



Inning Purpose: To learn the meaning of “sacrifice,” and what it means to live sacrificially.

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering” (Romans 12:1, *The Message*).

## INCLUDE (WEEK 1) SMALL GROUPS—SACRIFICE

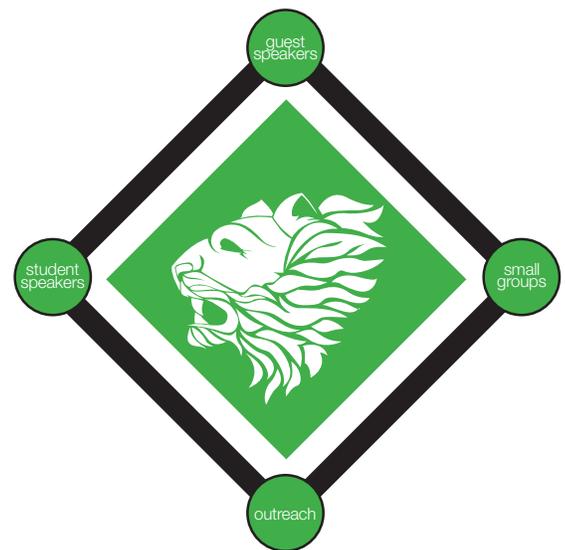
Purpose: To discuss the importance of sacrificial living.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Refreshments

### MEETING AGENDA:

1. Pre-meeting prayer (leaders)
2. Welcome and attendance
3. Announcements
  - Inspire week speaker
  - Invest week outreach
  - Outreach assignments to club members (hang up posters, invite friends, etc.)
  - Other
4. Icebreaker
5. Small group discussion
6. Biblical support and application
7. Prayer/dismiss



### DISCUSSION:

Divide into groups of three to five students and ask them to discuss the following questions. You may want to select a facilitator for each group to keep the discussion moving. You may also wish to provide each facilitator or each group with a list of the questions and comments to be discussed.

#### **Instructions:**

You are on a sinking boat and the lifeboat will carry one less person than is in your group. For the purpose of this discussion, there are no creative solutions. One person must surrender his or her life and each of you must make a compelling case why you should be the one to die. You cannot suggest someone else should die; you can only make a case for yourself. You need to convince the other people in your group why you should be the person who doesn't step into the lifeboat. After each person has presented his or her case, have your team vote for the person with the most compelling case for who should be left behind.



**Discuss:**

1. What emotions did you deal with when giving your argument?
2. How did you decide as an individual who should die so the others would live?
3. Was it an easy decision?
4. How does this exercise conflict with today's cultural mentality?

**BIBLICAL SUPPORT AND APPLICATION:**

Read Philippians 2:1–11.

**Discuss:**

1. How difficult is it for you to consider others better than yourself? Why? (Be specific.)
2. What did Jesus trade in order to gain our salvation?
3. What are some ways you can consider others better than yourself?
4. Will this involve sacrifice?

Pray for each other that God would help you put others' needs before your own.

***If time allows, answer the following questions in your small groups:***

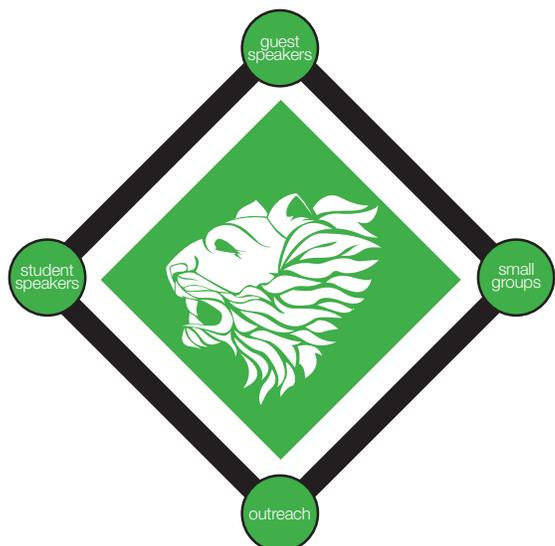
1. What can you apply from today's discussion to your life?
2. Do you have daily time alone with God in prayer and His Word?
3. What have you learned from God's Word this week?
4. Did you attend church or youth service this past week?
5. What did you learn from the message/lesson?

**PRAYER/DISMISS**

***Suggested projects:***

Consider being a part of the 30-Hour Famine or a project where the group must act sacrificially to reach other people, even those you do not know. Call World Vision at 1-800-7-FAMINE for information about the 30-Hour Famine.

Consider also working at a local mission or food pantry.





## INSPIRE (WEEK 2) GUEST SPEAKER—SACRIFICE

Purpose: To inspire personal sacrifice among club members.

