

# Session Training #1 — Connected to Jesus

## SUNDAY

- *Open in prayer.*
- You may already be a leader in the church or an aspiring leader. Thank you for being here to sharpen the skills of leadership so that you may better exercise this gift God has given you.
- This is going to be a discussion based training that will focus on Biblical principles for Christian leadership in the local church and it will last 5 consecutive Sunday nights all at 6:00 p.m. except on March 21st when we'll meet at 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary since Business Meeting is that night.
- Now, in order to foster good discussion, I want each table to have a discussion leader. Some of you may want to leave your table and join up with another to make a group of 3-4. Once you're at your table, choose a leader to help facilitate tonight's discussion.
- With that in mind, let's discuss good/bad leadership.
  - Some groups, talk at your tables about what does bad leadership look like?
  - Rest of the groups, talk at your tables about what about good leadership?
  - All of us: Why does it matter? Why does good leadership matter?
- Leadership matters because it is the leader who God uses to **move people on to HIS agenda (Blackaby)**. Leadership matters because the mission God has given the church matters. We are called to make disciples, calling people into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit and then to help one another grow in that relationship for the rest of our lives. This mission will be advanced through the leaders God has gifted and called into service. **This is not just church staff, but all leaders in the church.**
  - *Romans 12:4-8, "4For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6aWe have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. 6bIf your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; **if it is to lead, do it diligently**; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."*
- Anyone God has gifted and called is an essential resource and those who are gifted and called should lead with great diligence, which looks like the 5 C's of Christian Leadership:
  - THE VERY BEST LEADERS IN THE CHURCH ARE...
    - ◆ Session #1 (TODAY) — Connected to Jesus
    - ◆ Session #2 (3/7) — Christlike in Character

- ◆ Session #3 (3/14) — Caring Towards All
  - ◆ Session #4 (3/21) — Committed to the Work
  - ◆ Session #5 (3/28) — Centered on the Gospel
- You may already be a leader or you may be looking for opportunities to lead (a few big ones are being the Team Leader for our soon-to-be formed InReach Team and OutReach Team, as well as opportunities to lead within Children's, Youth, Worship, Small Group Ministries).
- Story
  - Read the story of **Acts 4:1-22** and discuss:
    - ◆ What does this story tell us about God?
    - ◆ What does this story tell us about man?
    - ◆ How does this apply to leadership?
    - ◆ What is your takeaway for your own leadership?
      - ◆ *These men were literally leading a revelation that would eventually overtake the world. Yet it was not their schooling or pedigree that made them effective. It was that they had been with Jesus.*
  - **TODAY'S TAKEAWAY: THE VERY BEST CHRISTIAN LEADERS ARE THOSE WHO ARE CONSISTENTLY CONNECTED TO JESUS**
  - ***"The key to successful service for God lies not in people's willingness to follow you, but in the intimacy of your walk with God." — Dr. Richard Blackaby***
- Memory Verse for the Week
  - ***John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."***
    - ◆ How can you connect, reconnect or better connect to the vine that is Jesus so that you might produce good fruit through your leadership?
  - **Maybe you heard Carl Lentz was released from the pastorate of Hillsong Church NYC. He confessed to being unfaithful to his wife on his instagram page. He wrote these words: "I did not do an adequate job of protecting my own spirit, refilling my own soul and reaching out for the readily available help that is available. When you lead out of an empty place, you make choices that have real and painful consequences."**