

## Class Leaders/Small Groups

PRESENTER – Rev. Cole Weathers  
Class Leaders Training – March 29, 2013

### Something to Ponder

If you are a Class Leader, officer or president of an organization, it means the Pastor believes in you, he has faith in you and he is willing to trust you to lead others.

*That's Called Risk-Taking!*

Below are some points that may help you lead your class or group.

1. **Trust God** (I Cor. 2:3-5; Prov. 3:5-6) You may feel you are not qualified; that's okay. None of us are qualified, but God is.
2. **Share your Weaknesses:** The world tells us a Leader is strong, confident, and bold. But the Bible tells us that some of the greatest Leaders of all time (Moses, David, and Joseph) were reluctant, weak and afraid. They found their strength in God.

*The Biblical Role Model (Acts 2:42-47)*

The small groups met in homes, as recorded in the book of Acts, and were a strategic part of the greater church, just as your class (small group) is a strategic part of your church.

1. **Fellowship** – “They joined in the fellowship...and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.” That's exactly what Jesus did. He gathered together twelve men and hung out with them. They ate together, learned together and shared in each other's lives. Jesus subsequently added women to the group (Luke 8:1-3.)
2. **Discipleship** – They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching. That means they devoted themselves to growing in Christ and maturity. They listened, they learned and they lived the Word.
3. **Ministry** – They gave “to anyone who had need.” Your Class needs to be engaged in Ministry. **Ministry** is another word for **Service**.
4. **Evangelism** – That was their mission. Ministry is a way of serving other believers. Mission is serving the world (and unbelievers) at large.

*“And the Lord Added to Their  
Number Daily, Those Who Were Being Saved.”*

5. **Worship** – “They devoted themselves...to the breaking of bread and to prayer... [They Were] praising God.” Worship is not just a Sunday Service. Worship is about surrendering your life to Christ so you can live more abundantly and become more abundantly, and become more like Christ in nature.

**Most Effective Leaders Have  
Four Key Relationships in their Life**

**1. You Need a Relationship With Christ.**

If you do not have an on-going relationship with Christ, nothing you do as a Leader will have much of an impact. You cannot stop with salvation – You must move on to sanctification and service.

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**2. You Need Some One who is One Level Ahead of You.** You need someone you can go to for advice, support and encouragement. You need someone who knows more than you do.

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**3. You Need a Spiritual Partner.** A spiritual partner (not a puppet) is someone who knows your issues. He or she provides accountability and support.

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**4. You Need an Apprentice.** Each of us needs to be pouring our lives into someone else. If you can no longer do this work, have you trained someone to replace you?

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**Remember:** The enemy likes us to operate in isolation. Jesus operates in community.

## Communications (Leader/Assist)

- Rotate with members.
- Friendship/Fellowship/Trust
- Must be of one mind/same goals.
- Goals should be discussed and defined
- Should be no competition
- Report to the Board, when necessary.

## Commitment

- Commitment must be total.
- Cost must be calculated.
- The course must be finished.

*In a World of "Quitters,"  
God is Looking for "Finishers."*

- A price must be paid.
- A prize will be given.

*Visitation is about  
The Patient, Not the visitor*

Tailor your visit to the need of the sick.

- The family has needs.
- The doctor or nurse has needs.
- They need to know you care.
- Be confidential.
- Be encouraging.
- Keep your personal opinions.
- Learn to pray silently.
- Don't force yourself.
- Be careful of your conversation.
- Call before whenever possible.

**(I Chron. 21:24)** "I will not give the Lord anything that does not cost me."  
**We need to understand 2-mile Christianity. The New Testament teaches proportionate giving (2 Cor. 8-9).**

- God blesses us when we are sacrificial.
- God does not accept anything that does not cost us.

*TITHING IS A DIVINE COMMAND*

- Commenced by Abram (Gen. 14:20)

- Continued by Jacob (Gen. 28:22)
  - Confirmed by Moses (Lev. 27:30-34)
  - Command by Malachi (3:10)
  - Commended by John (Mt: 23:23)
- Advice:** Don't let your wallet hinder your worship.

*TITHING IS ABOUT OBEDIENCE (1 SAM. 15:22-23)*

Selective obedience is total disobedience!

*Risk Taking Mission*

**Risk:** You don't know how you'll be received, understood or misunderstood

- Reach outward – All kinds of people – clean, unclean, and abrasive, etc.
- Risk taking is not for the thin-skinned. Risk taking is not for the nice-nasty
- Jesus got His feet dusty and hands dirty
- Must lead our comfort zone. Comfortable Christians never practice Risk-Taking Mission & Service

*Extravagant Generosity*

- A Spiritual Disciple
- God told Abram, leave your country and be a blessing
- God tell us, leave you comfort and be a blessing
- The most generous person on the New Testament was a widow who gave only 2 mites Luke 21:1-4.
  - a. The rich gave
  - b. The widow sacrificed
  - c. Jesus watched their giving