

LEADERSHIP

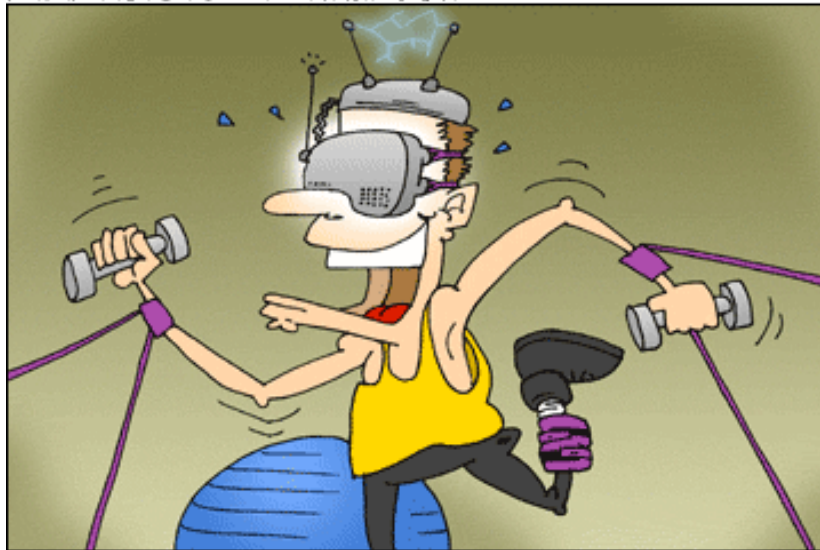
January 06 Edition

Xpression



The Youth Ministry Training Magazine for Those Involved In Youth Work at Hilly Park Baptist Church

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ZED'S NEW "EXTREME DEVOTIONS" WAS NOT ONLY MORE ENTERTAINING, IT WAS A MUCH BETTER WORKOUT

Well this is the first of what I hope will be many booklets like this. Continued training in youth ministry is something that while being vitally important, in practice is hard to do. The main reason for is this is not that I think we are unwilling to learn but because in this crazy and busy world we find it hard to come together regularly for training events simply. Finding the right day that suits everyone is almost impossible! So with that in mind, I thought that this might be a way around that. In these booklets or magazines (call them what you like) I will pull together some helpful and thought provoking ideas about youth ministry for you to take home and read. The idea is not to simply read these in isolation but hopefully they will lead to discussions between yourself and the other leaders of your group or other groups, which will ultimately lead to our youth work here at Hilly Park being more effective. Please feel free to make comments, ask questions and request topics that we can look into in the future. If you feel that you would like to contribute please let me know. It can be:

- An article that you have found helpful
- Lessons from your own experience
- Etc.

In this months issue I have focused on what it means to be a leader in youth ministry and have pulled together some ideas from various books, articles and experiences that I have learnt over the years. I hope that you find this helpful and uplifting.

Yours in Christ

Phil

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THIS MONTH - LEADERSHIP

The 3 C's of Leadership

Leadership requires the courage to challenge what is for the sake of what could be. Let me give you three specific expressions of courage that are essential for those of us who desire to be the leaders that God has called us to be. These three are by no means meant to be an exhausted list of qualities but are to serve as foundational ones.

1. The Courage to Say No

People in youth ministry often feel that they *must* take every opportunity that comes their way.

Mike Nappa was correct when he wrote, "Opportunity does not equal obligation." The ability to identify and focus on the few necessary things is a hallmark of great leadership.

"Opportunity does not equal obligation."

Don't let the many good opportunities divert your attention from the one opportunity that has the greatest potential. Learn to say no. The one common complaint of many is the inability to focus. A lack of focus eventually translates into a loss of vision. When the vision is fuzzy, people can't follow.

Often the reason we won't say no is that we are afraid. We fear disappointing people. We fear being passed by. We fear missing out on a good opportunity. But at some point every leader must come to grips with the fact that there will always be more opportunities than there is time to pursue them. Choose your opportunities carefully. Many opportunities are worth saying no to and missing.

2. Courage to Face Current Reality

In addition to saying no, leaders must be willing to face their current reality. Life seems good to us when things are going well. When things are going well that means we are leading well. So the tendency is to put a positive spin on everything, while ignoring any evidence to the contrary. The danger of this of course is that over time we will lose site of what is actually happening around us.

The 7 Commandments of Current Reality

1. Thou shalt not pretend.
2. Thou shalt not turn a blind eye.
3. Thou shalt not exaggerate.
4. Thou shalt not shoot the bearer of bad news.
5. Thou shalt not hide behind the numbers.
6. Thou shalt not ignore constructive criticism.
7. Thou shalt not isolate thyself

As leaders we must face reality regardless of how discouraging or embarrassing it might be. We must be relentless in our quest to know the truth about what is happening around

us. We must make it a habit to root out misinformation. In doing this we will create a culture that is healthily transparent about what is and isn't taking place.

