



AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I AM SENDING YOU

AMBASSADORS

fostering a new generation of spiritual leaders



MODULE 2
LEADERSHIP
PARTICIPANT

AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I AM SENDING YOU

AMBASSADORS

fostering a new generation of spiritual leaders

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Other versions used are:

NLT— Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved.

ESV— Scripture quotations marked ESV are taken from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.

Primary Contributor: Troy Fitzgerald

Layout and design by Jonatan Tejel

Photos: istockphoto.com, photodune.net

Editorial work by Erica Jones

AMBASSADORS

Copyright © by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist® Youth Ministries Department
www.gcyouthministries.org.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, digital, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

Rights for publishing this book outside the U.S.A. or in non-English languages are administered by the Youth Ministries Department of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church. For additional information, please visit our website, www.gcyouthministries.org, email Youthinfo@gc.adventist.org, or write to Youth Ministries Department, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® Church, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A.

table

of

contents

Welcome	9
Session Template	12
Session 1 - leading is seeing	13
Session 2 - leading is being	21
Session 3 - spiritual gifts I—we have it all	27
Session 4 - spiritual gifts II—every member	33
Session 5 - spiritual gifts III—every member	39
Session 6 - servant leadership I	45
Session 7 - servant leadership II	51
Session 8 - leadership development—set an example by your speech	59
Session 9 - leadership development—set an example by your life	65
Session 10 - leadership development—set an example by your love	71
Session 11 - leadership development—set an example by your faith	79
Session 12 - leadership development—set an example by your purity	85
My Journal and IDP	93

Acknowledgements

The Ambassador Curriculum owes much to the extraordinary contribution and collaboration of many people, without whom its completion would have been almost impossible. We wish to thank:

The writers: Gavin Anthony, Tim Lale, and Troy Fitzgerald.

Gilbert Cangy, whose guidance, leadership and support brought this book through the long process from birth to realization. Special thanks for reading the first draft and providing keen insight and practical guidance that made this resource an inestimably better one than it otherwise would have been.

Kathy Beagles, for overseeing the development of the project.

Charity Garcia, our official Hub, for the extraordinary work she did in developing the curriculum and identifying/collaborating with the writers for all seven modules, and without whom the completion of this project would have been impossible.

Silvia Sicalo, our savvy administrative assistant, who kept the emails going and made sure that deadlines were met.

Erica Jones, for her copyediting expertise and attention to detail that prevented many early mistakes and helped create a wise and functional model.

Jonatan Tejel, for his technical expertise and selfless willingness to help, and to Rodrigo Araya, whose technical help enriched the outcome.

Maria Dunchie, for her creative contribution in design and support in other practical ways.

Hiskia Missah, for his encouragement throughout this process.

Task Force

A special thanks to the team of Division Youth Directors who, under the chairmanship of Gilbert Cangy, served as task force to periodically review and provide constructive counsel through the process:

Benjamin Carballo (Inter America), Busi Khumalo (Southern Africa Indian Ocean), James Black (North America), Jobbie Yabut (Southern Asia Pacific), Paul Tompkins (Trans European), and Ravindra Shankar (Southern Asia).

AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I AM SENDING YOU AMBASSADORS



Welcome to Ambassadors.

Ambassadors is a new level of youth ministry designed to equip you to be the best that you can be and to be part of a new generation of youth that will take on the challenge to be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in your local church and community.

An ambassador generally represents a country or a cause. A Christian ambassador is a representative of another kind; they represent the values, principles, culture, and laws of the kingdom of God. They stand for the character and purpose of the King of this kingdom—Jesus Christ, Himself.

The Ambassadors training is based on seven foundations designed for your development. They include:

1. A Christ-centered discipleship plan
2. Leadership development
3. A personal, public, and small group based mission lifestyle
4. Character and personality development, including outdoor, high adventure programming
5. Lifestyle and vocational training
6. Nurturing godly relationships
7. Community outreach development through service projects and emergency preparedness training

Each of these seven foundations will be taught in the form of seven modules, and you will acquire certification for each module completed.

Each module contains four elements that will be consistently present throughout the course:

- First, the concept of a spiritual companion. At the beginning of each module, you will choose a friend who will be your companion for the duration of the module. You will meet with that friend during each meeting for mutual encouragement and support towards your growth as an Ambassador. Groups of spiritual companions will also join for certain activities. This will foster the concept of community, interdependence, and accountability into the Ambassador's experience.
- Second, an Individual Discipleship Plan (IDP). At the beginning of every module, you will make a simple plan of how you would like to grow spiritually and acquire the practical skills, knowledge, and experience proposed in the module. Your spiritual companion will be there throughout the module to help and encourage you to accomplish your plan. The IDP helps to emphasize

- the continuing nature of discipleship and that learning is a continual part of life. It stresses the need for interdependence on each other as we learn, grow, and work for God. (See guidelines for creating your IDP on the next page.)
- Third, projects. Each module will have a project that will integrate the core concepts from the module into a service learning activity focused on helping others. This will be an opportunity for your group to work together as a whole.
- Fourth, social activities. A social activity will be planned for the group at least once a month. Make sure that you always participate.

Participant's Guide

A participant's guide for each module has been prepared for you. You hold one in your hands.

- The Participant's Guide is essentially your workbook, which contains all the lessons for each module that you will engage with.
- In the back pages of each module you will find the following: a page to create your IDP, and a list of the sessions of the module that your leader will sign and date upon completion.
- You will be required to complete 75 percent attendance and participation to receive your certification or award at the end of each module. Participants can make up for missed lessons to achieve the required 75 percent at the discretion of their leader.

Fostering togetherness is at the heart of a model for discipleship, which the General Conference is focusing on; it is known as "Together Growing Fruitful Disciples." This model emphasizes understanding, connecting, equipping, and ministering—but doing all of this "together." For God did not design us to grow or minister alone, but in community. Paul writes that growing in Christ is achieved as everyone uses the gifts God has given to them, "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" (Ephesians 4:13).

Thank you for accepting the call and challenge to become an Ambassador of Jesus Christ and His kingdom. May this experience enrich your life and assist you in discovering God's greater purpose for you.

General Conference Youth Ministries Department



Gilbert Cangy
GC Youth Director



Hiskia Missah
Associate GC Youth Director



Jonatan Tejel Subirada
Associate GC Youth Director

CREATING YOUR IDP

As a human being with a nature that naturally tends to move away from God, growing to reflect Jesus as an Ambassador will rarely happen by chance or without much thought. That's why for each of the Ambassador's modules, you will be creating your own IDP. The focus of each IDP will relate to the theme of your current module and last for the duration of that module.

Here is an example of what an IDP will look like. Fill in your own IDP on the form provided.

1. IDP Module Name:

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCIPLESHIP

2. Spiritual Companion: Who is the spiritual companion who will encourage and support you in the next stage of your spiritual journey of growing as an Ambassador of Jesus? They will remain your spiritual companion throughout the current module.

JOHN WILCOX

3. Personal vision statement: This includes two parts: (a) What do you see in your life today that you would like to change in order to become more effective as an Ambassador for Jesus? (b) Describe how you would like to see yourself in the future. Before you start writing, take a moment to pray for God to guide your thoughts.

- CURRENTLY, I DO NOT HAVE A REGULAR OR VERY MEANINGFUL DEVOTIONAL LIFE.
- I WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP A DEVOTIONAL LIFE THAT CAN EQUIP ME SPIRITUALLY TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AMBASSADOR FOR JESUS.

4. Expected evidence of change: After looking at your personal vision statement, list the evidence you might expect to see that reveals you are growing in Christ.

- I THINK AN EFFECTIVE AMBASSADOR IS SOMEONE WHO IS ALWAYS PRAYING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO REVEAL THE CHARACTER OF JESUS WHEREVER THEY GO. THAT IS WHAT I WANT FOR MY LIFE.

5. Next steps: List the practical steps you will take to accomplish your personal discipleship vision. Think about how these steps will also shape your daily devotions with God.

