

Leader's Prep Guide

The *Leader's Prep Guide* is a one-page glimpse of the stuff you need to know to begin preparing to teach the Large Group Session.

Session Overview

The Session Overview is a glance at some of the big picture details of each session.

- **Session Title:** The Great Exchange
- **Session Purpose:** To offer a thematic introduction of the overall concept of *Exchange*, including a preview of what will be covered in small groups.
- **Scripture Passages:** Philippians 2:5-8, Colossians 1:21-23, Colossians 3:5-10, Philippians 1:27
- **Session Snapshot:** This session serves as a general intro to what students will be encountering over the next few Large and Small Group Sessions. You'll be overviewing the basic concepts behind *Exchange*, and setting up more in-depth looks that will come in Large Group Sessions 2 and 3. You'll also be giving students a quick overview of what to expect during their time in small group. Finally, you'll end in a challenge to students to make their time in *Exchange* count as a meaningful launching point for a more devoted life of following Christ.

Session Specifics

Session Specifics are just that: important aspects of the session outline that you need to keep in mind as you prepare.

Details on Large Group Session Outlines

- Here's the overall flow of each Large Group Session. (This way you'll know where you're headed as you think about tailoring this outline to fit your needs.)
 - **Session 1:** Theme pitch: Introducing Christ's Great Exchange
 - **Session 2:** The powerful truth about the new life this exchange purchased for us
 - **Session 3:** A look at what living the "exchanged life" looks like, practically speaking
 - **Session 4:** A hopeful look to the future when God exchanges this broken world for a perfected one

A note about Small Groups

- In Small Group Session 1, students will be looking at the personal side of exchanging death for life, and reacting to where they are from a faith perspective.
- Small Group Session 1 Passages are as follows:
 - **Main Scripture:** Romans 6:23, 1 Corinthians 15:20-22
 - **Scripture:** John 11:25, 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 10:10
- Keep them in mind, so if you "freelance" a bit you won't steal any of the Small Group Leader's thunder.

About this Outline

- *This first Large Group Outline is **longer** than the other outlines*, as it has some introductory material related to kicking off your Disciple Now or Retreat Weekend.

DETAILED Large Group Speaker Outline: Session 1: The Great Exchange

This DETAILED outline is specifically designed to give lots of tools to craft a great Large Group talk. For every talking point, we've provided some optional content for you to use, if you choose. (If you'd like a more streamlined outline, please see the **SIMPLE Large Group Speaker Outline**.)

Session Intro

In this section you'll see some **suggestions** to help you intro the session. Use as is, add to them, or come up with your own!

- **Exchange Intro Video**

- *Exchange* from *DNow Online* comes with an awesome introductory video that helps to both kick off the weekend and introduce the theme of the study.
- Arrange to show this video.
 - Determine whether you want to show it before or after you introduce yourself and give any sort of intro to the logistics of the weekend.
- *Suggestion*: After showing the video, consider transitioning into the General Theme Intro below.

- **General Theme Intro**

- *As this is the first session*, it may be a good idea to stay "on script" here and introduce the theme of the weekend. But, feel free to take the following intro and make it your own!
- Consider launching your session by saying something similar to the following thematic introduction:
 - What does it mean to make an exchange? And why is our time together focused on this concept? If you're asking these questions, don't worry . . . it'll all make sense before long. In fact by the end of our time together, you'll be an expert on this idea of "exchange." But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

The video we just watched made some interesting points. The idea of exchanging something almost always comes out of dissatisfaction. You exchange the dress you received for Christmas because it's too small, or it's the wrong color. You exchange your cheeseburger for a hamburger because the waiter got your order wrong. Like the video said, an exchange is swapping this for that, yours for someone else's.

And you almost never, ever see someone exchanging something that's more valuable than what they get in return. You wouldn't exchange your new car for your friend's old one. You wouldn't exchange an iPod touch for an old portable CD player.

It just doesn't work that way.

Until it did.

