



## Event Description

“Leaders are...” is a leadership training event designed to help train and equip students for effective leadership. Whether you are training new student leaders for your leadership team, working with an existing group of student leaders, or are instilling leadership principles in students, this event helps prepare students for meaningful and purposeful leadership the way that God intends. By covering topics on learning, dreaming, serving, and planning through large group and small group opportunities, this event addresses best practices for leadership in an accessible format for students.

The “Leaders Are...” event includes four large group sessions that correlate with four small group discussions. This event is designed to run best as a self-contained event aimed at training students on how to be leaders. You could think of this sort of training in a generic sense, meaning you are teaching best practices to students who are interested in learning more about leadership, or this event can be more targeted, which could help to enable your student leadership team jumpstart planning and strategy for your ministry over the course of a leadership retreat.

## Event Preparation

[Leader Note: It is recommended that you spend some personal time for spiritual preparation in advance of even the scheduling of this event. Do not approach this event as a box to be checked or required leadership training for your students. Instead, see this event as an opportunity for growth and an investment in the lives of students.]

Event Scheduling – depending on where you decide to host this event, whether at a retreat facility or at your church, you will want to work backwards to allow for ample preparation on your part. Possible scheduling options are included below to help you visualize how to accomplish this event using these different options.

Worship Band – worship is an essential part of each session as this preparation for leadership training is ultimately a spiritual exercise. Depending on your group, your budget, and the needs of your group, you

can accomplish worship through a sole worship leader, a student worship band, a scheduled outside group, or any other means.

Session Communicators – consider whether you would want a regular communicator or a guest communicator as the large group session leader. Each large group session is designed to be led from up front by a single communicator, but you could schedule a different person for each session, if you prefer.

Games and Activities – small group games are included in each small group session. Large group games and activities should also be seen as an essential part of this event. Group games help students to laugh and get to know each other. You could include team building or strategy type games, depending on your group needs, as a way to encourage group growth and participation. It is preferred that your games be cooperative and not necessarily competitive in nature due to the feel of this event.

Volunteer Recruitment – you cannot do this event alone. Seriously, the recruitment of volunteers, from support roles like food preparation and cleanup assistance to small group leaders and communicators is essential! The more adults that you can include in this event to pour into the lives of students, the better. Included below is a recommended suggestion for volunteer recruitment.

### **Leadership Recruitment**

Included here is a suggestion of volunteer leadership needs. Everything depends on the nature of your group, the format of your event, and the availability of volunteers.

- Event Leader (1) – take charge and coordinate this event
- Large Group Communicators (1-4)
- Small Group Facilitators (1 per every 8-12 students)
- Setup & Cleanup (2-6, depending on your group size and needs)
- Worship Musicians (1-8, depending on your group needs)
- Prayer Partners (1 per every student or 1 per every 2-5 students)
- Supportive Senior Pastor (1) – this is a really good idea

## **Event Booklets**

A sample event booklet is included below. Students need to follow along during large group sessions by taking notes and filling in the blanks on key points. Students also need room to write down their answers to the session challenges and their answers to small group questions.

## **Graphics Package**

Make use of the included graphics packages for registrations for this event and for execution of this event. Use the graphics in your print media to keep the branding consistent.

## **Large Group Sessions**

This event pack includes four complete large group message manuscripts. These sessions are intended to start with worship and then transition to large group, up-front teaching from a single communicator. Whether you decide for one leader to teach all four large group sessions or you opt for four different communicators, full manuscripts are included to aid in the teaching of these large group sessions.

## **Small Group Sessions**

Material and information covered in large group teaching sessions is reinforced and continued in four corresponding small group sessions. It is recommended that you follow whatever small group format your group is accustomed to following. Small groups should begin with an all-play mixer game. A game suggestion is included with the small group sessions.

The following guidelines are recommended for small groups:

- Diversity – Intentionally split up cliques and friend groups.
- Commonality – Form groups on gender and/or age groups.
- Facilitation – Experienced and reputable adult leaders should facilitate and not dominate discussion.
- Small Size – 8-12 students should be a preferred guideline for each small group.

## **Schedule Options**

This leadership event works best as a self-contained event where you work with students in an in-depth and intense way for a specified amount of time. A couple of scheduling options are included below to help you get an idea of what this sort of a schedule would look like.

[Leader Note: It is possible to do these session over the course of four weeks with four separate small group times as well. If you go for this option, keep it to a four-week schedule as well so that there is continuity and consistency with the building of each lesson upon the other.]

### **Option One: Overnight Schedule**

6:00p      Orientation  
6:30p      Session One  
7:30p      Small Group One  
8:30p      Session Two  
9:30p      Small Group Two  
10:30p     Evening Activity

8:00a      Session Three  
9:00a      Small Group Three  
10:00a     Session Four  
11:00a     Small Group Four  
12:0p      Dismissal

### **Option Two: Full Day Schedule**

8:00a      Orientation  
8:30a      Session One  
9:30a      Small Group One  
10:30a     Session Two  
11:30a     Lunch  
12:00p     Games and Activities  
12:30p     Small Group Two  
1:15p      Session Three  
2:00p      Small Group Three  
2:45p      Session Four  
3:30p      Small Group Four  
4:30p      Dismissal

### **Option Three: Two Day Schedule**

9:00a      Orientation  
9:30a      Session One  
10:30a     Small Group One