- SET MY ALARM CLOCK FOR 7AM TO START MY DEVOTIONS
- SPEND 30 MINUTES IN PRAYER AND BIBLE READING
- REPEAT BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP
- FIND A BOOK TO READ THAT TEACHES DIFFERENT WAYS TO STUDY THE BIBLE
- PRAY EACH DAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOD TO USE ME AS HIS AMBASSADOR

6. Reflection: How did I do? This is completed at the end of the module. It gives you a chance to reflect on what worked well and what you would like to improve in the future. You can compare your expected evidences of change to what actually happened.

- I REALLY ENJOYED THESE LAST FEW WEEKS. THE MORE I READ AND UNDERSTOOD, THE MORE CONFIDENT I BECAME TO PRAY FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOD TO USE ME. I THINK I WILL EXPAND THE TIME FOR DEVOTIONS I HAVE IN THE EVENING, AND NOW THAT I HAVE READ A BOOK ON BIBLE STUDY, I WOULD LIKE TO READ ANOTHER ON INTERCESSORY PRAYER. I HAVE FOUND THAT I REALLY ENJOY PRAYING FOR OTHERS.



basic template for teaching sessions

This template will be used during most in-house teaching sessions. There will be variations in the format depending on the focus for the day.

welcome & activity

2+ min

1. General welcome and opening prayer.
2. A short getting-to-know you activity. As friendships continually deepen, so the ability to encourage and support each other spiritually deepens.

did you know?

13 minutes

An activity that introduces the theme for the day.

mission briefing

10 minutes

A simple Bible study that gives the biblical foundation for the theme done in groups of two or three. It will be helpful for leaders to circulate around the room to listen in on conversations to see that participants are going in the right direction and to answer questions.

thinking it through

5 minutes

A personal reflection time where each participant writes down what they have personally learned from the Bible study and how this applies to their own life as an Ambassador. To be shared briefly with their spiritual companion who will be a spiritual encourager during the curriculum.

reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

40 minutes

An activity that expands on the main theme for the lesson. This section is called “reflecting Jesus and His kingdom” because an ambassador’s main task is to represent who Jesus is to others, as well as what the kingdom of heaven stands for.

next steps

15 minutes

An ambassador for Jesus will grow spiritually and will witness in everyday life beyond the training sessions. Therefore, each participant will develop an individual discipleship plan that will help them grow as an ambassador for Jesus when they are outside of the learning environment.

At the beginning of each module in the curriculum, participants will develop an individual discipleship plan (IDP) that will guide their personal spiritual journey during that section. Each IDP will focus on the theme of that section. “Next Steps” is a time for participants to reflect on how their IDP is working and to pray for each other in what they aim to do next. This will be done with their spiritual companion. A spiritual companion is a friend who prays for and encourages their own companion over a set period of time.

summary

5 minutes

As a whole group, this is an opportunity to summarize what participants have learned during the session. It is a time for the leader to generally review what has been done and to ask for volunteers to briefly share what they have learned.



SESSION 1

leading is seeing



SESSION 1

leading is seeing



did you know...

Everyone sees the world through a different lens.



What do you see when you look at the world you live in?

“But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”

Hebrews 2:9





mission briefing

Leadership is defined in many ways around the world:

1. Guiding and directing change
2. Being a person of influence
3. Bringing people to a place where they want to be or should be
4. Organizing and inspiring innovation
5. Seeing a problem and engaging others to help solve it
6. Being willing to stand up for what is right, even though you are alone

In the Bible there is no one place that specifically delineates what it means to be a leader, however, there are countless stories and insights as to what God expects leaders to be and do.

If you were to name five great leaders from the Bible, who would you choose and why?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

In those who are listed above, you will probably find that such leaders have a sense of calling and a particular cause they are called to.

Consider a few of the passages from Genesis to Revelation that reveal what God said about His vision for His chosen leaders. What does God say about their mission and purpose?

Genesis 12:3 _____

Deuteronomy 4:5 _____

Isaiah 61:8-11 _____

Gal. 3:8-10 _____

God called Abraham to follow Him and said that he would be a blessing to all the nations. The children of Israel were not meant to be special in the sense that they were God's favorite, but special in the sense that they would declare God's will to the world. Isaiah declares that God's mission for His followers is to bear witness to "all nations." And Paul reminds us in Galatians that what makes us "true leaders" has to do with the faith we have in our hearts rather than where we were born or to what family we belong. The one thing the children of Israel lost sight of



was their purpose to proclaim the message of Christ to their world. Religious leaders in Jesus' day thought they saw the world clearly, but did they see God's vision for humanity or something entirely different? If you read the conversation between Jesus and the religious leaders in John 5:39 you will hear Jesus say: "You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." Christian leaders need to learn to see!



thinking it through

As you have considered some of the key thoughts God has for His leaders in the world, how does God's view of the world compare with the way you see the world? What are some ways you want to see the way God's sees?

Glasses have the ability to help people see the big picture as well as see the little details more vividly.

What are some ways you can become more aware of your leadership worldview?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

Review the verses below and notice how Jesus' vision affected His ability to lead others to a changed life. Read the whole story around the verse given below and answer the following questions for each story.

1. What did Jesus see?
2. What did Jesus see that others might overlook?
3. Why/how do you think this quality is needed in leaders today?

Seeing Disciples

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" (John 1:37-38).



Seeing Character

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." (John 1:47)

Seeing Opportunity for Healing

When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" (John 5:6)

Seeing Teachable Moments

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" (John 6:5)

Seeing God's Purpose for Every Person

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. (John 9:1)

Seeing Hope

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. (John 11:33)

Seeing Relationships

When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," (John 19:26)

Seeing the Need for More Leaders

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36)



Seeing Individuals with Compassion

As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.... When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.” (Luke 11:12,13)

Seeing Teams That Help

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” (Mark 2:5)

Seeing with Love

Jesus looked at him and loved him. (Mark 10:21)

What quality do you think you need the most? Why?



SESSION 2

leading is being



SESSION 2

leading is being



did you know...

It is true, no two fingerprints are alike, but all fingerprints are similar.

IDENTITY

WHO IN THE WORLD
ARE WE?



“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:2





mission briefing

Our identity can either be defined by the world or by God's promises about us. Have one person in the group read the whole list of statements the Bible makes about who we are in Christ. Divide the list up evenly and look up and read the entire verse.

You are loved, 1 John 3:3

You are accepted, Ephesians 1:6

You are a child of God—born of God, John 1:12

You are Jesus' friend, John 15:14

You are the salt of the earth, Matthew 5:13

You are a co-heir with Jesus, Romans 8:17

You are a temple of God, 1 Corinthians 6:19

You are a member of Christ's body, 1 Corinthians 12:27

You are a saint, Ephesians 1:1

You are the light of the world, Matthew 5:14

You are redeemed, Colossians 1:14

You are complete in Jesus Christ, Colossians 2:10

You are free from condemnation, Romans 8:1

You are a new creation in Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:17

You are chosen of God, Colossians 3:12

You are established and sealed by God, 2 Corinthians 1:21

You are not afraid, but ready, 2 Timothy 1:7

You are seated in heavenly places with Christ, Ephesians 2:6

You are chosen to bear fruit, John 15:16

You are my witnesses, Acts 1:8

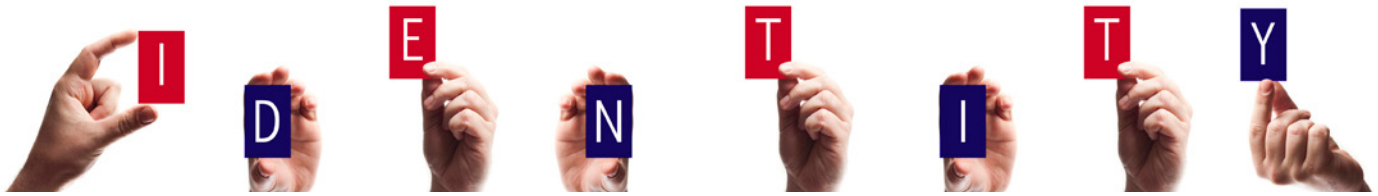
Share which "you are" statement resonates with you the most and why.