You're about to see that Jesus made an incredibly remarkable exchange. It was an exchange that had the most significant impact on human history than any event ever has or ever will. The entire course of our time together will be spent looking at the major exchange Jesus made, and how it radically changes the lives of those who follow Him.

The possibilities unlocked by this one, God-sized exchange will rock your world. I hope you're ready to really dig-in.

Let's get started.

Bible Study

In this section you'll find the heart of your Large Group Session content, the Bible Study. This section gives three Teaching Points with various supporting, optional content suggestions. All of the optional content is designed to help you **customize** how you will teach the session. Teach it as is or tailor it to allow room for your personality and experience.

Teaching Point 1: The Gospel is the story of Jesus' Great Exchange.

- Explain to students that they may hear the phrase “the Gospel” and have a loose understanding of what it means. But go in a little more detail in defining it.
 - **Consider saying something like:** The Gospel literally translates as the “good news.” The good news about what? The good news of what Jesus did on the cross. We’re going to spend a lot of time in our next Large Group session looking at this from a lot of different angles. But for the purpose of this session, let’s take a brief glimpse at why we’re referring to this as an “exchange.”
- Instruct students to turn to Philippians 2:5-8.
 - Before reading the passage aloud, explain that Paul most likely wrote his letter to the Philippians while imprisoned in Rome, sometime around 30 years after Jesus was crucified.
 - He wrote this letter almost as a thank you letter to the Philippians, whom he cared for deeply. But Paul also passed along valuable encouragement and powerful teaching.
- **Then, read Philippians 2:5-8 aloud.**
 - Explain to students that this is a perfect description of the great exchange Jesus made that’s at the heart of the Gospel message.
 - **Say something like:** This passage highlights the awesome mystery of the Trinity. Jesus, the Son, and God, the Father, are one. (And yes, it’s OK if that blows our minds!) But Paul says Jesus humbled Himself and took on humanity so He could die on the cross as payment for our sins. This is the Great Exchange! Jesus, fully God, became fully man, exchanging the throne of Heaven for life on this earth. All so that you and I and all who believe might be saved from their sins. Amazing!
- Then, instruct students to turn to Colossians 1:21-23.
 - Before reading the passage aloud, explain that Paul wrote this letter to the Colossians under the same surroundings as when he wrote Philippians.
 - Paul was writing the Colossians to help them deal with some false teachers that had cropped up in their church.
 - Explain that the passage they are about to read comes at the end of a section where Paul fleshes out one of the most powerful descriptions of Jesus in the entire Bible.
- **Then, read Colossians 1:21-23 aloud.**
 - Explain to students that this is a perfect picture of the *results* of Jesus’ Great Exchange.
 - **Say something like:** In verse 21, Paul reminds us that our sin puts a wall up between God and us. This wall means separation. And separation means death. But look what Paul says in verse 22: Jesus “reconciled” us through His death. The word reconciled means “to make peace” or “to clear up a problem or a debt.” Jesus’ reconciled our sin debt and did what? Made us holy! This is the result of the Great Exchange!
 - Remind students that your next Large Group session will take a much deeper look at the results of the Great Exchange.

We’ve provided some options for you to use to supplement this **Teaching Point**, if you choose. Use the ones we’ve provided, or provide your own!

Option 1: Word Study: “reconcile”

- Explain to students that the Greek word for “reconcile” used by Paul in Colossians 1:21 is pretty fascinating.
- Explain that this verb is only used three times in the New Testament.
 - **Say something like:** In each case, this word is defined as Jesus’ work of restoring harmony between God and people. The question, then, is why we need harmony restored? Why is there disharmony between God and us? The good news is that Scripture answers this for us. Let’s take a look.

