

Challengers Overview



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Challengers Commitment Statement

As a Challengers member, I will . . .

- Gather regularly with other youth for fellowship, mission study and mission action.
- Encounter God daily through a time of personal prayer and Bible study.
- Discover my own calling to and gifts for service, witness and ministry.
- Participate in ongoing mission and ministry opportunities through my church.
- Give willingly to support missions around the world through the Cooperative Program.
- Become an informed and responsible follower of Christ.
- Celebrate the Christian life through commitment to weekly worship in my church.

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Challengers

Challengers is the church-based Southern Baptist youth mission education organization for young men in grades 7-12.

Challengers and their leaders learn how to be on mission with God by actually doing missions.

Challengers study about missions in the Bible.

Challengers become involved in personal Christian development.

Challengers discover how God has uniquely gifted them to share Christ.

Challengers satisfy their desire to be of worth to some group outside their home.

Challengers experience freedom from their parents and still maintain a sense of security.

Challengers become involved in a laboratory of Christian living.

Challengers face the consequences of their own actions.

Challengers participate in fellowship with other Christian young men as they contribute to their Challenger group.

Challengers groups participate in mission education in new and exciting ways.

Challengers provide opportunities for spiritual rites of passage for young men.

Young men participate in a number of activities with their leaders.

- Associational Events
- Challenger Camps
- State Congress
- Mission Rallies
- Regional Challenger Weekend
- National Challenger Weekend
- Camping
- Mission Projects

Young men work toward earning:

- Basic Membership Requirements
- Advancement – Journey/Quest

Challengers recognize individual young men based upon their completion of personal development activities.

Challenger National Award: completion of fourth mile of the Journey.

Challenger National Leadership Award: completion of sixth mile of the Journey.

Missions Speak Out Award:

Scholarships: For young men who have earned the *National Leadership Award*. Check with Baptist Universities concerning scholarship information.

Mission Education

What is God's Mission?

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20 NAS)

What is our part of God's Mission?

Christians are to join God in His mission. Helping Him by sharing the message of reconciliation.

The purpose of Mission Education is to help Christians discover how they are created to "fit" into God's mission. Mission Education is a process rather than a program.

Mission Education strives to:

- Help individuals to become aware of God's purpose for their life and the needs around them.
- Help individuals to make adjustments in their lives to respond to God's invitations.
- Help individuals to acquire skills to be more effective in their ability to minister and develop an "*on-mission*" lifestyle.

North American Mission Board definition of Mission Education: (LC 8)

To encourage the spiritual transformation of "regular" Christians into *on mission* Christians and "regular" churches into *on mission* churches, using Mission Education organizations, resources, strategies and events designed to awaken Christians and churches to personal involvement in the Great Commission, help them to make adjustments that allow them to actively join God *on mission*, and grow to be passionate advocates for worldwide mission causes.

Mission Education Organizations: (LC 14)

A mission education organization is an ongoing church-based community of people who have committed to participate in the spiritual process that transforms individuals into *on mission* Christians. Its members are those who have subscribed and committed to being *on mission* with God and each other as described by a pledge or purpose statement. Its leaders are trained and responsible. It requires a developmentally appropriate curriculum, mentoring, planning, evaluation, accountability, and a network of communication. Tools to support mission education organizations include *on mission* strategies, resources, regular meetings, events, projects, brand identification, and motivational systems.

Challengers

Challengers is an organization that targets young men and works to help them encounter God, then lead them to develop an “on-mission” lifestyle with God. Challengers provide an opportunity for building relationships between Christian men and teenagers that will encourage the young men to grow in their Christian commitment through a mentoring process.

Challengers is best described as “a mission accountability group for young men.” Accountability is a necessary element for any group whose members are to develop an on-mission lifestyle. Accountability assumes a commitment has been made or a goal is required. The Challengers Commitment Statement sets the goal forth in the form of a personal and group commitment that each member signs and then is encouraged, supported, and held accountable to keep. (*Leading Challengers – Introduction*)

Challengers – Two Possible Descriptions: (LC 16)

Challengers is a mission accountability group for Christian young men. Challengers are becoming leaders in the area of working with God and other Christians in accomplishing His purpose in the world. They are being trained rather than entertained. They are learning to be responsible and accountable. A challenge and a mission worthy of their time and attention attracts them. They lead others to faith in Christ. They challenge their youth group and church to be on mission with God.

Challengers, a group of young men being led by men who are on mission with God, working creatively to build relationships with teenage young men in the context of church-related activities. They are leading young men to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. They are leading and encouraging young men toward discipleship and spiritual maturity. They use a variety of interest activities to attract young men to participate. They lead the group to do worthwhile projects in the community. They point out and provide models and examples of people who have committed their lives to Christ and who are growing and living for God.

Challenger Commitment Statement: (LC 18)

As a Challengers member, I will . . .

- Gather regularly with other youth for fellowship, mission study and mission action.
- Encounter God daily through a time of personal prayer and Bible study.
- Discover my own calling to and gifts for service, witness and ministry.
- Participate in ongoing mission and ministry opportunities through my church.
- Give willingly to support missions around the world through the Cooperative Program.
- Become an informed and responsible follower of Christ.
- Celebrate the Christian life through commitment to weekly worship in my church.

Challengers Membership: (LC 18)

The Challengers program provides an arena for meaningful relationship and encourages Christian fellowship. It gives young men a chance to take part in ministry and missions. Through its meetings and activities it gives them a sense of belonging.

Membership in Challengers is generally limited to young men in 7-12 grade or whatever age is considered to be eligible to be included in the youth ministry of their church. Students in junior high or middle school (7-9 grades) are called Younger Challengers and students in high school are called Older Challengers.

Membership requires each student to complete the following:

- Challengers will review the Challengers Commitment Statement and agree to, and sign a commitment statement they will follow as members of a Challenger group.
- Challengers will become familiar with the Challenger logo.
- Challengers will memorize 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Challengers will have a personal time alone with God using the Challengers Vigil and show their leader that they have completed the vigil.

Challenger Vigil: (LC 19)

The Challenger Vigil is a personal time alone with God. It is a periodic spiritual checkup to help a Challenger examine how he is doing in keeping his on mission commitment to God as expressed in the Challengers Commitment Statement. Each Challenger should complete this “watch with God” as a membership requirement and at least annually thereafter. Challengers should keep the completed copies of the checklist in their Challenger Notebook.

There are two Challenger Vigils available. One Vigil is found in the appendix section of *Leading Challengers*. The other Vigil is available from the state office.



Challengers Logo: (LC 19)

The logo contains the organization name, key verse, and motto. Downloadable image files of the Challenger logo in color are available at: www.challengerscentral.com



Challengers:

Challengers are those who are commissioned to challenge non-Christians to trust and follow Jesus Christ. They also challenge fellow Christians to be on mission with God.

