

Leaders Who Lead

Session Three

✓ Each item below after you have discussed it with your Coach and other Leaders.

Preparation before you meet with your Leadership Group:

- ☐ 1. Read **The Commitment of a Leader**. Be prepared to discuss the 4 Commitments.
- ☐ 2. Complete the study, **Achievement Process for Effective People**. This valuable study will take some time to do but it will be worth it. Be prepared to share and discuss your answers with your Leadership Group.
- ☐ 3. Complete the ***Report*** below.

To be completed with your Leadership Group:

- ☐ 4. Each share your personal praise and prayer requests. Talk about the needs of group members.
- ☐ 5. Discuss and (✓) check off points 1 through 3 above.

Empowering you to lead your Life Group this month:

- ☐ 6. My strongest commitment of the four is _____
My weakest commitment of the four is _____
Pray with me that I will _____

- ☐ 7. Which one of the Seven Steps did you circle as the next Step you need to take to move you forward? What do you plan to do?
I plan to _____

Report on Your Life Group:

- ☐ 8. _____ Attend regularly
- ☐ 9. _____ New Attenders This Past Month

Names: _____

Addresses: _____

- ☐ 10. People in One-to-One Training:

Dynamic Basics _____ is training _____

_____ is training _____

Dynamic Discipling _____ is training _____

_____ is training _____

Dynamic Sharing _____ is training _____

_____ is training _____

- ☐ 11. _____ people received Christ as Saviour through those in our group.

Prayer and Closing:

- ☐ 12. Pray for each other and for our group members.
- ☐ 13. Go over Preparation assignment for Session Four.
- ☐ 14. Set a Date _____ Time _____ Place _____
for our next Leaders Who Lead session.

The Commitment of a Leader

There are *four basic commitments* in the life of a Leader of a Life Group. He must have a strong love for and commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word, His People, the Lost and the Task.

If the leader is not Christ-centred, the group is in danger of becoming heretical in their beliefs and practices. If he does not have a love for and commitment to the Body of Christ, he will either be unable to care for those in the group, or he will try to turn the group into his own little spiritual kingdom instead of building it to the rest of the church. If he is not committed to the lost, the group will become ingrown and fail to reach out. If he is not committed to the task that God has given us as His missionaries, the leader will get his eyes off the goal and fail to equip the people in his group to fulfil the Great Commission.

1. Strong love for and commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word

The leader must be Christ-centred manifesting the fruit of the Spirit in his life. He must have a desire to grow in his relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ and discipline himself to spend time daily with Him in prayer and Bible study.

2. Strong love for and commitment to His People

The leader must take the initiative. It is said that a leader is **one who leads**. He doesn't wait for something to happen, or hope something will happen, but he makes it happen. He must have a deep concern for and sensitivity to the group. **"Where are my people spiritually? Are they becoming obedient to the Word? Are they being equipped for ministry?"** He must be creative and positive as he works to make it happen. He must be an example to the group with the attitude of not **do as I say** but **do as I do**. If the leader does not spend time alone with the Lord, how can this be expected of the ones he leads.? As he becomes involved in the lives of the people in his group he learns to anticipate possible problems and is willing to confront and assist in solving them. He must create an atmosphere of openness and warmth by his demonstration of loving concern for each member of the group. He is eager to serve, and his objective is to make people more dependent on Jesus Christ instead of dependent upon the leader of the group.

3. Strong love for and commitment to the Lost

In order for the leader to be committed to those who do not know Christ, he must be an example in actively sharing the love of Christ by bold, daily outreach. He must also be diligently equipping the group for the work of the ministry, motivating them to reach out where they live and work. Unless opportunity is provided for outreach, the group can stagnate in self contentment, becoming just a mutual admiration society.

4. Strong love for and commitment to the Task

The leader must be faithful to his task as Life Group leader and also faithful to the mission that Christ has given to His church. He must be teachable, being willing to learn from others, in order to do the best possible job of leading his group to be God's people on a mission for the redemption of the world.

Achievement Process of Effective People

The process of achievement can be broken into Seven Steps:

1. Faith in God.
2. A desire and a dream.
3. Goals
4. Planning
5. Action
6. Belief
7. Work

To see how Nehemiah exhibited this achievement process read Nehemiah chapters 1-13.

Step One - Faith in God

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."
(Hebrews 11:1)

It is also the act or state of acknowledging unquestioningly the existence and power of God. Someone once said, *"To believe only in possibilities is not faith, but mere philosophy."* Without faith in God there can not be eternal achievements.

What was it about the report of Jerusalem that gave him confidence to pray the prayer in Nehemiah 1: 5-12?

I believe God ☐ can ☐ might or ☐ will do what He has put in my heart as a desire to glorify Him (Isaiah 43:7) and accomplish His work (John 17:4).

