



Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course

Youth Edition Addendum

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Introduction

This youth addendum includes several additions that give you choices about which pieces you may use in your context. These additions include discussion questions, activities, and a quiz (found at: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/introduction-to-lay-ministry-the-BASIC-course>). For the quiz, you might want to bring small prizes for the correct answers.

Consider sending an e-mail two weeks ahead of the scheduled class and include:

- A participant's letter (a sample letter is included on the following page).
 - Tell participants how to get *Lay Servant Ministries: BASIC Course Participant's Book*, if it is not included with the registration.
- Slides for the full *Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course* are available at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/introduction-to-lay-ministry-the-BASIC-course>.
- [Spiritual Gifts Inventory](#) (also available at the above link).

Handouts for the class might include:

- Full set of slides from the *Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course*.
- Devotions/Readings if not included on your set of slides.
- A copy of the spiritual gifts inventory if it is completed during the class.

Sample Participant's Letter



Dear Participant,

Welcome to the *Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course*. You are about to enter into a commitment to principled Christian leadership. Lay Servant Ministries presents a broad range of mission and ministry opportunities, and this course lays the foundation and framework for servant leadership in the local church and beyond.

In this course, topics such as servant and spiritual leadership, caring ministries, basic communication skills, and sharing your faith will enhance your knowledge and skill as a leader. As this course is not focused on the area of preaching, if you wish to serve in pulpit supply, you will want to take an advanced course on preaching to help prepare you for that area of ministry.

This course consists of five two-hour sessions. Please plan to attend all the sessions; missing any will leave a hole in the group and lessen the experience for you and others.

Schedule:

Location:

Bring your Bible and a notebook or journal to each class, along with your copy of the *Lay Servant Ministries: BASIC Course* participant's book.

Come with a willingness to learn what God has in store for you as a leader. Bring a positive attitude and be ready to participate in the discussions both in the large group and in small groups. One of the best ways to learn is through the experiences of others.

I am praying for you and look forward to our time together.

In ministry together,

(signature)

Session One: Ministry of the Baptized

LEARNING OUTCOME GOALS

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the reality of the priesthood of all believers and God's call on our lives.
2. Discuss spiritual gifts—meaning and purpose.
3. Describe the need for a response to God's call.
4. Discuss the early Methodist movement and the role of the laity in it.

INTRODUCTIONS

- Have each person share his/her name, church, and what he/she would like to get out of the class.

DEVOTION

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9-10

Prayer: I have heard your call to priesthood, my Lord. I have heard your call to be in mission and ministry. Thank you for calling me out of darkness into your marvelous light. May I declare your praises in all that I am and in all that I do! Amen.

Song: Use a praise song or another song appropriate for youth.

REFLECTION ON THE READING FOR SESSION ONE

- What does it mean to be an "internist in Christ's body"? If needed, refer to 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Why do we visit doctors? If we think pastors as doctors for the church, what do you see pastors do that is healthy for the people in your church?
- Have you ever thought about yourself as a minister before?
- Do you have any stories about someone who looked to you for help or support?

ACTIVITY

Do the *Wesley and the Methodists: Basic Quiz 1*. The Powerpoint Slides for this quiz can be found at: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/introduction-to-lay-ministry-the-BASIC-course>.

DISCUSSION

- What does The United Methodist Church have in common with most other Christian belief systems?
- One thing that makes Methodism unique is John Wesley's understanding of grace. What are the three kinds of grace as defined by Wesley? What do they do?
- John Wesley was big on taking action because of belief. We can take part in God's freely given grace. We do good things not to earn rewards or earn our way into heaven. We do good things because God first loved us. Since God loved us first and created all things, we do good things to show God's love to one another.

- What does the connectional system look like near you? Do you know your district? your conference? Who are some people interested in young people who are plugged into that system?
- God calls people in different ways at different times. How can you try the nine things on pages 13 and 14 of the *Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant's Book* to listen for God?
- Which adults in your church would be good listeners and would encourage you as you discern your call?
- Can you define each of the spiritual gifts? Which ones do you have questions about? Do you see any of those gifts in yourself? in any of your friends?

GIFTS ASSESSMENT

If time permits, do a spiritual gifts assessment. A better idea is to have each of the class participants do the gifts assessment prior to coming to class. One is available at: http://gbod-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/legacy/kintera-files/lay-servant-ministries/SPIRITUAL_GIFTS_INVENTORY.pdf . Using the explanations included in the assessment tool, talk about the various gifts. Have each participant identify his/her top four gifts. Discuss how they might connect those gifts with ministry opportunities.

CLOSING PRAYER

- Sharing of joys and concerns.

Session Two: Leading

LEARNING OUTCOME GOALS

At the end of this session participants will be able to:

1. Describe servant leadership.
2. Discuss the important roles in leadership.
3. Describe and discuss what it means to be a spiritual leader.
4. Demonstrate the principles of Christian conferencing and describe the aspects of consensus and discernment.

