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Printed in the United States of America

First Printing January 2011

Second Printing, February 2015

Third Printing, April 2016

Anaheim, California

www.j12.com

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New King James Version®.

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Section 1

Overview



Introduction

What does L7 represent?

L7 stands for “Live the Seven”

Jesus at the age of 12 spoke 7 words that became the passion of His life! We believe those same 7 words can become the passion of a young generation today.

The “7” represents those 7 powerful words Jesus spoke at the age of 12,

“I must be about My Father’s business.”

The “L” represents the daily life we live that expresses those 7 words to others through everything we do.

What is the objective of L7?

L7 exists to train and disciple young student leaders

The objective of L7 is to foster the belief that God can and does desire to use young lives in meaningful service to Him, while instilling confidence and boldness to step out in their unique giftings and callings.

This objective is achieved in a safe and encouraging environment that initiates the beginning of a personal, vibrant, life-long journey of knowing and walking with God.

Practically, L7 is a heavily loaded, fast paced, intense leadership program that will challenge your tweens/preteens as never before to become disciples and leaders of their friends and family at church and home.

What is the connection between J12 and L7?

L7 was born out of J12 local church

L7 is the discipleship and leadership development program of the J12 local church tween/preteen model of ministry.

J12 is the ongoing weekly local church ministry that offers L7 as a leadership program throughout the year, at different times.

L7 is a proven program that has helped kids practically learn how to live the 7 words of Jesus through discipleship and intense leadership training.



Introduction

What are the “take aways” from L7?

L7 cultivates 3 aspects of a preteen’s development

Identity: L7 builds confidence and boldness through helping them discover all that they are in Christ.

Life Principles: L7 helps them develop the daily habits required to grow in their personal relationship with Christ.

Ministry: L7 trains them in basic elements of service to the body of Christ while helping them discover and develop their unique giftings and callings.

The Meaning Behind the Logo

Live the Seven

The “L” stands for LIVE; living is something that is continually happening, unless something is dying. Everything we do should produce life. The “7” stands for those 7 powerful words Jesus spoke at 12 to leaders in the temple, “I must be about My Father’s business.”

The tail of the “7” is in the form of a two-edged sword, representing the Word of God which is sharper than any two-edged sword; it pierces, it gets to the point. We believe these 7 words, get to the point of what life is really all about, which is the Father’s business.

The 3 circles that surround the “L7” stand for the core elements of the program; SOLID, AWARE, and UNITED. We believe these are 3 key elements to true biblical leadership and perpetuate the living out of the seven words.

Key Verse

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of the soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Author

Jessica Johnson

Jessica is a writer, speaker, creative developer, and co-founder of the ministry of Jesus at 12. She is married to Gregg Johnson and together in 2002 they founded the ministry of Jesus at 12 in response to Gregg’s life long call to reach a generation before they need to be rescued. J12 is based on the story of Jesus found in Luke 2:41-52. We believe His life, at the age of 12, is a template for our young people today. Gregg and Jessica serve as J12 Pastors at their home church. They travel internationally sharing the vision of Jesus at 12 through conferences, camps, church services, and J12 Encounters.



Expectations

Heart of Discipline

Getting Serious

L7 gives students the opportunity to get serious about the Father's business as they are taught how to tune into the Lord and grow in their service to Him. The expectations are designed to get the students out of their comfort zone, building their confidence and trust in God.

The life of Jesus is the model for our kids. At the age of 12 He had an awareness of His calling and purpose. He was serious about the Father's business plan for His life. L7 is designed to help tweens see that, just like Jesus, God also has a business plan for their lives. Therefore, we believe, fulfilling expectations are very important.

Getting Serious About the Expectations

The expectations must be clear and firm, if not, it may cause students to equate an attitude of laziness with "Living the Seven." Leadership never thrives with a lazy attitude. Enforcing a standard of excellence that encourages an L7 participant to do their best will produce the best results.

Completing something that is not easy to do will give them confidence in themselves and a belief that they can accomplish other goals if they work hard and follow guidelines. This is a great lesson for life in general and is the reason that a standard of excellence is at the core of L7's serious approach to the expectations.