Mountains:

The mountains on the logo represent the challenges in a teenage young man's life. These are the academic, physical, emotional, social, as well as spiritual challenges of growing up in today's world.

1 Corinthians 15:58:

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (NIV)

"Where Missions and Ministry Meet":

Our mission is to join God in His Mission of reconciling the world to Himself. Ministry is meeting human needs all around us in obedience to Christ' command to love our neighbor as ourselves. The Challengers motto indicates that we will use ministry as a method of going to the world with the gospel.

Colors:

The colors of the Challenger logo represent four disciplines of the Christian life. They are:

Red = *sacrifice*

Green = *growth*

White = *purity*

Blue = *loyalty*

Getting Challengers Started

Begin praying that God will prepare adult leaders to become sensitive to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and encourage others to develop an on-mission lifestyle. Use the following outline to build a successful Challengers program. Refer to chapter eight of *Leading Challengers* for more information on getting Challengers started.

❑ **Build Support:**

Full support from the pastor, youth minister, On-Mission Team and other church membership is an essential factor in developing a successful Challenger program. For more information on building a solid base of support for Challengers in your church refer to chapter three of *Leading Challengers*.

❑ **Gather Materials:**

Leading Challengers manual is the resource guide for starting, organizing and continuing a successful Challengers organization. Refer to the Challengers Resources list concerning materials that are currently available or call (866) 407-6262 to receive a free copy of the *NAMB On Mission Resource catalog*. You can download all of the Challengers materials at www.challengerscentral.com

❑ **Enlist and Train Leaders:**

Leadership is an essential factor in developing and maintaining a successful Challengers organization. For more information concerning enlisting and training Challengers leaders refer to chapter seven of *Leading Challengers*.

❑ **Make a Plan:**

Work with leaders to develop for your churches Challenger organization. Resources for planning are included in *Leading Challengers* and the *Challengers Planbook*.

❑ **Enlist Challengers:**

Work with leaders in developing a prayerful list of potential Challenger members. Visit with each person on your list and their parents, explain what Challengers is about and discuss the plans that have been made. Invite them to participate in the Challengers organization.

❑ **Conduct Meetings:**

Work with leaders in conducting Challenger meetings. Resources for planning and conducting Challenger meetings are included in *Leading Challengers* and the *Challengers Planbook*.

Challengers Leader - Director

Challengers is a mission accountability group for Christian young men. Challengers is an organization that targets young men and works to help them encounter God, then lead them to develop an “on-mission” lifestyle with God. Challengers provide an opportunity for building relationships between Christian men and teenagers that will encourage the young men to grow in their Christian commitment through a mentoring process.

Accountability:

The Challenger Leader works in cooperation with the youth ministry of the church and is ultimately responsible to Jesus Christ.

Length of Service:

This position requires a yearly commitment. In order to develop an effective Challenger organization requires several years of continuity within the church. During your length of service we recommend that you prayerfully identify someone who will assist you and allow you to mentor them to become a leader of young men.

Desired Characteristics:

Personal relationship with Jesus Christ and developing an “on-mission” lifestyle.
Understands the characteristics of young men and their needs.
Possess a genuine concern for others and enjoys working with others.
Emotionally mature and emotionally stable.
Available and approachable by the young men.
Physically able to participate in activities with young men and overcome obstacles.
Desire to increase personal knowledge through training opportunities.

Responsibilities:

1. Become familiar with the Challenger organization and materials available.
2. Learn the Challenger verse and commitment statement.
3. Challenge young men to actively live out the challenger commitment.
4. Gather regularly with youth for fellowship, mission study and mission action;
5. Encounter God daily through a time of personal prayer and Bible study;
6. Discover your own calling to and gifts for service, witness and ministry;
7. Participate in ongoing mission projects and ministry opportunities through your church;
8. Give willingly to support missions around the world through the Cooperative Program;
9. Become an informed and responsible disciple of Christ; and
10. Celebrate the Christian life through a commitment to weekly worship in your church.

Benefits and Resources:

- This is a volunteer position and receives no financial compensation for services provided. There are a number of other benefits that come as a result of serving as a leader. One of which is helping to shape the future of another individual.
- The greatest resource that we have to accomplish the task of mission education and mission involvement is Prayer. Our Teacher the Comforter will meet our needs if we seek His guidance by faith through prayer.

Leadership Style Overview

The Master Teacher

One day the Temple guards were sent to arrest Jesus, when they returned empty handed they were questioned concerning their reasons for not accomplishing their mission. The Temple guards responded, “No one ever spoke the way this man does.” (John 7:46) They had encountered the Master Teacher and as a result their lives had been changed. What lessons can we learn from the Master Teacher?

Jesus never forsook the Scriptures, He continued to look towards them as a source of strength and encouragement as He sought the Father’s direction. He shared insights from the Word to His disciples in order that they could receive divine revelation. When Jesus taught He spoke as one who possessed authority, and yet even a small child was allowed to sit at His feet. Jesus always had a purpose and aim in His teachings. Jesus’ central aim and purpose for teaching was to communicate the simplistic truth of how to have a new life and relationship with God. Jesus’ teaching was purpose driven in order to change and transform the lives of the disciples as they grew in a relationship with the Father. Jesus modeled a lifestyle that was free from sin and encouraged His disciples to live a lifestyle as free from sin as humanly possible.

Jesus’ ability to communicate with others centered on His concern for others. Jesus viewed others as individuals who possessed worth and value in addition to maintaining the dignity of others. Jesus conveyed a sense of openness that encouraged individuals to come and share thoughts and ideas with Him. Jesus used this asset of openness as an effective tool to capitalize upon those teachable moments. Jesus was a master motivator. As a teacher He possessed an extraordinary ability to meet persons at their point of need, involve them in the learning process by stimulating their curiosity and lead them to where they needed to be in a relationship with the Father. Jesus recognized the individual differences that each of His disciples possessed and utilized different teaching styles in order to communicate effectively with each individual.

Jesus recognized the importance of involving the individual in the learning process and acknowledged that each person is free to make their own personal choices based upon what they have received and that each individual will be held accountable for the choices that they have made. No matter if the Lord was speaking to an individual or the multitude, He consistently proclaimed divine revelation in such a way that each individual was challenged to make a personal response. Jesus communicated to others the meaning of the Christian life as He modeled His teachings to the disciples. The disciples learned first hand as Jesus not only talked the talk, but He walked the walk.

Jesus utilized a wide variety of teaching methods. Jesus employed the use of questions, lectures, stories, conversations, discussions, dramatics, objects, projects, and demonstrations in order to arouse interest in the learners and attract attention to His message. Jesus emphasized through these teaching methods the importance of His message of developing a personal relationship with the Father. The Master teacher demonstrated to the disciples the principles of teaching and encouraged them to remain in Him communicating the truths they learned to others.

