

leader guide

FAQs:

What is the Sending Huddle?

The Sending Huddle is a 90-minute collaborative discussion at the end of the week, facilitated by leaders but driven by students.

Why a Sending Huddle?

After a weeklong journey through the Psalms, we want to give students time to review and process what they've learned—to capture their main takeaways and share them with their group. As a leader, we also want to give you the opportunity to remind your students that Jesus is present with them and will walk with them as they take their experiences from this week back home.

What is the main objective of the Sending Huddle?

Our hope is that your students will return home with three clear next steps to apply what they learned at Challenge and a commitment to act on one of those steps within the next 30 days. If time permits, your group can also discuss and decide on one main area to address together when you get home, based on your time at Challenge.

What is the structure of the Sending Huddle?

Your students will have the opportunity for some guided reflection, followed by a partner (or small group) discussion. Time permitting, you can also have a large group discussion and application.

kit contents:

- poster
- putty
- sharpie
- scripture notebooks
- bookmarks



step 1

icebreaker * 5 minutes

To start your huddle time, take a few moments to pull the group together. Each group will have an assigned meeting space for the Sending Huddle. Ask one or two icebreaker questions:

- Who from our group got the most sleep this week? Who got the least?
- Best meal and worst meal?
- Favorite moment or memory from this week?
- What is the first story from Challenge you will tell your friends/family when you get home?

step 2

introduce and explain the “three circles” * 5 minutes

Instruct your students open their notebooks to the Sending Huddle section (pg. 50) and the “three circles” exercise (pg. 51). There are three categories (circles) on which you will ask students to reflect, both for themselves personally and later for the group. **Take a minute to explain the three circles to your group:**

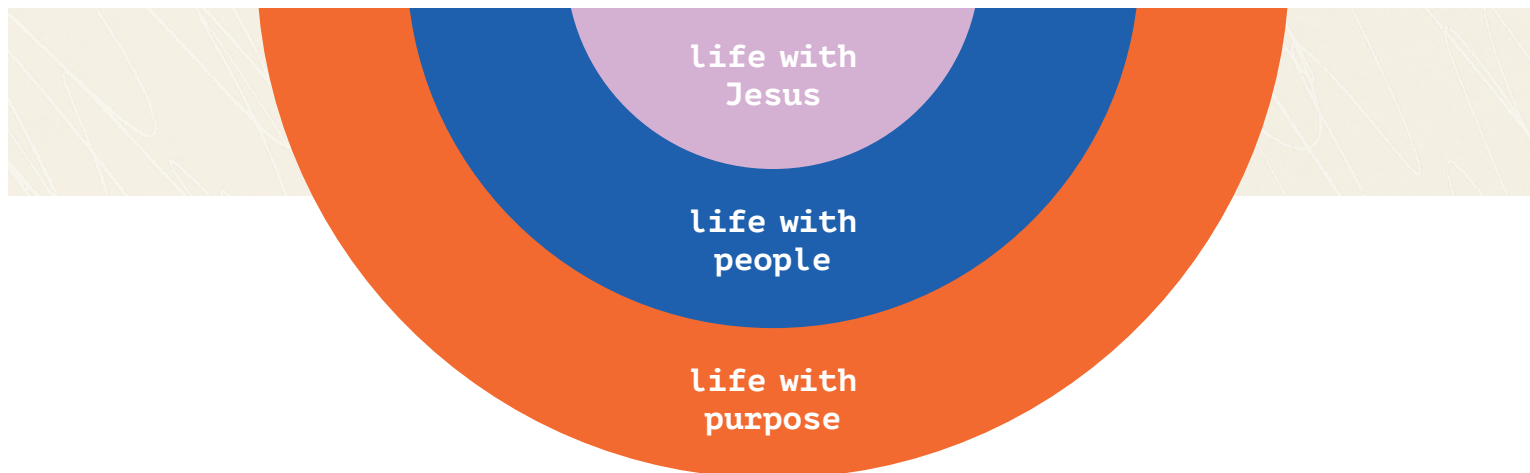
- 1. Life with Jesus.** The center circle is focused on you and Jesus—how you seek to learn from and grow in Him, and how you respond to Him with a heart of worship.
- 2. Life with People.** The middle circle is about your relationships—how you experience support, encouragement and accountability with other Christians, and how you invest in relationships with those who don’t yet know Jesus.
- 3. Life with Purpose.** The outer circle is about how Jesus lives through you—how you make yourself available to Him through service and thinking beyond yourself.

step 3

explain and lead the student reflection time * 20 minutes

Explain to your group that they’ll have 15 minutes for individual reflection with Jesus as they fill in the three sections in their notebook (pgs. 51-52). You know your students best. If they’re mature enough, let them engage in this exercise without much guidance. Some students may need you to direct the time for them. If so, you can simply read the instructions below (also printed in their notebook). Just remember: this is not another teaching time for you. Guide their reflection; don’t teach them another message.