1. Which seems difficult to believe?

2. Which promise offers the most trouble/reward?

3. Which promise do you think would make the most significant change in the world?





thinking it through

1. Reflect on how being with God, walking with God, and working with God affect the kind of leader you are.
2. Think of a time in your life when you felt especially close to God and knew He was with you. What did that experience teach you about your identity and work with God?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

Jesus Christ stands, arguably, as the world's most influential leader in history. But believers around the world know that Jesus claimed to be much more than a great leader. One theme that shines bright in the life and ministry of Jesus is what Jesus believed about Himself.

Consider how Lucifer tempted Jesus to doubt His identity: "If you are the Son of God..." (Matthew 4:3,6). At the cross, the same methodology turned up when the religious leaders taunted Jesus, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." Even the soldiers joined in and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself" (Luke 23:35-37).

1. Why do you think the evil one sought to attack Jesus on His sense of identity? Think through and discuss with others what might have been the result if Jesus turned stones to bread or jumped down from the cross victoriously.

Read the following verses and complete the statements Jesus claims about Himself.

John 6:35, I am _____

John 8:12, I am _____

John 10:9, I am _____

John 10:11, I am _____

John 14:6, I am _____

John 15:5, I am _____

John 11:26, I am _____

John 8:58, I am _____



2. Which of the above claims speak personally to you today?

The leadership message is clear: In order to lead well, leaders must know who they are and what their purpose is. Furthermore, Mark captures the way Jesus intentionally chose disciples to identify with Him when he writes:

“Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons” (Mark 3:14,15).

Notice that disciples are meant to “be with Jesus” before they are sent out to change the world. In the book of Acts, the hostile accusers of the same disciples Jesus called were described as follows:

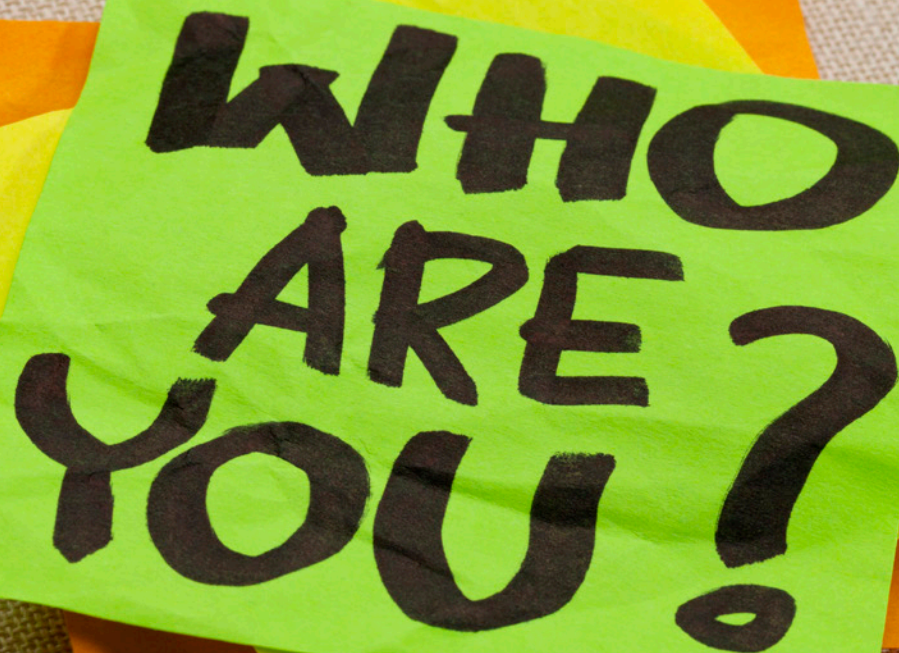
“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13).

Be with God and take a stand on who God has declared you to be!



SESSION 3

spiritual gifts I we have it all



**WHO
ARE
YOU?**



SESSION 3

spiritual gifts I

we have it all



did you know...

You can tell a lot about a person by the kind of gift they give you (agree or disagree).



“Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not!”

1 Corinthians 12:29, 30 NLT





mission briefing

1. What do you tend to remember more, the gift or the giver? Think of examples of some gifts you have received in your life.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-31. First we need to discuss what a spiritual gift really is. If you were to define a spiritual gift, would you describe it as:

- skill
- quality
- talent
- influence
- passion

Which of the above words do you think best describes a spiritual gift? Why?

3. Many have used different terms to define a spiritual gift, but let's ask a question of all of the words above:

- Can an atheist possess the skill of teaching? (yes or no)
- Can a pagan person be known for the quality of mercy? (yes or no)
- Are there unbelieving people who have the talent of effective leadership? (yes or no)
- Do those who have no interest in God have the influence of service to others? (yes or no)
- Can the self-sufficient agnostic experience a deep passion for giving? (yes or no)

4. Divide the following passages among your group; each participant should read a different Scripture and report their insights on what a "spiritual gift" seems to be:

1 Corinthians 12:4-5

1 Peter 4:10

Romans 12:4-6

Ephesians 4:10-13

What do you think it means when the Bible claims that all believers are given "spiritual gifts"? What makes the gifts spiritual?





thinking it through

1. How have you seen God gifting some of your brothers and sisters in Christ with spiritual gifts? (3 min).

2. Is discovering your spiritual gifts exciting? Or perhaps it makes you nervous or self-conscious. What do you think God would say to you today about spiritual gifts? (3 min).



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. How did the gifts of grace become “spiritual gifts”? Maybe the notion of things being “spiritual” emerged after the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. Nevertheless, there are many portions of the Epistles that refer to spiritual gifts; consider one section from the life of Christ where He seems to go into great detail to convey His purpose for our leadership, and it has a lot to do with gifts He bestowed. In your group, read Matthew 25 in its entirety and share some of the key insights you gain about spiritual gifts from these three parables.

2. Enclosed is an Ambassadors Spiritual Gifts Survey. Follow the instructions given and score your answers, then share your results in your group, answering the following questions:
For what gift did you score the highest number?



Were you surprised by the results?

Keep in mind, this survey only shows you an area you should explore with God. Only God and His work in you can genuinely reveal what gifts He has given you to share with the world.

What are some opportunities to gain some experience in this area of ministry?

Who do you know that might give you some honest counsel or encouragement?

What specific activities will you engage in this week to explore your giftedness?



SESSION 4

spiritual gifts II

every member



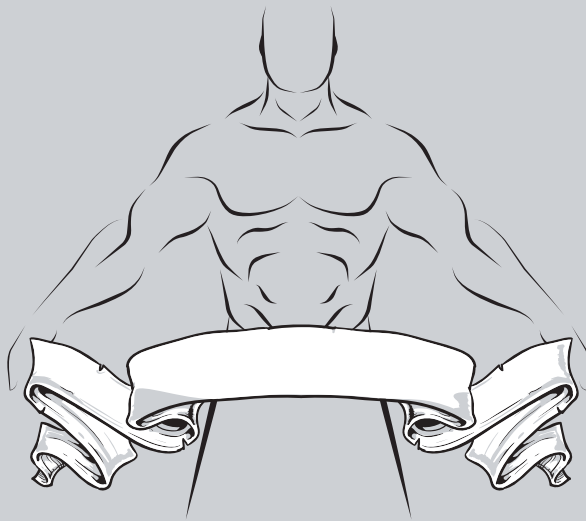
SESSION 4

spiritual gifts II

every member



did you know...



Facts about the body:

- Muscles are the engine of every human body.
- The heart is a muscle.
- You have skeletal muscles. Your intestines are muscles.
- Muscles that do not get used get weak, and weak muscles shrink and ultimately die.
- Muscles that work become stronger, and strong muscles grow to be more useful.

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

1 Peter 1:13-16





mission briefing

God has entrusted to His people certain gifts that need to be discovered, developed, and spent on the world He has called us to reach. Read and discuss the following to more fully understand God's leadership plan for His church.

1. In Matthew 25:14-30 Jesus told His disciples a parable that addresses how God expects believers to relate to spiritual gifts. Read the parable carefully and pay special attention to the broader context.

