

LEADERSHIP LAB #1

[MIDDLE SCHOOL]

The Word of God is your playbook for life! It can be used (1) offensively, (2) defensively, (3) to lead yourself, and (4) to lead others. Take a look at the situations and verses below and match them to them to the one of the plays.

OFFENSIVELY

DEFENSIVELY

TO LEAD YOURSELF

TO LEAD OTHERS

THIS IS USING THE WORD OF GOD

Some kids at school make fun of me and exclude me at lunch. I feel alone and am hesitant to reach out to make new friends. It feels like negative words are always being directed at me. I'm choosing to read Joshua 1:9 so the Word of God can protect my heart. It says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

THIS IS USING THE WORD OF GOD

I love living on mission with Jesus, so I'm starting to dream about what my schedule will look like next semester. What activities should I be a part of? How is God inviting me to use my time so I can manage it well? I memorized 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 which says, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I know the Word of God will continue to show me my next steps as I move forward on my journey.

THIS IS USING THE WORD OF GOD

A friend at school shared with me that she is always stressed out. I encouraged her to meditate on 1 Peter 5:7. It says, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." I told her that when she feels stressed, she can meditate on this verse by thinking about it and focusing on it rather than only focusing on her stress.

THIS IS USING THE WORD OF GOD

I want to grow in hearing God's voice, so I read John 8:47 which says, "Whoever belongs to God hears what God says." Then I listen quietly for the voice of the Holy Spirit. Each day, I take ownership and declare this verse out loud. It's become part of my training plan so I can continue to grow as a disciple and leader.

If the Bible is our playbook for life, we've got to know the playbook! Pick two of the verses below. Look them up in your Student Leadership Bible and highlight them. Next, fill in the blank lines to complete the verses. Read one of the verses aloud in your pod.

- **JOHN 14:27** "Peace I _____ with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the _____ gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
- **PHILIPPIANS 4:19** And my God will _____ all your needs according to the _____ of his _____ in Christ Jesus.
- **JAMES 1:2-3** Consider it pure _____, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your _____ produces _____.
- **ROMANS 15:13** May the God of _____ fill you with all joy and _____ as you trust in him, so that you may _____ with hope by the _____ of the Holy Spirit.
- **HEBREWS 10:23** Let us _____ unswervingly to the _____ we profess, for he who _____ is _____.
- **1 JOHN 3:1** See what great _____ the Father has _____ on us, that we should be _____ of God! And that is what we are!
- **JOSHUA 1:9** Have I not commanded you? Be _____ and _____. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your _____ will be with you _____ you go.
- **1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18** Rejoice always, _____ continually, give _____ in all circumstances; for this is God's _____ for you in _____ Jesus.
- **PSALMS 32:7** You are my _____ place; you will _____ me from trouble and _____ me with _____ of deliverance.

Choose one of the four ways to use the Word of God that you'd like to grow in: (1) offensively, (2) defensively, (3) to lead ourselves, (4) to lead others. Share a specific example of what it might look like to use the Word of God in whichever way you chose.