Getting Serious With the Parents

An introductory parent meeting is important for the success of the program. Let parents know that L7 is a family affair. Kid's are dependent upon parents for rides and they must be on time. Require 100% attendance. Help parents understand that the program is only 4 classes over a 3 week span and that giving up things to be there is part of the discipleship process. Have parents sign an agreement that commits to partnering with their child at the conclusion of the parent meeting.
(Parent agreement provided on the Resource Disk)

LEADER TIP: (handling attendance questions) Always be positive with parents regarding expectations. "I know it will be best for Johnny or Suzie if they have to miss a class to wait until next time L7 is offered so they don't miss out on any of the great things they will learn." Missing one class is actually a quarter of the whole program.

Getting Serious With the Students

Each student is required to have 100% attendance in the program. Each student is responsible to complete the homework assigned each week. If a student cannot read or write very well, he or she may dictate answers to a parent or ask an L7 coach to help them. "Truth is intention." If a child does their best, they have accomplished the goal. If a child tries to slide by, they are not ready for leadership and have not taken to heart the "Live the Seven" attitude.



Core Team Titles & Roles

L7 Director

The Director is responsible for the logistics of every aspect of the event each week. They assure all volunteers have a weekly schedule and remind them when they are serving and what is expected of them. They are available to answer questions and troubleshoot any problems that arise during the event.

L7 Coach Coordinator

The Coach's Coordinator oversees the L7 coaches, placement of children in small groups with an appropriate coach and weekly homework completion checks. (This can also be fulfilled by the director)

L7 Coach

The L7 Coaches are the students most personal contact with the L7 Program. They meet with a group of students during L7, call them each week, help them and keep them accountable to the program requirements.

L7 Snack Coordinator

The Snack Coordinator is responsible for organizing the purchase or schedule of who will bring snacks each week for the students and volunteers. They are also responsible to set them up and put them away each week.

L7 "Be About It" Coordinator

The "Be About It" Coordinator oversees the creative arts activity that is done each week in response to the main session. They are responsible for gathering the supplies, working with the volunteers and presenting to the kids the process of how to do the project or activity each week.

L7 "I Must" Coordinator

The "I Must" Coordinator oversees the weekly practical exercises that are group directed, interactive, and usually require role-playing. These exercises ideally require a leader who has a highly energetic, outgoing personality and who is great at encouraging with a smile.

L7 Tech / Photographer

The L7 Tech is responsible to make sure all sound, lighting and video needs are prepared and ready for presentation. The tech would also be responsible to take photos throughout the program for the students to use in their journals. (see Week 4 "Be About It" Activity)

L7 Session Speakers

The Session Speakers are responsible for teaching sessions 1 & 2 each week in a creative and engaging manner. They are also responsible for playing review games each week during check-in. As the session one teachings build upon each other, ideally, the session speaker needs to be the same person. It would be best if the session two speaker were the same person as well, but it is not "a must" as these sessions do not build upon each other.

L7 Welcome Committee Coordinator

The Welcome Committee Coordinator oversees check in and check out each week. They may also be utilized to register those desiring to sign up for L7 preceding the start of the program.



Timeline for Preparation

Checklist for 12 Weeks Out

Assign a Core Team

Role	Name	Contact Information
Director	_____	_____
Coach's Coordinator	_____	_____
Snack Coordinator	_____	_____
"Be About It" Coordinator	_____	_____
"I Must" Coordinator	_____	_____
Tech Person	_____	_____
Welcome Coordinator	_____	_____
Session Speaker(s)	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

Core Team Meeting

Items for Meeting Agenda:

- _____ General Overview and Expectations of L7 Program
- _____ Distribute copies of overview and expectations to all team members
- _____ Distribute necessary instructions specific to each role (see page 13)
- _____ Discuss Core Team Roles
- _____ Discuss responsibility to find volunteers to assist them and date which they need to be found

Facility Request

Depending upon the size of your program:

- _____ Secure a room or space for main sessions, I Must / Be About It Breakouts, and snacks



Timeline for Preparation (Continued)

Checklist for 8 Weeks Out

Core Team Meeting

Items for Meeting Agenda:

