

Warrior Disciple Leaders Guide

Welcome, *Warrior Disciple* Leader! You are about to embark on a powerful journey with the men in your Christian community. This guide will help you recruit, schedule, organize, and lead your group of "Warrior Disciples." Remember, we are not just forming a group; we are building an army for Christ.

Recruitment: Enlisting Your Soldiers

1. **Start Small, Think Big.** Getting a group of guys to follow any men's ministry is one of the most difficult parts of the process of running any type of men's ministry. But with earnest daily prayer and submittal to God, it can be successful. You can additionally follow these steps:
 - **Friends and Family:** Begin by inviting a few close friends or family members who share your passion for Christ.
 - **Contact Your Fireteam:** If you already have a "fireteam," e.g., an accountability group or a squad of close-knit Christian buddies, introduce *Warrior Disciple* to them.
 - **Reach Out and Invite Guys One-on-One.** Approach men individually and share your vision. Personal invitations are powerful, as they are one of the most effective ways to get men involved. Go to your church service 15-20 minutes early, or hang out after the service to chat with guys about your men's ministry idea about going through the *Warrior Disciple* book together. Talk to the guys in your discipleship group about getting together and studying the book.
 - **Ask the Church Staff.** Speak with associate pastors, ministry leaders, or whoever else might have pull around your church and get ideas on who to talk to to recruit.
 - **Church Bulletin, Website, or Social Media:** If you are able to have access, announce the study in your church bulletin or website. If you have a larger church, contact the church office or refer to the church website to find out how this can be done.
2. **Wider Outreach.**
 - **Men's Events:** Use men's breakfasts, retreats, or events to promote your study. Ask the leaders who run these events if it's okay if you can speak to men about your ideas of running a *Warrior Disciple* study group.

- Social Media: Create a group or page on social media platforms to spread the word and provide updates.

3. Create Excitement:

- Vision Casting: Share the purpose and potential impact of the study. Emphasize the transformative power of becoming a "Warrior Disciple."
- Testimonials: Use stories of men who have experienced life change through similar studies.

Scheduling: Strategizing the Campaign

1. Frequency:

- Weekly Meetings: Ideal for maintaining momentum and building strong bonds.
- Bi-Weekly Meetings: Balances commitment with busy schedules.
- Monthly Meetings: Allows more flexibility but requires strong follow-up between sessions.

2. Time of Year/Season:

- January to December: Easy to remember, but a potential setback may be the ability to keep guys engaged and attending during the Summer months. A solution for this is going through the four Summer/Holiday Sessions towards the end of the Warrior Disciple book and hold meetings less frequently.
- September to May/June: Follows traditional western school year. Easy to implement, and most other church/ministry programs follow this same schedule.

3. Time and Place:

- Consistent Schedule: Choose a regular day and time that works for the majority. You may never get a consensus that works for every single person, so just choose the best compromise.
- Convenient Location: A comfortable, accessible location encourages attendance. Consider homes, church rooms, coffee shops, library rooms, or community centers.

4. Summer/Winter Sessions:

- Bonus Lessons: Utilize the 4 additional "bonus" lessons during holiday seasons to keep engagement high.

Organizing and Execution: Structuring and Running the Battalion

For Larger Groups or Churches.

If you are a pastor or ministry leader at a church and you want to integrate the Warrior Disciple system into your men's ministry and you know that you have a large group of guys interested in participating, then these tips are for you:

1. Structure:

- Create Small Groups: If you have a larger group, divide them into sub-groups of 6-8 men for deeper discussions, more of an intimate feel, and accountability. I would not recommend each each be larger than 11-12 guys, so keep it smaller.
- Sit these smal groups around tables or seating areas in a place where they all can hear each other well.
- Group Leaders: Appoint strong, reliable men to lead and facilitate these sub-groups. Sometimes you may wish to have 2 facilitators. Try to keep the discussion on-topic.

2. Roles and Responsibilities:

- Lead Facilitator: You or another appointed leader to guide the overall study with the multiple small groups.
- Small Group Leaders: Facilitate discussion, follow-up, and closing prayer within their groups.
- Prayer Warriors: Designate a few dedicated men to be in constant prayer outside of meeting time for the group's needs and success.