Step Two - Desire/Dream

One common question is *"why do some people succeed while others don't?"* Studies of effective people point to a number of common denominators. Above all, they are dreamers. They dream of what they believe God wants and expect to have it. They focus on their dream, they protect and nurture it. Effective people learn to mentally picture things as they can be. Our desire and ability to dream God's dream and decide to make it come true is the source of everything we accomplish in life. Don't let anyone steal God's dream from you.

How clear was the dream in Nehemiah's mind when he approached King Artaxerxes?
Nehemiah 2: 4-8

With no limitations of any kind - with God there are none - describe what you believe God wants your Life Group Ministry to become. What would it look like in 3 years?

What personal desires do you have that only God could do? _____

Step Three - Goals

Dreaming is a natural part of living. We dream about what we desire. The clearer our desire, the clearer our dream and the more clearly we form it as a goal. Desire is the motivator, the launching pad for the accomplishment of all we do. Focus on a desire and a hazy dream will become a specific goal.

Having visualised what it would take to rebuild Jerusalem, what did Nehemiah do?
Nehemiah 2:6,9 _____

What will it take to accomplish your desire?
State 3 group goals and 3 personal goals.

Group Goals	Personal Goals
1 month _____	_____
_____	_____
6 months _____	_____
_____	_____
3 years _____	_____
_____	_____

Step Four - Planning

To merely dream and have no plan is wishful thinking. People don't fail because they plan to fail, they fail because they fail to plan. Planning is vital to accomplishment and a destination and

a time table are essential ingredients in the process. It is hard to plan a trip if you don't know where you want to go. That is why setting goals must precede planning.

What did Nehemiah do when he got to Jerusalem? Nehemiah 2:11-16

What do you need to do to reach your goals? List 3 steps and the date for their completion.

To accomplish my Life Group Goals, I plan to:

1. _____ Date _____
2. _____ Date _____
3. _____ Date _____

To accomplish my Personal Goals, I plan to:

1. _____ Date _____
2. _____ Date _____
3. _____ Date _____

Step Five - Action

All your dreams, goals and plans may vaporise unless there is resulting action. What you must decide is are you serious enough about your desires to take action.

How did the people respond when Nehemiah shared the plan with them? Nehemiah 2: 17,18

Who do you need to share your dreams, goals and plans with?

Will you need their involvement? _____ Yes _____ No

What will they need to do? _____

Step Six - Belief (The permission to act)

Belief has to precede and accompany action. The most difficult part of succeeding is in believing that you can and that you have God's permission and the approval of others (spouse, pastor, etc.) to do so. Steps Two to Five in the Achievement Process are logical and we can cope with them with our intellect but belief is allied with our emotions. It is human nature to cling to what can be explained; we are uncomfortable in the presence of uncertainty. If however, we

don't believe we can do something, our lack of belief causes us not to work hard at it and this lack of work actually seals our fate. We are frequently our own worst enemy. We often resort to working hard at only that which we know and are comfortable with. This usually does not result in supernatural achievements.

Dreaming God's dream is stimulating and exciting, it gives birth to goals and plans for making those dreams come true. Action however, never occurs until we believe by God's enabling we can do it.

Belief (giving ourselves permission) is the Catalyst for Action.

***"Permission is an eaglet peering over its nest rim one last time,
casting off timidity, ready at last to trust God's invisibly solid air
and its own untried wings to sustain a soaring new life,
one to be lived ever after between Heaven and Earth."***

Richard Gaylord Briley

"Those who hope in the Lord ... will soar on wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)

Consider the following verses and answer both (a) and (b) for each.

- a. What strategies did their enemies use to try to stop the work of rebuilding Jerusalem?
- b. How did Nehemiah respond?

a. 2:19 _____

b. 2:20 _____

a. 4:7,8 _____

b. 4:9 _____

a. 6:5-7 _____

b. 6: 8,9 _____

a. 6:10 _____

b. 6:11 _____

Why did Nehemiah keep working? _____

Step Seven - Work

Desire may be the great motivator but work brings the realisation. Hard work makes dreams materialise. Whatever your goals work will win when wishing won't. Commitment and

persistence are traits of Christian character. Effective leaders don't quit! They are individuals who got up one more time than they fell down.

Besides the above examples of Nehemiah's determination, how did the people demonstrate their commitment? Nehemiah 4:15-18

What were the results of their work?

6:15 _____

6:16 _____

Are you accomplishing all that God would have you do or do you need to change?

If you don't change direction, you will end up where you are headed.

To develop the commitment and persistence for action you will need;

1. A definite purpose backed by a burning desire for its fulfilment,
2. A definite plan expressed in continuous action,
3. A mind closed tightly against all negative and discouraging influences,
4. A friendly alliance with one or more persons who will encourage you to follow through with both plans and action.

As you consider your future and the future of your Life Group, circle the next step that you need to take to move you forward:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Faith in God | 5. Action |
| 2. Desire/Dream | 6. Belief/Permission |
| 3. Goals | 7. Work |
| 4. Planning | |

What do you need to do to accomplish the step you circled above?

"...Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by Action is dead." (James 2:17)