Seeing Leadership Differently

Leadership is not first about a role; it's about intentional influence that helps move something forward: leaders notice, care and act.

Overview

Formation Focus

Many people do not see themselves as leaders because they hold false assumptions about leadership, or feel a sense of inadequacy, or uncertain what it involves. This session gently challenges the myths that leadership belongs only to certain kinds of people or particular roles.

Formation Objectives

By the end of this session participants will have:

- Understood a working definition of leadership shaped by Matthew 20:20-28.
- Identified common assumptions that prevent people from seeing themselves as leaders.
- Reflected on their own self-talk about being a leader.

Session in a Sentence

Leadership is not first about a role, it's about intentional influence that helps move something forward: leaders notice, care and act.

Pre-session

Be sure to read the guide on how to lead the course well and/or watch the introductory leader's video.

It would be great to send people an email or WhatsApp ahead of the session with the following information. Example wording can be copied from the the online session guide

Post-session

Please complete the feedback form straight after the session. It helps us to improve the course for future users. Thank you.

Take a few minutes to review the participant feedback and discuss with your co-leader any tweaks to running the next session.

Running the Session

▶ Warm Up – 20 minutes

Take a few minutes to welcome people, give an overview of the course and this session and get people to introduce themselves to one another (ideally in a creative and fun way!).

Then in pairs/triplets discuss some or all of these questions. Choose what will work best for your group and gauge the energy in the room:

- When you hear the word leader who or what comes to mind?
- What makes someone a good leader – in just three words (don't overthink it!).
- Who are the leaders in your church, and why do you associate them with leadership?

Share insights and note any common themes.

● Watch – 9 minutes

Bible focus – Matthew 20:20-28. Direct people to the relevant page in the notebook or session guide where the key points of the video are summarised. Point out that they can use the QR code to re-watch the video after the session if that is helpful.

✚ Discussion – 10 minutes

Invite them to continue in their pair/triplet and discuss:

- What stood out for you about Christian leadership from the video?
- Where do you see people intentionally influence others in daily life?
- What do you make of the definition of leadership (see above)?

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Watch – 7 minutes

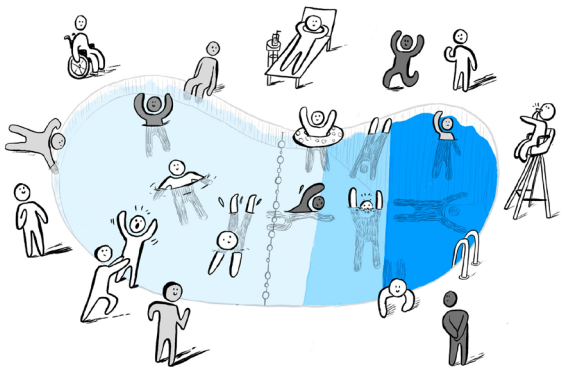
What prevents people seeing themselves as leaders? Again, direct people to the relevant page in the notebook or session guide where the key points of the video are summarised. After the section on seven common reasons why people don't see themselves as leaders pause the video for a minute to give people a chance to reflect on the question on the screen. Then continue the video.

Activity – 15 minutes

Invite them to briefly reflect on the seven common reasons in groups of four:

- Which of the common reasons do you most relate to? What would you add?

Then invite them to consider the leadership swimming pool picture:



- Which person are you and which person would you like to be?
- What would help you to get there?
- What is your inner self-talk about leadership?

Alternatively, you could discuss the first question and then invite them to reflect personally on the last one.

Watch – 3 minutes

Watch the story of a leader who didn't see herself as a leader and what helped her become one. (Alternatively, if you have someone in your church who could tell this story, even better. Either invite them to join the group – and perhaps interview them – or ask them to make a short video on their phone.)

Wrap Up – 10 minutes

Summarise the session and invite people to respond to the following questions. Be sure to give time for the final question. It helps participants reflect on the session and identify a possible next step.

- What's been most helpful for you in this session?
- What's on your mind that you would like to mention or note for a further discussion?
- What is God inviting you to take away from this session, and what one thing might you do about this?

Point out the 'Before next time' and 'Go deeper' sections in their course notebook/session handout, ideally mentioning one of two things you have found helpful and ensuring everyone know how to access them through the QR code or web address.

Finally pray together in whatever way works in your context. You may like to use this prayer:

Lord Jesus,
thank you that you are more concerned
with our availability than our ability.
As we seek to lead others towards you,
give us eyes to see where we can serve,
a heart ready to care,
and hands willing to act,
all for the growth of your kingdom.
Amen.

Feedback from session

This guide with links

User online session info

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