Why do you think Jesus told this parable? What point is He trying to make?

How does "knowing the Master" relate to the success or failure of the servants?

Why do you think there are examples of servants getting one, two, and five talents (bags of money)? What does this mean for believers in the church?

What is the message you think God is trying to give to you in this story? What specific gift/gifts has God given you that you need to pay more careful attention to?

2. Rate your church. What percentage of your church actively works/serves on a regular basis for the work of ministry?

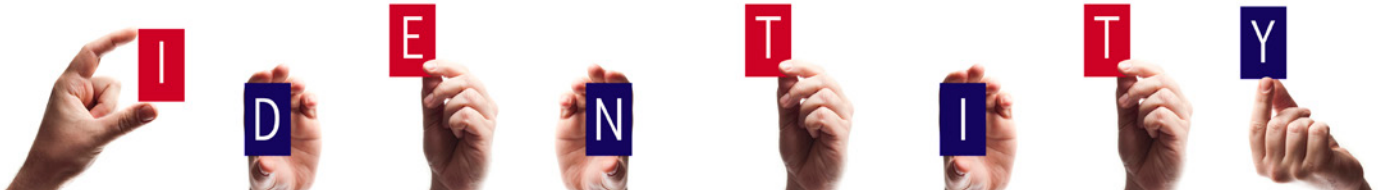
10-20%	30-40%	50-60%	70-80%
20-30%	40-50%	60-70%	

3. What gifts do you rarely see at work in the life of the church? Why?

Exhortation	Giving	Leadership	Mercy	Prophecy
Service	Teaching	Administration	Apostle	Discernment
Faith	Healing	Helps	Knowledge	Miracles
Interpretation	Tongues	Wisdom	Evangelism	Pastor
Celibacy	Hospitality	Martyrdom	Missionary	Poverty

4. What do you think is the solution to increasing involvement in the ministry of the church?
-





thinking it through

1. Reflect on how easy it is to get distracted from what God has called you to be and do. How can you practice the gifts God may be stirring up in your life in a way that you don't lose focus on the purpose of spiritual gifts?
2. Who do you know that God has blessed with a gift/s and manages to stay humble and always teachable? How do they do it? Have you ever thought of asking them for advice or encouragement?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. Read Acts 19:1-7 and discuss with the others in your group:
 - What do you think is the primary principle or lesson in this story as it relates to the way we discover our spiritual gifts?
 - In what way do we all have “partial information” about God?
 - What might this mean for us as believers in the body of Christ?
 - What are the implications of this story when we think about the millions of people in the world who have “partial information” about God?
2. The discovery of a spiritual gift is part of an ongoing process. Examine 1 Timothy 4:14 and discuss how Paul's warning to Timothy...
 - Instructs us about spiritual gifts
 - Encourages us about the process of learning
 - Challenges us to actively practice our gifts
3. Paul also declared to Timothy, “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” (2 Timothy 1:6).

Why do you fan a flame? What do you think it means to fan the gift into flame? What does this look like? What are the ramifications of fanning a gift into flame?



4. Read 2 Timothy 1:7 and consider Paul's remarks to Timothy. Is it possible that Timothy needed to continually re-discover God's gift in his life? What does this mean for us as Ambassadors of Christ?

5. Who do you know that could be encouraged/challenged to "fan the gift into flame"? How do we go about "helping each other" discover the way God has gifted each of us to serve?

6. Agree or disagree: Ambassadors of Christ should be as focused on helping each other as we are on our own giftedness. Explain.

SESSION 5

spiritual gifts III

community of faith



SESSION 5

spiritual gifts III

every member



did you know...

Some world leaders and great thinkers have offered their solutions to the problems the world faces. What service or ministry would make the biggest difference in the world for the kingdom of God? Rank them in order of what you think their impact would be (1—most impact, 6—least impact).

- Food for the hungry
- Clean water for the thirsty
- Community for the lonely
- Shelter, education, and clothes
- Healing for those who are diseased
- Hope for those who are in a prison of hopelessness

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Matthew 25:35, 36





mission briefing

In groups of 3-4, read Ephesians 4:4-7, 11-13 and answer the following questions.

1. How many times is the word "one" mentioned in this reading?
2. How many times are the words, "all," "each," and "whole" mentioned?
3. How many times is the word "some" mentioned? Why are these words significant?
4. According to verse 7, what is given to all who believe? Why do you think this verse is meaningful to the conversation of Spiritual Gifts and Leadership?

5. What spiritual gifts are mentioned in this reading?

6. What is the purpose of this "grace" given to all through gifts as delineated in verses and 11 and 12?



thinking it through

1. When have you ever been jealous of others in their giftedness? If we are to celebrate and help each other grow in the way God gifts us, what can believers do to foster appreciation and gratitude for the gift/gifts we have been given?
2. How do you see yourself as a body member? Which part of the body are you and why?





reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. Think of the ministry of Christ on earth and try to quickly identify each gift with a story and something Jesus said in His life. Go through the list with your group.

Exhortation	Giving	Leadership	Mercy	Prophecy
Service	Teaching	Administration	Apostle	Discernment
Faith	Healing	Helps	Knowledge	Miracles
Interpretation	Tongues	Wisdom	Evangelism	Pastor
Celibacy	Hospitality	Martyrdom	Missionary	Poverty

2. Read what Jesus says to His disciples in John 14:12 about what He expects from them when He ascends to heaven and the Holy Spirit comes down:

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

What is your initial reaction to this claim Jesus makes about those who believe?

3. How is this promise fulfilled in the New Testament church after Pentecost in the following stories? (Each member of the group should take a different story and report their answers to the other members of their group).
 - a. Acts 2:41–47: The Impact of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
 - b. Acts 4:31–34: The Church at Work
 - c. Acts 6:1–7: The Church Adjusting to Problems
 - d. Acts 6:8–15 and 7:54–60: Stephen, a Deacon
 - e. Acts 8:26–35: Philip, a Deacon
4. How do you see specific spiritual gifts being displayed, directly or indirectly?

5. What is the general attitude of the believers and leaders? What do they seem focused on?



6. What would these stories look like today in your sphere of leadership/church?

7. Philip and Stephen were chosen because they were filled with the Holy Spirit, but they were designated to address the problem the church faced. Furthermore, solving the problem of food distribution was described by the apostles as, “waiting on tables.” How is it that these men are featured in stories about preaching the gospel to others as well?

8. In your group, consider what you can do to flesh out your gifts this week. Perhaps it is an act of kindness, a song to be written, help that needs to be given, a testimony shared, a visit made, something that is broken fixed, someone who is lonely visited, someone who is hungry fed... Plan a tangible expression of your collective giftedness!

SESSION 6

servant leadership I



SESSION 6

servant leadership I



did you know...

The Road Most Traveled or The Road Best Traveled



Y in the road

WHY?

The decision to become a servant leader means to choose to build others first. The other road is to serve your own agenda, and it is a very common track.

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”

1 Peter 5:6





mission briefing

“The Mind of Christ”

Read Philippians 2:1-8 and respond to the following questions.

1. In verse 1 the apostle makes an if/then argument. Make a short list of the “ifs” and a short list of the “thens” and examine the text to see what God is trying to say through Paul.

If

Then

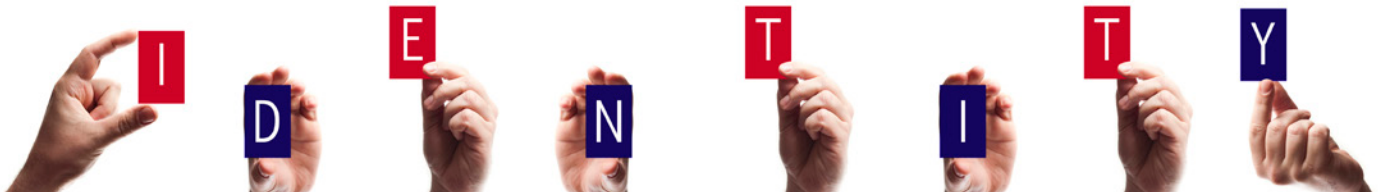
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

2. What do you think it means to have the same mindset as Christ? How does an Ambassador genuinely imitate Christ? How is “imitating” different from “pretending”?