- Explain to students that the Bible depicts God as having a righteous anger over sin. Explain that because He is perfectly holy, this is the only right response.
 - **Say something like:** In Jeremiah 21:12, through the prophet Jeremiah, God gives Israel the following command, “Administer justice every morning; rescue from the hand of his oppressor the one who has been robbed, or my wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done—burn with no one to quench it.” God’s anger isn’t like ours. His anger is the perfect reaction to sin and evil. But thankfully, Jesus saved us from this anger.
- Explain to students that Romans 5:9 says, “Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!”
 - **Say something like:** Jesus’ death on the cross was His way of absorbing God’s anger and judgment that was supposed to be brought on us. In this way, Jesus once-and-for-all made peace between God and us. This reconciliation is the only way we are able to have a relationship with God.

Transition Statement:

Explain that the exchange Jesus made possible on the cross had a ripple effect throughout history. Explain that this sacrifice sets the stage for those who will come to faith in Him to have their lives dramatically changed.

Teaching Point 2: Jesus’ Great Exchange set other exchanges in motion.

- Explain to students that the Great Exchange Jesus made on our behalf actually sets in motion other exchanges in our lives.
 - **Consider saying something like:** We’ll spend some time in Large Group Session 3 really unpacking this, but when we come to a saving faith in Christ, our lives are changed. The exchange Jesus made literally opens up the possibility for us to embrace some pretty amazing exchanges, too.
- Instruct students to turn over to Colossians 3:5-10.
- **Then, read Colossians 3:5-10 aloud.**
 - Explain to students that Paul sets up a really interesting contrast. Paul creates the contrast between our old self and our new self. If we were putting this in the language of *Exchange*, we might say that our old selves are our lives before we accepted Jesus’ Great Exchange on our behalf. The phrase “new selves” describes our new life in Christ, a life defined by certain exchanges.
 - **Say something like:** In verse 5, Paul talks about this new life we’re supposed to live. You might say he’s encouraging us to make an exchange, swapping our old self way of living for the life made new in Christ. The way he talks about embracing this life of exchange is awesome. In verse 10 Paul instructs us to put on the new life we’ve exchanged our old one for, kind of like you’d put on a shirt, or a jacket. Embracing this Christ-like way of living is what Jesus’ exchange makes possible for us.

We’ve provided some options for you to use to supplement this **Teaching Point**, if you choose. Use the ones we’ve provided, or provide your own!

Option 1: The Wave

- Ask students if they’ve ever participated in doing “the wave” at a sporting event.
- Explain that depending on their level of sports fanaticism, they might think the wave is either a cheesy waste of time, or the greatest thing to happen to sports since instant replay.
 - **Say something like:** The concept of how the wave actually starts at an event is remarkable. Somewhere a handful or a section of people stand up in unison, throw their hands up in the air, and shout, “whoooOOOOOAAAaaaah.” After a few inevitable false starts, what started with a few people catches on. And before long, tens of thousands of people are creating American sports magic.
- Explain that the wave parallels what you’ve been talking about.
 - **Say something like:** Like the one or two people starting the wave, Jesus’ exchange on the cross was a singular event. But it set in motion other exchanges in mass numbers. The only difference of course, is that the wave of the Gospel isn’t confined to an arena or stadium. It’s a wave that has continued on for generations.

Option 2: Droplet vs. River

- If you want, do a Google image search to find images of droplets of water, and a raging river. Arrange to display both pictures.

- Explain that water is kind of cool, when you think about it. A few droplets of water don't have any power at all. But a stream does. And a river has even more.
 - **Say something like:** Rivers are capable of carving through canyons and powering electric turbines that generate power for millions of people. But each river is made up of nothing more than individual drops of water. The power is in the mass collection of drops. Many drops equal a river.
- Explain that Jesus' exchange on the cross was one event that set in motion change like the world has never known. What started out as a droplet, has become a river of faith and transformation, flowing throughout history from then until now.

Transition Statement

Explain that living out this new life is really what their time in *Exchange* is all about.

Teaching Point 3: As Christ-followers, we're called to live the "exchanged-life."