### BEFORE THE MEETING:

- Invite the speaker at least two weeks in advance and give him or her the topic (unity and teamwork).
- Instruct the speaker how and when to wrap up his or her time.
- Instruct the speaker what time and where to meet the day of the club.
- Select a student to meet the speaker at the office, help him or her sign in as a visitor, and take him or her to the meeting room.
- Select a student to introduce the speaker. You will need to get background information prior to the meeting.

Give the information to the student who will introduce the speaker. Instruct him or her to practice the introduction before the meeting.

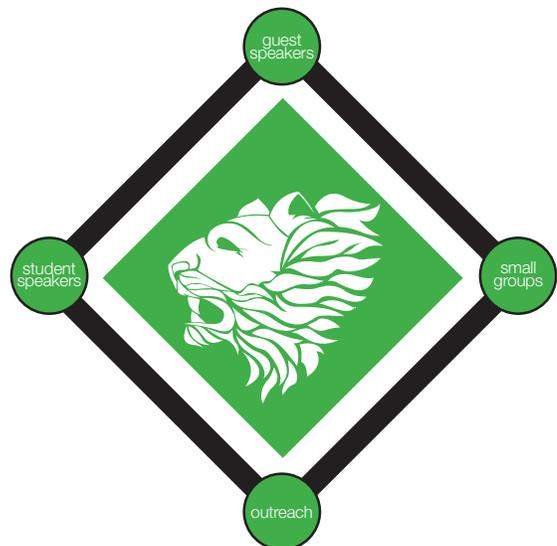
- Contact your guest speaker again a day or two before the meeting to reconfirm everything. (This is also a good time to verify your facts for the introduction.)
- Remember the goal is to motivate students, not to share denominational issues.

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Speaker (Christian businessperson, teacher, sponsoring youth pastor, senior pastor, or other Christian leader)
- Refreshments

### MEETING AGENDA:

1. Pre-meeting prayer (leaders)
2. Welcome and attendance
3. Announcements
  - Invest week outreach event
  - Follow-up on or assign outreach assignments
  - Other
4. Introduce speaker
5. Guest speaker
6. Prayer/dismiss



### ICEBREAKER:

No icebreaker is listed due to time limitations. Give your guest speaker as much time as possible to speak; if time allows, a human video or short drama could be effective. The presentation should be inspirational and based upon the theme for the meeting.

### PRAYER/DISMISS

Note: Be sure to send a thank you card to your speaker as soon as possible after the meeting.



## INVOLVE (WEEK 3) STUDENT SPEAKERS—SACRIFICE

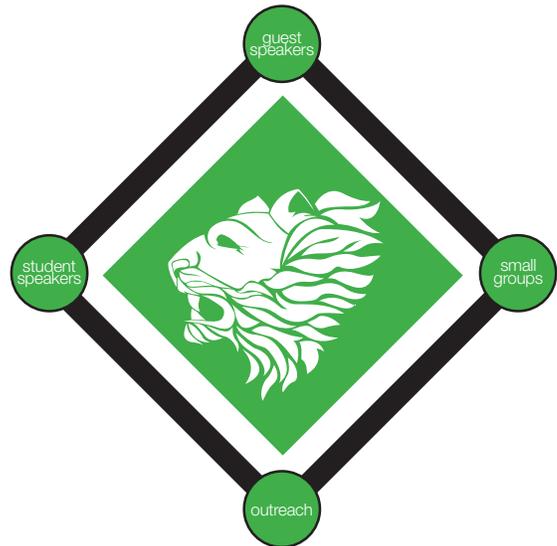
Purpose: To share what God is teaching about sacrifice.

### BEFORE THE MEETING:

- Ask two to three students to be prepared to speak using the outline below or to develop an outline of their own that features the subject “sacrifice.”
- Ask a youth pastor review the written testimonies, if necessary, and give suggestions.

### MEETING AGENDA:

1. Pre-meeting prayer (leaders)
2. Welcome and attendance
3. Announcements
  - Invest week outreach event
  - Follow-up on or assign outreach assignments
  - Other
4. Introduce student speakers (name and grade)
5. Student speakers
6. Questions and answers
7. Prayer/dismiss



### SUGGESTED OUTLINE

John 15:12,13—“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends” (NIV).

- A. Jesus’ purpose for coming was to die. He willingly laid down His life for us.
  1. Jesus commanded, “As I have loved you, so you must love one another” (John 13:34).
    - a. This command was given to a diverse group of people (e.g., fishermen, professionals [the tax collector], and rebels).
    - b. Jesus instructed them to love as they were loved.
  2. This is a command, not a suggestion or an option.
- B. “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).
  1. Real love means laying down our lives for others.
  2. Jesus lived as the “ultimate Example” of this sacrifice.
- C. We must follow His example.
  1. Not just for our friends, but for co-workers, family, and people we don’t even know.
  2. We must sacrifice our lives so others can know Him.