It is impossible to generate sustained growth or progress if our plan for the future is not rooted in reality. **Remember, if you don't like what you see, you can change it.**

3. Courage to Dream

Every great accomplishment began as a dream. As leaders we must allow our minds to wander outside the boundaries of what is and begin to create a mental picture of what could be. Dreaming can be scary and hard work. As soon as will latch onto what could be, we begin to doubt. We will begin to think of all the reasons it won't work. We will find ourselves wondering if we are really up to the task. And if we are courageous enough to share the dream with others, they are generally quick to confirm our suspicions.

If you allow fear to overshadow your dreams, you will never try anything new or create anything new.

Dreaming is a necessity though, its something that we must have the courage to forge ahead with. Otherwise, we will live our lives facilitating the dreams of others.

Becoming a Leader with Passion

John Maxwell in his book "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership" tells the story of Papa John's Pizza. The company was founded in 1984 by John Schnatter where it grew from 1 to 46 stores in the first seven years. Then the following seven years it grew from 46 stores to 1,600. So what was the answer why did it grow so fast and successful? Was it really good pizza? Did it have a great price? The true key was John's passion. John not only eats Papa John's pizza; he breathes, sleeps, and lives it. Success Magazine wrote Pizza is Schnatter's life, and he takes it very serious. His passion shows in what he does just recently he was at one of his franchises in downtown Louisville, and they became swamped with business, his passion kicked in

The Definition of Passion

- A. Boundless enthusiasm.
- B. Intense, driving, or overmastering feeling for something.
- C. A strong liking or desire for or devotion to some activity, object, or concept.

and for the next hour and a half he helped make pizzas. He loves what he does and puts forth all he has. He is passionate for pizza.

Each and every one of us needs to discover our passion. Are you passionate about youthwork? Do you eat, sleep, and breathe it? Now I not

saying you drop everything around you. That's not possible. But when you are passionate for children and young people, it shows, you spend more time on your lesson, you add the finishing touches to spruce up what you do.

I believe that if we become passionate, God will move like never before here in our youth ministry!

Experts spend a lot of time finding out what makes people successful, if you look at the lives of effective leaders you will find that they don't fit the typical mold but they all have one thing in common.
So what makes it possible for people who might seem ordinary achieve great things?

The Answer is Passion.

Matthew 5: 6 "You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat."
We need to be hungry for Jesus. We need to ignite a flame of passion in our youth work so that the kids will see God in and through us.

Living with Passion teaches us 4 things:

<p>Life isn't Fair</p> <p>Being faithful is not a guarantee of things going perfect in your life. Through suffering and change we get to know God . <i>Phil 3:10-11" I want to know Christ better. I want to know the power that raised him from the dead. I want to share in his sufferings. I want to become like him by sharing in his death. 11Then by God's grace I will rise from the dead.</i></p>	<p>Life isn't Easy</p> <p>When we are passionate for Jesus it doesn't mean that life is easy. It takes work. The goal of being passionate is not so you can get what you want but it is so Gods will can flow freely in our lives and ministry.</p>
<p>Death must come before resurrection</p> <p>We have to be passionate for our young people. The way we do it is by dying to ourselves daily. We need to realize that before God can move in our youngwork we must die and get ourselves out of the way. <i>Luke 9:23-24 "Then he said to all of them, 'If anyone wants to follow me, he must say no to himself. He must pick up his cross every day and follow me. If he wants to save his life, he will lose it. But if he loses his life for me, he will save it."</i></p>	<p>Doing it right is not easy</p> <p>It is better to ask God for strength to climb the mountain, than it is to ask him to move the mountain. Youthwork is not always the easiest. But it can be most rewarding!</p>

Take your temperature!

- A. How passionate are you about youthwork?
- B. Does your passion show?
- C. Get an Honest assessment from God and people.

You won't become passionate till you believe passion can be the difference maker in your life!

Practical Tips: Leading Games

Leading effective games can be easy, but there are some basic steps that need to be followed in order for a large group. Often game leaders stumble through the game and struggle to get the instructions out in the right order and the kids end up frustrated or confused and the impact of the game is minimized. Here are the basic elements and steps for leading a successful game:



1. Lead clearly, strongly, loudly and enthusiastically

Be excited about the game! Your demeanor sets the tone for the entire game.