- _____ Prayer for the program's success and for the right students to sign up
- _____ Get names and contact information of core team's assistants
(Emails and cell phones if texting is utilized)
- _____ Discuss briefly the instructions for the "Snack", "I Must" and "Be About It" Coordinators

Promotion

- _____ Start L7 Registration using L7 Registration Sheets provided
- _____ Start L7 Promotion using L7 Video Promo and L7 Flyers and Posters provided
- _____ Promote L7 in all church materials such as video announcements, bulletins and newsletters
- _____ Ask the Senior Pastor if it would be possible to present the student leadership opportunity from the platform

Checklist for 4 Weeks Out

Core Team Meeting

Items for Meeting Agenda:

- _____ Meet with the "Be About It" and "I Must" Coordinators to make sure all activities are prepared and discuss what items need to be purchased
- _____ Meet with L7 Coach Coordinator to discuss how to divide groups most effectively for coaches
(Gender specific groups are more effective)
- _____ Meet with Session Speakers and assure that they understand the teachings and objectives
- _____ Meet with Snack Coordinator to make sure snack signups are taking place and or items are ready to be purchased (This can be a simple phone call)

Administration

- _____ Print & Assemble L7 Coaches Playbooks and make sure you have purchased the correct amount of Student Playbooks.
- _____ Send out Parent letter highlighting registration confirmation, L7 session dates, times, and parent meeting invitation (Adaptable version provided on the Resource Disc)
- _____ Print "TAGS" to be hung around the room and referred to during "I Must" breakouts.
(Artwork for TAGS provided on the Resource Disc)



Timeline for Preparation (Continued)

L7 Coaches

_____ Have Coach Coordinator meet with L7 Coaches to explain responsibilities and distribute and go through Coach's Playbook

Checklist for 1 Week Out

Core Team Meeting

Items for Meeting Agenda:

- _____ Pray for the program's success
- _____ Assure that all core team assistants are notified and ready to report for service
- _____ Walk through the entire L7 event and make sure the team is clear on roles and responsibilities
- _____ Make sure Coach Coordinator has final list of tweens in order to divide them by gender and by coach

Checklist for Day of First L7

Set Up

- _____ Make sure all Core Team members and assistants set up their areas and follow through with roles (Check in, "Be About It" Room, "I Must" Room (which could be same as Main Session Area), Snack area, Main Session Area)
- _____ Conduct the Parent Meeting
- _____ Begin L7 Program: Day 1

Checklist for Graduation

Set Up

- _____ Secure a date for graduation (See Section 4 for details)
- _____ Once you know the final number of graduates, order L7 Graduation Shirts (www.j12.com)
- _____ Print graduation certificates (Provided on the Resource Disc)



LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Student Registration Form

Please turn in your Registration Form and fee to the church office within 2 weeks of the start of the L7 Leadership Program.

Student's Name _____

Grade _____ **Gender** _____ **Birthdate** _____

Address _____

Parent / Guardian Name(s) _____

Phone (Home) _____

Phone (Cell) _____

Email _____

Other Info _____



Student Check In | WEEK 1 2 3 4 (Circle One)

Student's Name	Present	Absent	Time (if late)
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
5. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
6. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
7. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
8. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
9. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
10. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
11. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
12. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
13. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
14. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
15. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
16. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
17. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
18. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
19. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
20. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
21. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
22. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
23. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
24. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
25. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____



Section 2

Coach's Playbook



Welcome Letter

Dear Coach,

As a coach, you will be the one with which your tweens have the most personal contact. Each week you will have a breakout time of approximately 25 minutes that will be spent with your assigned tweens. This is a great time to develop relationship with the tweens, encouraging them to continue on with the class and their homework. To make the most of this time, you will need to read through homework they have been assigned to understand what they have been learning and so you can ask relevant questions. The better prepared you are, the more effective you will be and the more impact you will have. Below is a list of items you will need to do each week with your group.

1. Pray for each tween.

God will be working in them and there will be many things to distract them and keep them from finishing the program. There may be things they bring up during your breakout time that will give you insight as to how and what to pray.