D. Closing: How can we lay down our lives?

1. Jesus didn't enjoy the sacrifice He made on the cross.
2. Be willing to sacrifice our plans, wants, comforts, and time so others will know Christ.
3. Give practical examples.

Pray God would help each person to be willing to make sacrifices. Pray God would reveal ways He would like to use students this week to impact their friends and others who don't know Christ.

### **PRAYER/DISMISS:**

Spend at least five minutes in prayer. Announce next week's speaker. Challenge the group to bring friends who are going through a challenging time to Invest week next week (e.g., students whose families are in crisis, students who have problems in school, struggling with life, etc.).



## INVEST (WEEK 4) OUTREACH EVENT—SACRIFICE

Purpose: To invest the Message of hope, Jesus Christ, in your friends and on campus.

### BEFORE THE MEETING:

- Think creatively. What can you do that would make your pre-Christian friends want to come to Youth Alive this week?
- Secure the speaker at least two weeks in advance. Give your speaker the following guidelines as he or she prepares:
  1. Be prepared to ask the students to respond to the message and receive Christ as their Savior and Lord.
  2. Speak confidently; clearly and energetically tell everyone about Jesus, then lead those who are willing in a prayer of repentance and faith.
  3. Keep in mind the purpose for the week. Response cards will be given out.
  4. This should not be a story of one's church, but of the Lord who wants a relationship with each person.
  5. Don't use religious terms (like "sanctified" or "redeemed"); visitors who have never been to church do not understand the lingo.
  6. Stay away from abstract, hard-to-define concepts and stick to the practical. What is applicable?
  7. Allow enough time at the end to pass out and collect response cards.
- Select members to be responsible for distributing and collecting response cards. Give them clear instruction as to when and how this should happen.
- Plan for effective follow-up. Students who bring friends should follow up with them concerning a commitment to Jesus, to answer questions, involve them in a local church, and bring them back next week for Include week's small groups.



### YOU WILL NEED:

- Food/breakfast (e.g., doughnuts). Ask a church to sponsor the cost as an evangelistic investment.
- Videotape of baseball game showing a sacrifice fly.
- Response cards and pens

### MEETING AGENDA:

1. Pre-meeting prayer (leaders)



2. Welcome and attendance
3. Announcements (Limit to date, time, and location for the next meeting)
4. Icebreaker (optional)
5. Introduce student speaker
6. Student testimony/gospel presentation
7. Invitation, prayer, response cards
8. Dismiss/initial follow-up

## SUGGESTED OUTLINE

- A. Definition of a sacrifice in baseball. A sacrifice is a play designed to advance a runner on base although the batter will be thrown out. This is rarely an intentional play. (A great resource for baseball knowledge is <mlb.com>. It's the official Web site for Major League Baseball.)
  1. Show video tape of a sacrifice fly. (Video tape one yourself, or check with your school's baseball coach.)
  2. Sacrifices in baseball are not glamorous. We don't recognize the names of Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, and Ken Griffey, Jr. because of their sacrificial plays. They may hit some sacrifices that score runs, but it isn't what they're famous for.
- B. We all have needed and will need someone to sacrifice for us.
  1. Think of all the soldiers—from the Revolutionary War to the War on Terrorism—who died for the freedoms we enjoy. They made huge sacrifices for us, but the greatest sacrifice of all did not take place on a baseball diamond or battlefield. It took place on a hill.
  2. We have all done things in life that were wrong. The Bible calls it sin. (If you are comfortable, share from your own life a specific time when you sinned, or refer to a "generic" sin. Make sure every one understands it's not just the "big stuff" that counts as sin. The "little stuff"—lying, stealing, cheating, or gossip, etc.—is sin.) Everyone has sinned.
  3. Because of our sin, we needed a sacrifice so we can get "home." Jesus is that Sacrifice for us. In fact that was His very purpose for living on this earth for thirty-three years—to die for you and me.
  4. "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10, NIV).
  5. "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18, NIV).
- C. Prayer

"Jesus, the only sinless person, died in my place for my mistakes and sins so I can have a real and personal relationship with God. When you realize you are a sinner and you need a



sacrifice for the wrong things you have done, put yourself in a place where you can receive what Jesus did for you. He gives you forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Is there anyone here today who needs Jesus to forgive them for the wrong things they have done? Would you like to ask for forgiveness today?"

## **OTHER SUGGESTIONS:**

- Worship band with gospel presentation, followed by an explanation of salvation.
- Creative drama with gospel presentation, followed by an explanation of salvation.
- Video with gospel presentation, followed by an explanation of salvation.