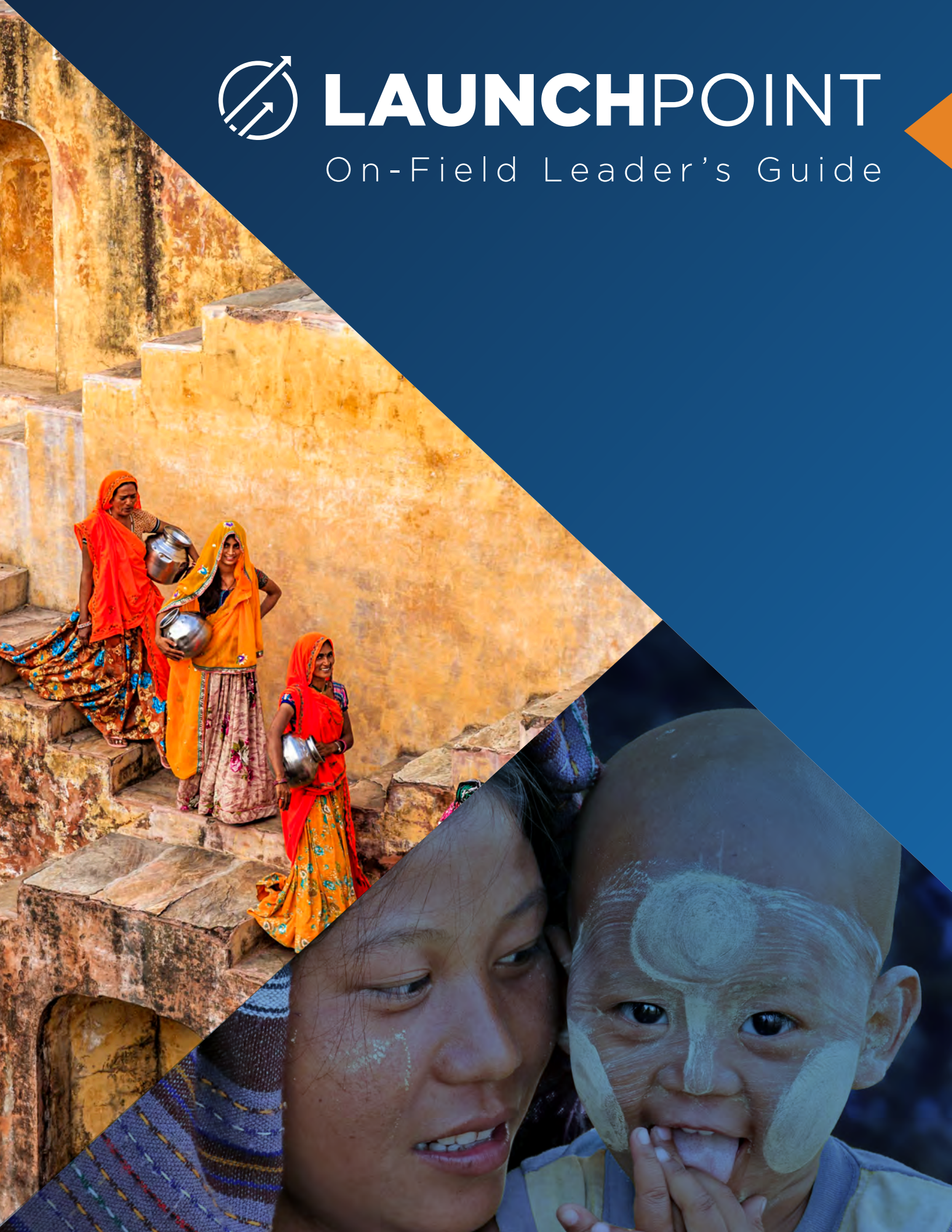




LAUNCHPOINT

On-Field Leader's Guide



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REMINDERS

REFLECT CHRIST

Reflect the personality of Christ in your words, actions, and relationships. Let others see the Christ's love in you.

SERVE CONSTANTLY

Be secure in your relationship with God and constantly model a servant attitude.

SURRENDER COMPLETELY

Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and surrender to his direction and leading.

LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY

Jesus commands us to love him, believers, and the lost world with unconditional and extravagant love.

RETURN TRANSFORMED

Refuse to return the same way you left. Allow God to use this time to transform you and cause you to surrender more of yourself to him.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is a daily tool for you to use on the field. It will help you serve more effectively by providing direction in the following areas:

Information. The guide provides helpful information and reminders about the effort and roles of the team. It provides designated areas for you to add important contacts and phone numbers for your trip, as well as a template for a schedule of pre-planned activities for reviewing each night.

Team Members. You have areas devoted to storing important emergency information about your team. Use these areas and the appendix area to ensure you have necessary information quickly available. It's recommended you store them in alphabetical order for quick reference. You should include:

- Member profile, including skills
- Copy of each member's passport
- Medical forms (as applicable)

Logistics. Note any detailed information you receive regarding meeting points, departures, housing, church address, and contact, etc.

