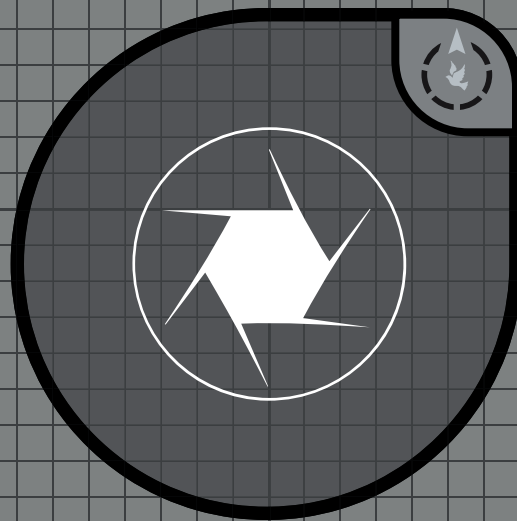




PHOTOGRAPHY

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE



“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” **2 Corinthians 3:18**



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PHOTOGRAPHY

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

MISSION GUIDE



This is the PHOTOGRAPHY MISSION Guide. Anyone can take a picture, but capturing a photograph that communicates emotion, mood, a story--that takes skill and dedication. The Battalion will learn the craft of photography while also discovering what it means to live a life that looks like Christ.

The Battalion meeting is where a young man can regularly engage in practical discipleship among his peers. This happens naturally while he observes and understands manhood as exemplified by the leadership team. Each meeting is a carefully planned, rapidly moving, and action-packed program. This Mission Guide provides the resources and tools needed to plan a Battalion meeting.

To find out more about running a successful Battalion Meeting, check out Building Men. You will find full explanations for each component of the meeting as well as helpful tips that will take your meeting further. For additional help or to give feedback please call your Regional Director or CSB Ministries.

OPENING ACTIVITY

15 MINUTES

An informal time for pickup games run by a junior leader. The rest of the leadership team should focus on greeting young men as they arrive and welcoming guests.

LINE UP

5 MINUTES

A time for prayer, the flag salute, announcements and reports. The line-up is used to instill order and serves as a transition between different parts of the evening.

SQUAD MEETING

15 MINUTES

The Squad Leader organizes a small group meeting with his Squad. The Squad Meeting often consists of: taking attendance, a devotional, illustrating a skill or engaging in an activity.

BATTALION SKILLS

25 MINUTES

A skill is demonstrated for the Battalion. This part of the meeting often requires the leader responsible to prepare ahead of time and bring materials.

GAMES

20 MINUTES

Physical action to help develop athletic skills, alertness, friendship and sportsmanship. This MISSION contains suggested games which can be tied into the spiritual lesson for the meeting.

COUNCIL RING

20 MINUTES

This is a time for the Battalion to engage in God's word, hear the Gospel, and be challenged to grow spiritually. This MISSION provides a scripture study or story that presents biblical truth.

LEADERS' HUDDLE

10 MINUTES

The Leadership Team joins together to review the meeting, discuss plans, and fellowship in prayer. Discuss the needs of the Battalion.



“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

The founder of Brigade, Joe Coughlin, challenged the young men he disciplined to passionately allow God’s Spirit to grow seven key Christian character qualities. These became known as the Seven Points of Valor. They are still needed in boys’ lives. They provide definition to what it is to be a godly man. One could make a case for other qualities, but these stand out for true manhood.



HONOR The man of honor is a man whose word is true. His challenge is to know what is right and to apply it. Integrity between his words and actions are the foundation of his testimony, his witness. Those around him see Jesus in him, because his word is true.



COURAGE The man of courage is one who steps forward in faith to do what needs doing. He initiates action with those around him, and responds without reservation to the challenge or situation. He stands firm in the face of fear, understanding that fear is all about what has not yet happened and that God is in control. He does not give into a spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and of self-discipline.



CHIVALRY A chivalrous man is strong on behalf of those weaker than himself. He takes the initiative to defend the helpless and to preserve the rights of others. He is courteous, gentle and kind. He uses his strength for the benefit of those around him.



PURITY The man who is pure is clean in thought, word and action. He rejects the idols and temptations of this fallen world. He runs from sin. He focuses his energy on building his relationship with Jesus through the Word of God and prayer.



LOYALTY The man who is loyal is one who is faithful to those he owes his affections and allegiance. He is devoted to what he believes: to God and His Word, to his family, church, and the community. He will remain faithful when all others have turned their backs, no matter the cost.



