



# NYLR 2012

## *Preparing* GOD'S ARROWS

**Date: Oct. 12 - 14, 2012**

**Venue:**

# **NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS RETREAT 2012**

## **Welcome Address**

Dearly beloved, with joy in God's favour and commitment we welcome you to this year's National Young Leaders Retreat – the 4<sup>th</sup> edition. We believe that there is a deliberate purpose in the heart of God for which He has been pleased to continually gather us. We cannot forget how merciful and deliberate He had been towards us in the past editions of the NYLR. The burden of the meetings and His word that came to us from the throne of grace were so weighty and unveiling. Many of us by the encounters have not stopped burning for the Lord. Nevertheless, we are persuaded that what God has preserved for us this year outweighs what we have ever experienced before now. We only pray that your hearts will be prepared for His gracious visitation. The Lord has turned His eyes on the youth seeing that the 'Joshuas' (elders) of our time are already old and there are yet many grounds and lands that have not yet being conquered (Jos. 13: 1). Also we have perceived God saying *'How long wilt thou mourn for Saul seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons – 1 Sam 16: 1'*. God is already preparing His replacement sons (David) for Saul in all the strata of the society: Church, Government, Educational Sectors, Financial sectors, Security Management, Medicine, Business, Science and Technology etc. However, that God has turned his face to the youth doesn't mean that He is going to accept just any youth. That God had rejected Saul didn't make just any youth to be His candidate. He said, *'I have provided me a king ...'*. There were seven sons ahead of David in his father's house that passed before the Lord and he rejected them all *'for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart – 1 Sam 16: 7'*. God is meticulous in making His choice. He isn't deceived by appearance nor is He impressed by eye service. He seeks for a youth that has separated Himself from the world and accepted His yoke (2 Cor. 6: 14-18; Matt. 11: 28-30). Such youth as Joseph, Samuel, Daniel, Esther, Ruth, and Timothy (to mention a few) who yielded themselves to God early (Eccl. 12: 1) and became potent weapon in His hand during their lifetime. There is therefore an enlisting going on, it is for this reason that God has taken delight to call us again to this mount (Mark 3: 13-15) to make a divine choice of His successors for Joshua and King Saul. To this end, the Lord has laid the theme **'Preparing God's Arrows – Psalm 127: 4'** in our hearts. Remember that many are called but few are chosen.

We earnestly pray that you will be chosen by God for this end-time outburst of His glory. We therefore implore you to commit yourself solely to prayer and the word of God throughout the period of these meetings and avoid every form of distractions so that you do not miss out of the grace and mercy of God and His divine encounter.

God bless you!

SESSION	TIME	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
Morning	5:00 - 5:45	Arrival and Registration	Alone with God		
	5:45 - 6:30		Early Morning Devotion		
	6:30 - 8:00		Clean up & preparation		
	8:00 - 9:00		Praise & Worship		
	9:00 - 10:30		Bible Study	Bible Study	
	10:30 - 11:00		Question and Answers		
	11:00 - 12:00		TALK 1	TALK 3 (Video Scope)	
	12:00 - 12:30		Question and Answers		
Afternoon	12:30 - 3:00			Brunch and Rest	Brunch
					Closing Charge
	3:00 - 4:00		TALK 2	DEPARTURE	
	4:00 - 5:00	Retreat Declared open	Alone with God (Meditation)		
	5:00 - 6:30	Regional Teens Executives meet	Workshop		
Evening	6:30 - 8:30	Dinner and Rest			
	8:30 - 10:30	Opening Charge & Prayers	Group Discussions 1 & 2 (1hr each)		
	10:30 - 12:00	Reflections and Prayers	Film Show (The Devils Anchor) and prayer		

Opening Charge: **Preparing God's Arrows** – Psalm 127: 4-5.

Talk 1: **God's choice of a king** – Eccl. 10:16-17; Gal. 4: 1-9; Prov. 31:1-6.

Talk 2: **Take away the Dross** – Prov. 25: 4.

Talk 3: (Video-Scope – **Laying a Solid Foundation**: Bro. Gbile Akanni).

Bible Study: **The Making of God's Arrows** – Character Study: DAVID.