Youth Characteristics

Ages 12-14

Developmental	Because he is like this:	We do this:
Physical	He wants to be recognized as an adult He wants to be physically involved He is experiencing rapid physical changes	Challenge him to accept responsibilities Challenge him to develop physical strength Stress developing Christian character as well as physical strength
Mental	He has a creative imagination He wants to express his inventiveness He can plan short-range course of action He is ready to do creative work He possesses many talents and interest He is ready to explore various subjects He is beginning to think abstractly	Allow him to lead mission studies Give him problems and allow him to solve Allow him to be involved in the planning Allow him to become involved Relate mission education to his interest Provide varied activities and projects Use object lessons
Social	He likes to be involved with others He is expanding his friendships He is highly competitive He goes to extremes to gain approval He desires acceptance by older adults He desires the trust from others	Provide options for missions involvement Provide opportunities for coed missions Provide a healthy context for competition Provide for positive relationships Provide a context of positive reinforcement Provide opportunities for him to earn trust
Emotional	He is standing up for what he believes He is loyal to a causes he deems worthy He struggles with his feelings He is assuming his sexual role He wants to establish lasting relationships	Provide opportunities to express beliefs Stress commitment to Christ as the motive Allow him to express his feelings Provide examples of mature role models Introduce him to a relationship with Christ
Spiritual	He is developing his own philosophy He is expressing his own values He is beginning to express his convictions He is capable of making commitments He is seeking a relationship with God	Provide a philosophy for missions Challenge his value system Allow him to express his experiences Challenge him to commit to missions Provide spiritual experiences on his level

Ages 15-17

Developmental	Because he is like this:	We do this:
Physical	He is maturing into a young adult His physical strength is increasing He is adjusting to the physical changes	Challenge him to accept responsibilities Allow him to be physically involved Stress developing Christian character
Mental	His reasoning abilities are increasing He wants to express his own thinking He is expressing an interest in vocation He is becoming aware of world problems He imitates those he admires	Allow him to solve mission problems Allow him to lead mission studies Challenge him to be on mission Allow him to explore ways to be involved Provide positive role models
Social	He is striving for independence He is seeking adventure and excitement He wants to explore social relationships He is developing lasting friendships He wants to belong to a group	Challenge him to become an example Provide mission trip opportunities Challenge him to maintain purity Stress the importance of accountability Provide a mission accountability group
Emotional	He possess a strong loyalty to a group He wants to conform to group standards He has strong emotions	Stress the importance of loyalty to Christ Provide a positive group atmosphere Allow him to express his feelings
Spiritual	He questions his parents religious beliefs He desires to know God He is seeking God's will for his life He is seeking a relationship with God	Challenge him to adopt his own beliefs Teach him how to pray Encourage him to pray Provide spiritual experiences on his level

Challenger Leaders

(Leading Challengers – Chapter Seven)

Challenger leaders - mission educators for young men - are not only teachers of mission studies; they are trainers and mobilizers for the mission of God. Listed below are some of the roles that Challenger leaders fill:

A Good Example: Adult leaders of Challengers provide living examples of the on mission lifestyle.

A Mentor: The biblical model and pattern for mission education is personal mentoring.

A Challenger of Challengers: It is important to consistently hold young men accountable to keep their commitments.

A Planner: Leaders of Challengers plan and prepare the way for the group.

An Implementer: Plans are useful only if they are implemented.

A Teacher: Challengers have a lot to learn. You are a “living library.”

A Friend: Challenger leaders must enjoy and have a good rapport with teenage guys.

Challengers Director:

Major responsibilities of the director are to serve as a liaison to the On Mission Team, coordinate planning with the youth ministry, prepare and administer a budget, enlist and train new leaders, order and purchase materials, represent and promote Challengers to the church, and lead in the on going enlistment of resource people.

Primary Team of Challenger Leaders:

Their general responsibilities are to plan for the group; recruit and follow up prospective new members; lead (or make assignments to lead) regular meetings; prepare for mission, ministry, and interest activities; utilize and assign resource people; form and coach Accountability Teams; lead Challengers through advancement; maintain records of attendance, advancement, and activities; teach mission skills; and organize the other components of Challengers.

Student Leaders:

Some Challengers choose to use formal positions of leadership for students. Any leadership positions should be rotated among the Challenger members periodically.

- ❑ President (spokesman and youth representative for the Challengers)
- ❑ Mission Action Coordinator
- ❑ Ministry Project Coordinator
- ❑ Interest Activity Coordinator

Other Challenger groups prefer to assign various responsibilities to students such as prayer leader, Bible study leader, session leader, and Accountability Team leader on a rotating basis. One-time assignments for students may include trip coordinator, ministry project leader, strategy coordinator, or leader of an advancement project.

Resource People:

Resource people will give their testimonies; serve as mentors, coaches, and prayer partners; teach lessons; organize activities; drive buses; serve as chaperones; make sandwiches; loan equipment and teach Challengers how to use it correctly. They often feel honored and thrilled to be asked.

Leadership Skills

Planning: (LC 73)

If you fail to plan then you plan to fail.

Try to keep your plans simple.

- Planning gives direction to the program and keeps it focused on missions.
- Planning includes setting goals and developing ways to achieve those goals.
- Planning prevents calendar conflicts.
- Planning eliminates most discipline problems.

Goals are an important part of planning.

- Goals are specific, concrete, measurable, and have a time frame.
- Goals guide our actions, and direct us to the future.
- The goal is to have shared goals. (Involve the youth and leaders in setting goals.)

Types of goals:

- ❑ Short range – from a day to a month.
- ❑ Intermediate range – from a month to a year.
- ❑ Long range – a year or more.

Annual Calendar:

Involve leadership in developing an annual calendar. Pray for God's leadership in your planning. Use the resources below to assist you in developing your calendar.

- Church calendar
- Challengers Planbook
- State Calendar – TBM Website
- Associational calendar
- School calendar - holidays

Monthly Planning:

Schedule a monthly meeting for leaders to pray and review plans for the month.

Review the lesson plans in the *Challengers Planbook*.

- Pray for God's leadership in your planning.
- Review plans for the month and make assignments.
- Ensure that you have materials necessary for weekly plans.
- Order magazines and materials needed for future months.
- Evaluate and adjust the schedule as necessary.
- Report monthly to the church concerning the Challenger activities.

Weekly Planning:

A successful meeting always begins with successful planning. Suggested lesson plans are found in the *Challengers Planbook*.

- Pray for each person involved in Challengers in addition to current prospects.
- Arrive early, be prepared, teach with confidence, and evaluate goals.

Leadership Skills

Communicating:

Today we are living in the information age. People are constantly receiving various messages and evaluating the message by their values. Communication is the process of a transmitter sending a message through the use of a medium to a receiver.

