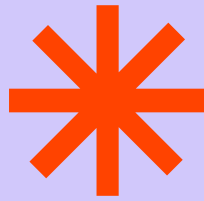


Leaders Gathering



Encouraging and empowering mission minded leaders.

Faith for Ministry

BIG IDEA:

We are ALL called to ministry at every role, position, and function within the church. We create, organize, plan, shepherd, administrate, play instruments, mentor - all so that we can bring all people into the life, family, and purpose of God. However, ministry is a marathon, not a sprint. Being consistent is more important than starting strong and fading out. Many leaders in ministry eventually burn out. Three common causes of ministry burnout are: (1) Being on call 24/7 or feeling like they must always be available, (2) Trying to please everyone and solve every problem, (3) Poor social networks and engaging in few refreshing environments.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

John 6:6-13 “Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, ‘Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?’ He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do. Philip replied, ‘Even if we worked for months, we wouldn’t have enough money to feed them!’ Then Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up. ‘There’s a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?’ ‘Tell everyone to sit down,’ Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, ‘Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.’ So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.”

How to Stay Fresh in Ministry

- **Remember JESUS is the Source of All Ministry**

- It was Jesus who saw the need first. It was Jesus who initiated the miracle by asking Phillip, “Where can we buy bread to feed all of these people?”
- Remember we are doing this WITH Him not just FOR Him
 - We don’t just work for Him but with Him
 - Look how many times Jesus is working in this passage:
 - **Jesus** saw the crowd
 - **Jesus** told them to sit down
 - **Jesus** took the bread
 - **Jesus** multiplied the bread
 - Main Point: Jesus is the source of your ministry
 - Remember: He’s building His church, He’s opening doors, He’s giving you wisdom and the words to say
- The power to heal, set free, redeem, and multiply all belongs to Jesus, not us
- Remember who called you!
- “John, you didn't choose me. I chose you.” John 14
 - Jesus called you; you didn't call you
 - Every believer is called to ministry - serve others
 - This was God's idea
- Discouragement comes from forgetting the source
- Feeling the weight of the world to do it all yourself
 - Frustration is released when we release control
 - Don’t try to control people or every situation

● Remember to Keep an Open Hand

- God took what was available and multiplied it. There's a miracle!
- God uses what we bring. It may seem like it's just planning an event, sweeping a room, or teaching a class, but it's what you have!
- Comparison is the thief of joy. When you use what God gave you there is great blessing and fulfillment.
 - Remember the difference between a closed fist and an open hand - be willing to let go of an area and try/serve something new
 - When you are asked to give what you have, be willing to be flexible and grow into something new
 - New might make you uncomfortable, but God will use it to do miracles
 - God will sometimes ask you to do things out of your comfort zone
 - We are responsible for the OFFERING; God is responsible for the OUTCOME

Illustrate an open hand. When you go in for a deposition with a lawyer to give testimony, they will encourage you to put your open hands on your knees. Studies have shown this relieves tension and stress. Are you leading with an open hand? Jesus lead from a place of peace. Be flexible, be at rest.

● You Are an Answer to Somebody’s Need & Prayer

- Even God's creation solves a problem. Your ears solve hearing problems, your hands solve lifting problems
 - You have an anointing and have been called to solve a problem
 - Maybe you're asking, "Am I really making a difference by doing _____?" Yes, God has called you
 - People are isolated but God has called you to serve as a leader and help provide community for them
 - Some have lack and God has provided you resources to bless
 - Everyone needs Jesus and forgiveness. We have the answer to the problem
 - People need to be served so God has called you to serve on a team to help them connect to Jesus and the local church
 - The young boy with the loaves offered what he had and it solved a problem for 20,000 people
 - Just give what you have - whatever gift, service, or area of ministry. God has called you to solve *a* problem but not *every* problem
 - Stay in a place of willingness - "God use me"
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