DEVOTION

Scripture: John 13:12-17

Prayer:

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal
your son established a new covenant for all people,
and in the washing of feet
he showed us the dignity of service.
Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these signs of our life in faith
may speak again to our hearts,
feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies. Amen.¹

Song: Use a praise song or another song appropriate for youth.

REFLECTION ON THE READING FOR SESSION TWO

- What things in your life do you have control of?
- Who else can control things that happen in your life?
- Do you think God can work through you?
- Do you know what vows elders and deacons take in The United Methodist Church?
(Share some information about those vows and about itinerancy.)

ACTIVITY

Do the “Boss versus Leader” activity that follows.

On index cards or post-it notes, write the following phrases. Have each youth take one card or post-it note. Have each person then move around the room and find the phrase that is the opposite of the one on the card he or she is holding. After the participants have done that, have them post their cards under the title of “Boss” or “Leader” on a newsprint sheet or on the wall. Have each pair tell the group why they placed the cards where they did.

¹ Reprinted from *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*, copyright © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts. Used with permission.

BOSS

Demands respect
Takes credit
Criticizes
Talks first
Gives orders
Creates followers
Tells people what to do
Knows everything
Pushes people
Uses people
Places blame on others

LEADER

Deserves and earns respect
Gives credit
Coaches
Listens first
Gives direction
Creates more leaders
Shows people how to do something
Admits when he or she is wrong
Inspires people
Develops people
Fixes problems collaboratively

DISCUSSION

- When we consider the word “servant,” what personality traits or attributes come to mind?
- When we consider the word “leader,” what personality traits or attributes come to mind?
- If we combine those words into “servant leader,” which traits seem to work well together? Which are difficult to combine?
- Why is the concept of “servant leadership” important if we are trying to act the way that Jesus acted?
- Has anyone ever called you a leader? When? How did it make you feel?
- What are some simple phrases to say to encourage others as leaders?

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

Read the General Rules in *The Book of Discipline*, ¶103. On a flip chart, list the means of grace from page 31 of the *Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant’s Book*. Discuss why it is important for leaders to practice the means of grace.

- Disciples lead disciplined lives. Which of the works of mercy and piety are you already doing?
- What questions do you have about the “General Rules” and the “General Rule of Discipleship”?

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCING

Divide participants into groups of four to six. Give them one of the situations listed below, and ask them to come to a consensus on a solution using the process on page 40 of the *Basic Course Participant’s Book*.

1. A leader in the church feels that a new ministry should be started in the community that will necessitate youth participation. It will require funding and support from the congregation. Should the church support it?
2. The youth room needs new furniture. The current couches are shabby. Should the church buy new couches or try to find some other used ones?

3. A problem has been noted with the conduct of a person in the youth meeting. One person is disrupting the whole group. How should the person be approached?

CLOSING PRAYER

- Sharing of joys and concerns.
- Ask participants to perform an act of compassion and an act of justice before the next session.

Session Three: Caring

LEARNING OUTCOME GOALS

At the end of this session participants will be able to:

1. Discuss the biblical basis for caring ministry.
2. Compare and contrast acts of compassion and acts of justice.
3. Discuss several types of caring ministries.
4. Discuss ways to show care for creation.

DEVOTION

Scripture: Matthew 25:35-37, 40

Prayer:

Lord, forgive my possessive and selfish nature. Help my attempts at becoming a good steward of all the opportunities and gifts that you provide.

Help me to remember and reach out to those without daily bread or the Good News of salvation! Please make me generous like you. Amen.

(Adapted from Pete Hammond, *Lessons, Prayers & Scriptures on the Faith Journey* [Intervarsity/USA Marketplace], 109.)

Song: Use a praise song or another song appropriate for youth.

REFLECTION ON THE READING FOR SESSION THREE

- What are some of the privileges that you enjoy?
- Are there some privileges listed that someone you know doesn't have?
- What is the difference between a privilege and a blessing?

ACTIVITY

Ask participants to complete the table on page 11 by thinking of words— using the letters in each of the boxes – that describe privilege and blessing.

DISCUSSION

Works of Mercy:

On a flip chart, list the acts of compassion and justice that the group performed. Discuss the differences between them (see pages 47 and 48 in the *Basic Course Participant's Book*).

- Which works of mercy are you doing or is your church already doing?
- Who is the most caring person you can think of in your life? What qualities does that person exhibit?
- What makes listening a ministry? Do you have any tips for how to be a good listener?
- Can you think of times where your presence, your ability to show up, made a positive difference?
- How can you balance the call to care for others and the ability to care for yourself?

Caring Ministries:

Divide into small groups and discuss types of caring ministries in the church. Have the youth brainstorm some ways that they will be more intentional in caring for others both inside and outside the church.

Stewardship of Creation:

On the flip chart, list ways that we can be good stewards of the earth and other gifts God has given. Discuss making a commitment to practice care of creation. What can we do in our wasteful culture to help improve our environment and the world's natural resources?

