

Ministry Leaders Training – March 2022

Ministry Growth for the Future

1. Vision for Ministry Growth

- Working and Keeping

Genesis 2:15 – *“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and to keep it.”*

Keeping it - involves maintaining what is already there: upkeep, watering, protecting, and sustaining.

Working it - has to do with laboring to make things grow: planting and seeding, guiding, cultivating, expanding.

- Entrusting the mission to others

2 Timothy 2:1-2 – *“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to trust others also.”*

2. Life Group Multiplication

- The Crucial role of LG's at LHC

Life groups are designed to help people of every age group, family situation, spiritual maturity level, etc. to connect to the body and grow in Christ.

- Strategy for Growing Life Groups – Multiplying

The best range for a Life Group size is about 6-12 adults, with 8-10 being the sweet spot.

- Planting Life Groups

1- Identify

2- Apprentice

3- Send

3. Identifying Leaders Who Will Bear F.R.U.I.T.

- Faithful

2 Timothy 1:5-6 – *“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”*

- Reliable

Acts 16:1-3 – *“Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ² He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³ Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.”*

- Useful

1 Thessalonians 3:1-2 – *“Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, ² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith...”*

- Intentional

Philippians 2:19-22 - *"I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel."*

- Teachable

Acts 18:24-28 - *"Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. ²⁵ He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately."*

Discussion Questions:

- What aspects of your ministry are upkeep (keeping it) and what aspects are for growth (working it)? How are both aspects important to you? Where do you spend more time? What is most fulfilling?
- What are some challenges that make multiplying Life Groups (or other ministries) difficult, even painful? Have you been part of groups that did this well or poorly? What are some lessons learned?
- If you had to step out of your ministry role tomorrow, are there others ready to step in? How do you see the vision of 2 Timothy 1:2 playing out in your ministry?
- Who are the people in your current ministry that have the potential to bear FRUIT as leaders? How do you see the qualities of Faithful, Reliable, Useful, Intentional, and Teachable playing out in your ministry?

4- Training Upcoming Leaders

- The Apprenticeship Mindset
 - What is Apprenticeship?
 - Why are Apprentices important to ministry?
 - What an Apprentice is and what it is not!
 - The example of Jesus and his disciples.
- Steps in Developing an Apprentice

Discussion Questions:

- Have you tried to grow your ministry, raise up new leaders, or develop an “apprentice” in the past? What was your experience like?
- Does the idea of developing an apprentice mindset and delegating to others make you excited or anxious? What makes you feel this way?
- What steps can you take in the weeks to come toward identifying and growing leaders?
- What do you see as the future growth of your ministry? What would you love to see in your ministry in 5 years?

Assessing a Leader's Call to Ministry

1. **Character** – Do they demonstrate a genuine faith, spiritual maturity, Christ-likeness, and a healthy marriage (if applicable) and family life?
2. **Confession** – Do they affirm, understand, and articulate essential biblical doctrine?
3. **Competence** – Do they have the gifts, skills, and abilities to fulfill the responsibilities of the role?
4. **Capacity** – Do they have the time, energy, and desire to work hard and follow-through with the responsibilities that are assigned?
5. **Chemistry** – Do they have the self-awareness and interpersonal skills to connect, communicate, and collaborate with the leaders on the team?
6. **Culture** – Do they embrace the ministry philosophy, leadership style, and other values and distinctives of the ministry?
7. **Confirmation** – Do they have the support and affirmation of others who know them well – spouse, friends, mentors, and others leaders?

For more on this, see <http://findlivinghope.com/2021/12/assessing-your-calling/>