3. Who do you know that has a “servant’s heart and mind”? What are some ways you have observed their leadership make a difference?

4. In Philippians 2:3,4 the apostle Paul urges believers to “do nothing out of selfish ambition” and to “look to the interests of others instead of your own.” How does this challenge become the bedrock of a whole new way of looking at leaders/leadership? What are the advantages of this approach? What might be the disadvantages some would claim?

5. If you were to define servant leadership by this passage in Philippians, who are some Bible characters that emerge in your mind as good examples?



thinking it through

1. Consider the cost of being a servant leader. What will you have to change/give up to become a servant leader?

2. What immediate scenarios come to your mind as immediate opportunities to practice the mind of Christ as a servant leader?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

Some people are unmistakably impressive and overpowering, and they are typically called upon to lead. Others are extremely passionate about their own ideas and can sell and persuade others to follow. In Romans 16:1, 1 Timothy 3:8, and 3:12, someone who is described as a leader is called *diakonos*. This word appears frequently in the New Testament and is usually translated as “deacon,” but it actually refers to someone who performs practical service for another from the heart.

1. When have you had someone else put your interests first before their own? How did you feel about yourself? How did their service shape your view of them?

2. Read the story in John 13:1–17 a couple of times through alone and make notes of facts, ideas, and insights that you may not have thought of before. List them and share with other participants in your group.



3. In the first few verses of this story, Jesus washed His disciples' feet. How common was it for a rabbi or master to do this? How would this kind of behavior be perceived today? Share analogies or scenarios of what this would look like today and how it might be perceived.

4. Why do you think Jesus asked the question: "Do you understand what I have done for you"?

5. In Mark 10:35-45, James and John ambitiously longed for the honor of leadership. Jesus asked, "Can you drink the cup I drink?" or "be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?" As individuals, paraphrase this story and don't use any of the key words that are used in the Bible.

Your Paraphrase:

Compare your paraphrase with others in your group and discuss the following questions:

6. Can you think of any Old Testament stories where leaders put others before their own interests?

7. What qualities do you think are the most important attributes of a servant leader? Individually, make a list of five qualities and rank them in order of what you think is most important. (Be specific and avoid clichés like "someone who puts Jesus first.") Share your list with your group. Next, as a group, come to a consensus as to your top three attributes, and report to the rest of the participants.



SESSION 7

servant leadership II



SESSION 7

servant leadership II



did you know...

In ancient times, Jews believed that time was divided into two ages: the Old Age and the Age to Come.



“I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Matthew 11:11





mission briefing

John's entire life purpose served one goal: to prepare people to receive the Messiah. For Jews, there was no greater event in history and no greater person to give service to. While many would have been tempted to seize the honor and the influence of being the forerunner of Christ, John continually moved the conversation back to God's agenda.

1. Consider the final words of the Old Testament that describe the work of the forerunner of the Messiah in Malachi 4:5,6. What kind of leader do you think the people were expecting? Why?

2. What do the following passages say about John the Baptist?

His calling/purpose

His character

His leadership style

- a. Mark 1:3-4 _____
- b. Luke 3:7-9 _____
- c. Luke 3:15-18 _____
- d. John 1:19-29 _____
- e. John 3:22-36 _____

3. Jesus claimed of John that "among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist," but in Matthew 11:11 Jesus goes on to say, "yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." What do you think Jesus is saying about leadership?





thinking it through

1. What part of John's life that inspires you as a servant leader is most rare today? Most needed? Most overlooked?
_____ Deference to Christ's mission
_____ Bravery to speak the truth to powerful people
_____ Clear sense of who he was and who Christ was
_____ Willingness to die for what was right without honor or acknowledgement
2. What would it look like if Ambassadors lived today with the same selfless devotion to Christ as John the Baptist? In what way do you want to imitate John this week?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

The kingdom of Christ is marked by the qualities that are important to God. As you survey the life of Christ, pay careful attention to the people that Jesus paid a notable compliment to. They did not ask for recognition. In most cases, they were surprised by His remarks. Most of all, notice how each one demonstrates a quality that causes God's heart to soar.

1. In groups of 3-4, make your way through each story and report:
 - The compliment or affirmation Jesus makes
 - The act or attribute that stirs Jesus to voice His affirmation
 - What the story teaches about servant leadership

Matthew 16:13-18: Peter



Matthew 8:5-13: The Centurion

Matthew 15:21-28: The Canaanite woman

John 1:43-51: Nathanael

Luke 10:38-42: Mary of Bethany

Luke 7:36-50 (Mt.26:6-13; Mk. 14:3-9; Jn. 12:1-8): Mary of Bethany

Mark 12:38-44: The widow

2. Which of the amazing servant leaders do you resonate with personally? Why?

3. Which character qualities do you think Christ longs to see evident in Ambassadors today?

4. When you consider the list of servant leaders Jesus honored, how do their actions stand in contrast to popular leaders today?

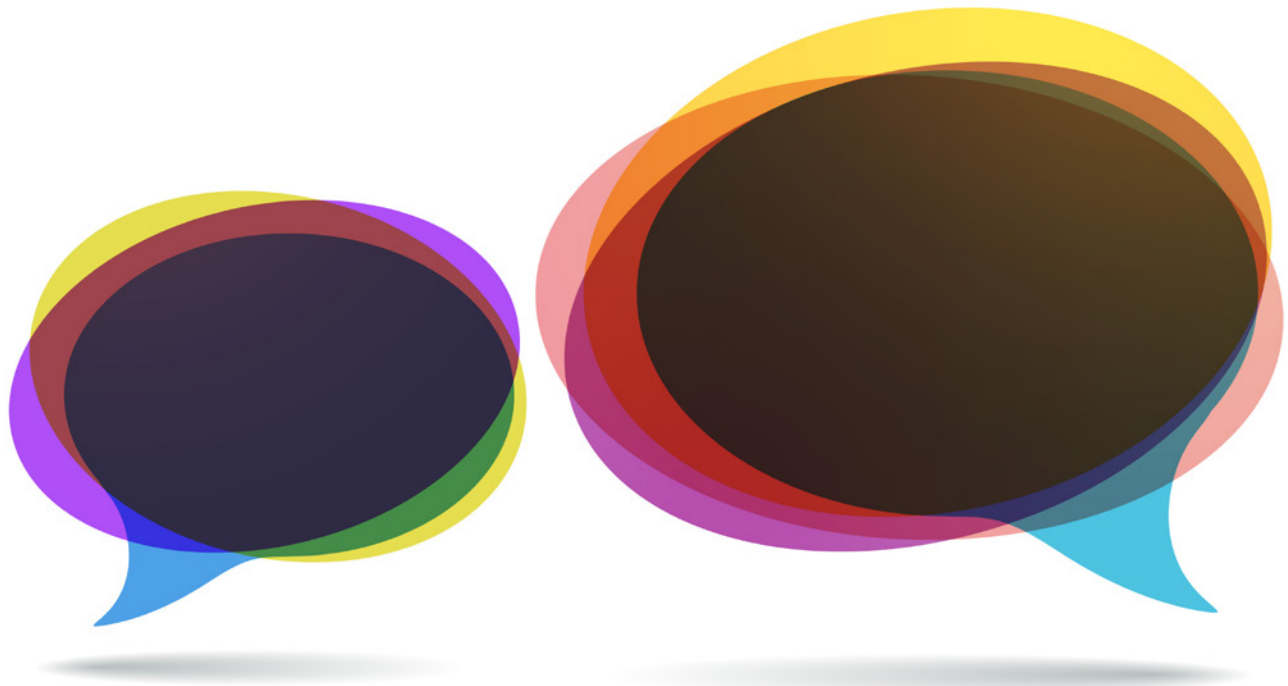
5. Perhaps one of the basic features in all of those mentioned above, including John the Baptist, was that none of them did, said, or served to gain honor or recognition. They only sought to do what they had to do—what they must do. Is God calling you to spend, intercede, help, declare, leap out in faith, sit at His feet, or lavishly spend all you have to serve Christ? In what way do you sense God prompting you to serve others first?