Effective communication involves an active receiver listening and giving feedback concerning facts and feelings. Listed below are some methods of communication:

- Announcements
- Hand-outs
- Mail-outs
- E-Mail
- Church Bulletin
- Posters
- Bulletin Boards
- Web Page

Motivating:

Motivation is the energy we have to do things. Technically, leaders don't motivate anybody. Enthusiasm and a positive attitude are very helpful in creating a positive climate for others. Leaders strive to inform, open doors of service, and model ministry for others. The Holy Spirit guides the believer's actions and energies. As leaders, we need to pray that God will continue to motivate the disciples to respond to His invitations. Listed below are some of the methods used by leaders to motivate youth:

- Verbal praise for the positive actions you observe in the youth's life.
- Recognize a youth for their accomplishments.
- Plan exciting events that interest youth.
- Set attainable goals that challenge each age group.
- Consistent and fair leadership.

Mediating:

Conflicts are inevitable and therefore mediators are needed. Effective leaders know that differences can enrich a group if conflict is dealt with constructively.

Consequently, leaders learn to mediate conflicts over facts and to listen carefully as combatants vent differences involving feelings. Moses is a good Biblical example of a mediator. (Exodus) Jesus Christ is our mediator who is currently interceding on our behalf. Listed below are some conflict resolution skills:

- Use attentive listening skills.
- Allow the youth to express their point of view without judgement.
- Allow the youth to express their opinion concerning a resolution.
- Allow the youth to come to an agreement on a resolution.

Enlisting Leaders

(LC 76-77)

Committed leadership is one of the most important parts of the Challenger organization. Recruiting and cultivating leaders is a very important aspect to establishing and maintaining a dynamic Challenger program. When a person makes a commitment to become a Challenger leader it is important that they receive training before they begin their responsibilities. Training opportunities for leaders are available through self-studies, associational training events and regional training events in addition to Leadership Training Camp each year. Contact the state office concerning training opportunities at (214) 828-5354 or keith.mack@texasbaptistmen.org

Proven Method of Enlisting Leaders

1. Begin praying about who God has been preparing to serve as a mission education leader in your church.
2. Ask God to assist you in creating a list of persons who would make a good Challenger leader.
3. Prayerfully prioritize the list in the order you believe to be the best qualified to serve as a mission education leader.
4. Schedule a time when you can meet with the first person on your list. Tell them you have been praying about them and that you believe they would make a good mission education leader. Give them a brief explanation as to what the Challenger organization is about (mission education) and what their responsibilities would entail (Challenger Leader Job Description). Ask them to pray about their involvement and give you an answer after they have prayed about the matter. Do not accept a yes or no at this time until they have prayed about becoming a leader. Assure them that you will provide training for them before they begin meeting with the youth. Let them know you will be praying for them as they pray about this important matter and that you will be checking back with them at a later date. When God calls a leader they will remain a committed leader. When we enlist leaders they blossom for a short while then they will fade away.
5. Pray for the person as they prayerfully seek God's leadership. Check back with the person after several weeks.
6. After they have made a prayerful commitment to become a mission education leader, schedule a time to provide training for their position. Training opportunities range from self-training to formal training events. After basic training, they can gain experience by working with established leaders.
7. Schedule monthly opportunities for leaders to meet together for planning, support, and fellowship.

Developing Leaders

(LC 75)

You are an example, a living library of knowledge and skills that others seek to acquire. Do you currently have a “Timothy” type person with whom you associate? Will you assume the responsibility of prayerfully identifying one or more persons to whom you can pass the torch of leadership? In doing so, you will leave a legacy of leadership that will affect subsequent generations.

Key principles in developing leaders:

Have a concern for developing other leaders.

Jesus provided a model for developing leaders that included Kingdom responsibilities.

I do – You watch

I do – You help

You do – I help

You do – I watch

You do – Someone else watches

Leadership development is a process – start with the end in mind:

Character Formation – The Being

Competencies Training – The Doing

Cognitive Learning – The Knowing

Begin with basic Biblical concepts of leadership.

Leadership development is principle centered – methodology follows.

Leadership development takes place in the context of community.

Teach leadership skills then allow for application of skills.

Provide leadership opportunities that stretches them.

Leadership Helps

The following suggestions were offered by leaders with years of experience to assist current and future leaders.

- ❑ Enlist leaders on the basis of their relationship with God and their interest in youth.
- ❑ Insure that leaders have adequate opportunities for periodic training.
- ❑ Be sure that leaders have the materials and equipment to do their job.
- ❑ Provide opportunities for leaders and families to fellowship together.
- ❑ Be known for the mission action and mission studies that Challengers are involved with rather than accomplishments in sports and camping.
- ❑ Involve parents in as many activities as possible. They make good resource leaders.
- ❑ Let God put together the Challenger Leadership Team. Each time someone shows an interest in the Challenger organization, ask them to serve in Challengers. Let the leadership team have a major roll in planning activities.

Legal Considerations

In a society of legality and liability, it is important for Challenger leaders and church leaders to prepare standards of planning that will ensure parents of their youth's health and safety. Indoor and outdoor activities should include basic steps that leaders understand and are willing to exercise. What are steps that need to be taken in case of an emergency or an accident? (For example, having an emergency phone number, contact persons, safety route for moving youth, first-aid kits as well as having on hand a trained administrator of first aid, and emergency equipment.)

Check with your church leadership regarding policies and procedures for emergencies. Unexpected emergencies and accidents can take place in the midst of the best prepared activity. Responding quickly and responsibly can make a world of difference.

As a Challenger leader, you want to conduct your ministry as a good steward. In Biblical times, a steward was held to a high degree of responsibility when his master returned and asked for an accounting of how the steward had overseen the master's wealth. Challenger leaders have a duty of stewardship to the church to conduct business properly and in a manner that minimizes the risk that church assets could be lost in a lawsuit.

What are the risks?

Some are obvious. A Challenger program runs the risk of accidents. However, some risk may not be obvious. The law of negligence may hold you and your volunteers to the standard of care which prudent persons would have exercised under the same circumstances.

Challenger activities should be age- and experience-appropriate. As those activities are planned, consider the safety problems that the activity presents. Exercise care in designing the activity, in checking the equipment involved, in instructing the youth, in supervising the activity, and in being prepared if an injury occurs. Advise parents of the nature of the activities in advance, and make certain that the youth are physically able to engage in the activity.

Selection of employees and volunteers:

Two questions to consider are: What does the church know about the volunteer? What care is the church taking in making that selection? Careful and wise selection of employees and volunteers reduces needless risk. A supervisor of youth should be skilled, experienced, dependable, and trustworthy. The duty of supervision includes training individuals who work with youth. Focus on risks that deserve immediate attention.

Have two leaders present at all times. Require a person to be a member of the church for six months before they can become a Challenger leader.

Sharing the Message of Christ

As a Challenger leader you will have the opportunity to share with youth what it means to be a Christian. Every Challenger leader needs to become aware of appropriate ways they can share the message of Christ. Youth are questioning what it means to be a Christian and how they can have an intimate relationship with God.