- Explain to students that living as a follower of Christ means that their everyday lives must reflect the radical difference Christ has made in them.
 - **Consider saying something like:** One of the biggest obstacles that keeps people from coming to a saving faith in Jesus is what they see when they observe many people who profess to be Christ-followers. What these people see is professed Believers who say they believe in God, but don't back this up with their actions. For too many Christ-followers, their lives simply don't look much different than the world around them. This isn't because Jesus isn't a difference maker. It's because too many people fail to live out the "exchanged life."
- Explain to students that their time in small group will be spent looking at four key exchanges that we are called to make as we follow Christ. This will be the method students will use to really dig-in to what this exchanged life looks like.
- Take a moment to briefly overview the small group topics so students can get an idea of what's coming.
 - **Consider saying something like:** In your small group time, you'll be looking at what it means to embrace the exchange of life for death Jesus made possible for you. You'll see that the life Jesus made possible through His death on the cross isn't just about life in heaven with God. It's about a powerful and dynamic life here on this earth. You'll learn what it looks like to exchange your leadership of your life for God's leadership, and the amazing opportunities that opens up. You'll learn how the exchange of hate for love is one of the most visible exchanges you can make. And you'll learn that you are called to exchange the idea of comfort for the idea of embracing God's call to share the message of the Gospel. As you can see, the next few days have the potential to be a powerful time in your life!

Option 1: Trash-taker-outer

- Explain to students that it's easy for us to make the statement, "you're called to live the exchanged life." But the fact of the matter is far too many Christ-followers live as if they've never been transformed by Christ.
 - It's almost as if it's not that important to really live out their faith, but that it's only important to believe.
- Help student visualize that they can't separate their purpose from their calling. Present them with the following scenario.
 - **Say something like:** Imagine your mom comes up to you and gives you a new task. She says, "From now on, you're going to be the trash-taker-outer. This is your job, and only your job. This is the role you will play in our family. Imagine you accept this role. And then imagine you did nothing about the trash. It piled up in the kitchen. It flowed over into the living room. Your backdoor was inaccessible because of the trash. You accepted your role, yet you didn't act on it, and now trash is ruining your family's life!
- Explain that this is kind of a silly and extreme example. But it illustrates the point. You could accept the job, even print "trash-taker-outer" shirts. You could even demand to replace your middle name with "trash-taker-outer." You could go to ridiculous lengths to appear to in fact own the role of trash-taker-outer. But if you weren't actually doing the task associated with your role, you would be failing to live as the person tasked with taking out the trash.
- Ask if they can see the parallel coming?
 - Say something like: **If you're a Christ-follower who's not living out his or her faith, you're not living up to the expectations of your role. You're simply falling short of who God intended you to be.**

CLOSING

Option 1: Challenge From The Bible

- Prepare to read Philippians 1:27. You may choose not to have students turn to the passage, as it's just one verse that you'll use as a way of transitioning to the closing.

- Before reading the passage aloud, explain that the call to living the exchanged life can be summed up in a phrase from Paul's letter to the Philippians.
- **Then, read the first part of Philippians 1:27 aloud.**
 - **Consider saying something like:** This phrase Paul used, "Conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the Gospel," really is the key to understanding why it's so vital that we embrace the exchanged life. The Gospel is freedom. It's life. It's God's grace poured out on us through Jesus' death on the cross. If you've accepted Christ's sacrifice on your behalf through faith in Him, you've been dramatically transformed by this amazing exchange. The response is to live our lives in such a way that we demonstrate to a world in need of God the difference He can make.
- Challenge students to accept this call, to strive to live a life worthy of the sacrifice Jesus made, and to use their time in *Exchange* as a launching pad to do just that.

Option 2: Personal Challenge

- This is an option you can tailor to really make your own.
- Take a moment to really challenge students to make the most of this weekend.
 - Help them understand that they will only learn and be changed if they are willing to.
- Challenge students to put themselves in the mindset to be moved by God and to be changed by knowing and applying His Word in their lives.