CLOSING PRAYER

- Sharing of joys and concerns.
- Ask participants to come prepared to share their faith story one on one.

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Session Four: Communicating

LEARNING OUTCOME GOALS

At the end of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss the importance of communication skills in various settings.
2. List the respectful communication guidelines.
3. Describe the process of mutual invitation.
4. Demonstrate listening skills.
5. Share their faith stories with another participant.

DEVOTION

Scripture: Romans 10:14-15, 17

Prayer:

For God's Reign

We believe in you, O God, for you have made the suffering of humanity your suffering. You have come to establish a kingdom of the poor and humble. Today we sing to you, because you are alive, you have saved us, you have made us free. Amen (*United Methodist Book of Worship*, 511).²

Song: Use a praise song or another song appropriate for youth.

REFLECTION ON THE READING FOR SESSION FOUR

- Read the Nicene Creed (*United Methodist Hymnal*, 880).
- This creed is one of the historic documents of Christianity. What parts of it do you believe without a doubt? What parts of it seem dubious or hard to believe?
- How would you explain this creed to someone who is not Christian or doesn't go to church?

ACTIVITY

Play a game of "Silent Communication." Have each youth pair up with another person and ask that person to tell his/her partner a story using no words. After a few minutes, have the other person in the pair tell a story. Invite the youth to share some of their experiences in communicating without the use of words.

DISCUSSION

- Create a working definition of communication.
- What would you add about texting or technology and communication?
- Who do you believe is a good communicator? Why do you think he/she communicates well?

² From *The United Methodist Book of Worship*. Copyright© 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House.

- Think about the way that you communicate with others. What are some of the nonverbal things that you do to show people what you're thinking, feeling, or caring?
- What slang do you use that someone your age may not?
- Do you find being with someone else one-on-one or in a small group intimidating? What can you do to put others at ease in these situations?
- Describe a time when you had a conflict with someone. Not thinking about who was at fault, how could you have handled it better?
- How would you define effective communication?
- What areas of communication do you think you need to work on the most? If you are unsure, how will you find out where your "blind spots" are?
- What on pages 64 and 65 of the *Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant's Book* surprised you? Which of these would you like to learn more about or practice?
- What is easy to talk about regarding your faith?
- What is difficult to talk about for you and your faith?
- Why is sharing your own faith story important?

One on One Sharing:

Have the group divide up by pairs and ask them to share their own faith story with the other person in the pair. It might help to ask a leading question, such as: "How have you seen God at work in your life during this last week?"

CLOSING PRAYER

- Sharing of joys and concerns.
- Ask participants to find ways to practice hospitality at church or school during the week.

Session Five: Into the World

LEARNING OUTCOME GOALS

At the end of this session participants will be able to:

1. Describe their roles in fulfilling the Great Commission.
2. Discuss the importance of continued study and spiritual growth in the life of Christian leaders.
3. Discover the important role of hospitality in the church.

DEVOTION

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

Prayer:

God, you are like a baker. The leaven you provide raises our hopes. You shape our lives with your hands—they are strong yet gentle. We ask that you warm us in the oven of your love. Form our common lives by your grace so that we may in turn nourish hope in the world. We trust in you. Amen.

Song: Use a praise song or another song appropriate for youth.

REFLECTION ON THE READING FOR SESSION FIVE

- Do you agree with the things the reading says we “want and desire”?
- How does what God wants relate to servant ministry?
- Does God want people to be alone? To be left alone?
- Have you had an awesome church experience with a community that loved one another and their community well?
- What kinds of passions and tools do you think are needed to lead the church in its mission right now?
- Maybe God is calling you, but you’re not exactly sure what for yet. It is important to remember that God calls each one of us to ministry, both clergy and laity alike. Your ministry might be in the structured church, and it might be to some other form of ministry in the community. But make no mistake...you are called!

ACTIVITY

Put pictures of tools around the room. Ask the youth to stand by the tool that best represents them. Have the youth talk about why they chose that specific tool.

DISCUSSION

- Do you feel ready to share your story and be a leader?
- Who will support you as you start doing the things you’ve learned?
- What are ways you could give others a sense of hospitality?
- What communities in your area could you make easy connections with?

- Who are underserved people with whom you come into contact already? How could you be a light for them?

Hospitality:

Have the group divide into smaller groups and discuss their experiences practicing hospitality both in the church and at school per their assignment from last session.

- What were their experiences?
- What difference does it make to the other people and to themselves?

CLOSING PRAYER

- Review of next steps for lay servant ministries.
- Sharing of joys and concerns.
- Sharing of peace with one another.
- Blessing:

Sarum Blessing

God be in your head, and in your understanding. God be in your eyes, and in your looking.

God be in your mouth, and in your speaking. God be in your heart, and in your thinking.

God be at your end, and at your departing. Amen (*United Methodist Book of Worship*, 566).³

³ From *The United Methodist Book of Worship*. Copyright© 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House.