

2 Keys to Leading through Relationships

Ministry Team Lesson – February 1, 2010

“Leadership is influence, nothing more and nothing less.”

> How does the previous statement emphasize the importance of relationships as a leader?

This saying emphasizes the importance of relationships for a leader because without relationships, we have no influence. Today, we are going to look at *2 Keys to Leading Through Relationships*.

1) Be Authentic

- Apostle Paul (2 Cor. 12, 1 Cor. 11:1, Romans 7:15)
- The Apostle Paul exemplifies authenticity as a leader because he shows his “humanness” to those he is leading as a way of connecting with them.

> *Do you think authenticity is an important quality of a leader? Why?*

- Authenticity promotes safety, breaks down barriers and opens hearts to be led.
- Answer the following questions in order to help determine if you are an authentic leader:
 - 1) *What would others say about you?*
 - Do your leaders, peers and those you are leading say you are authentic or guarded?
 - 2) *How do others respond to you?*
 - Are people you interact with open with you or guarded around you?
- Here are a 2 ways to become an authentic leader:
 - 1) Check your heart. *“Guard your heart with all diligence for out of it springs the issues of life.”* Proverbs 4:23
 - 2) Be a good listener – Listening gives value to people
“Be quick to listen and slow to speak” James 1:19
- Remember that as a listener you are communicating without words!

2) Be an Initiator

Initiator: someone who sets into action by taking the first step

- As leaders we must understand that we must be the one to take the first step in creating relationships in which we are called to lead.

“Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity” Prov. 21:5 (NLT)

- God's Word is clear that we are called to lead and that God wants us to succeed as leaders. It is our responsibility as leaders to work diligently in order to prosper. If we, as leaders, prosper, that means that many lives are being changed and that we are leaving a legacy.

> Why is it hard for you to be an initiator sometimes?

2 Steps to initiating relationships:

1) **Pray** for divine connections.

2) **Go** meet people.

"Faith without works is dead" James 2:17

- What are two things you can begin doing this week to work on leading through relationships as an authentic leader who initiates relationships?