

REDISCOVER MACEDONIA

A spirit of gratitude and
generosity



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Relational Ask Training Agenda For Captains and Leaders

Welcome and Introduction

- A. Opening Devotion – Macedonia Bible Study Captain*
- B. Review of Macedonia Theme and Purpose Captain
 - 1. Read 2 Corinthians 7:16—8:7
 - 2. Why I have confidence in you
 - 3. Where I see a spirit of gratitude and generosity in this congregation
 - 4. How we are strengthening our relationship in Jesus Christ
- C. Objectives of the Relational Ask Captain
 - 1. Strengthen individual relationship with Jesus Christ
 - 2. Strengthen relationships within our congregation
 - 3. Identify where a spirit of gratitude and generosity are present
 - 4. Develop a common and clear understanding of the direction and priorities for the congregation in the year ahead
 - 5. Consider a personal response to God's blessings
 - 6. Ask individuals to make a financial commitment to support God's work in and through the congregation
- D. Review of One-to-One Conversation Approach Captain
 - 1. Create an atmosphere for open conversation
 - 2. Invite and provide space for the Holy Spirit
 - 3. Offer questions that will explore the faith experience and journey of each person
 - 4. Listen first
 - 5. Look for where God is at work
 - 6. Share observations and insights as you are guided by the Holy Spirit
- E. Preparing for a Relational Ask Captain
 - 1. Instructions for commissioning of leaders
 - 2. Review schedule for Relational Ask
 - 3. Making a Relational Ask
 - a. Plan the Ask
 - 1) Obtain a list of people to visit from Captain
 - 2) Contact each household and determine appropriate time and place
 - 3) Confirm time and place if set more than three days in advance
 - b. Review Relational Ask Materials in advance of conversation
 - c. Pray before each conversation

- d. Present Relational Ask Materials
- e. Pray after each conversation

- F. Relational Visit Materials Captain
1. Introduction (Refer to C above)
 2. Update household information (Refer to handout)
 3. Theme – Macedonians and a Spirit of Gratitude and Generosity
 4. Sample questions for Relational Ask (Refer to handout)
 5. Overview of congregation vision, case, priorities
 6. Connecting gratitude, generosity, priorities and God's work
 7. Why make a financial commitment?
 8. Invitation to make a commitment
 9. Guide to proportionate giving
 10. Commitment card
 11. Invite feedback
 12. Closing prayer

- G. Debriefing of Relational Asks Captain
1. Follow up with Leaders at mid-point of conversations
 2. Invite to group debriefing at church
 3. Return any feedback received
 4. Complete conversations
 5. Invite Leaders to make additional Relational Asks

- H. Questions and Answers Captain

- I. Closing Devotion Captain

We appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.

2 Thessalonians 5:12-15

Let us pray: Gracious Lord, please guide your faithful servant in this undertaking. May our hearts and minds be open to your Holy Spirit. May our words touch the hearts of others to see your presence and your work in our midst. Grant us the courage to ask appropriate questions and the patience to listen to others. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide everyone in our community of faith as we discern how to use the gifts you have entrusted to us. May we work together to do good to one another and to all. Amen.

- * The role of Captain refers to individuals who will be recruiting and training Leaders. Most congregations will have at least two Captains. The individuals can determine who will take which roles. If training is done as one large group, provide an opportunity for as many Captains as possible to be in a leadership role. If each Captain trains their own team, that Captain will take the lead in all roles.

June 2012