2. Call them once each week to see how they are doing and encourage them.

You can imagine how exciting it is for a tween to get a call from a leader!
(Groups should be gender specific so that guys call guys and girls call girls)

3. Use the checklist in your binder to mark their progress.

They must be on time and complete their homework each week. If they aren't able to, don't tell them they are "kicked out." Encourage them to take the class the next time so they can get everything out of it that they can. Help them understand that allowing them to short circuit the process through not doing assignments will not help them. Graduation must feel like a great achievement, because it is. They will feel the confidence that comes with having paid a price for something meaningful in their lives.

4. Go through questions for that week ahead of time.

Feel free to use anything from that weeks homework in the discussion that may help the tweens to "get it." Have a full understanding of the goal of the homework and the class yourself so that you aren't just asking questions from a list, but are engaging the tweens and training them in the process.



Small Group Contact Sheet

Name

Phone Number

Email

**Student Guidelines**

- 1. You must be on time to class.**
- 2. You must attend all classes.**
- 3. Your homework must be completed before you come to class.**
- 4. You must sit in the front row at any and all services you attend at church.**
- 5. You must take notes each week during L7, as well as any other service, Sunday School class, or church meeting you attend.**
- 6. You are limited to 4 hours of secular media a week during L7. (This includes internet, video games, music, and TV)**
- 7. You are limited to 5 text messages a day.**
- 8. You are limited to 30 minutes of phone calls a day.**



**Live the Seven Leadership Program
Jesus at 12 years old said,
“I must be about My Father’s business.” Luke 2:49**

Dear Parents,

During the four weeks of L7 tweens will be trained and disciplined. They will form valuable daily habits that will teach them how to hear from the Lord and do His Word. They will develop ministry skills and learn how to apply them in daily life, at home and at church.

They will learn the basics of how to communicate in front of people, politely and confidently introduce themselves to adults and other tweens, give their testimony, and pray for their friends. They will also be learning and applying the many different ways of using their gifts to serve others.

This is a 4 week program. Each class will last 3 hours long and will be held:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Each tween that signs up for the L7 Leadership Program is required to:

- Attend each class for the full amount of time
- Be on time for check in before class begins
- Complete homework by time specified

If anyone is late or unable to attend one of the classes or cannot complete ALL of the homework assigned, they will not be able to graduate.

There are several guidelines to be followed during the program. The guidelines include things such as limiting the amount of media, texts, and phone time they spend weekly. This is the transformative nature of L7 leadership training. These guidelines instill honesty, integrity and make room in their daily lives for God to take first place. For some, these will be a challenge, for others, it may be easy. Either way, adhering to the guidelines is an integral part of discipling these young lives and equipping them to be world changers.

(You and your tween will be given a full list of the guidelines, so that you can encourage, help, and hold them accountable.) If you know your tween will have to miss a class then don't sign up and wait until the next L7 Leadership Program so that they can complete it. Missing even one class is an entire quarter of the material covered. Fulfilling requirements is one of the most important part of being appropriately disciplined. The confidence that comes with paying a price and completing everything asked of them is invaluable and we don't want to cheapen the level of importance we place on discipleship and leadership development by having different standards for different tweens.

We understand that things come up and if for some reason your child is not able to graduate we encourage them to come back and complete the class the next time it is offered. Please be a "team player" in this regard, realizing your role in having a right heart and attitude with your tweens while maintaining the standards of the program.

The cost of the program is:

If you wish your child to participate in this discipleship program, and commit to helping your child graduate by completing the requirements, please sign the commitment/agreement below. We believe your time will be worth the investment!

Sincerely,

L7 Director

L7 Parent Agreement

I have read the letter above and support my child being involved in the L7 Leadership Program. I will bring him/her to all classes for the full three hours and 15 minutes for early check-in. I will do my part to see that my child completes all homework assignments enabling them to graduate the program.

Parent's Signature

Parent's name (please print)

Child's name (please print)



Section 3

The Program: Week 1



Live the Seven Schedule

Week 1

Leader	Time	Details
_____	_____	Check-in Opens
_____	_____	Games (keep kids engaged until everyone arrives for class to begin)
_____	_____	Welcome (Prayer and requirements)
_____	_____	Session 1: SOLID
_____	_____	Breakout groups Group A goes to "I Must" Activity Time Group B goes to "Be About It" Activity Time
_____	_____	Snack Break
_____	_____	Breakout groups switch Group B goes to "I Must" Activity Time Group A goes to "Be About It" Activity Time
_____	_____	Journal groups
_____	_____	Session 2: How to journal
_____	_____	Closing Answer questions kids have about the class. Encourage them and build their anticipation about the next 3 weeks! Applaud a job well done. Pray and dismiss.

