

SPIRITUAL LEADERS SEMINAR
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SESSION 1: SPIRITUALITY PROFILE

Two dynamics

Vertical—developing my inner life with God

Horizontal—my ability to minister to others

Inner life, developing the spiritual life

Recognize need for solitude

Habitual devotional life

Extended times of solitude

Habitual times of solitude

Habitual/continual reflection

Ministry to others

Self centered (needing help)

Occasional ministry to others

Frequent ministry to others, increasing effectiveness

Constant ministry to others

Others centered (helping)

Integration of the two dimensions: a continuum

Non growth

Initial growth

Plateaued growth

Deep growth (skills, character, values)

Convergence (life matches ministry)

SESSION 2: CONNECTING RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

A textual study of Mark 8-10; Luke 22

How should we understand the authority of spiritual leaders?

Does having more authority strengthen the effectiveness of ministry? That is, the people with the most authority do the best ministry?

In what ways is the question of authority a problem for spiritual leaders?

In the church, how many of the problems of authority relate to inadequate leadership?

How much authority did Jesus have in his ministry?

Where did Jesus get his authority?

He said he did only what he saw the father doing. What was it? (John 5:19-23)

Can ministry be done without institutional authority?

Explain the following: the more authority we think we have, the less we actually do have.

How does that apply to church leadership today?

How would more authority be a healthy part of your transformation process (2 Cor. 3:18)?

How would more authority be a healthy part of your ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:11-21)?

SESSION 3: A MODEL FOR SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

Be a spiritual person, a personal commitment of faith

- Do you have an active, dynamic faith?
- Is your faith authentic? Is your faith personal?
- Are you able to describe your faith, share your faith in appropriate ways?

Personal application of the word of God

- Are you able to read, study, understand, and apply the word in your own life?
- Does your lifestyle reflect your faith commitment?
- Can you make valid decisions about spiritual and moral issues?
- Do you frequently depend on other people to make decisions so you will not have to take responsibility for the results of those decisions?
- Are you too quick to make decisions without considering all of the consequences of your decisions?

Able to help others apply the word of God

- Are you one that others naturally come to resolve difficulties?
- Can you identify various forms of conflict? Do you know different ways of managing or resolving conflict? What is your personal conflict management style?

Able to equip others

- Do you work well with others?
- Do you enjoy helping others? Do you enjoy mentoring others, facilitating the ministry of others, seeing others succeed?
- Do you always have to be in control?
- Do you enjoy sharing in group process? Are you too active, too passive, or correctly involved in group activities?

Able to pass the torch

- Do you have a healthy concept of personal authority so you can share authority?
- How do you react to those with authority over you?

SESSION 4: STAYING ON MISSION IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Brainstorming: Possible concerns

What resources do you use to carry you through times of spiritual dryness, shadows, or struggles?

Effective ministry involves life-long learning

Effective ministry involves building bridges from leader to follower and follower to leader

Effective ministry involves building bridges among followers to provide a multi-generational support system.

Problems are almost certain when the formal authority structures and the information power structures do not match.

*Adapted in part from an outline from Evertt Huffard