

Leadership Training

T E A C H E R ' S G U I D E

PART ONE



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LEADERSHIP LIGHT: LEADING OTHERS WITH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN YOU

WELCOME the participants.

EXPLAIN logistics, the workshop schedule, and a brief overview of the material to be covered in the workshop.

SAY, “Leadership is less about what you do and more about who you are. You can fill in your first sentence with ‘Leadership is not just about what you DO; it is also about WHO YOU ARE.’ Intentionally and transparently sharing who you are and what God is doing in your life is the most impactful and important way that you will lead other people. Discuss the following in groups at your tables:

1. Who have been some high-impact leaders in your life? These might be famous people, personal friends, people who may not even know they were leading you, etc.

2. What was it about them that impacted you? Was it that they had a well-run meeting/classroom, their intelligence/mastery of the subject matter, or was it the fact that they saw you; that you felt as though you mattered; they had a vision for you; they believed in you; they were with you?”

EXPLAIN, “There is a saying, ‘God doesn’t call the qualified; He qualifies the called.’ What does life look like for the leader who leads well?”

SAY, “Continue along on your handout. The leadership that God blesses is: rooted in *connection* with God, grown in *community*, given to the *ministry* of *intentionally sharing your light* with others.”

USE the following “Sharing Your Leadership Light” Experience to creatively illustrate the pre-





vious points. Shorten if desired. You will need flashlights for each person. Prepare the room ahead of time so when you darken the room there are as few cracks of light as possible.

SAY, “Each person take a flashlight, stand up, and spread out through the room. Leave as much space as possible between you. Remain standing. Leave your flashlight off at this point until I tell you to turn them on.”

TURN off the room lights, once people are situated.

SAY, “Leadership without connection, a close, intimate, personal relationship with God, is like a lamp that’s not plugged in or like a flashlight with no batteries. A flashlight without batteries is still a flashlight but it is unable to fulfill its purpose without a power source. It needs energy from something beyond itself. We are the same way. We can accept a leadership role; we can wear the nametag and get a group. We can even show up to every meeting. But if we do not get our “energy” or power from our own private times with God, we are just an empty flashlight that’s no good to anyone in the dark.

Teacher’s Note: Supportive passages on connection come from Psalm 18:28; Psalm 43:3-5; Psalm 119:105, 130; John 14:6; and John 15:5.

TURN on your flashlight. Yours will be the only light in the room.

SAY, “We need to make sure that we are filled

with ‘batteries’ and that our batteries are fully charged. We need to spend regular, private time with God. Attending church services is good, but it’s not enough. Being with God one on one, talking with Him, meditating on His words to us, and listening for His voice are the only ways to find the strength to do what He’s called us to do in leadership. There is no substitute. There is no shortcut.”

INSTRUCT participants to turn on their flashlights. Keep the room lights turned off.

SAY, “Community for a leader is vital. In community, we build each other up and guard against our natural, human ‘shadow sides.’ A leader outside of community is like one lone little flashlight in a dark room. His or her impact is pretty limited. We’re all standing here with our lights on and the room is certainly brighter than it was. But look around you. Do you see a lot of shadows? With all of these lights functioning independently, a lot of shadows get created. With lights spread out and pointing every which way, it would be easy for someone to misjudge where a chair or a table is, then trip and fall. The reality is that as human beings, we all have a ‘shadow side,’ a part of ourselves that we can’t see or that we’re less aware of—and that’s okay. It’s all part of being human. God made us to be human beings. Even back when He created Adam, things didn’t go too far before God realized, ‘it’s not good for man to be alone.’ He was right. We are all far better off in community. We need one another.”

CONTINUE, “Let’s all start making our way to





the center of the room. Use your light to make sure you get here safely. Notice what happens as we come together. As your light gets closer to me, you cover my shadow. My shadow isn't dark anymore. It's filled with your light. My light is covering someone else's shadow. This is what it means to be part of the family of God. Jesus Christ fills each of us with His light and as we individually overflow with that light, we brighten each other. We become more together than merely a collection of lights."

INVITE participants to hold all of the flashlights as close together as possible, touching if possible.

SAY, "As we draw closer and closer together, we look a lot more like a beacon of light rather than just a collection of a flash of light here and a flash of light there. Now look what happens when we all point our lights in the same direction."

CHOOSE a wall or corner of the room and direct participants to point their lights there.

SAY, "Notice how illumined that place becomes—just look at what we can do together! Together, we can take a totally dark place, a dark corner of the world, and when we focus our light on that place, it stops being a dark corner. That's the miracle of serving God."

Teacher's Note: If you have a small group leader support structure in place, known as a "huddle" (a group of small group leaders led by a leader of leaders called a "coach") say

the following paragraph. Note: If you do not have a small group leader support structure in place, you may want to encourage participants to begin forming huddles themselves and then make a goal to formally put this in place in your ministry as soon as possible. These huddles will be very important for the health and sustainability of the small group leaders in your ministry.