OBEDIENCE The obedient man is one who follows the commands of God’s Word and complies with the wishes of those in authority over him. He knows how to obey immediately and, by doing so, is better able to lead others. He hears God’s voice and lets it sink deep into his soul so that Christ’s desires become his own. Obedience turns his faith into action.



DEDICATION A man of dedication is one who has committed whole-heartedly to being transformed by the Lord Jesus Christ. He denies selfish ambition and completely surrenders all that he has - his body, mind, strength and possessions - to the control of Jesus. He sets the example. Not himself, but Christ. Not his own, but God’s.

MEETING 1: WHO ARE YOU?
"SELFIE" PORTRAIT

Every good picture tells a story, including selfies. In this meeting the Battalion will learn the difference between taking a selfie and a self portrait while discovering the importance of being Christ-like.

"Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace."
2 Peter 3:14

MEETING 2: SELF CONTROL
USING MOOD & EMOTION

A great photograph uses mood to convey its story. Young men will learn how to use various techniques to expose a mood in their photographs. We can choose to expose certain moods in our lives, but the bible encourages us to control our emotions.

"Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled."
Titus 2:6

MEETING 3: RELIGION OR RELATION?
ART OR SCIENCE?

This meeting allows the group to focus on either composition or technical terms and compares Christian to being a relationship or a religion.

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him."
1 John 3:1

MEETING 4: BUILDING A CHRISTIAN
BUILDING A PICTURE

The Battalion will learn how to plan and build a picture. Our biblical truth is to use that same intentionality with our spiritual growth.

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."
2 Peter 3:18

OPENING ACTIVITIES

NAME: _____

BATTALION SKILLS

NAME: _____

GAMES

NAME: _____

COUNCIL RING

NAME: _____

OPENING ACTIVITIES

NAME: _____

BATTALION SKILLS

NAME: _____

GAMES

NAME: _____

COUNCIL RING

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NAME: _____

OPENING ACTIVITIES

NAME: _____

BATTALION SKILLS

NAME: _____

GAMES

NAME: _____

COUNCIL RING

NAME: _____



OBJECTIVE

To teach the art of photography by introducing techniques that help compose photographs which show emotion and mood. Young men will also gain a biblical understanding of Christ-likeness by focusing on Him and pursuing a life that reflects His image.



THEME VERSE

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 3:18



POINT OF VALOR

PURITY

The man who is pure is clean in thought, word and action. He rejects the idols and temptations of this fallen world. He runs from sin. He focuses his energy on building his relationship with Jesus through the Word of God and prayer.



PREPARATION

Opening:

- Emotional picture of a runner

Plan:

- Printed copies of Squad Meetings found in the back of this Guide

OPENING

Show a picture of a runner crossing the finish line.

- What is the emotion being displayed in this picture?
- How do you think the runner feels in this moment?
- How do you feel when you look at it?
- Can you imagine how the person behind him is feeling?

Often we spend time thinking about winning the race, but what about getting in second place? What if the person who placed second was in the back of the race the last time they ran? This person would have had to train hard and show much improvement to advance that far.

In this MISSION, we are going to discuss the Christian life. Based on the discussion we just had about the runner, how would you describe the Christian life?

REVIEW

Take some time to review the previous MISSION with your Leadership Team. You will want to address any special case situations that may have occurred recently.

ENGAGE

Have you ever tried to take a cool looking photograph? Did it come out the way you hoped? We often see amazing pictures of faraway places. However, many of these pictures are altered through computer editing to look more interesting than they appear in real life.

With the introduction of the digital-age it has become easier to take pictures and edit them to look incredible. Most of us carry devices that can take pictures that are hundreds of times better than some of the most expensive cameras from only a decade ago. But taking a good picture requires a lot more than just fancy equipment. It takes a trained eye and dedication to the craft. Many people don't have the patience to become better photographers because we want the instant result of taking a great picture. When this process proves difficult, most of us would give up and move onto something else. This problem manifests itself in many ways throughout our culture.

We live in a results based society. You're either on the winning side, or you're not. This is a binary view that doesn't really help anyone improve. If we believe in this, then all we care about is a pass or fail conclusion but not about how a person arrived there.

- What is an example in your life where you feel the only thing that matters is the result?

As Christians, we can get caught up in thoughts that are binary. An example of this is a person who only cares about being saved or not. Although salvation is important, it is not a result. To say that

something is a result is to imply that there's no need for progress beyond that point. As Christians, however, we are called to continue to pursue God for the rest of our lives. In the church, we refer to this process as sanctification. You are justified and saved by the work of Jesus Christ, but through the fruits of the Spirit within each of us we are transformed into Christ's likeness.

