

Training Student Leaders in the Red Cup NSO

Doug Schaupp. September, 2011. Draft #1

You have faithfully agreed to help lead the charge on campus in a few weeks. You have agreed to help lead the red cup outreach.

Before we get into Red Cup, we need to revisit our picture of good leadership.

CLARIFY OUR PICTURE OF LEADERSHIP.

Leadership is one of those buzz words that means many different things.

Let's compare and contrast what the world means by leadership, and what the scripture means by leadership?

SECULAR

Competent. Strong. Qualified. Authority. Knows what they are doing.

KINGDOM.

Servant. God's power in our weakness. Available. Faithful. Courageous. Love.

GIDEON. Judges 6:11-15.

When Gideon is called to leadership, he is at a low point. He is not strong and impressive. He is not sure why he is called. Some of us, like Gideon, do not feel up to the task ahead of us. We do not feel impressive. We see our weakness and inadequacy. We have self-doubt.

PETER.

Peter tells Jesus "I won't let you down. I'm ready. I got this."

Leadership is the journey of Gideon and Peter's transformation. As you say yes to Kingdom leadership, you say yes to God transforming you from the inside out.

In fact, Bobby Clinton says, "God won't do through you, what you won't let him do in you." In other words, as you are honest about your struggles and weaknesses, God has permission to do a deeper work in you. As he does a deeper work in you, he can do a deeper work through you.

DISCUSS IN PAIRS.

1. As you come into leadership, are you feeling more like Peter or Gideon? Are you feeling your inadequacies, or are you feeling ready to go?
2. How do you feel about leadership being as much about your own healing and sanctification as it is what you offer others?

WHY NSO?

Who here first got connected to InterVarsity through NSO?

DOUG

There are two ways of telling my story as a freshman.

First, I came into college burned out on religion. I had it forced down my throat in high school. I assumed the good life was found outside of church. So I went crazy as a freshman.

But in my dorm I bumped into these crazy Christians, called InterVarsity. They loved me, befriended me, shared their stuff with me, loaned me their car, and endured with me through all my arrogance. At the end of freshman year, Jesus finally won me over and I committed my life to Jesus.

Is that version of my story true? Yes, I shared that exact version at UCLA a few years ago.

Here is another version.

Before I came to school, a group of InterVarsity leaders met to pray and plan for the incoming freshman class. Their hearts broke for me, even though they had not met me yet. When I got to school, I came across their sign up table and by God's grace I signed up for their Small Group. The SG leader followed me up, came by my room repeatedly, didn't give up though I only came to SG 3x fall quarter, invited me to Mark Study, became my friend, and helped turn my life around though it took 9 months. I was a typical freshman flake who finally was won over by the love the community and the grace of God.

Which version is more true? Both are true. But I prefer the first to the second. Why? The first is more about me. The second I am the fruit of NSO.

NSO is our hospitality. It is us making room in our lives for God to bring new friends. It is us caring more about the "strangers" or "the least" on campus instead of just caring about me and my friends and my academic agenda. Those InterVarsity students made up their minds to serve me before they met me. So, by God's grace, they were able to handle me.

DISCUSS IN PAIRS

- When did you first bump into InterVarsity?
- When you tell your story of freshman year, do you like to describe yourself as a blessed product of good NSO?

GROUP DISCUSSION

So what is NSO?

Why are you involved?

What do you hope for/pray for?

POINT:

When you think back on your freshman year, please remember the people God put in your path to knock on your door, to pursue you, to serve you. The more you can remember the people who served you in love, the more longsuffering and servanthood you will extend to the new freshmen.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

What will God do THROUGH you as you pour out your life in NSO?

Tell an inspiring story of a freshman I met who later went on to be a key friend in my life and a Kingdom world changer:

1. Mark Stoleson.
2. Scott Hall
3. Tracey Gee

Lives will be transformed. Maybe you will even make an eventual best friend.

My favorite day of the year. The year before the freshmen come to campus. It is a great Mystery. I can hardly sleep. "God, who will you bring into my life? In whom are you at work?" It is like a pile of unopened gifts the day before Christmas. I can't wait to meet the freshman. As I meet them, I'm praying inside, "God, how are you at work in this person's life?!"

What will God do IN you as you serve in NSO?

Learn to be a missionary, world-changer.

You will become more like Jesus. Your fears and self-absorption will rise to the surface. You will bring those to Jesus. You will be different, Lord willing, by Fall conference. You will be more of a servant, more others focused, more full of the Holy Spirit.

Don't let NSO become a to-do list. Don't focus on all the tasks. Focus on the people, the mystery, the potential. Focus on the ways that NSO is a gift from God to you.

RED CUP TRAINING.

Last year a bunch of us decided to use a unifying image or graphic to connect the first 3 weeks of school for the freshmen.

How was it for you last year with Choices?

Sam, and I and a few others started talking in January to discern the best NSO campaign for 2011. By God's grace, we came up with the Red Cup.

What does the Red Cup symbolize? Is it okay to build off a symbol like this?

Acts 17.

Paul takes Athenian idol worship and by God's grace finds a way to redeem and even affirm them. "I see that you are religious in every way." In the same spirit, we are taking this party icon and redeeming it and agreeing with it. "All of us are thirsty. On a surface level. On a deeper level. How are you trying to satisfy your thirst?"

RED CUP STORIES FROM SEMESTER SCHOOLS IN AUGUST.

Weber State.

- Last year they collected 60 contact cards of students interested in InterVarsity. This year God grew that to 160!
- Tennis player InterVarsity student. Wearing her Red Cup shirt in "Persuasive Communications" class. First day of class, the professor sees her and calls on her, "You have 1 minute to persuade us of what you believe on that t-shirt." She was trained, and she shared about her thirst and Jesus' living water. Thank God for that shirt opening that door. A new witness is being formed by God.
- Conversions: 7 decisions at LG, 2 more at the Red Cup proxe. 9 decisions. In the past, none.