6. Servant leadership is compared to the difference between a slow burn instead of an immediate explosion. It takes longer but it is more effective. Another suggests that servant leadership is a “first serve” approach instead of a “me first” model. What other creative metaphors, symbols, parables, or analogies can you think of that show the difference between servant leadership and a more self-absorbed approach to leadership? (Share your creative comparisons with the rest of the group.)



SESSION 8

leadership development—set an example by your speech



SESSION 8

leadership development—set an example by your speech

? did you know...

Words. What do they mean to you? Assign an estimated percentage of what you mean by the following words:

Sometimes = _____ %

Always = _____ %

Occasionally = _____ %

Often = _____ %

Never = _____ %

Rarely = _____ %

Frequently = _____ %

Usually = _____ %

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example, for the believers, in speech...”

1 Timothy 4:12





mission briefing

1. When in your life have you said words that you wish you could take back? Discuss how you have seen the power of words spoken, for good and bad.
2. Read the passages from Proverbs below and identify the two verses that speak to you most.
 - a. Proverbs 18:21
 - b. Proverbs 12:18
 - c. Proverbs 16:24
 - d. Proverbs 21:23
 - e. Proverbs 15:1
 - f. Proverbs 16:23
 - g. Proverbs 10:19
3. In your group: If you were to summarize the wisdom from Solomon about our speech in ten words or less, how would you say it?



thinking it through

1. Reflect on moments in your life where you have missed opportunities to speak up, to say something good, but for one reason or another, chose not to say it. How can Ambassadors be mindful of the words they speak or times they choose not to speak? What advice would you give a fellow believer?

2. What do you think is more powerful: words that are good? Or words that hurt? Explain.





reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. As a group, read James 3:1–12 and list the various symbols and metaphors the apostle uses to describe the power of speech/the tongue. Which comparison do you think is the most powerful? Why?

Why do you think Paul speaks so directly about this topic?

2. Paul's charge to Timothy is about leading by setting the example for others. Consider the difference between a thermostat and a thermometer. What does a thermometer do? What does a thermostat do? Leaders are to be thermostats in the way they lead others by example.

Who are some “thermostats” that used their words for good in the Bible?

Who would you say are “thermostats” who use their words for good in your community of faith?

3. Read Ephesians 4:29 and imagine with your group what it would be like if you obeyed this passage faithfully for a year. What kind of leadership would that kind of commitment to good speech display? What would be some imagined results?



4. Look up the following passages and examine them in light of what it means to lead by example. Some of the passages are very direct—even hard sayings, while others are warm, rich words of advice.

James 1:19

James 1:26

Matthew 12:36, 37

Colossians 3:8

Colossians 4:6

Which of the passages above do you feel God is calling you to apply to your leadership this week?



SESSION 9

leadership development—set an example by your life



SESSION 9

leadership development—set an example by your life



did you know...

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers; in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

A life sentence is who you are and what you have done summarized in a single sentence.

Mother Theresa, 1910–1997

There are four aspects of a person signified in the words above:

Name

Year of Birth

Year of Death

What is the fourth? The dash—the tiny character that marks what happened between birth and death. What happens in that little space is the most important of all.

Life Sentence





mission briefing

1. Read through the following list of life sentences and identify which ones speak to you personally.
2. Which would you change or adjust, if any?
3. In the list below, are there examples where you as an observer can say, "That wasn't always true of that person"? If so, what are the implications for believers today?

Life Sentences

Joseph—the Lord was with Joseph. Genesis 39:2

Nathanael—Here is a true Israelite in whom there is no guile. John 1:47

Mary of Bethany—She has done a beautiful thing...and wherever the gospel is preached her story will be told in memory of her. Mark 14:9

Noah—Noah did everything just as God commanded him. Genesis 6:22

Jacob—you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome. Genesis 32:28

Aaron—who was consecrated to the Lord. Psalm 106:16

Joshua—overcame. Exodus 17:13

Job—There is no one on earth like him. Job 1:8

Deborah—arose, arose a mother in Israel. Judges 5:7

Ruth—a woman of noble character. Ruth 3:11

Samuel—a leader from youth until this day. 1 Samuel 12:2

David—shepherded with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led. Psalm 78:72

Ezra—devoted himself to the study and observance of the law of the Lord. Ezra 7:10

Zechariah and Elizabeth—both were upright in the sight of the Lord. Luke 1:6

John the Baptist—he must increase, I must decrease. John 3:30

John—the disciple whom Jesus loved. John 13:23

Barnabas—was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. Acts 11:24

It's not clear what might have been said of Timothy, but the apostle Paul was a master teacher when it came to stirring people to lead. Knowing that Timothy would experience annoying, everyday challenges, Paul was led to say to Timothy, "Be careful of your speech—words matter." It may seem like a little thing, but it is in the list.



On the other hand, Paul observed that for leaders, the best achievements are guided by big thinking, which is why the wise apostle urged the young leader to, “set an example for the believers in life.” The little things and the big things—great leaders pay attention to both!



thinking it through

1. As you survey through the people above, what were some of the thoughts you had about your own life, and even the life sentence you initially wrote at the beginning?
2. As Paul says, “Set an example for the believers; in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.” “Life” appears to be enormous and vague. How do you live this week in light of how you want your life to be summed up in the end?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

1. While it is true that “the dash,” or the part of our life in between the birthdate and the day of our passing, is the most important, is it the same for Jesus?

How would you write or recite a life sentence from the following parts of Christ’s life: (Who was He and what did He do?)

Pre-birth

Birth

Life

Death

After Death



2. In your group, read the following summary of Hebrews 11 and respond to the following questions.

Heroes of Faith

In Hebrews 11:1–40 the storied lives of the Bible’s greatest leaders are mentioned. These are people who led by example and lived worthy of an enduring life sentence. The author of Hebrews goes into great detail at the start, but towards the end of the chapter abbreviates the examples more and more until it finishes with simple summaries of how their lives ended. The final names are no longer mentioned, but see if you can identify them by their qualities—or their storied end.

- Choose someone you admire who was named and described. (Hebrews 11:1–31)
-

- Choose someone you appreciate who was named in the passage but not described. (Hebrews 11:32)
-

- Choose someone to identify who is not named, but only described. (Hebrews 11:33–38)
-

3. The last part of Hebrews 11 is critical to understanding how our life sentences relate to our development as leaders.

“These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect”(Hebrews 11:39,40).

What does this last sentence tell us about the process of leadership development?

What does it seem to say about how we are shaped as leaders “together”?

What does it mean to be made perfect? (The word “perfect” means complete, mature, fulfilling its purpose.)

Were any of the leaders above flawless? Or were they “perfect” because they completed their purpose?