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18

- According to this passage, how should we understand the transformative power of the Spirit?

The author describes the transformation as occurring to those with “unveiled faces” who are “beholding the glory of the Lord.” This is the first key component. Transformation happens for those who can clearly see the glory of the Lord. Notice what it does not say. This passage does not say transformation happens to those who earn it. It does not say that transformation happens to those who try hard enough or setup goals. Transformation happens for those who have had the mud wiped from their eyes and behold the beauty of Christ.

- What is the second component?

At this point, you may pick up on two different things. Both of which are important. The second component is that transformation happens gradually. Paul writes that we are transformed from “one degree of glory to another.” This is not an overnight change. And we will have set backs. We are told one thing very clearly: God does not care about earning the results! The result is already known, if you believe with your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord then you will be saved! There's nothing else to it. What God does expect to see is improvement over time. From one degree of glory, or Christ-likeness, to another.

The last component is that this transformation is a work of the Holy Spirit. This is key because we must remember that is not up to us to work up the improvement in our own lives. Perhaps you were born with some natural talent like athleticism, creativity, or an ability to solve puzzles. Being like Christ is not something anyone was born with and it is not something you can achieve on your own. Being more like Christ is a supernatural renewal of a person that happens through the work of God in the heart throughout life.

PLAN

Begin planning by asking these basic questions:

- Who in our group has any previous photography experience?
- Do we have any adults in our unit, church or community that could serve as resources?
- Is there any special photography equipment that we will need to borrow from someone to accomplish this MISSION?

Spend time giving an overview of each meeting, using the MISSION SUMMARY on page 6. Assign roles for each meeting's responsibilities and distribute any necessary resources. Pay special attention to any preparation requirements for each meeting.

NOTE: You will need to decide on a method of collecting photos taken during the week for the Photo Challenge of the first three meetings. Hosting an online album where young men can upload pictures is a great way to accomplish this, however you may find more effective solutions within your specific circumstance.

5TH MEETING (OPTIONAL)

You may wish to have an additional meeting. These meetings can be events or trips that bring greater excitement to the topics discussed during the regular meeting. Here are some ideas for your leadership team to consider:

- Photo Hike

Take the young men on a hike into the great outdoors equipped with whatever cameras they have available to them. At the end, collect the pictures and create a cool slide show!

- Photo Scavenger Hunt

This will take some planning. Write out a list of shots that the group will need to capture. Divide into small teams and then head out to a mall. Set a time and place where the teams must meet at the end of the event. Compile the pictures taken and then give out a prize to the team that captured the most shots.

REFLECT

Pray that we would be able to surrender to God's will for our lives: to be like Christ!



OBJECTIVE

Every good picture tells a story, including selfies. In this meeting the Battalion will learn the difference between taking a selfie and a self portrait while discovering the importance of being Christ-like.



KEY VERSE

“Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.”

2 Peter 3:14



PREPARATION

Battalion Skills:

- Photographs from a famous portrait photographer and some random selfies.
- Light diffuser

Games:

- Masking Tape

Council Ring

- A tall bedroom mirror
- Dry erase marker(s)
- Sheets of paper
- Writing instruments



SQUAD MEETING

- **Devotional:** Psalm 139:13-15
- **Squad Skills:** Selfies



GAME SUGGESTION

Crowded Circle

This game is played inside a large playing area where the lights can be turned off quickly. Mark out a 6' circle on the floor with the masking tape. With the lights on, the Battalion can walk freely around the outside of the room. At random, turn the lights off for 10 seconds. With the lights off, the Battalion must try to get inside the circle. Everyone must stop exactly where they are when the lights come back on. Anyone outside of the circle is out of the game. For variation, add more circles that are numbered and announce which circle is to be used only when the lights go out.

BATTALION SKILLS

“SELFIE” PORTRAIT

Pick a famous portrait photographer to share with the Battalion. Some examples would be Gregory Heisler, Diane Arbus, Eve Arnold, Edouard Boubat, Dorothea Lange and Annie Leibovitz. Show photographs that offer interesting lighting, great emotion and hopefully some creative compositions. In addition, find some random selfies from anonymous people. As a group, compare and contrast the work of the portrait artists to the quick and sloppy selfies, showing how light, contrast, backgrounds and emotion can make an image memorable, while the other is ultimately forgettable.

- What is it in each of the professional photos that makes them unique and powerful?

- What do the selfies lack?