3. Flow of Meetings:

- While the length of the meetings is completely up to the leaders, you may wish to aim for a total of between 60-90 minutes. Some *Warrior Disciple* session topics may warrant longer discussion times or even splitting a book session into two separate meetings. But aim to keep total meeting times consistent and somewhat predictable to accommodate men with tight schedules.

- Begin meetings with prayer for God's guidance and providence, and transition into introductory discussion with the multitude of small groups.
- Then the small groups break into discussions among themselves for deeper surveys of the topics and answer the assignment/discussion questions. Aim to give every man present a chance to speak up during the conversation. If any one individual is dominating the conversation, kindly suggest that the group hears from other people.
- Each small group should wrap up with a closing prayer. Once men open up and get to know one another (you'll have to judge it on a case-by-case basis), then ask the individual men have any specific prayer requests the group could pray about.

For Smaller Groups or Independent Studies.

If you and a few Christian friends want to independently use the *Warrior Disciple* book for your smaller group or "fireteam," then use these tips:

1. Structure:

- Keep the group size small. Technically, it could work between only two individuals but aim to have a total of 3-6 men.
- Hold your regular meetings at a place where they all can hear each other well and have a minimum of distraction.
- Group Leader: Designate one strong, reliable man to lead and facilitate these discussions. Perhaps it is you. Try to keep the discussion on-topic.

2. Roles and Responsibilities:

- Group Leader: As mentioned above, he should be a strong, dedicated Christian man. He must be reliable and keep to a schedule. He must also be able to facilitate the flow of the topics and questions within a conversation.
- Prayer Warriors: Have each group member be in constant prayer outside of meeting time for the group's needs and success.

3. Flow of Meetings:

- While the length of the meetings is completely up to the leaders, you may wish to aim for a total of between 60-90 minutes per meeting. Some *Warrior Disciple* session topics may warrant longer discussion times or even splitting a book session into two separate meetings. But aim to keep total meeting times consistent and somewhat predictable to accommodate men with tight schedules.

- Begin meetings with a prayer for God's guidance and providence. Start introductory discussion based on the material, and then transition into deeper surveys of the topics and answer the assignment/discussion questions. Aim to give every man present a chance to speak up during the conversation. If any one individual is dominating the conversation, kindly suggest that the group hears from other people.
- At the end of your meeting, your fireteam or group should wrap up with a closing prayer. Once men open up and get to know one another (you'll have to judge it on a case-by-case basis), then ask the individual men have any specific needs or prayer requests the group could pray about.

For All Group Meetings.

Here are additional suggestions of things to add meetings whether or not you have a large or small-sized group:

- Check-In: Within the small group, briefly discuss how everyone is doing and any follow-ups from previous meetings. Try to keep this no longer than 10-15 minutes
- Lesson Discussion: Dive deep into the lesson, encouraging open and honest discussion.
- Application: Challenge the men to apply what they've learned in their daily lives.

Materials: Equipping Your Soldiers

What to bring to every *Warrior Disciple* meeting:

- *Warrior Disciple* Books: Ensure every man has his own copy in paperback or ebook.
- Study Materials: Provide additional resources like Bibles and notes.
- Recommended Reading Books: Each session in *Warrior Disciple* has one or two books that are recommended for a deeper plunge into that particular topic. Feel free to bring these or another book written on the same topic(s).

Engagement and Accountability: Becoming Battle-Hardened

There are many other ways for men to become more comfortable with one another, encourage one another, and ultimately defeat sin and grow in Christ:

- Weekly Challenges: In addition to the regular challenges given at the end of each session in the *Warrior Disciple* book, set further weekly challenges or tasks for the men to complete.

- Accountability Partners: Pair men up to check in on each other's progress and struggles.
- Regular Follow-Up: Don't just communicate at the in-person meetings. Ensure constant communication through calls, group texts, or social media.
- Celebrate Victories: Share and celebrate the successes and breakthroughs within the group. Do things outside of regularly scheduled group meetings.
- Support in Struggles: Offer prayer, advice, and support for those going through tough times.

Conclusion: The Battle Ahead

Leading a *Warrior Disciple* group is not for the faint of heart. It requires dedication, courage, and a heart for God. You are preparing these men for spiritual warfare, equipping them with the tools they need to stand firm in their faith. Remember, we are soldiers of Christ, and our mission is to advance His kingdom on earth by training disciples.

Ephesians 6:10-11: *"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."*

Go forth, Leader, and build an army of Warrior Disciples!