You may also edit this template through files available on Resource Disc.



Week 1: Session 1 Teaching

SOLID

Hebrews 12:1-2

For since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses let us lay aside every weight and sin that so easily ensnares us running with endurance the race that has been set before us looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Who for the joy set before Him endured the Cross despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of God.

To be about our Father's business, we MUST become SOLID: immovable, stable, stayed and fixed. We will not be shaken no matter what comes against us!

We must know who we are in Christ!

When Jesus came on the planet, He started this whole thing we now call Christianity. A Christian never existed before Jesus came.

Q: What is a Christian? (Allow student's to answer.)

A: A Christian is a Christ- in- you person - a person who has traded their life in and said, "Jesus, you take my life" and "I'll take yours."

Galatians 2:20

"I no longer live but Christ lives in me."

I decided to make a trade -everything I am for everything He is. That is why we have to learn about who He is and how He lived on this earth so we know who we are and what we can do now that He lives inside of us.

How do we do that? We look at His life. Jesus came here, to earth, to show us how to live completely connected to God and how to be about the Father's business.

Imagine it's as if God were saying, "How am I going to show them how I meant for them to live? I'm up here in heaven and they are down there on earth. How can I show them what life can be like for them if they just connect and abide in me? I know, I'll send my Son - He will show them how to do it."

John 15: 6-10

If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

**Week 1: Session 1 Teaching (Continued)**

John 15: 6-10 is one example of how Jesus showed us what it is like to be connected to our Father God. Jesus showed us the love of the Father, and He showed us how to abide in His love.

When we abide in Him, and He in us, we have the same power, ability, Father anointing, and energy as Jesus did when He was here. Now, you may not think this is a big deal yet, but that is only because you maybe don't know what Jesus was able to do.

This is why we are here. You must learn all that Jesus was and did so that you know all that is available to you as a believer. Now you won't see all of these things happen at once, but as you grow in your faith and your belief in Christ, you will increase more and more in every area just like Jesus (Luke 2:52).

Use the following scripture if time allows:

2 Peter 1: 2-7 (New Living Translation)

May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a Godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires. In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with selfcontrol, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with Godliness, and Godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.

This is how we become SOLID. No matter what situation you face, you will find out what Jesus would do and say and make a decision to stick to it. No wavering. SOLID, stable stayed and fixed.

When we discover what we have with His Spirit on the inside of us and who we are now that we have traded our life for His, we discover that the whole world is ours. He has given us the task of reaching this whole world for Him. We are partnering with Him to tell the whole world about Jesus so that they can have Him living in them too.

We see that we have a purpose, we've all been called. Because He lives inside of us, we have everything we need to reach our world. He believes in us, He trusts us, we are vital to His plan. He has entrusted us with this great task, now what are we going to do about it?

**Week 1: Session 1 Teaching (Continued)****Imagine it this way:**

When Jesus was on earth, He got a group of 12 guys, most were not much older than you, He spent 3 1/2 years with them (that's like 4th - 6th grade) and showed them what to do and how to live.

He said, "Now I won't always be here to show you what to do. BUT, the Father will send the Holy Spirit so you will have everything I have. Go tell the whole world about Me - show them how to live like I showed you."

Then as Jesus was leaving this earth and going up into the air, He told these guys not much older than you, "Okay you're in charge now." You can just imagine the angels saying to God, "What are you doing, they're not ready yet, they haven't had enough time, don't bring Jesus back yet." And God answers back saying, "No, they are ready. They can do it. I believe in them. I trust them."

You can then imagine how his disciples must have felt, turning around and saying to each other, "Okay this message, this spreading of this new life, all depends on us. What are we going to do about it?"

And because those 12 guys chose to keep going with Christ's message and showing people how to live like Jesus did, millions upon millions of people have become Christians. We are some of them. Now the Lord is saying, "it's your turn, this is your generation to reach with the message. That will you do?"