Workshop: **Why would God reject?**

GROUP DISCUSSION: **How do I make most use of my time in view of the future God has planned out for me?**

Closing Charge: **Running to Win** – 1 Cor. 9: 24-27.

# BIBLE STUDY

## The Making of God's Arrows

**Text:** Isa. 49: 1-3; 41: 14-16

**Memory Verse:** *"As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate". Psalm 127: 4-5*

### Introduction:

An Arrow is a special instrument of warfare. It is a long-thin wooden shaft with a sharply pointed metallic end. It is meticulously designed by a Fletcher using special wood. The distance an arrow can travel, the ability for it to hit its target, and the impact it would make on its victim is dependent on the expertise of the Archer and his bow.

God is the Fletcher who is meticulously designing His arrows whom He desires to use to hit several strata of our society and to make a very lasting and indelible impact (speak with the enemies in the gate). As a Fletcher would only design his arrow with certain choice of wood, God also only uses choice wood for the design of His arrows. There are several examples of youth in the scriptures who God picked up as choice wood and began the process of making them into Arrows and thereafter, He used them to make a lasting impact in their generations. For many of them, the impact their lives made out-lived them. Such were Joseph, Samuel, David, Joshua, Daniel, Esther, Jeremiah, Timothy etc. These were youth that made such outstanding and lasting impact in their generations and beyond because they allowed the making in the hand of God and also allowed God to carry out His purpose through them.

For the purpose of this study, we shall take a study of the life of one of these Arrows whose life made an impact in his generation and whose testimony lives on even now.

### Character Study: **David**

1. *His beginning:* David was the eighth son of Jesse. He was born a sinner like anyone of us (Ps. 51: 5). He had an ordinary beginning that wasn't different from most of the people of his time. He also grew not as a prince like Moses but rather as a shepherd boy taking care of his father's sheep among eight children (1 Sam. 16: 11). He must have been treated with contempt to have been the only child left in the wilderness with the sheep among very wild animals (1 Sam. 17: 34). There was nothing attractive about him that depicted that he was in anyway special from birth. This means that God's arrows are not necessarily men with noble birth nor men born with certain features such as tall, slim or with an inscription of 'special' upon their forehead. They are often born ordinary. Irrespective of the situation that surrounded your birth, your family background or the disdain that you might have received from people around you, you can still be God's choice.
2. *His Distinction:* it is necessary to recall that arrows are made using special types of wood. Even though David had an ordinary beginning, God's choice to make Him His arrow came by his distinction (Psalm. 27: 4; 8; Psalm 23: 1). While David was young, left alone among wild animals, he made a decision that got God's attention and made Him a potential choice wood for God's arrow (2 Tim. 2: 19-21). He gave his heart to God and lived His life to glorify God in all that he did. By this, God took notice of Him among the eight sons of Jesse. Little wonder that when God wanted to anoint a king in place of Saul, even though there were several youth living in those days, God said: *"... and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a*

*king among his sons – 1 Sam. 16:1*” Even though Eliab the eldest son had an appearance of righteousness, God wasn’t deceived, though Samuel was almost deceived – just as we may have succeeded in deceiving many men and women of God – God isn’t deceived. All our works are plainly seen before his eyes (Rev. 3: 15). Only those who distinct themselves like David become choice wood for the making of God’s arrows. Psalm. 1: 1-6; Gal. 6: 7-8; Jos. 1: 8; Isa. 52: 11.

3. *His Training:* David had series of training under God’s hand. As a Fletcher would not just begin to shoot a choice wood having found it, God didn’t just begin to shoot David as an arrow until He had meticulously made Him. In the same way, Jesus picked certain men to be his followers and to be used by Him as arrows to make eternal impact upon the lives of men (Matt. 4: 19). Nonetheless, having chosen such choice wood, he didn’t just begin to shoot them: he rather took them through a process of training in discipleship. This training was key before they could attain becoming God’s arrow (Mark 3: 13-14).

There were three stages of David’s training: the backside with the sheep among wild animals; the Palace before Saul serving as a servant and being hunted; the wilderness and cave Adullam (running from Saul who hunted him to kill him).