"That's also why it is so important for each of us as leaders to seek to come together. Part of coming together as leaders means participating in your huddle with your coach. Being part of your huddle isn't something that we need you to do. It's something that you need to do for YOU. God tells us repeatedly in His Word that we can't make it alone. God Himself exists in community as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Make sure you get established in your community. Don't see it as something else to do, see it as a way to live."

Teacher's Note: Supportive passages on community come from Ephesians 5:8-21; Hebrews 10:24, 25; and John 13:34, 35.

SAY, "Well, we've been talking a lot about how to live as a leader. What about how to lead? What do you do with your light that serves other people? The reality is that, although there are a lot of valuable skills and methods good leaders use, real leadership is mostly about having a light to intentionally share with others. What separates leaders from followers is the key word 'intentional.' Leaders have made a choice to try to share their light with others; to look for





ways to do that and to place themselves in positions where they'll have opportunity to share."

CONTINUE, "The greatest service that any leader can give is to simply shine his or her light bright enough and near enough to someone else so that person can discover that they have a light of their own—they too have a power switch and can be plugged into the life-transforming power of God. As leaders, it's not our job to 'be the light' for someone else. We don't want or need to adopt people who will permanently follow us around and depend on our light. That's not what God has for us or for them. God desires to fill each person with His light."

SAY, "By sharing what God is doing in our own lives, we speak hope to people by saying, 'Here's what God is doing or has done for me. He can do that for you too!' As we get to know those we're leading and as we pay attention to what it is that God may be doing in their lives, we can also point that out to them as well. We can intentionally notice God's work in another person's life and help them to see it. Sometimes a simple 'Look at what God is doing in your life!' encouragement is all that it takes for someone to recognize God's loving presence in their life—and that recognition can make an eternal difference. Sharing words of encouragement can be a powerful way to share your light with others as part of your ministry. Share vision and hope for others by showing them where and how you see God's light already shining into their lives. Be creative!"

Teacher's Note: Supportive passages on ministry come from Matthew 5:14-16; Acts 26:16-18.

ALLOW participants to be seated.

ASK, "What you are going to do now is take some individual reflection time to pray, asking God to speak to you about this question, and then share at your tables. The question is on your sheet and additional reflection questions are below it to help you process. The question is, 'Which of these three areas—connection, community, or ministry—is God calling me to focus on the most right now?'"

On the following pages is the filled-in hand-out corresponding to the participant's guide for Part 1.

SMALL GROUP
Leadership Training

TEACHER'S GUIDE PART ONE

Answer Sheet

LEADERSHIP LIGHT: LEADING OTHERS WITH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN YOU

Shining the Light on "Leadership"...

Leadership is not just about what you do; it is also about who you are.

The kind of leadership that God blesses is...

- Rooted in connection
John 15:4-8
- Grown in community
1 John 1:7-10; Ephesians 5:8-21
- Given to the ministry of intentionally sharing your light with others.
2 Corinthians 4:4-7; Matthew 5:14-16

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PART ONE TEACHER



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TEACHER'S GUIDE

PART ONE

Answer Sheet



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LEADERSHIP LIGHT: LEADING OTHERS WITH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN YOU

Shining the Light on “Leadership”...

Leadership is not just about what you _____ **do** _____; it is also about _____ **who you are** _____.

The kind of leadership that God blesses is...

• Rooted in _____ **connection** _____.
John 15:4-8

• Grown in _____ **community** _____.
1 John 1:7-10; Ephesians 5:8-21

• Given to the _____ **ministry** _____ of _____ **intentionally sharing** _____
_____ **your light** _____ with others.
2 Corinthians 4:4-7; Matthew 5:14-16



“Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16 (The Message)

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Develop a Direction...

Which *one* of these three areas is God calling me to focus on the most right now?

- Connection – How is my connection with God these days? Am I plugged in to God to receive His power to do what He’s asking me to do?
- Community – How can I contribute to a leadership community that builds on our strengths and guards against our weaknesses?
- Ministry – In ministry, how can I be intentional about sharing my light with those I lead? Who do I see coming into more of Christ’s light? How can I encourage them this week?

Leadership Training

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

PART ONE



LEADERSHIP LIGHT: LEADING OTHERS WITH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN YOU

Shining the Light on "Leadership"...

Leadership is not just about what you _____; it is also about _____.

The kind of leadership that God blesses is...

• Rooted in _____
John 15:4-8

• Grown in _____
1 John 1:7-10; Ephesians 5:8-21

• Given to the _____ of _____
_____ with others.
2 Corinthians 4:4-7; Matthew 5:14-16





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Develop a Direction...

Which *one* of these three areas is God calling me to focus on the most right now?

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- Community – How can I contribute to a leadership community that builds on our strengths and guards against our weaknesses?
- Ministry – In ministry, how can I be intentional about sharing my light with those I lead? Who do I see coming into more of Christ’s light? How can I encourage them this week?



“DEVELOP A DIRECTION” WORKSHEET

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	LEADERSHIP LIGHT	LISTENING	GROWING TOGETHER	PASTORAL CARE
One thing I learned today...				
Here's where I think I am with this area...				
Here's my next step...				

This worksheet is for you to use throughout this workshop to write down what you've learned, as well as next steps.