Conclusion

First, ask if there are any who have prayed a salvation prayer before but didn't realize this great trade is taking place. Pray for kids to receive the Lord and exchange their life for His and all that He has for them. No longer living with their own plans or ideas but walking out His plan for them.

Have them repeat this confession:

Father,

I thank you for saving me and choosing me to be your witness. I thank you for giving me everything that Jesus had when He was here. I will be faithful, I will not let you down. Thank you for believing in me, even when I make mistakes. I will be loyal to your plan. Amen.



Week 1: “I Must” Activity

Purpose

The goal of this activity is to become more comfortable with formal interaction with others.

Exercise: Step 1

Stand up straight

Shoulders back

Feet slightly apart

Arms down to your sides

Keep your head up so you can look people in the eye

(Why? Because we know who we are, we are confident in who we are, and we have the answer they need.)

Exercise: Step 2

Take a few deep breaths (all of the way in as far as you can, then all of the way out as far as you can).

Make the sound, “ha ha ha ha ha ha” while you punch the air in front of you.

Roll your lips a few times.

Roll your tongue a few times.

Exercise: Step 3

Line up the students shoulder-to-shoulder in one line.

Have them introduce themselves one at a time using the following suggestion:

(Have a leader demonstrate first)

1| Stand correctly and say this phrase with excitement and exuberance.

(Even if they would not be as excited in real life, have them over-exaggerate this to get out of their comfort zone)

2| Smile and look the person in the eye.

3| Say, “Hi, I’m _____, and I’m part of the L7 Leadership Team.”

Leader Tip: After you have demonstrated the right way to do introduce yourself, show them an example of a poor way. Hang your head, slump your shoulders, put your hands in your pocket, and murmur the words. Ask them which way they thought was better. Ask them which way would make them feel most comfortable.



Week 1: “I Must” Activity (Continued)

Exercise: Step 4

Repeat step 3 a few times passing a microphone if available.

Add in a handshake and encourage them to add volume to their words.

(Demonstrate once again a proper handshake and an improper one.)

(Reiterate the 3 principles learned in step 3 as they practice.)

Exercise: Step 5

Break into groups with a leader in each one. Have them role play the following scenario.

Pretend one student is a guest at your J12 or preteen gathering. Have each student in the group take turns introducing themselves and shaking their hand. (Role play with the idea that you are preparing your students to meet kids at school, in their neighborhood, parents at an event, and other places and scenarios.)

Exercise: Step 6

Practice the following scenario as if you were meeting a guest at church.

1| Hi, I'm _____. What's your name?

(they reply)

2| Hi “Julie”, I'm glad you are here. Let me introduce you to one of my friends (or one of our leaders).

3| Mrs. Jessica, this is “Julie” and this is her first time at J12.

(leader introduces themselves)

**Leader Tip: Work at making the conversations as real as possible. Pretend to be a new person or an adult they do not know. When they say who they are, ask a question like one of the following:
What is L7? Where is the bathroom? What are the 7 words of Jesus said at 12 years old?**

You can practice introductions in front of the church on a Sunday morning or whenever your child meets a new adult.



Week 1: “Be About It” Activity

Purpose

The purpose of the “Be About It” Activity Time is to get your students involved in the meaningful ministry that happens at your church. This will help them to be aware of all that goes into church services so it can be a place that is welcoming and easy for new people to come hear about Jesus.

Leader’s Tip: We find that kids that grow up in church don’t often stay there. Many leave after high school and reluctantly return after marriage and have kids of their own. One of the main reasons is that they never got connected to the vision of the church at large. They don’t see the serving aspect of why we do what we do because they may have only been on the receiving end. By connecting them to meaningful ministry at a young age, they continue to be involved as they get older, realizing the difference they can make.

We encourage you to get creative. Maybe find someone in your church that is involved in an outreach ministry or connected to a mission work and ask what the tweens could do to be a blessing.

We will outline some projects that we have done in L7 so you have some ideas to use as well as suggest some things that your church might already be doing with which L7 students could help with or be involved. However, the point is to get them connected to what YOU do as a local body.