St. Louis.

First day of Thirsty went at UMSL. They said that THE question on campus, out of 13,000 undergrads, was "what's up with the red cup?" their icon captivated the entire campus. Do you know you can shape the conversation of all of UCLA 26,000 undergrads?

1. A new wave of boldness they have never seen before.

2. 4 people standing in front of the proxe. Shy student, daniel, says to all 4. Have you gone through this yet? He shares the gospel with all 4 at the same time. All signed up for InterVarstiy.
3. Freshmen signed up for InterVarsity and then got trained by the older students on the spot.

DREAMING.

What if God could reach 2x-3x as many students through Red Cup as through your NSO last year?

What would that be like on campus?

In pairs, pray and tell God what you want him to do this year.

PROXE RUN-THROUGH.

Mastering Red Cup script -> It takes maybe 2 hours to become fluent.

- Role play upfront (walk through the script)
- Each one gets to walk through script 3 times in pairs.
- Debrief – Q & A. “What are you learning? Where are you stuck?”
 - Things to train in (maybe through debrief?)
 - How to tell your story of thirst. Everyone needs to think of a good story.
 - How to make good invite to Catalyst
 - Print handout on Large Group and SG series.
 - There are key differences when you are talking to a Christian, non-Christian, missional, etc.

[COPIED FROM NATIONAL WEB SITE.]

Let’s run through the actual proxe, and then let’s brainstorm together how you might want to tweak the presentation, the script, anything about it.

POTENTIAL OPENING LINES Get the conversation started:

- “Have you had a chance to interact with our thirsty display?”
- “Have you had a chance to share your opinion on our thirsty display?”
- “Do you want to put a sticker on the board?”

INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND THE PROXE

1. “Hi, I’m _____. We’re with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship talking to people about physical thirsts and the deeper thirsts that we all have and how we quench them.”
2. “What is your favorite soda?” (Give a soda.) “My favorite is _____.”

FOUR CUP PANEL

3. “We are also talking about deeper thirsts that people have.” (point to 4 red cups)
“Think about your friends on campus, what is the main thirst you see them going after?”
(hand them sticker to vote with)
4. “HOW do you see them going after this?” (pause to give them space to vote.)

COLLAGE PANEL

5. “Now that you have answered that question for your friends, can I ask you a more personal question about your personal life?”
6. “What is a deeper thirst or longing that YOU have that you want to quench this year?”

IF THEY ANSWER: have them write their answer on a post-it and place it somewhere on the collage that resonates with their answer (but not on top of the image)

IF THEY AREN'T SURE: "As you look at this collage, are there any images that might resonate with any thirsts you might want to quench this year?" (have them write on post-it note.)

7. Possible follow up questions:

- "Why is that important to you?"
- Give room for conversation, sharing a thirst from your story:
"When I was a freshman..."
- "How have you tried to fulfill that in the past and how did that go?"
(vote or put yourself on the collage)
- "How's that working for you?"

TRANSITION

8. "Have you ever considered how God might help quench that thirst?"
(have a conversation off of what is said)

IF YOU BELIEVE THEY... are not Christian or nominal in their faith...

9. "If you could have something in your life that would fully satisfy you, would you want it?"

10. Possible transitions to QUOTE PANEL:

- "Check out this quote about thirst from Jesus."
- "Jesus makes a bold statement. Check it out." (Read it out loud)
- "Do you want to read a quote about thirst from a really famous person?"

11. Possible questions after the QUOTE PANEL:

- "What do you think about Jesus' words? Do you think that's even possible?"
- "If this offer was legitimate, would you take it?"
- "What do you know about Jesus?" (helpful on-ramp to the FOUR CIRCLES)

12. Possible next steps:

"We are a group on campus called InterVarsity, and we try to allow Jesus to meet these deeper thirsts. Can I share with you how I see these thirsts played out around the globe and what God is doing about it?"
(transition to the FOUR CIRCLES.)

OR

- Explain our next 3 weeks.
- Invite to Large Group, a Gig, etc.
- Ask them to fill out a follow up card.

IF YOU BELIEVE THEY... are Christian and active in faith....

9. "How are you hoping to grow in your faith this year?"
10. "Here is how InterVarsity is helping me grow...God is meeting my deeper thirst and he is working through me to help other people get their deeper thirsts quenched in Jesus."
11. "We'd love for you to join us and grow in the same way, getting your personal deeper thirsts met in Jesus, and also showing your friends that Jesus can meet deeper needs. Would you be interested?"

Pocket Proxe Script

"Hi, I'm ___ with InterVarsity. We are talking with folks today about thirst. Have you seen our Thirsty tent? Want to come over and vote now?"

Showing them the 4 options:

"When you think about your friends on campus, what do you think people are going after the most or thirsting for the most?" (Let them hold the card)

1. Let me ask you a more personal question, "How about you?"
2. My freshman year...
3. "What do you think Jesus is promising?"

THINGS WE HAVE LEARNED THIS WEEK.

Daniel Liu. San Diego.

- Key transition addition: "We at IV are a Christian group, so we like to think about what God has to do with everything. What do you think God has to do with those thirsts?"
- If you could only do 2 panels due to limited time, which 2 would you select?

EXCELLENT FOLLOW-UP AND BEST PRACTICES

What, in your experience, makes for the best follow-up of a proxe or event?

Follow up call THAT SAME DAY. As part of clean up. Right then.

Part 4: Brainstorm in Small Groups.

How to make our proxe better?

How do you want to modify, tweak, change it?

PRAY. Ownership.