2. Give the name and main "objective" of the game

The name of the game is significant. It gives the kids their first impression of what they can expect. Before you get into rules, tell the kids the primary objective of the game. If you start with rules the kids won't know how to apply the rules, give them the objective of the game first and then the rules will make more sense.

3. Tell them how many teams/people needed to play and choose the players

Be careful to choose kids that are the right age for the difficulty, or the right age for the anticipated response you are going for. Boys against girls is ok sometimes, but don't overuse it. This can also apply to age.

4. Position the game so that the audience can see

Be sure that the audience can see, sometimes game leaders block the view of the audience or the game is arranged where the kids playing block what they are doing from the audience. Make sure all the kids can see and enjoy!

5. Repeat the object of the game then give the other rules

Keep the rules simple, just enough to guide the game and keep it going smoothly. Too many rules and you will bog it down. If they must be more than 2 or 3 then it might be helpful to display them visually as well as tell verbally.

6. With upfront games, keep audience and those not playing included

How? With cheers, ask who they think will win, etc. Build up the anticipation.

7. Use appropriate music in the background

Game music is the best! It adds to the excitement.

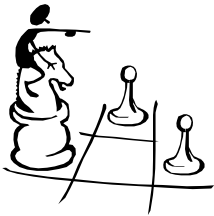


8. Start with a BANG!

Have a count down, and on 'GO!' have the music start!

9. Reward first and second place (Never last or loser)

And thank them for participating. Focus on the fun, not the winning, though competition is a bad thing, you should award and thank all of the participants.



10. Plan Plan Plan

"If you don't have a plan for the kids, then they will have a plan for you!"

– Karl Bastian

Its unfair and naïve not to plan your games in advance. Its unfair because the kids deserve best and there is NO way that you can offer the best when you are adlibbing! You need to have a clear idea of the games and their rules so that the kids can get the most out of them. Its naïve because the kids will see that you are not prepared and will take advantage of that. They WILL push the boundaries more and WILL question your fairness more if they sense that you winging it!

Ways to make sure your games stink:

1. Don't be prepared
2. Take forever to divide into teams
3. When support leaders don't participate
4. Have more than 2 or 3 rules
5. Looking bored

A final word to those supporting the games leader: Hopefully you are there to hang out with kids, not to just be babysitters. Babysitters are no fun and no kid wants a relationship with one. Leaders supporting games should get on the teams with the kids and participate as much as possible. Kids will remember the fun that they are able to have with you and that builds the relationship. Fun memories make lasting impressions.

Devotional: Servant Leadership



Servant leadership is at the heart of Christian leadership. Servant leadership is different from servanthood. All Christians, not just leaders, are called to be servants, serving each other, following Jesus' example in washing his disciples' feet, and loving our neighbours as ourselves. Along with that call to servanthood is the need we each have to allow ourselves to receive from Jesus, just as he washed his disciples feet. When Peter protested, Jesus told him, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.' (John 13:8)

What underpins servant leadership is the motivation behind our actions as leaders.

If personal desire was the sole decision criteria, Jesus would have chosen not to go through the pain and suffering on the cross. In the garden at Gethsemane, Jesus prayed, 'Father if you are willing take this cup from me, yet not my will, but yours, be done.' (Luke 22:42) The weight of the burden of taking not only our guilt but also our sins themselves, had become too heavy. Even at this point, Jesus could have got up and walked away.

Jesus' leadership modeled servant leadership throughout his ministry. Servant leadership will require us also to set aside personal gain, to make sacrifices, and to put the needs of others above the direction we may prefer for ourselves. You've probably met people who are highly career minded, people who's main motivation is to get themselves in a position where they will gain some reward. This is the complete opposite of servant leadership.

Some may suggest that servant leaders are weak. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Servant leaders model integrity, where their thoughts, words and actions flow from a consistent desire. The word integrity comes from the Latin word meaning 'whole' or 'complete', as in integer, or whole number. One of the biggest reasons for leaders losing the respect of their followers is that the lack true integrity where their private lives and thoughts do not match their public statements, or that they are inconsistent, adopting principles that are popular and appropriate to the moment, rather than sticking to their underlying, but potentially unpopular, principles. Maintaining integrity is not always easy!

Servant leadership is not a particular style of leadership, but rather relates to the motivation behind a leader's thoughts, words and actions.

Servant leaders are not leaders on the basis of their position or leadership role, but rather lead according to their calling, vision and principles.

Whilst serving others as the heart of leadership may not appear easy, it is perhaps in one sense easier for a leader to be consistent with the vision and values that they hold for themselves, rather than always seeking to live up to an image, to constantly seek opportunities to sell themselves, or to be for ever trying to read the political signals sent out by others.