Leaders need to exercise prayer and be open and honest in the matter of sharing answers concerning spiritual matters with youth. Our role is that of seed planters, allowing the Holy Spirit to water the seeds of faith. We are called to lift Jesus Christ up and allow Him to draw all men unto Himself. We need to become spiritually sensitive to the activity of God, and not hinder anyone from coming to Him. Knowing that the invitation never ends for those whom the Father draws to Christ.

Personal Testimony: To witness, literally, means to tell what you have seen or heard from first-hand experience. When witnessing, you are sharing your personal experience and relationship with Jesus Christ. Without a personal “Love” relationship with Christ, you have nothing to share. Be able to explain how you personally talk with Jesus through prayer, what it feels like to have the Holy Spirit working inside you, how Jesus speaks to you, how He helps you in everyday life, what it means to give Him control of your life, and how you value His friendship and guidance. It is important to be able to share your testimony of how you came to know Christ personally. Developing a personal relationship with a youth provides the best opportunity to share this witness in a meaningful way.

How Challenger Leaders Share Christ through Interest Activities: *(LC 67)*

An increasing number of resources are available to Challenger leaders and other Christian men who want to share Christ with teenagers, particularly boys, through interest activities. Manuals, pamphlets, and tracts that help men to strategically use campcraft, sports clinics and teams, fishing, auto restoration, and other interests common to men and boys are constantly being produced and updated. These resources are increasingly available through the NAMB catalog and LifeWay Christian stores.

Explaining the Message of Christ: The Bible gives first-hand knowledge of Jesus Christ and the way to have a relationship with Him. It is a powerful witnessing tool. It is important to know Scripture verses in order to help explain how one can accept the gift of God – salvation. The “Roman Road,” listed below, is a good plan to know. This method of presenting the gospel includes Scripture verses taken from the Book of Romans.

- **Romans 3:23** – *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

All have missed the mark in obeying God and knowing Him personally.

- **Romans 6:23** – *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Separation from God results in death, but Jesus can give us eternal life.

- **Romans 5:8** – *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Because God loves us, He sent His Son to take our place in death – the punishment we should have received for our sins.

- **Romans 10:9-10** – *That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

To accept the gift God offers, you must:

1. Ask God to forgive your sins.
2. Believe that God forgives you for disobeying Him and accepts you as you are.
3. Believe that Jesus died in your place, and then God raised Him from the dead. Jesus is a real person who is alive today and is ready for you to know Him personally.
4. Ask Jesus to take control of your life. Begin your personal relationship with Him.

- **Romans 10:13** – For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

We have assurance of salvation.

Remember that you are telling about a person, not explaining a scientific formula. Ask questions that will give you some idea of the youth’s understanding. Realize that you cannot make the decision for a youth, nor do you have the power to save them. Only the Holy Spirit can work in the life of an individual to bring them to Christ. Only a relationship with Jesus Christ will save a person.

Challengers

The Nuts and Bolts

What Challengers Do: Organizational Components (LC 20)

The following are essential components of a Challengers organization or group.

Meetings: Challengers meet on a regular basis to help Challengers and their leaders to accomplish the objectives of Challengers. The Challengers regular meeting is, in many ways, like the huddle in a football game. While it is an important environment for consistent communication, mission learning, planning and other preparation; for on mission Challengers, it's certainly not the whole game.

Prayer: Prayer is extremely important to Challengers and their leaders. Challenger groups utilize prayer to know and personally grow closer to God, to mold the lives of its members, and to become effective as they seek to be on mission with God.

Testimonies: Challengers are provided many opportunities to hear and give personal testimonies, eyewitness accounts of the activity of God. Challengers also learn to become mission advocates by giving personal testimonies about their on mission activities. As young men become active in ministry and mission work, they see God at work in the lives of people.

Mission Accountability: Challengers is a mission accountability group for young men. Accountability is a necessary element for any group whose members are to develop an on mission lifestyle.

Mission and Ministry Action: Challengers use ministry projects to build relationships and open avenues for witness. This juncture, described by the Challengers motto, "Where missions and ministry meet," is where Challengers serve.

On Mission Strategies: Plans that a church uses to accomplish a dual goal: To reach lost people for Christ in a specific mission field and to help Christians to develop the lifestyle and skills of a missionary.

Interest Activities: The main purpose of Challenger interest activities is to attract and hold the attention of teenage guys, and to create an arena for relationships.

Advancement Plans: Challengers advancement recognizes the fact that the organization has two broad groups of members with two very different needs. The *Journey* for Challengers who need to develop mission skills and an on mission lifestyle so they can share their faith. The *Quest* for Challenger members who do not yet have a personal faith to share.

Bible Reading and Study: Although Challengers is not a Bible study group, the Bible has a prominent place in helping young men to be on mission with God.

Challengers Network: As an organization, Challengers and their leaders are networked together through a system of "name brand" events, print and electronic publications, materials, leaders, leadership training and other resources throughout several denominational levels.

How Challengers Work: Organizational Tools (LC 26)

The following are some of the major tools the Challengers organization uses to organize its work, communicate, deliver curricular resources, and ultimately accomplish its purpose to mission educate.

Challengers Notebook: (LC 26)

Each Challenger needs his own personal Challengers notebook. Challenger notebooks consist of the following items:

- One – 1” 3-Ring notebook with view binder to insert the cover and spine
- One set of 5 divider tabs
- Challenger advancement plans – *Challenger Journey or Challenger Quest*

Each Challenger notebook is divided into five sections:

Accountability Team:

This section includes a list of the contact information and all other materials related to the accountability team. A copy of the group’s Challenger Commitment should be included in this section.

Prayer Journal:

Record personal and group prayer request as well as God’s answers and responses. A sample copy of prayer journal page is included in the appendix section of *Leading Challengers*.

Bible Reading:

This section is for collecting and tracking team Bible reading sheets and Journey Bible studies from the On Mission Youth Bible Studies.

Mission/Ministry Projects:

This section is for the current Challengers bi-monthly calendar and information about past and upcoming mission and ministry projects.

Journey/Quest:

This section contains the pages of the Challengers Journey or Quest workbook. The workbooks are distributed as loose-leaf, three-hole punched write in pages.

Accountability Teams: (LC 27)

Challengers accountability teams are based on the biblical model provided in Daniel chapters 1-3. Each team consist of three to five members who meet regularly to encourage each other in the following: daily Bible reading, prayer, Challengers advancement, attendance at meetings and activities, and personal integrity. Chapter five of *Leading Challengers* has more information concerning accountability teams.

Personal Mission Boards: (LC 27)

A personal mission board exists to provide encouragement, advice, prayer support, financial support, and other practical help as partners in the ministry of the Challenger.