SESSION 10

leadership development—set an example by your love



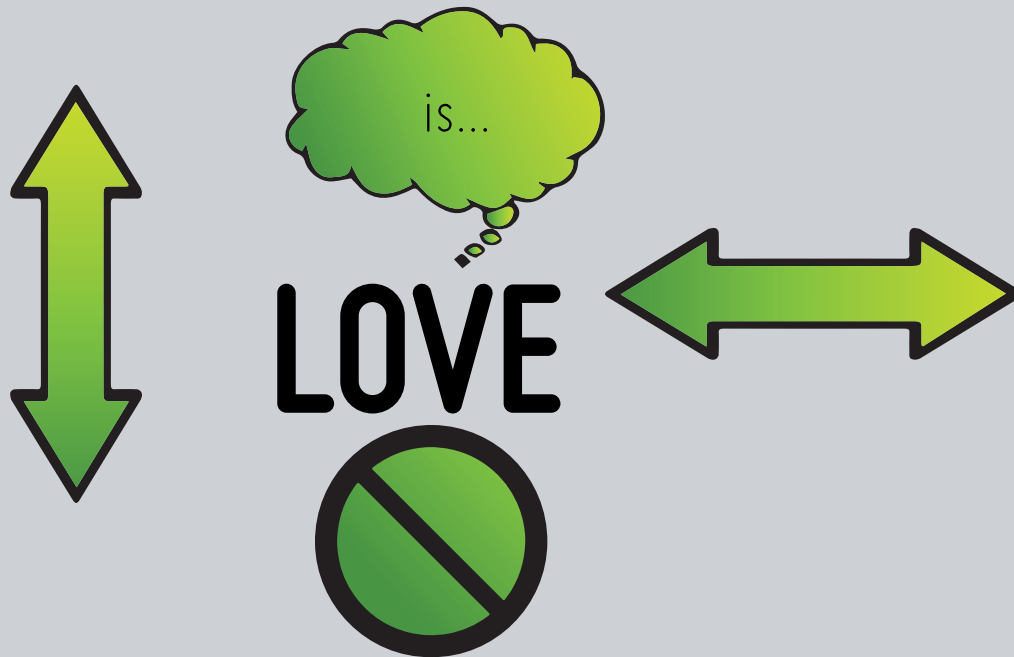
SESSION 10

leadership development—set an example by your love



did you know...

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers; in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).



Love is either the most over used word or the most misunderstood word.

Chose one and explain.





mission briefing

1. Individually, scan through the passages below, then go through again and circle, underline, star, and highlight. Share your responses with your group.
 - Circle five verbs that capture what it means to actively lead by loving.
 - Underline three phrases that seem to be extremely challenging.
 - Put a star in the margin by two verses that you think would drastically change the effectiveness of churches if they obeyed this counsel.
 - Underline the one verse that is speaking to you personally.

John 13:34 – “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

John 13:35 – “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Romans 12:16 – “Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.”

Romans 14:19 – “So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”

Romans 15:7 – “Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.”

Galatians 5:13 – “For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Galatians 6:2 – “Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:25 – “Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.”

Ephesians 4:32 – “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Ephesians 5:21 – “and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 4:18 – “Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

1 Thessalonians 5:15 – “See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.”

Hebrews 3:13 – “But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

Hebrews 10:24 – “and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,”

James 5:16 – “Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

1 Peter 4:9 – “Be hospitable to one another without complaint.”



1 John 3:23 – “This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.”

1 John 4:12 – “No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.”

2. Share your results in your group and report back to the larger group one insight you gained from exploring the “one another” passages of the Bible.



thinking it through

1. What do you sense God is trying to say to you as a leader in the passages of Scripture you surveyed?

2. How do you plan to intentionally seek out ways to love those who are easy to love as well as those who are hard to love? Share your plan with one other person.



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

The Other Love Chapter

Paul’s charge to Timothy, and all Ambassadors of Christ, is to set an example for the believers in love. Leadership development that teaches love as a primary motivation and method for change will produce fruit. Perhaps one of the best stories for setting a foundation for learning to lead with love is found in Luke 10:25–37. Pick up the story of an amazing encounter between Jesus and an “expert in the law” (Luke 10:25–37).

1. What do you think it means that this individual is an “expert in the law”? As an expert, he would know that “love” is one of the most repeated words in Deuteronomy (about 30 times).

2. What is the difference between “earning eternal life” and “inheriting eternal life”? Is he a legalist or a seeker asking a good question?



3. Jesus, the master teacher, does not answer his question but asks another: “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” Is Jesus saying, “Salvation is in keeping the law”? Or is Jesus saying, “Look at what God has said about eternal life”? What do you think?
-
-

4. The expert answers with two quotes from the Old Testament: Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. Look these verses up and say whether you think this is a good synthesis for those who would seek to become inheritors of eternal life.
-
-

5. The expert gets caught on another important word—not love, but *neighbor*. “Who is my neighbor?” Why is it important to define this word? Read the short history below:
-
-

[Jews were currently sharing land with Samaritans. They hated each other. Why? About 700 years before Christ came, the Assyrians took the land of the Jews who deported many of the inhabitants and replaced them with people who essentially colonized in Palestine (2 Kings 17:24–33). With only a few Jews remaining and pagans from everywhere, the people intermarried and also married Judaism and paganism together. This caused a mutual hatred that has lasted for hundreds of years. But as “true Jews” returned, the notion of living next door to Samaritans was repulsive.]

6. In your sphere of influence there are people who are easy to love, and then there are those who seem impossible to love. What are the implications for leaders who are challenged to set an example of love?
-
-

7. [Love Your Enemy Experiment—Do this only if you dare!]

In your groups, without naming names, commit to pray for someone you have difficulty loving and promise each other to practice this praying every day for an agreed upon period of time. What do you think will happen?

8. How does Christ help define who my neighbor is? (Verses 30–35)
-
-

Knowing how the Jews felt about Samaritans, then if in this story Samaritans were neighbors, ALL PEOPLE fit that category. No one would be excluded. As a group, consider the test question Jesus asks this leader: “Who was the neighbor to the man who was robbed?”



The original question the expert asked was not “who should I be a neighbor to?” but “who is my neighbor?” What changes if you turn the question the way Jesus does?

Why do you think the expert answered, “the one who showed mercy” instead of saying “the Samaritan”?

9. Jesus completes that leadership development lesson by saying, “Go and do likewise...” How will you obey this command this week? Consider: If an Ambassador for Christ loved everyone, including enemies, what would happen to their heart? What would happen to their church? What would happen to their community? What would happen to their world?



SESSION 11

leadership development—set an example by your faith



SESSION 11

leadership development—set an example by your faith



did you know...

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers; in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).



The Trust Fall. What percentage of people do you think have a problem trusting 6–8 people to catch them? Try it out and do your own statistics!





mission briefing

In the following passages you will see faith being described and even defined. Faith bears fruit. Faith gets refined through trials. You can't see God or be saved without faith. Faith is what holds people in uncertainty. Faith is tangible. Faith is invisible. Faith is something described as great but could be as small as a mustard seed. Faith is a verb, but it is also a noun. Agree or disagree? Can anyone have more or less faith? Should we ask for more faith? Read a few key passages about faith to get started!

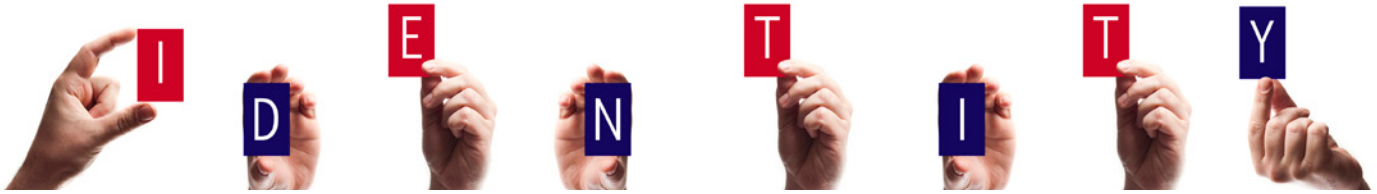
1. The writer of Hebrews defines faith in Hebrews 11:1 by saying: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Re-write this verse and do not use any of the words currently in the verse, except maybe "is," "of," "and," "or," and "the." When you have written the definition, share it with the others in your group.

What seem to be the core components of faith that are common in all of your definitions/paraphrases?

2. Read how Peter describes the faith of those who have come to believe in Christ but never saw Him personally. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 and discuss: 1) According to Peter, what good things can you expect out of life as a leader who puts their faith in Christ? What are some realities that must accompany faith? 2) What does Peter say about "believing," "seeing," and "loving" Christ?

Often we think of faith as some great leap we take every once in a while, but Peter seems to describe a life of faith as an ongoing, active lifestyle. Read 1 Peter 1:13 and tease apart the key words and phrases that help us know how to practice faith as a leader.