The center circle focuses on your Life with Jesus (5 minutes). Look back through your notes from this week: Is there a truth about Jesus that stands out? Something you learned that you don't want to forget? Maybe it's an idea for a new spiritual practice, a passage to memorize or another avenue for connecting with God at home. Write down anything that comes to mind—the more specific, the better. If you can, summarize it all with one main next step for growing in your life with Jesus.

Additional questions to get students thinking:

- *What is one thing you learned about God this week that could help you grow in your relationship with Him (e.g., God's greatness in Psalm 1, lamenting to God in Psalm 22, His unshakeable nature in Psalm 62, etc.)?*
- *What are the ways you normally connect best with Jesus (e.g., reading the Bible, praying, time in nature, etc.)?*
- *What are the ways you express worship to God in your life?*
- *Did any ideas come to mind this week for a possible new way or practice that could help strengthen your connection with Jesus?*

The middle circle focuses on your Life with People (5 minutes). What did Jesus show you this week about your relationships with others? Maybe you started a new friendship or deepened an existing one. Maybe your leader encouraged or challenged you this week, and you'd like to build on that momentum when you get home. Maybe you have a friend, neighbor or family member who didn't come to Challenge, but whom God put on your heart this week. Write down any names that come to mind. And again, focus it all into one practical next step.

Additional questions:

- *Who are other Christians in your life from whom you experience support, encouragement and accountability?*
- *What did you learn in the Psalms this week that could help deepen your relationships with others in your youth group? What ways could you grow together in your understanding of God? What are some ways you could worship Him together?*
- *Is there a relationship in your life that grew this week?*
- *Are there any specific ideas from your experiences here at Challenge that can help strengthen your youth group back home?*
- *Do you have any friends or family members who have never been introduced to Jesus?*



The outer circle focuses on your Life with Purpose (5 minutes). What did you learn this week—through the Psalms, Equipping Labs, Outreach, etc.—about how Jesus wants to work through you to serve others and build His kingdom? Is there a specific place—in your church, at school, in your community—where God is calling you to step up? Write down your next step.

Additional questions:

- *What did you learn this week from the Psalms that might help clarify your calling or purpose?*
- *What did Outreach teach you about being used by God, serving others and thinking beyond yourself?*
- *Did you go to any of the Equipping Labs related to purpose or calling? If so, what did you learn?*
- *How did being at Challenge help you realize that God is bigger than just where you live? How did Challenge help grow your heart for the world?*

Wrap up (5 minutes). After all three boxes on the chart are full, direct your students to take some time to think and pray through their three next steps. **Ask: Which one might Jesus be calling you to focus on during the next 30 days?** Instruct your students to write down their three next steps on both tear-off cards in their notebooks and to circle the next step that will be their focus in the next 30 days. Your students should turn one of the cards in to you and keep the other one.

During Step 4, look through the cards and see which of the three categories/circles has been circled most by your students. You can use this later when the whole group is back together.

step 4

partner sharing and prayer * 20-25 minutes

Once your students complete their three circles, encourage them to pair up with someone they trust to share their next steps, as well as the one they circled. This may feel intimidating to some, and you may need to pair students yourself so no one is left out. Instead of pairs, you could also break into small groups. The goal is to create the best environment for students to receive encouragement and accountability as they take their next steps back home. Once the students have shared with their partner (or small group), give time for them to pray for each other.



step 5

full group discussion * 20 minutes

Once the small groups finish praying for each other, bring your whole group back together. If you want, ask a few students to share their thoughts with the group. **Lead a discussion about next steps you can take as a group when you return home.** Help connect the dots between what they discovered individually and what might be a helpful goal as a group. Some options for choosing a direction for the discussion:

- As the leader, choose one of the three circles to focus on more intentionally. If you know which category your students circled most on their cards, choose that one.
- Use the poster from your Sending Huddle kit to allow students vote on an area of focus. Tack the poster on the wall and let each student use the marker to cast their vote.
- If you have time (and energy), talk about all three areas and decide together based on your discussion.

Additional questions to direct the conversation and get students talking:

- *Which one of the three categories is a current strength of our group? In which area do you think we could grow?*
- *What do we currently do as a group to encourage spiritual practices (prayer, Bible reading, etc.)? What's working? What's not?*
- *Are there new ideas for ways we can think beyond our group and serve together, either in our church or our community?*
- *What did you learn this week about serving others in our community? Do you think we emphasize missions enough (local, national or global)? Any ideas for how to improve?*

step 6

wrap up * 5-10 minutes

This is your opportunity to encourage and pray over your group to end your Sending Huddle. You can also distribute the Scripture Notebooks and bookmarks at this time and encourage students to put their remaining card in their notebook as a reminder. Let them know you will use the cards they turned in to you to pray for them and lead them when you return home.

