

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 Ultimate Exchange
- **Session Purpose:** To wrap up *Exchange* with a hopeful look at the future God has promised where the brokenness of this world is once-and-for-all exchanged for the perfect beauty of a restored Creation.
- **Scripture Passages:** Hebrews 12:1-3, 1 Peter 4:12-17, Revelation 21:1-5
- **Session Snapshot:** This final session helps remind students that living the exchanged life is difficult. It's not easy. Some of this comes from dealing with our sin nature. Some of this comes from dealing with the persecution of others. It's tough. But the Bible never says it would be any other way. We can take hope from this. But ultimately, our greatest hope is from the final exchange God will make when He ushers in a perfect eternity with Him, free from sin and suffering. This fact alone should help us make it when times are tough.

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 4, students will be covering the exchange of comfort for call, urging students to be brave in following God's leading over choosing to stay comfortable with what they know.
- Small Group Session 4 Passages are as follows:
 - **Main Scripture:** Matthew 28:16-20
 - **Supplemental Scripture:** Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Romans 1:16, Romans 10:14-15
- You can allude to these passages if you choose. But mostly, just keep them in mind, so if you "freelance" a bit you won't steal any of the Small Group Leader's thunder.

Large Group Speaker Outline [SIMPLE]:: Session 4: The Ultimate Exchange

This SIMPLE outline is specifically designed to give you a streamlined outline for your Large Group talk. We've suggested some talking points that provide a nice roadmap for teaching the passage. But feel free to tailor them as you see fit. (If you would like a more in-depth outline complete with optional content for each point, please see the **DETAILED Large Group Speaker Outline**.)

Session Intro

This section guides you in introducing the basic direction of this session. Feel free to use it as is, or to supplement it with any of your own personal ideas

Intro Option 1: Content Intro

- Take the opportunity to review what you've learned so far, as you see fit. You shouldn't feel the need to go too in depth, but you might want to consider hitting the high points of your Large Group Sessions up to this point.
- Then, explain to students that this lesson will focus on one last exchange that God has in store for all people. This exchange helps us deal with a hard truth: living the exchanged life can be a real struggle at times.
 - **Consider saying something like:** The last thing we need to do is to gloss over the fact that living for Christ is difficult at times. As we finish up our time in exchange, let's look at what makes the exchanged life tricky, and how we can take hope for those times when things get tough.

Bible Study

In this section you'll find the heart of your Large Group Session content, the Bible Study. The *Bible Study* section gives three Teaching Points with supporting content. Teach it as is or tailor it to allow for your personality and experience.

Teaching Point 1: Living the exchanged life isn't easy.

- Explain to students that you're aware that living the exchanged life isn't easy, a fact they already know if they've been following Christ for any length of time.
 - **Consider saying something like:** The struggle we all deal with is with our sin nature. We are flawed people trying to live in a manner that is befitting of Jesus, the perfect Son of God. And though we have the Holy Spirit in us to empower us to live the exchanged life, we still struggle to live as Christ-followers in this world. God knows this, and gave us encouragement to help us as we go.
- Instruct students to turn to Hebrews 12:1-3.
- **Then, read Hebrews 12:1-3 aloud.**
 - Explain to students that the author of Hebrews is using the image of a runner as a metaphor to describe devoting ourselves to living the exchanged life.
 - **Say something like:** When the author says to throw off everything that hinders us from living the exchanged life, and the sin that gets in our way, he's doing two things: 1) He's acknowledging that living our lives as Christ-followers is hard, and 2) he's pointing out what's hard about it. The "stuff" of life *does* entangle us, getting in our way as we try and focus on living a godly life. Sin *does* "slow us down"! But he also gives us the solution to sticking with it when the going gets tough. He says, "No matter how bad it gets, don't take your eyes off Jesus. He's been through this race, too. And He did it so you could do it."
 - Explain that Jesus joyfully took on the cross especially for us, an overwhelmingly awful situation to embrace. Explain that this fact alone should give us strength when things get tough.

Transition Statement:

Living the exchanged life isn't just tough because of our sin nature; it's tough because of outside pressures, as well.

Teaching Point 2: Living the exchanged life will put you at odds with the world.

- Explain to students that living the exchanged life can call a lot of attention to them. The closer they walk with Christ, the less they will look like the world around them. Explain that this will only make things tougher.
 - **Consider saying something like:** If you were looking for a way to become popular, following Christ isn't it. If you

were trying to identify ways to make and keep lots of friends, living the exchanged life wouldn't be your best bet. Following Christ, *truly following Him*, puts you at odds with the world. But then again, the Bible says all along that this would be the case.

- Instruct students to turn to 1 Peter 4:12-17.
 - Before reading the passage aloud, explain that 1 Peter was one of two letters written by Peter, one of Jesus' disciples and a leader of the early church, to Christ-followers who had begun to experience persecution because of their faith.
- **Then, read 1 Peter 4:12-17 aloud.**
 - Explain to students that these verses hold a few important truths about the reaction caused by living the exchanged life.
 - **Say something like:** Verse 12 gets right to the point. Peter basically says, "If your life is sometimes tough because you're living the exchanged life, don't worry. It's tough for everyone in your shoes." He doesn't try to sugar coat it. He actually says you should consider it a positive, because they treated Jesus the same way. Peter makes it clear: if we find life hard because we're living the wrong way, we should be ashamed. But if we're finding life tough because we live the exchanged life, we should throw a party! We're living the exact life Jesus called us to live.

Transition Statement

Living the exchanged life is challenging. And at times it's not exactly fun. Jesus knew this firsthand. But the amazing thing is that God gives us a hope for the future that enables us to persevere through it all.

Teaching Point 3: We can take hope because God already knows how it ends.

- Explain to students that as you wrap up your look at *Exchange*, it's only fitting to point out that there is a final exchange the Bible points to, one in which God sets everything right again. For good.
- Instruct students to turn to Revelation 21:1-5.
 - Before reading the passage aloud, explain that John wrote Revelation around 60-70 years or so after Jesus died.
 - Revelation is the result of a vision God allowed John to have, in which John saw the way it's all going to go down when Jesus returns to earth.
 - Jesus' return sets in motion God's plan to rid the world of sin, and to usher in an eternity in which God is with us and we are with Him.
 - This is the final exchange God will make, exchanging our broken, sinful world for eternity in perfect union with Him.
- **Then, read Revelation 21:1-5 aloud.**
 - **Say something like:** Look what an amazing picture this is. Is there a better verse than verse 3? How incomprehensible is it to think that there will be a day when we will be with God, literally in His presence? That should make all of our hearts skip a beat. But verse 4 makes this even sweeter. When we're finally with God, there will be no more suffering. No pain. No need. No sadness. All will be perfectly perfect! This hope should empower us to make it through life's tough times. God is with us today. And there is a future coming that is brighter than anything we could imagine.

CLOSING

Option 1: Exchange Closing Video

- Arrange to show the *Exchange* closing video to your group.
 - The video does an excellent job of wrapping up the weekend.
 - It ends on an encouraging, uplifting note, but not without a bit of a challenge.
- You can let the video speak for itself, or you can choose to focus on one aspect of it and flesh it out a bit more.

Option 2: Closing Challenge

- Wrap up your time in *Exchange* by challenging students to embrace and apply all they have learned during this time.
- You'll have a sense of how to challenge them based on how your time has gone.
 - Make it personal and heartfelt.
 - Be sure to close in prayer, asking for the Spirit to empower and convict them as they go out from your event.