

## **Ministry Team Discussion Guide** – May 2011

### **Leading Yourself**

Have you ever heard the statement, *“You must lead yourself before you can lead others”*?

- What do you think this statement means? Why do you think this statement is true/not true?

### **Read Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

In this parable, we are the “soil” upon which the seeds will be sown. Therefore, if we are not healthy soil, then we will not provide an environment in which people will grow their relationship with Christ and as a leader.

As leaders, we must first be able to lead ourselves in order to be the good “soil” in which others can grow. In order to lead ourselves, we must focus on the following three areas.

#### **1) Character**

Character can be defined as *“who you are when no one is looking”* and is the **heart** of who we are.

*“Guard your heart, for out of it comes the issues of life.”* Proverbs 4:23

- Why do you think this is such an important verse when it comes to leading ourselves?

When we lead ourselves in this area of our lives, we will be in position to lead others into developing their character.

- What is the most challenging part of being a person/leader of character? Why?

#### **2) Call**

Our ultimate calling is found in Matthew 28:19-20, *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*

- How can you live out God’s purpose He expressed in Matthew 28:19-20 by using your unique passions and talents?

When we lead ourselves from God’s unique call on our lives, we will be able to effectively lead others into fulfilling God’s call on their lives.

- How do you think you are called to live out God’s unique call on your life to reach people and build lives?

### 3) Connection

*“Leaders must accomplish things through, with and for people, and that can happen only with the ability to build relationships.”*

God has taught us a great principle in 1 John 4:19. We are to love God because He demonstrated His love for us first. As leaders, we must be willing to take the initial step (which can be risky) towards others by giving them our love before we are guaranteed anything in return. Many people aren't willing to take this risk and that is why they never reach the leadership potential God has placed inside of them.

As leaders, we must lead ourselves into godly connections by growing with people who will add to who we are as Christians and as leaders.

- How are you doing at developing relationships in your life that give you the ability to grow in your relationship with Christ as well as a godly leader?
  - How am I developing my relationships that will help me add value to others?
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- After talking through leading yourself through your Character, Call, and Connections, what do you think you need to do to improve your ability to lead yourself and others?