you might face this summer?**

Challenges could include being disconnected from the group/church, temptations from having more free time, more time with friends – boyfriends/girlfriends, time with new friends, etc.

What do you need to do this summer to stay faithful to God? What could our group do to support you over the summer?

This could be an important time to help students start thinking about how they can plan for success (i.e. make a plan for personal time with God, find an accountability partner, set some limits, etc.). Also, in planning to support students this could be an important time to make a summer prayer list, plan a special get together, plan a road trip to encourage a student at camp, etc.

Pray for one another and the adventures of the summer – that students will make a difference with and for Christ wherever they are and whatever they are doing. Pray that God would protect them from the evil one.

Small Group Leader Note: The following commissioning could be done as a large group or small group.