The Backstory

Let's focus on the backgrounds, the direction of the lighting and posing. Describe the backgrounds seen in each shot

- Are the backgrounds sharp and in focus or soft and blurry?
- Are the backgrounds darker than the subject, lighter or a combination that is both dark and lighter in certain areas?
- Do the backgrounds take away from the subject?
- Are your eyes drawn to the background instead of the subject?
- Is there a lot of the background showing, or does the subject take up the majority of the photograph?

The goal is to have the young men thinking about every part of the photograph, from edge to edge and corner to corner--not just the portrait itself.

Lighting

Lighting is a huge subject so let's narrow our topic to just the direction of light and the difference between harsh and softer light.

Pick a volunteer and have them sit on a chair in the middle of the room. Have the Battalion join you as you walk around the volunteer, keeping the light aimed at the young man, but raising and lowering the light as you go. Make a second rotation with your diffuser in front of the light. You can break the Battalion into smaller groups if you need to as this demonstration goes very quickly.

- Did you notice the changing of the location and the strength of the shadows as the light circled around our volunteer?
- How would you describe the “feeling” of the light from the various locations as well as with and without the diffuser. (There is no “right” answer)
- What kind of light looked the most dramatic? Most flattering?

Each portrait tells a story from the book of a person's life, but not

every chapter is flawless. Skin can be blemished, noses crooked and chins doubled, and the selfie or portrait photographer has the choice of highlighting each of these features, or downplaying them. And while lighting can play a part in this, posing is easier to control and much more effective.

Photography Challenge

Come to our next meeting with two portraits, either of yourself or someone else. The two portraits must have different backgrounds, different lighting and unique poses, and you must be ready to explain the choices you made and why you made them.

Have a designated way that these photos will be displayed to the group. You may have the Battalion take pictures on their phones and upload them to an online album or save them to a storage device and transferred to a computer that's connected to a projector or television.

COUNCIL RING YOURSELF IN A MIRROR

Write the following words on the tall bedroom mirror and hide it by turning it against the wall or covering it with a blanket. Be careful not to smudge the words! If you don't have a mirror, then write all the words on one piece of paper and make photocopies to be passed out later.

Made in God's image

Valuable

Precious

Wonderful

Brand new

Cleansed

Clothed in Christ's righteousness

Secured in love

Child of God

Light in the darkness

Saint

Servant

Soldier

Citizen of heaven

Victorious through Jesus

An ambassador for Christ

Adopted son

What do you do when you know your picture is about to be taken? If it's a school photo, we try to look our best by putting on nice clothes and a big sharp smile. However, other times we often make a goofy face by sticking out our tongues or going into a certain pose. Why do we do this? If we are honest with ourselves, it's because we want to hide our imperfections. We don't want to have someone taking our picture of what we normally look like because we may not like how it turns out.

But what if someone could take a spotlight and shine it on your soul. What would be revealed when there's no shadows for our sin to hide behind? We may be able to hide certain dark things from others, but not from God. He knows every secret we have. He sees the good and the bad. In life, we can walk around like we are posing for a picture but God sees past when we are playing pretend.

Pass out the sheets of paper and writing instruments.

Read Romans 3:23

This verse tells us that every single person, all of us, has fallen short of what God intended for us. When He created us, he wanted us to be perfect and sinless, but each of us has chosen to sin against God. Sometimes we try to ignore this sin. Maybe we compare ourselves to people who are "worse" than us so that we don't feel as bad.

Instruct the Battalion to write down the things in their lives that they have tried to hide from others, from themselves, and even from God. Ensure them that this list won't be shared with anyone, no one else will look at it. Make sure that you and the other leaders are writing as well, it is important for the young men to see you do this.

In the beginning, God created man in His own image. When man sinned, that image was tarnished, or stained. Yet because of God's overwhelming love for us, He sent Jesus Christ, His own son, to die in our place. Through that saving grace, we have the opportunity to be renewed into Christ-likeness. This is God's hope for each one of us.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

Instruct the Battalion to take their papers and tear them up.

When you accept Christ as your personal savior, your sin is no longer counted against you. Christ has freed you from that burden. We don't have to walk around with a list of our iniquities, our shortcomings, tucked into our back pocket.

Have the young men throw out their trash as they walk up to the mirror that you prepared ahead of time. Each man



should stand in front of the mirror and see his reflection while reading the words written on it. This is a powerful way to convey a beautiful message.

Note: if you chose to write the words down and photocopy it, then pass these out at this time.

With Christ, your identity is no longer tied to this world. You have been adopted back into God's family, where you always belonged. Christ is committed to you. Are you committed to Him?

You may wish to invite anyone who hasn't accepted Christ to do so at this time. Make an intentional time for stillness and prayer. Allow God's Spirit to guide this moment.