Daily Devotions. Devotions are provided for you daily and align with the Scripture and devotional thoughts included in each Participant Journal. Start the devotions on the first full day of ministry and use the following days as applicable. Use the two devotions specific for the last full day of ministry and the celebration day, as applicable as well. It is recommended you gather the team each morning, after they have had their individual time alone with God and use the devotions included in this guide to challenge the team. Use included object lessons, following the instructions in italic. End the team daily devotion time in prayer. Beginning the day with a devotional thought provides the following benefit:

- Prioritizes Scripture for the team
- Encourages the team to use their journal each day
- Provides a time of unification based on God's Word
- Focuses the day's activities on God's work

Daily Debrief. Debrief questions are included for the evening sessions with the team. They'll focus on God's work in and through the team that day. The debrief questions relate to the devotion from the morning to reinforce the scriptural focus for the team. Feel free to add your own debrief questions and make the time as interactive as possible. You should listen carefully to the responses from the team members and ask questions to spur additional conversation. Also listen for potential issues and struggles and address them as needed.

YOUR MISSION

“Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20, ESV)

DAY 1 (FIRST FULL DAY OF MINISTRY) - DEVOTION AND DEBRIEF QUESTIONS

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-3

Focus: Being Flexible and Willing to be Stretched by God

Optional Object Lesson Needed Item: 3 rubber bands

Devotional Commentary:

The author of Hebrews starts by motivating his readers based on the heroes of the faith in chapter 11. When we see the work and sacrifice of saints before us, it should motivate us to be willing to do more for our faith. So, because of these heroes of the faith, we're encouraged to remove anything prohibiting our following the path God has set before us. Remember, God doesn't need us to accomplish his will, but he allows us to be part of his plan to reach the nations. It's our privilege, as well as our responsibility, to allow him to use us as he desires.

With this paradigm, the author describes the Christian as a runner engaged in a race; however, this isn't a competitive race. The runner doesn't focus on beating other runners. Instead, the runner's attention is simply on running the race and finishing well. The author is pushing the reader to understand the focus and preparation required to live the Christian life.

All Christians are like runners engaged in a race appointed by God. We should realize this is an "invitational" race, and the invited Christian may choose to reject, ignore, or accept the invitation. By accepting the invitation, the Christian also accepts the prescribed course.

Just like an actual race, each runner is assigned a specific lane on the racetrack. Every Christian is assigned a lane that he/she must maintain throughout the race. Since God has prescribed the course, he has also determined the opportunities and obstacles along the journey. The race will come with surprises, both good and bad. The Christian must remain focused on pushing forward and completing the race well.

As a runner, each Christian is called to give their best to God, actively and aggressively running their course. The author states, "*let us run with endurance the race set before us.*" God provides the course, and it's our job as his vessels to follow that course and give maximum effort toward running our race. We're told to "*run,*" not simply walk or measure our steps.

The Christian life is one of concentration, discipline, and maximum effort. In fact, the Greek word translated "race" in verse 1 is the word *agona*, which is the same word we derive our English word "agony." This isn't a passive race; it's a race full of extreme exertion and agony to give maximum effort! As Christians, we're told to give everything in us to complete the race God has set before us. We must be willing to be stretched, even to the point of being broken, to achieve the desired outcome.

What is the outcome? Giving our best and all our energy to running the race God has set before us—to fulfill our mission of making disciples of all nations for the glory of God.

Application:

During this trip, each team member will have the opportunity to accept the course God has set for the team. Those that choose to allow God to stretch them will experience what it means to surrender to the Holy Spirit and be the hands and feet of Christ. God has brought this team to this place to represent him, encourage the Christian family, reach the lost, and be transformed. But it all starts with a willingness to set aside personal barriers that keep you from running the race in a humble and sacrificial way.

Each team member has a role, and collectively, the team has a role. Each of you must do your part while encouraging your team members to push through the challenges and obstacles and let God be in control.

Optional Object Lesson:

(Holding rubber bands.) Tell the team: We're like this rubber band. We need to be flexible and pliable so that God can stretch us beyond our comfortable limits. We need to allow him to use us wherever he sends us, to the point where we can let go of ourselves and join others.

You see one rubber band can stretch and accomplish a lot. *(Stretch a rubber band between your two hands as far as possible without breaking it.)* But, when a second rubber band is added, it is amazing how much stronger the two rubber bands are together. *(Add a second rubber band and stretch the two together.)*

However, when we're willing to be stretched and allow God to break us of our selfishness and individual dependence... *(Stretch one rubber band to the point that it breaks. Do this again to the second rubber band separately.)*

Then we can become dependent and unified, working together in unison... *(Tie the two ends of each of the rubber bands together, tying it well enough that it will not come loose when stretched—or you can already have two joined together and use the joined one as an example.)*

The unified pair is even more flexible and useful, signifying that a unified team can accomplish far more than two individuals trying to accomplish the same task. *(Stretch the unified two bands tied together to show how much further the two united can go than two individual rubber bands separately.)* Let's each do our best to let go of any selfishness and let God take us to the breaking point for his glory.

Debrief Questions (at the end of the day):

1. How did God stretch you today?
2. What obstacles are still in the way of your total surrender to the Holy Spirit?
3. Are you willing to allow God to break you in the areas of your life that need breaking?
4. How can you work in unison as a team to accomplish even more tomorrow?

Daily Leader Journal

What things did the team do well today?

What issues arose that need to be addressed further?

What do we need to improve on tomorrow?

What resources are needed tomorrow?



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