*The Backside with the sheep:* Here, he was trained to be tender, compassionate, and sacrificial as a shepherd. He also learnt to spend time with God alone. 1 Sam. 17: 34-35; John 10: 11; Psalm 27: 4.

*The Palace before Saul:* Here, he learnt to serve. If he would be a proper leader, he must also learn to serve others. He also grew his spiritual gift there (1 Sam. 16: 19-23).

*The Wilderness and Cave Adullam:* Here he learnt the act of trusting God. He was sought to be killed by Saul and he trusted God to preserve him. He also received an enlarged heart to accommodate men that needed help – he was given the ability to raise mighty men from distressed men. He also began to exemplify the life of God before the men with him – he was compassionate towards Saul even though he had the opportunity to kill him. Psalm 27: 1-3; 1 Sam. 22: 1-2; 2 Sam. 23: 8-39; 1 Sam. 24: 1-7; Rom. 8: 19.

4. *His Anointing:* Even though God had found David as an arrow “... *I have provided me a king among his sons*”; yet before David could fulfill that purpose, he needed to be anointed. It was the anointing that he received that ‘enabled’ him to fulfill God’s purpose for his life as an arrow. The record of 1 Sam. 16: 13 says that “*Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward*”. The anointing of David was the baptism of the Holy Spirit upon his life. Just as an arrow is useless without the bow, a Christian not endued with the Holy Spirit is impotent.

**Conclusion:** During David’s lifetime he fought several of the Lord’s battle but he never lost one. He never went out to war without asking God and letting God lead. God was the Archer; he was just an arrow in the hand of the Mighty God (1 Sam. 23: 1-2; 1 Sam. 30: 8). The Holy Spirit is the bow that enables the arrow to travel and make an impact on its target (Acts. 1: 8). God (the Fletcher) desires to make us ‘Youth’ into great arrows. Moreover, He (also the Archer) wants to be the one to shoot us (guide us through life) to make an impact for Him in every strata of life by the help of His Holy Spirit as the bow. No wonder after Jesus had successfully made Arrows of the lives of the disciple and was ready to shoot them; He made them to wait until they were endued with the Holy Ghost (the bow) to enable them to make a remarkable and eternal impact.

Have you received Jesus into your heart? Has he found you as a choice wood for His Arrow? Are you daily yielding yourself to Him to let Him make you into such arrow of great impact against the enemies? Are you endued with the power of the Holy Spirit? Do you seek God’s guidance through life? Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ? There is an opportunity, He is interested in you. Whoever comes unto Him, He would in no wise cast away.

## WORKSHOP

### Why would God reject?

1 Sam 16:1a – *“And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long would thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel?”*

1 Sam. 16: 6-9 – *“And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the Lord’s anointed is before Him. But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as a man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. Then David called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the Lord chosen this. Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The Lord hath not chosen these”.*

It has become clear that there are vacancies; and there is a divine search for candidates that would occupy such vacancies. The number of youth in our generation is quite alarming yet not many of them have been chosen to occupy such vacancies. Why would God reject? Aren’t they His creation? Shouldn’t He just fit them in to occupy for Him till He comes? These questions and many more may arise in our hearts but it is clear that there is a divine requirement for those that must occupy such vacancies.

When there is a vacancy in a man-made organisation, the management does not just pick any fellow to occupy such vacancies, rather, they place a requirement for such candidate that is eligible to apply for the vacancy. Although several candidates may meet that requirement and be called for an interview, yet, only one or a few would be chosen after much screening to occupy the vacancy. If men could be so meticulous to make a choice of someone to serve in an earthly, short-term and decaying system, how much more God – would He not also weigh His candidates on His scale? Dan. 5:26-27

### Discussions

- a. Outline the basic requirement for becoming God’s choice to occupy.
- b. Describe the peculiarities of our present day youth that makes God to reject them.
- c. How does these peculiarities affect you and could also make you get rejected by God?
- d. What are the practical ways of being potentially viable to becoming God’s choice to occupy?
- e. Could one be rejected and later chosen? Discuss practically.
- f. Could one have been chosen and later rejected? Discuss practically.
- g. Outline practical ways of maintaining being God’s choice to occupy throughout your lifetime.
- h. What plan of action do you suggest? Discuss this thoroughly within your workshop group and take decisions on the way forward.