Challengers Planbook: (LC 29)

The Challengers Planbook is an annual collection of 12 units of session plans for use in Challenger meetings or other mission learning environments. Each unit contains three weekly meeting session plans complete with reproducible activity pages. Also included in each unit is a related mission action project.

Each unit of the Challenger curriculum focuses in on one of the twelve mission skills.

1. **Knows the mission.** Knows and is committed to his mission: to God’s Mission of reconciling the world to Himself.
2. **Prays.** Prays without ceasing for guidance, for power, and for the salvation of specific lost people and unreached people groups.
3. **Targets a group.** Targets specific individuals and groups of lost people.
4. **Trains cross-culturally.** Trains to understand the cultures of target groups.
5. **Develops relationships.** Has growing ability to develop friendships with a widening variety of people.
6. **Strategizes.** Formulates plans to penetrate target groups.
7. **Develops strategic partnerships.** Forms partnerships that resource strategies (including giving).
8. **Trains to serve.** Develops skills to serve and minister to members of the target groups.
9. **Implements plans.** Actively works with partners and individually to accomplish the Mission.
10. **Delivers the message.** Prepares and delivers appropriate presentations of the gospel.
11. **Disciples new believers.** Leads new believers into spiritual growth.
12. **Shares with other Christians.** Shares what they learned with other Christians as a mission advocate and mentor.

Each unit relates a particular mission skill to one of the nine mission fields.

My Life	My School	My State
My Family	My Neighborhood	My Nation
My Church	My Association	My World

Challengers Websites: (LC 29) www.challengerscentral.com

The Challengers central website, Leading Challengers: An Online Guide, contains a wide variety of resources and useful information for both leaders and Challengers.

Challengers Advancement

(LC Chapter Four)

Advancement plans serve an important function in mission education organizations. They provide direction, accountability, and motivation to help individual and group work to accomplish educational goals. The Challengers advancement plan provides a detailed, developmental sequence of specific instruction and activities for on-the-job mission training. Charts, checklist, and workbooks help students gauge their progress in a tangible, quantifiable manner. Accountability teams help Challengers to stay on track according to the plan. Awards, scholarships, and recognition at regular milestones provide the motivation and encouragement that many young men need.

Objectives of Challengers Advancement:

1. To lead a boy to faith and continuing spiritual growth in Christ.
2. To help him follow the biblical model for mission education.
3. To expose him to the biblical basis for mission work.
4. To help him become acquainted with and involved in Southern Baptist agencies and efforts to minister and to spread the gospel.
5. To give him developmental and varies experience in ministry and missions.
6. To develop his leadership skills.

Challenger Miles:

Each mile of the Challengers advancement plans requires completion of 12 specific Bible studies and 12 mission projects called “mission challenges.” Nine of the mission challenges correspond to the nine “mission fields” of mission education that are listed on page 20. The remaining three mission challenges are electives to be chosen by the Challenger member.

Challengers Quest: (LC 44)

The *Challengers Quest* is for Challenger members who have not established a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The *Quest* is a two-mile plan that is written on a junior high or middle school level. Challengers interact with Christians who will have the opportunity to share about their personal relationship with God, His Word, and His people. The *Quest* contains 24 Bible studies designed to help Challengers to know the way of salvation, assurance, and growth in their new life in Christ. The *Challengers Quest* is not a prerequisite for the *Challengers Journey*.

Challengers Journey: (LC 40)

The *Challengers Journey* is for Challengers members who are in the process of learning mission skills in order to develop an on mission lifestyle. The Journey consists of four Basic Miles plus two additional advanced Leadership Miles. Challengers on the Challengers Journey complete a series of 72 Bible studies, each of which examines a well-known episode from the Bible. These Bible studies are located in the *On Mission Youth Bible Studies* or in *Go! Challenger Edition*.

Challenger National Award: completion of fourth mile of the Journey.

Challenger National Leadership Award: completion of sixth mile of the Journey.

Scholarships: For young men who have earned the *National Leadership Award*. Check with Baptist Universities concerning scholarship information.

Journey & Quest Grid

Journey & Quest Grid

On Mission Youth Bible Studies

This series of 72 Bible studies presents the Bible from the perspective of the on mission activity of God and His people. It is an account of how God is accomplishing His Mission-even today. Ever since man fell from fellowship with Him, God has been reconciling the world to Himself. And He has given to us, His people, the ministry and message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18-20) These studies lead students to see God on mission throughout biblical history as well as in our world and through our lives today. By examining well known Bible stories and major Bible characters, students learn principles of how God works in and through His people (and others) to accomplish His Mission. Listed below are the On Mission Youth Bible Study Titles:

1. From the Beginning
2. Noah's Ark
3. Father Abraham
4. Abraham the Intercessor
5. Abraham's Sacrifice
6. Joseph Preserves Life
7. Joseph Forgives
8. The Law in Moses' Hands
9. Moses Recalled to Duty
10. Moses Receives God's Law
11. Joshua, Captain in Training
12. Caleb, Faithful Spy
13. Captain Joshua
14. Operation Rahab
15. Gideon's Army
16. Samson's Weakness
17. Redeeming Ruth
18. Samuel's Sons
19. Saul, First King
20. Samuel's Warning
21. The Cliffs of Courage
22. No Substitute for Obedience
23. David, Defender of the Faith
24. David, King Without a Throne
25. Nathan's Special Delivery
26. Elijah's Showdown
27. Elijah and Mission Fatigue
28. An On Mission Maiden
29. The Leper's Secret
30. Queen Esther's Time
31. Daniel's Accountability Team
32. Daniel's Boss
33. Praying Daniel
34. Hosea the Husband
35. Jonah, Unmotivated Missionary
36. John the Baptist
37. Mother Mary
38. Joseph the Stepfather
39. Jesus' Mission
40. Jesus Goes Fishing
41. Come and See
42. Matthew's Party
43. A Lean, Mean Missionary Machine
44. Little Man, Big Heart
45. Water for the World
46. God Loves Freaky People, Too
47. Love Forgives, Forgiveness Loves
48. Share the Truth- No Matter What
49. The Other Brother
50. Sower and the Seed
51. More Food!
52. On Mission Friends
53. Jesus and the Bad Crowd
54. Jesus and the Blind Man
55. Jesus Raises Lazarus
56. Peter's Denial
57. Jesus and Pilate
58. The Focus to Finish
59. God's Challenge
60. The Power Plan
61. Transformed
62. Obey God or Man?
63. Hearing God
64. Ananias Meets Saul
65. Son of Encouragement
66. A Quantum Leap
67. Dynamic Duo
68. Paul & Silas Visit Philippi
69. Mentored for the Mission
70. Religion Can be a Bad Thing
71. Prison: The Plan of God
72. Win Some- Lose Some

Challenger Meetings

(LC Chapter Five)

Challenger meetings are to equip and mobilize young men to go to the world to live out and deliver the gospel. Challenger meetings are similar to a “huddle” in a football game. It is to prepare players to play the game.

