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Building Bridges

Between Church Leaders & Workplace Leaders

Kent Humphreys



A Vision from God

- An island off the west coast
- A shepherd with his sheep
- A large city with many lights
- The shepherd represents the pastors
- The lights represent Christian Workplace Leaders scattered throughout the city

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- They each come from either side of the bridge
- They put their arms around each other
- They face the city
- They bow on their knees
- Together, they pray for the city

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In Which Ways Do Leaders Grow Spiritually???

- 1) Time with God
- 2) Role Model or Example
- 3) Small Accountability Group
- 4) Encouragement of Family Member or Friend



Example of Jesus

- Taught in the temple the last week
- At the Last Supper with the twelve
- In the Garden with Peter, James, John
- His prayer of John 17 to the Father



Jesus Modeled All Four of These Patterns

1. **Large Group** (preached / taught)
2. **Small Group** (disciples for 3 years)
3. **Inner Circle** (Peter, James, John)
4. **Alone with the Father** (Mark 1:35)

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How Do We Learn?

- Listening...TV, radio, preaching
- Observing...son watching a father
- Applying...discussing in a group and actually doing the activity
- Mentoring...one-on-one coaching



Four Words for Today

- Kingdom...Matt 6:10 (focus on Him)
- Relationships...John 15, John 17
- Community...Jesus with the 12, the book of Acts
- Transformation...2 Cor. 5:17;
Romans 12:2



*Pastors have been asked by God to do
6 things with their workplace leaders*

Jesus modeled each of
these with the twelve

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1) Call Them Into a Personal Relationship with You

"As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee; He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them 'Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed Him."

Mark 1:16-18 (NASV)



Workplace Leaders

- They are lonely
- They have a lot in common with you
- They have influence in the workplace and in the community
- You are each intimidated by each other
- Jesus called his disciples “one by one”
- Invite them to lunch



2. Create an Atmosphere of Understanding with Them

"Peter said to Him, 'Explain the parable to us.' Jesus said, 'Are you still lacking in understanding that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and that is eliminated? But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.' "

Matt. 15:15-18



Understanding Leaders

- Meet “one-on-one”
- Get with three of them on a regular basis
- Start a group of 6 to 12
- Have fun together
- Be transparent
- This will take time, be available
- The rewards will be fantastic



Small Groups

■ **The Questions**

- How may I, as your pastor, help you to minister where God has sovereignly placed you in the workplace?

■ **The Participants**

- How may I, as a workplace leader, be an effective minister in the workplace where God has sovereignly placed me?



Small Groups, cont.

■ **The Facilitator**

- The pastor could lead the group at first (not teach; ask questions, listen). After a few months, he should rotate the leadership of the group each week or turn it over to a business leader.

■ **The Focus**

- Outward (in the marketplace); what is God doing where they work daily?



Small Groups, cont.

■ **The Agenda**

- Set by the leaders, depending on the opportunities and the skills needed. The group would answer the question above, then assist each other to have a ministry where they work everyday.

■ **The Resources**

- The Word of God, the Holy Spirit, Prayer, the leaders' creative questions, and the circumstances of daily life provide all that is needed. DVDs are available from our ministry and many others.



Small Groups, cont.

■ **The Requirement**

- A heart for God and a desire to join Him in His work.

■ **The Commitment**

- Minimum of six months.

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Small Groups, cont.

■ **The Time**

- One hour to an hour and a half a week (weekday, meeting before work)

■ **The Place**

- A conference room at one of their offices

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3. Affirm Them in Their Workplace Calling

"Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come."

"And He was saying to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.' "

" 'Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves...the one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.' "

Luke 10:1-4, 16



The Secular / Sacred Divide

- They are in a secular culture everyday
- They feel like “second class citizens” spiritually because we always honor the platform and the “professional”
- Many of them lead segregated lives
- Many of them are on the sidelines in terms of spiritual ministry
- Help them to realize that the power of the risen Christ dwells in them



Get Them Started!

"And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why have you been standing here idle all day long?' They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.'"

Matt. 20:6-7



4. Equip Them as Ministers in the Workplace

"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ."

Eph. 4:11-13



Putting Them to Work!!!

- They think that you are paid to do the ministry
- Help them understand their calling
- Get to know what situations that they are facing
- Pray with them over the situations and opportunities
- Strategize how to use opportunities



A Big Difference - - -

- “Church Work” vs. “Work of the Church”
 - Give them a Kingdom perspective

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5. Commission Them as Worldwide Ambassadors for Christ

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"

Matt. 28:18-20



Commissioning

- They are the “insiders”
- They travel at the expense of their employers
- They can go into closed countries because of their job
- Formally commission them in front of your church
- Set aside different professions on different Sundays (education, government, retail industry)



6. Release Them for Service in Their Own Sphere of Influence

" 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.' "

Acts 1:8

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Releasing

- Release them to their workplaces for ministry
- Start now, but they should be equipping others after six months to three years
- Ministry in the workplace takes time and patience and creativity
- You will not be able to see their results quickly or at all. You won't be able to count most of it.



Releasing, cont.

- Continue to pray for them
- Bring them together with their peers for encouragement and further equipping
- Many of them can lead groups out in the workplace
- Have them give reports of what is happening in your services
- The local church now becomes an equipping and sending station for the battle



Summary

- Four ways that leaders grow Spiritually
- The model of Jesus in ministry
- Four ways that we learn
- Four words for today
- Principles for starting a small group of workplace leaders



Six Steps in the Process

- 1) Call them into a personal relationship with you
- 2) Create an atmosphere of understanding with them
- 3) Affirm them in their workplace calling



Six Steps in the Process

- 4) Equip them as minister in the workplace
- 5) Commission them as worldwide ambassadors for Christ
- 6) Release them for service in their own sphere of influence



Building Bridges

Start Today!



Thank YOU!

How may I help you in equipping
your workplace leaders?

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