### Conclusion:

It is evident that God is looking for a youth on behalf of whom He would show Himself strong. That notwithstanding, it is painful that He has looked over many of us and He is still saying, ‘who shall I send?’ However, when Isaiah humbled himself and turned to the Lord wholly, he became God’s choice in his day. Even though God may have looked over you before now, he could still choose you if you bring forth fruits meet for repentance (Matt. 3: 8; 1 Tim. 2: 19-21; 2 Cor. 3: 16-18). You could be an arrow in the hand of God that would not be ashamed, but will speak with the enemies in the gate.

## HYMNS

### TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in  
ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of  
Thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for  
Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my  
King.

Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages  
from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I  
withhold.

Take my intellect, and use every power as Thou shalt  
choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer  
mine.

Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal  
throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure  
store.

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee

### I AM THINE O LORD

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,  
And it told Thy love to me;  
But I long to rise in the arms of faith  
And be closer drawn to Thee.

***Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord,  
To the cross where Thou hast died.***

***Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord,  
To Thy precious, bleeding side.***

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,  
By the power of grace divine;

Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,  
And my will be lost in Thine.

O the pure delight of a single hour  
That before Thy throne I spend,  
When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God  
I commune as friend with friend!

There are depths of love that I cannot know  
Till I cross the narrow sea;  
There are heights of joy that I may not reach  
Till I rest in peace with Thee.

### GIVE ME OIL IN MY LAMP

Give me oil in my lamp keep me burning  
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray,  
Give my oil in my lamp, keep me burning,  
Keep me burning 'till the end of day.

Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,  
Give me peace in my heart, I pray.  
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,  
Keep me resting 'till the end of day.

### HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after Thy will,  
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Search me and try me, Master, today!  
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,  
As in Thy presence humbly I bow.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!  
Power, all power, surely is Thine!  
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!  
Fill with Thy Spirit 'till all shall see  
Christ only, always, living in me.

## PROGRAMME PAMPHLET PLAN

Cover page

Page 1: Vision / Welcome note

Page 2: Programme Time table and Schedule of Topics for the Retreat

Next – Bible study

Next – Workshop outline

Next – Congregation Hymns and Songs

Next – Two pages for note taking

### VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED

1. The above plan is expected to be strictly followed by all regions in the country. This is aimed to bring unity and fulfillment of purpose.
2. The proposed date for the Retreat is: **12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2012.**
3. Please find attached the Message 3 (Video Scope – By Bro. Gbile Akanni)
4. Each province is to send a least total of ten young leaders to take part in the retreat.
5. To handle the bible study session and workshop, each province should delegate a teacher (one who is spiritually matured) each. There must be a preview of the bible study and workshop session by the delegated teachers before the programme at a time agreed upon by the region.  
**Bible Study Plan:** The Bible study outline shall be taken in two days. The first day, the study shall focus on the text, memory verse and introduction. A brief discussion could ensue on the lives of the characters mentioned (Samuel, Joseph, Daniel, David, Timothy and Esther). However, the character study on the life of David shouldn't be considered on the first day. By the second day, the character study should then be looked at squarely with application to the lives of the young leaders.
6. We expect that speakers who over the years have been known as teachers of the Word with proven integrity, impeccable character and have attained commendable spiritual height in their Christian walk, and also have interest in teens mentoring / pastoring should be invited as guest ministers at the different regions for the retreat.
7. **The movie – The Devil's Anchor** – is a movie that we want all the Regions within the National body to show to their leaders as it addresses them squarely. It is a Christian Nigerian Film by LADTEM Films produced and directed by Lekan Ashikhai. This movie could be easily gotten from any Christian bookshop across the country.

We are glad and grateful to God that this programme has become a yearly programme fully outlined in the yearly event of the Directorate of Teens and Children Education.

Truly, the youth are the future of the church and the nation, and it is paramount for the success of every nation that we be properly oriented on the much needed values of leadership. Moreover, true leadership is a product of true spiritual maturity.