

The Gospel Project for Adults, Spring 2016
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 8

Introduction: *Engage the group by studying a song.*

When your group members arrive, play the national anthem for them. Songs tell us a story. What is the story behind this song? Why is this story so important? Why do we sing?

[The lyrics to the “Star Spangled Banner” are available at the following URL:
<http://www.music.army.mil/music/nationalanthem/>]

Similar to the national anthem, the song of Deborah and Barak was a victory song.

Part 2: *Help group members connect with the major theme.*

While we each have gifts that the Lord calls us to use, it is His divine power at work that stands up against all odds. We must not become too confident in our own gifts. How does knowing that the Lord has gone before us give us strength?

Hand out index cards and ask group members to write down a memorable time when the Lord has been faithful to them. After a short period, ask your group members to share what they wrote; as they share, tape the index cards with their answers to a “praise board.”

Tell the group that you will leave this praise board up for them to continue to write down ways that the Lord has been faithful. This will give the group a chance to reflect on God’s faithfulness. Remembering God’s faithfulness in the past helps us to trust Him in our future and take courageous steps.

Part 3: *Encourage the group through application.*

Lead the group to take some time to think of some personal “900-chariot armies” that are stacked against us today. As the group shares their despairing moments or significant fears, write them on the board.

After the group as a whole has had a chance to share, read each one aloud, instructing group to speak in unison the phrase “The Lord goes before us” after

each experience is read. Hearing the reaffirming statement “The Lord has gone before us” is a powerful reminder of God’s presence in our lives.

Conclusion: *Challenge group members through a moment of conviction.*

Give your group an opportunity to reflect in prayer on how the Lord has gone before them and rescued them from sin through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If there are group members who seem to have never responded to the Lord’s call for salvation, address them anonymously during your closing prayer by stressing the need for every individual to receive by faith the forgiveness of sin that comes from Christ alone. Make it a point neither to single out anyone specifically in front of the entire group nor to presume that every person in the room is a Christian. Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict accordingly.

After the time of prayer, close by encouraging anyone who has prayed to receive Christ and His forgiveness during the group session—or who might have questions about doing so—to speak with you afterwards.