

NEW COVENANT SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Part II – The Making of a Leader

Biblical Leadership

Biblical leadership is the task of leading God's people into mutual ministry with one another for the purpose of building up the body of Christ and reaching out to the world. (**Eph. 4:11-13; Matt. 28:18-20**)

Leaders need to...

- Establish a growing and maturing relationship with the Lord (**John 15:5**)
- Sense a calling or passion from the Lord to lead people (**Ex. 3:1-10; John 21:15-17**)
- Have a vision for building up future leaders (**2 Tim. 2:2**)

Ask for examples of leaders from scripture. What made them good/bad leaders? Why did people follow them?

Jesus is a perfect model of Biblical leadership. He told people to "follow me" (**Matt 4:19**) and expected them to give up everything to do so. In return, He gave them meaning and purpose to life. He nurtured, trained, and equipped them for a mission that was far bigger than anyone could have imagined. Two things caused people to follow Christ: ***His vision and His example.***

His Vision

In Matthew 9:36-38 Jesus casts a very compelling vision for His disciples.

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his field.'"

Jesus saw thousands of neglected people who needed shepherds. Leaders are shepherds who have a vision and a plan to appropriately care for and lead people.

His Example

Jesus cast a vision and then embodied the vision by becoming an example of it.

John 13:4-5-- "He got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him."

Mark 10:45-- "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Biblical leadership flows out of a life of devotion to Christ

You impart to others what has been imparted to you. That's why biblical leadership requires both depth of character and competence. Students are experts at discerning both. They can smell it in you a mile away! Be a leader of character as you become a leader of competence. Competence will come as you develop your skills, but character is a matter of the heart. In the end, God will reward those who finished well because of the depth of their character, not simply to size of their group.

Key objectives for a biblical leaders

- Lead through serving your people well
- Multiply your ministry into the life of another
- Finish the race with integrity

Qualifications of Small Group Leadership

Leaders are servants who communicate God's truth and lead their groups in prayer, care, service and spiritual growth. In order to mature as a competent Spirit-filled leader, check yourself against the following biblical characteristics. Use these things to develop your spiritual character.

Christ Follower – *Having a passion for Christ*

Leaders are not expected to be perfect, but our goal should be to become perfect in Christ (Col 1:28) and to reach maturity as described in **Eph. 4:13** “...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Here are some areas in which to grow in maturity:

- Turn from sin in your life (**1 John 1:9; Rom 6:6**)
- Spend time in God's Word and in prayer (**Col 3:16; 1 Peter 2:2**)
- Be filled with the Spirit – let the Spirit control you (**Rom. 7:6; Eph. 5:18**)
- Use your gifts in ministry (**Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11**)
- Learn to persevere in adversity (**Rom. 5:3-5; Phil 1:29; 1 Peter 4:12-14**)

Character – *Paying attention to the heart*

Depth of character is a matter of becoming more like Christ and less like the world. It also refers to these spiritual qualities or characteristics:

- Being transformed into the image of Christ instead of conformed to the world (**Rom 8:28-30; 12:1- 2; Phil 1:9-10**)

- Developing a character worthy of leadership (**1 Thess. 1:3; 1 Tim. 1:5; 3:1-15; 6:11; Titus 1:5-9**)

Calling – *Called to shepherd God’s people*

Leaders have a heart for being caregivers. They see others with compassion as Christ saw them in Matt 9:36-38 – distressed and downcast, in need of a good shepherd who will protect them and provide nurturing care for them. Leaders are convicted about the need for ministry and the use of their spiritual gifts to shepherd others (**Phil 1:8; 1 Thess. 2:7-8; 1 Peter 5:1-4**)

Competence – *Able to lead and guide a group*

Leaders set direction, keep the group focused and guided toward its purpose. Leaders take time to develop the skills they need to effectively facilitate a small group. (Matt 4:19; 9:36-38; Acts 6:1-7)

Compatibility – *Having the temperament and passion for leadership*

Some leaders lead well because it’s natural for them, its part of how God wired them. Even those who do not consider themselves natural leaders are capable of leading (usually in humility) when they are mature and called upon to do so.

Teamwork in leadership is essential. Using their spiritual gifts alongside others is the kingdom design for ministry. (**Acts 6:2; Rom 12:8; Heb 13:7, 17**)

Commitment – *Doing what it takes*

Spiritual leaders are committed to the vision of the ministry, to Christ, and to their calling, and to helping develop the members of their groups. They realize that leadership requires commitment, not convenience. Leaders are committed to seeing people grow in Christ and to reaching new people for Christ as they are able. (**Matt 28:18-20; Rom 16:3-4; 2 Tim 2:2**)

Capacity – *An ability to serve people and provide care for them*

Leadership is serving others and doing whatever it takes to accomplish the ministry. This means having time, energy, and resources at your disposal. Leaders must free themselves from unnecessary and distracting commitments so they have the capacity (spiritual, emotional, and physical resources) to do what God has called them to do. (**1 Tim 3:4-5, 12**)

Motives for Leadership

Glorify the Lord

Colossians 3:23-25 “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

Bear fruit in your life

John 15:8, “This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

Shepherd others

Acts 20:28 “Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”

Be an example

1 Peter 5:2-4 “Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers- not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.”

Use you gifts to serve one another

Eph 4:11-13 “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Give God's message of reconciliation

2 Cor 5:19-21 “...God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Bad Motivation for Leadership

Self-exaltation

Prov 27:2 “Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.”

To feel important or gain prestige

1 Thess 2:4-6 “On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed-God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else.”

Because someone pressured you

1 Peter 5:2-4 “Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers- not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.”

Having a short fuse or exhibiting outburst of anger

James tells us that anger does not achieve the righteousness of God (**James 1:19-20**). God's work is accomplished by the one who listens attentively, speaks only when necessary, and is slow to anger. Leaders manage their anger or channel it appropriately. (**Gal 5:20; Eph 4:31; Col 3:8**)

Unconfessed sin

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness”. Any sin that has control of us (**Rom 6:16**) must be confessed and brought under the lordship of Christ (**Acts 2:38**).

Biblical error and false teaching

2 Tim 4:2-5 “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage- with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”

Leadership Responsibilities

Leader Pre-requisites:

- Confess that Jesus Christ is their Forgiver and Leader (Savior and Lord).
- Regard the Bible as authoritative guide to their faith and life.
- Is a participating member of the church (or is actively pursuing membership).
- Agrees to come into the small group leadership structure and fulfill the requirements of a leader.

Leader Responsibilities:

Build a leadership team

Your leadership team should consist of you, an apprentice whom you will mentor and train, and a host or hostess for your small group meeting.

HOW TO BUILD A LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sense God's calling for you to lead a small group:

- Do you have a passion for nurturing others in the Lord? (**John 21:15-17; 1 Peter 5:1-4**)
- Do you enjoy relating to others in a way that brings them together in group life? (**Heb. 10:24-25**)
- Do you sense you have a genuine walk with God that will be an example to others? (**1 Thess. 2:10-13**)

Choose a person to mentor as you lead your group (an apprentice):

- Someone who has the desire to follow Christ.
- Someone who desires to help others grow spiritually. (**2 Tim. 2:2**)

Working with your Sponsor Home:

- Work with your Sponsor Host Home to plan your meeting schedule and any other important details.
- Remember to update your meeting schedule regularly with your host/hostess.
- Develop a backup plan if you Sponsor Host Home cannot host.

Complete Small Group Training:

- In-person trainings.
- Online trainings.
- Small Group Sponsor meetings.