Components of a Challenger Meeting:

Commitment Statement: Challengers review their commitment statement at every meeting to keep their on mission promises and intentions fresh in their minds. It is the standard for accountability for all members of the group.

Testimonies: One essential part of each Challengers meeting is the testimony time. Each meeting Challengers hear one man, often a Challenger, share the story of how he came to Christ. This serves as a great opportunity for men in the church who are not involved in Challengers to visit a meeting.

Prayer Journal: “The Challengers Prayer Journal” is a tool that helps Challengers groups to have focus, purpose, and continuity in their corporate prayer life. At each meeting, Challengers take time to look back over all recorded prayer request/concerns logged into the journal.

Accountability Teams: Each team of three to five members meet together at some time during each regular meeting to encourage each other in the following:

Bible Study – Challenger groups choose a book of the Bible to read through, one chapter each day. Each Challenger writes a daily 10 word summary or record a favorite verse in their notebook.

Prayer – some teams establish a time of prayer when each member will pray every day for the others.

Attendance – If a member of a team is absent from a meeting or other Challengers activity, his teammates check up on him.

Advancement – Teams work together and encourage each other through the *Challenger Quest*, *Challenger Journey* and the *On Mission Bible Studies*.

Personal Integrity – Challengers accountability teams provide a gender-specific support system for young men who are striving to maintain moral purity or overcome some destructive habit.

Guest – It is important to have a plan in place for visitors to be welcomed and included in Accountability Teams when they meet during Challenger meetings.

Session Plans: Weekly session plans for Challenger meetings are provided in the annual Challenger Planbook. Session plans begin with an introduction, an aim, a discussion of preparation, and a list of teaching objectives. These materials will acquaint the leader with the weekly topic. The session plan offer three sections for leading the topic:

Embark – suggest activities for the leader to use in beginning the session and introduce the study to the Challengers.

Explore – provides the leader with information for guiding Challengers to examine the topic.

Engage – presents methods the leader may use to encourage young men to apply the study.

Grouping Challengers

(LC 79-80)

The five configurations below illustrate typical ways for churches to arrange their Challengers and leadership. Notice that the director is sometimes a leader and/or coach; some Accountability Teams have coaches and others do not; all leaders are assumed to be Mentors of one or two Challengers; and each student has a prayer partner who is not a leader.

Model #1 – Single Cell:

1 Leader	Serves as director and primary leadership team
3-5 Students	One Accountability Team
Resource People	5 prayer partners
	3-4 additional mentors
	Several others serve as chaperones, etc.

Model #2 – Small Group:

1 Director	Also serves on primary leadership team & coach
1 Leader	Serves on primary leadership team & coach
6 Students	Two Accountability Teams
Resource People	6 prayer partners
	3 additional mentors
	Several others

Model #3 – Larger Group:

1 Director	Also serves on primary leadership team & coach
3 Leaders	Serves on primary leadership team & coach
18 Students	Four Accountability Teams
Resource People	18 prayer partners
	8 additional mentors
	Many others

Model #4 – Multiple Groups:

1 Director	Also serves on Older Challengers leadership team
2 Leaders	Older Challengers leadership team
14 Older Students	Three Accountability Teams
3 Leaders	Younger Challengers leadership team & coaches
13 Younger Students	Three Accountability Teams
Resource People	27 prayer partners
	14 additional mentors
	Many others

Model #5 – Large Model:

1 Director	
6 Leaders	Serve on two Older Challengers leadership teams
34 Students	15 Juniors & Seniors in 3 teams
	19 Freshman & Sophomores in 4 teams
4 Leaders	Serve on Younger Challenger leadership team & coaches
18 Students	5 Accountability Teams (3-Quest, 2-Journey)
Resource People	52 prayer partners
	23 additional mentors
	Many others

Challengers Activities

(LC Chapter Six)

Mission Action:

Mission actions are those activities that Challengers undertake to accomplish the mission of the church. A byproduct of mission action is that Challengers develop an on mission lifestyle. Refer to pages 61-62 of *Leading Challengers* for a list of mission action activities.

God's Mission is to reconcile all people to Himself. He sent Jesus into the world to redeem us. Jesus' mission in the world was to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10); to give abundant life (John 10:10); and to give His life as a ransom (Mark 10:45).

Jesus commissioned His followers to preach the kingdom of God (Luke 9:2); to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20); and to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). Our mission is to become co-laborers with God in His Mission-to reconcile all people to Himself. He has given us the mission of sharing the message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

Ministry Projects:

Ministry action is what Challengers do to meet human needs. Ministry is a natural outgrowth of a personal relationship with Christ. As Christians, we have several motivations to minister:

- **To demonstrate our compassion.** People everywhere are hurting and in need. God has placed in our hearts a spirit of compassion.
- **To follow Jesus' example.** Jesus used his ministry of meeting physical needs of people as an avenue to teach us Who He is, and what He came to do for us spiritually, and how we should respond to Him.
- **To obey Jesus' commands and clear expectations.** He told us to give to the needy (Matthew 6:3); look after orphans and widows (James 1:27); feed the hungry, take in the stranger, cloth the naked, take care of the sick, and visit the prisoner (Matthew 25:35-40).
- **To honor and glorify God.** When we "let our light shine," our good deeds cause people to praise God. (Matthew 5:16)
- **To make our faith tangible by putting it in action.** A faith that does not move us to action is dead. (James 2:14-17)
- **To pave the way for sharing the gospel.** We gain credibility as messengers of the gospel by meeting human needs. We earn the right to be heard when we help and serve.

Where Challengers Find Mission and Ministry Activities:

Your Church's On Mission Team

The Challengers Journey

Challengers Rallies – Mission Marketplaces

Contact the state office for possible mission opportunities.

Challengers Central Website – www.challengerscentral.com

Interest Activities:

Interest activities are those activities that teenage guys like to do together. They are activities that attract and hold their interest and attention. Challengers interest activities are most often sports, camping, trips, music and other performances, recreation, parties, lock-ins, tournaments, and construction projects. The goals of interest activities include:

- **To attract and interest young men in attending Challenger meetings and events.** Some Challengers groups use interest activities as recruitment campaigns to enlarge enrollment. Activities are sometimes used as a reward or incentive for participating in or completing other worthwhile activities.
- **To provide a setting for Christian young men and their leaders to develop deeper relationships with other Christians.** These are fun activities that give everyone a chance to get to know each other better. They allow relationships to be more balanced and make mission education enjoyable as well as meaningful.
- **As a strategy for drawing a crowd and raising curiosity for a witness event.** This is a mission activity that uses skills and interest of Challengers to share a witness.
- **To teach spiritual truth through parables and object lessons.** An example of this would be a campcraft course where as skills are taught, spiritual applications are made related to the Christian life.
- **As a strategy for sharing the gospel by providing a setting where relationships can grow around common interest.** Challengers and their leaders can use interest activities as opportunities to invite their non-Christian friends or others who have a common interest into relationships with Christians who are prepared to share their faith.