3. Consider James 1:26. The idea of "getting our minds ready for action" portrays faith as a dynamic way of life. Is it possible to believe in something and not act on it? Is it then faith, or is it something else? In what areas of our lives do we believe (think, agree, know) but fail to act on it (obey, commit, live)?



thinking it through

1. Why do you think faith is a quality Paul charged Timothy (and us) to have? Are leaders who practice faith in God inconsistent? Impetuous? Unreliable? Or are great leaders ones who make good decisions, use their brains, and don't expect God to do everything?
2. What are some areas of your life where you know God is calling you to trust Him? What should you do? How might you ask for help to gain the trust to "sit in the chair" of faith?



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

As Ambassadors we are called to lead others to know and believe in the Savior. We are charged with being the kind of people that "get things done" and "make change happen" in a Spirit-guided fashion. Leadership is primarily learning how to serve others and set the example for others to see what God can do in us. So much of worldly leadership is based on human skill, charisma, or founded on some strategic planning process—but not so with believers. We are called to action, but we are also called to rely upon God to do things we know only He can do. We are called to be faith-full. As you read through the episodes of faith throughout the life of Christ, consider the different ways faith is fleshed out and made real.

As you read and respond to each story, discuss the nature of faith as it is portrayed. Then, as a group, agree upon a creative title for that episode.

Episode #1 _____

When Peter was about to deny Jesus, the Savior said to him, "Simon, Simon. Satan has asked to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. When you have turned back, strengthen your brothers" (Luke 22:32). So, how is faith described in this episode of Peter's life? He failed. But Jesus expected him to eventually return to apostolic form.

Episode #2 _____

(Luke 17:14-27) In this story, pay careful attention to verses 23-24 where the question of uncertainty is on Christ's power. How can someone



“believe” and also have “unbelief”? How does Jesus respond?

Episode #3

(Mark 1:40–45) Compare the leper’s approach to Christ to the father’s in episode 2. Is there any question that Jesus can heal him? So what is the uncertainty for the leper? Why? How does Jesus respond?

Episode #4

Mark 2:1–12 is a beautiful story of faith, but whose faith? And what does faith do in this story? What are the implications of this story on the way we pray and work on behalf of our friends?

Episode #5

In Mark 5:24–34 there is an amazing story of a desperate woman’s faith. Read the story and look carefully at what faith looks like in her actions. Can great faith be quiet, simple, and subtle? How does Jesus respond?

Episode #6

Read Luke 7:1–10 where Jesus encounters extreme faith. Look at the Centurion’s faith statement! What is he saying about faith and leadership? How is Jesus’ response incredible? One more thing to think about: What does it say that an “outsider” to the Jewish religion has more faith? Is it possible that there are many “true believers” out there who don’t have the same knowledge, but great faith?

Finally, consider what Ellen White says about the mindset of faith Ambassadors should have as we wait for Christ to come:

“The same compassionate Saviour lives today, and He is as willing to listen to the prayer of faith as when He walked visibly among men. The natural cooperates with the supernatural. It is a part of God’s plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask” (*Great Controversy*, p. 525).

If this is true, what needs to change about our faith as leaders?



SESSION 12

leadership development—set an
example by your purity



SESSION 12

leadership development—set an example by your purity



did you know...

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers; in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

Words in the Bible that are described as “pure”:

Honey

Gold

Water

Hearts

Minds

Body

Gold in its purest form is clear. Astronauts have a coating of “pure gold” over their helmets for protection. It is the only thing they can see through that will protect their eyes when they are close to the sun.





mission briefing

“Set an example for the believers...in purity.” It is likely that if someone were to ask, “Is there anyone who thinks they are pure?” very few would feel confident to respond. Why? Perhaps it is because we tend to think that purity equates to being sinless or flawless. But if purity is “not being divided” or “being single-minded” then it makes more sense to us to strive to be “pure.”

Consider three passages in the book of Philippians as a foundation for developing leaders for Christ who are pure.

1. Read Philippians 1:9-10: “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ...”

Is purity an either/or achievement or is it more of a process? Read back to 1:6 and see if there is anything that portrays a journey towards purity.

2. Do you see purity as a state of perfection in Philippians 2:14,15? There is a challenge to “do everything” but the growth is described as “becoming.” The same apostle Paul who tells Timothy to “set the example in purity” is telling the church that purity is a process.
-
-

3. Consider one more sample of this truth in Philippians 4:8,9 where Paul declares: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

Is Paul saying “Be pure!” in a way that he expects the results to be immediate, or does it seem like a learning experience? What words or phrases indicate more of a transformation that takes place over time?

Think about this: The same word for “pure” is also translated “sincere.” The word literally means, “to be tested by the light of the sun.” Another definition came along during the New Testament era where the same word meant, “made without wax.” Why? Hucksters used to take broken pottery, artifacts, and sculptures and mend them with melted wax. Then they would paint over the wax-patched art and sell it. When



people would place the pot on a fire or put a sculpture out in the hot middle-eastern sun, what do you think happened? So, when things are authentic, true, and exactly what they claimed to be, it meant that it was “made without wax.” It could stand up to the heat of the sun. How does this knowledge from Paul and history shape your understanding of the call to be leaders who exemplify purity? Purity is not an impossible endeavor but a process of growing.



thinking it through

1. Is there any part of your spiritual life that is divided? Mixed or duplicitous? Reflect on the parts of your life to which you cling that you know God would have you release.

2. The quest for purity is a journey of surrender. In order to experience the peace and joy of purity you must thank God for giving you the desire and the will to want to be single-minded. Thank God in prayer with your fellow Ambassadors for the promise of forgiveness and freedom that comes with surrender.



reflecting Jesus & His kingdom

In Revelation 21:17-22 John describes the New Jerusalem as being of “pure gold, as pure as glass,” and again in verse 21 the streets of gold are portrayed as being made of “pure gold, as pure as glass.” The idea of something being pure meant being transparent, one ingredient, undivided, sun-tested, etc. When Paul gives leadership advice to Timothy he challenges the young Ambassador in five areas: speech, life, love, faith, and purity.

Why do you think leaders need to be “pure” as defined in this study? What do you think it means to lead transparently? Does it mean that everything I think and feel should be declared publicly, or does it mean something more? Discuss with your group what it means to be a transparent leader.

Of all five qualities Paul challenges us with, which has been the most meaningful to you as a leader? Why?

Choose What is Best

In Luke 10:38–42 the story of Mary and Martha provides a wonderful picture of a leader with a pure heart. Some might say, “Mary! A leader?” Mary went on to anoint Jesus and was given an amazing honor for her devotion (Mark 14). Read the story and answer the following questions: What is problematic with Martha’s behavior? What positive attributes are seen in Martha?

What is the “one thing” that was needed? What do you think Jesus means by this? How does this apply to leadership today?

Notice that Jesus said, “She chose what is best.” In what way is a single-minded devotion to Christ a choice that is made over many good things?

Make a short list in your group of good things that sometimes get in the way of being fully devoted to Christ the way Mary demonstrates.

In verse 42 there is a promise to Mary, but also to every Ambassador and follower of Christ: Undivided devotion to Jesus will produce a reward that will “never be taken away.” Are you ready to be:

Single-minded

Sun-tested

Transparent

Pure

Sincere

Made without wax

Undivided

Which definition do you resonate with the most? Why?

Read the following passages of Scripture that describe refining your focus to “one thing.”

1. To the rich man who sought to gain eternal life, the Bible says: Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell



everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me”(Mark 10:21).

2. To the Pharisees who chastised the boy who was healed of blindness, the boy replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!” (John 9:25).
3. Paul shares his single-minded goal, stating: “Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead...” (Philippians 3:13).
4. The passionate disciple Peter reminds his church: “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day” (2 Peter 3:8).
5. The Psalmist David, in a song, sings: “One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life...” (Psalms 27:4).

Which “one thing” inspires you the most?

Now it is your turn! Write out a brief statement declaring what your “one thing” is.

Share the statements in your group and be ready to declare them to the rest of the gathering of fellow Ambassadors!



AMBASSADORS



Individual Discipleship Plan (IDP)

1. IDP Module Name:
2. Spiritual Companion:
3. Personal vision statement:
4. Expected evidence of change:
5. Next steps:
6. Reflection:







AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I AM SENDING YOU
AMBASSADORS