Our church is personally connected to a couple of orphanages, along with a ministry for young widows. The following is our expression to “Be About It.”

Operation Orphans and Widows

James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Bracelet Making

1. Explain to students who we are making bracelets for, where the people live, what their life is like, and what their needs are. If you have pictures of the kids or of the area in which they live, this will really help the tweens gain a heart for whom they are ministering.
2. Ask the kids to pray out loud for the needs of the orphans to be met and whatever else may be on their heart for them.
3. Make bracelets. There are many great and simple bracelet making ideas online. Also, the leader over this portion may have great ideas on how to make bracelets and the best place to get materials. We used thin leather band for beading. The beads we used were different colors, some boy colors and some girl colors. Also, some of the beads have letters so that words can be spelled out, such as the word “love.” The leather band is cut and simply tied into a knot. Make sure that it is long enough to comfortably fit around a child’s wrist.



Week 1: Session 2 Teaching

Session Teacher Prep

Read through the homework for this week, because they will be using the TAGS (R'nR, M'nM, P'nC). Help them understand how to do the homework assignment.

Why Do we Journal?

Journaling is an important habit to learn for a leader. Journaling will help you remember things the Lord has done in your life. It will also remind you of His promises to you and things you have told Him you would do. Every time you open the Word of God and read it, you are helping to shape what you will become and what you will do. Never underestimate the power of reading the Word and spending time rewriting it and remembering what you wrote. If you do it consistently and don't give up the Word promises that you will be successful (Joshua 1:8).

How Do we Journal?

There is no wrong way to journal. Sometimes you may want to draw a picture. Other times you may want to write down a list of things you know He is asking you to do. It can be fun to mark them off one by one as you do them. You may like to highlight certain words that stand out to you or that you don't understand so that you can look them up to find their meaning. (There are some other very helpful hints for journaling and customized reading schedules inside the BBC for Tweens and Give God 12 Journal available at www.j12.com)

R'nR Stands for Read and Rewrite.

This is a great method to use while keeping a journal, and it is very simple. You read a passage of scripture from your daily reading plan and pick out a verse that really stuck out to you. Read it again and then rewrite it in your journal. Sometimes you may want to write it in your own words and sometimes you may want to write it word for word. Then, you might want to write how it applies to your life. This helps the verse become personal to you and helps you really remember it.

Leader's Tip: You may want to share an excerpt from your own journal and show them how you do yours. Show them how to write the date, scripture reference, and verse in their Student Playbook. Then, have them read a chapter in their Bibles and choose a verse to read and rewrite. Have them write it in their own words on the paper or draw a picture that may represent what the scripture means. Then encourage them to write how they think the verse applies to their life. Ask a couple of them to share what they journaled. At the bottom of the page of their journals is a place to write how many minutes they spent in the Word that day. Have them fill this in for practice.



Section 4

Graduation



Graduation Elements

Leader's Tips: This is an explanation of how a graduation can be done. You may choose to use this or come up with something of your own. (Graduation shirts can be ordered from www.j12.com. Certificates can be found on the Resource Disc)

Reception

This is an open house format for the first 15-20 minutes. Students are allowed to have some show and tell time with their parents where they can explain the TAGS, the meaning of J12, living the seven and show what they have made the last 4 weeks during the "Be About It" Activity.

Ceremony

Parents are seated and graduates are lined up alphabetically in the foyer to make a special entrance when music begins. Graduates then make a processional to their seats in the front.

Schedule

- Welcome
- Worship
- Offering
- Message
- Presentation of the Graduates
- Awards & T-Shirts
- Prayer for the Graduates & Families
- Dismiss
- Group Photos

The Charge

Leader's Tip: (This is a summary of the core message they learned). It is so important for parents to hear the core message and know how much you believe in their kids and what they are capable of at this young age. It is important that they know we want to partner with them to train their kids to be everything they were called to be. This is an opportunity to share the message of Jesus at 12, our model for ministry, and explain that these children are arrows needing to be aimed by warriors (parents) in order to hit the target. "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of ones youth." (Psalm 127:4) We believe Jesus, at the age of 12 had wisdom and revelation and believe our kids are capable of the same.