How Challenger Leaders Share Christ through Interest Activities: (LC 67)

An increasing number of resources are available to Challenger leaders and other Christian men who want to share Christ with teenagers, particularly boys, through interest activities. Manuals, pamphlets, and tracts that help men to strategically use campcraft, sports clinics and teams, fishing, auto restoration, and other interests common to men and boys are constantly being produced and updated. These resources are increasingly available through the NAMB catalog and LifeWay Christian stores.

Resources

Listed below are several resources to provide guidance for beginning and maintaining an active Challenger organization.

- ◆ The North American Mission Board *On-Mission Resources* catalog. This free catalog gives product information on available Challenger materials and products. To get a free catalog contact (866) 407-6262 or download files at www.challengerscentral.com
- ◆ *Leading Challengers, Second Edition* This manual is a guide for starting, organizing and continuing an effective Challengers program.
- ◆ *Challengers Planbook* This annual planbook includes six bimonthly calendars, the general meeting format, forms and plans to prepare for Challengers meetings and events, weekly session plans, and everything leaders need to run a successful Challengers organization.
- ◆ *The Challengers Quest* is a two-mile advancement plan designed for “pre-Christian” teenagers and/or younger students. The *Quest* contains 24 Bible studies.
- ◆ *The Challengers Journey* is a student manual detailing the Challengers advancement plan. This manual contains the four “basic miles” and “mission challenge” projects required for each of those miles.
- ◆ *On Mission Youth Bible Studies* contains 72 Bible studies that explore on mission encounters throughout the Bible. These Bible studies are used in conjunction with the *Challengers Journey*.
- ◆ *Leading Challengers Website* www.challengerscentral.com Leaders may find many Challenger resources – including Leading Challengers manual, a downloadable leadership training course, The Challengers Quest and The Challengers Journey

Ordering Mission Education Materials

Undated Materials: (RA/Challenger program books and awards)

- (866) 407-6262 (NAMB) North American Mission Board Products
- Visit one of the LifeWay Christian Store locations
- Internet at www.namb.net/catalog
- Mail NAMB dated order form to: NAMB, P.O. Box 932-650, Atlanta, GA 31193

Dated Materials: (Monthly magazines and Annual Resource Kit)

- (866) 407-6262 (NAMB) North American Mission Board
- Internet at www.namb.net/catalog
- Mail NAMB dated order form to: NAMB, P.O. Box 932-650, Atlanta, GA 31193

Staying Informed

Registering your Challenger group with the state office is important each year. The current leadership will receive the latest information related to state Challenger events. Your Challenger group will receive of Certificate of Registration each year suitable for framing. To register your Challenger group, make a copy of the registration form on the next page, complete the information requested and mail it to the state office. You can register your Challenger group at www.challengerscentral.com

Naming your Challengers group after a Missionary:

Every Challengers group is encouraged to name themselves after someone who is currently exhibiting an on-mission lifestyle. You can name your group after an associational, state, North American, or International missionary. Once your group has chosen a name you can use it in promotional information such as “The Steve & Tara Smith Challengers Group.” As the Challenger members study about mission skills they can correspond with the missionaries and inquire about how they use those mission skills in their mission field. The Challengers are encouraged to pray for the missionary as they work with a specific people group, give towards special mission offerings, and possibly even go one day as a mission volunteer.

To select a name for your Challenger group check with your church and associational leadership for recommendations. You can request a missionary personal directory from the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board that have the current listings of missionaries and where they are serving. Missionaries feel honored and appreciated when their names are added to a Challengers group. Once you name your group after a missionary be sure to include that name on your annual registration form. You will receive a registration certificate that includes your Challengers group name that is suitable for framing.

Please note that some missionaries are in locations or positions where returning mail may be very difficult or impossible, please be patient and understanding. When corresponding with missionaries you need to inquire if there are any security concerns that you need to be aware of with your correspondence. Listed below are places to obtain more information concerning missionaries.

North American Mission Board, SBC
4200 North Point Pkwy.
Alpharetta, GA 30022-4176
(770) 410-6000
www.namb.net
www.challengers.cc

International Mission Board
P.O. Box 6767
Richmond, VA 23230-0767
(800) 999-2889
www.imb.org

Annual Men's Ministry Registration Form

Church Name	Address	City	Zip	Association
Men's Ministry Director	Address	City	Zip	Home # w/AC
Challenger Director	Address	City	Zip	Home # w/AC
Royal Ambassador Director	Address	City	Zip	Home # w/AC

Enrollment Church Year - _____

Men's Ministry (Men 18yrs. & up)	Children (Grades 1 st – 6 th)	Youth (Grades 7 th – 12 th)
Basic Men's Group _____		
Prayer Groups _____	Royal Ambassadors _____	Challengers I (7-9) _____
Kingdom Renewal _____	Mission Kids _____	Challengers II (10-12) _____
Restorative Justice _____		
Victim Relief _____		
Builders _____	Total _____	Total _____
Other _____		
Total _____		Grand Total _____

**Please use the space below if you would like registration certificates
for your Royal Ambassador and or Challenger groups.**

(Circle one) RA or Chal	
	Chapter Name
(Circle one) RA or Chal	
	Chapter Name
(Circle one) RA or Chal	
	Chapter Name
(Circle one) RA or Chal	
	Chapter Name

RETURN TO:
Texas Baptist Men
 Annual Church Registration Form
 5351 Catron
 Dallas, Texas 75227

Texas Baptist Men Ministries



The wooden wagon wheel can be used best to represent how the fellowships and ministries attempt to fulfill the mission statement of Texas Baptist Men.

At the center of the wheel is the axle that represents the importance of maintaining a relationship with Jesus Christ. With everything focusing upon and revolving around Jesus, He provides the stability and direction for the TBM ministries to assist the local church.

The hub of the wheel represents the foundation of Mission Education. As the hub supports the spokes, Mission Education assist churches in the role of helping Christians discover how they are created to “fit” into God’s Mission. Mission Education is a process rather than a program. Mission Education strives to help individuals to become aware of God’s purpose for their life and the needs around them.

The spokes of the wheel represents the various fellowships and ministries of TBM. They offer opportunities for church members who share common experiences or interests to be used by God to accomplish His work, done His way for His glory.

The rim of the wheel represents mission action and provides opportunities for evangelism. Men and boys are activity orientated and seek opportunities for involvement. There are many mission projects that individuals or groups of men are involved with on an ongoing basis. Where the metal of the rim meets the road is where believers encounter a lost world and share the message of Jesus Christ with individuals who are striving for the answer for their lives.

For more information on these ministries contact TBM at (214) 381-2800
Cooperative Program funds given by Texas Baptist churches make this manual possible.