

TAKING THE LEAD

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Study Guide

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Session 1: The Overview

Maximize your experience

Become a difference maker by incorporating the principles of *Taking the Lead* into your life at the deepest levels. Put the study and application of the leadership principles found there into your daily and weekly schedule by committing to a regular time with this Study Guide. Make a commitment to go further with the truths and personal challenges either by yourself or, preferably, with a group of other men.

Leading a small group is as simple as going through the material together and getting the others to talk about it. As a group, pray for one another, be transparent, grapple with issues, and be diligent to apply these principles in your personal lives, homes, ministries and workplace. God is looking for leaders! The future of the world, and your own legacy, depends on men like you stepping up to the plate.

Here are some suggestions on approaching the Study Guide:

- **Read *Taking the Lead*.**

Begin with the book! You will find that it and the Study Guide complement each other. The workbook cannot stand alone. Your learning and life change will be more complete if you work through both the book and the study guide, preferably with a group of other men.

- **Get a group together.**

Jesus spent most of His time in group settings, living, teaching, growing and replenishing. Whether He was in the midst of the throng or with His closest friends, He was emphasizing the benefits of fellowship in His Kingdom. Paul did the same thing, teaching and modeling what he had learned from Jesus and from his other important mentor Barnabus. Paul brought men together and taught and modeled what he had learned so they could pass these truths along to their disciples.

Prayerfully seek out the men you sense would be right for this process. It is in groups like this that we have the greatest opportunity to create a purposeful, mutual, discipleship environment.

- **Set up a plan.**

No one “plans” to fail, but failing to plan often results in no results at all. This guide has 12 sessions that correspond to the 12 chapters in *Taking the Lead*. Commit yourself and the men you gather to meeting regularly with as little interruption as possible. Set your eyes on the goal and...*just do it!*

Format for each study session:

In each session I want to push you to move from knowledge (facts) to understanding (application) to wisdom (skill in living). God is calling us to be wise men, skilled in the very qualities we are discussing here. I want you to develop godly habits built around these 10 core qualities, as the Holy Spirit empowers you and the Word of God instructs you. You need to be artisans (craftsmen) in these leadership and mentoring qualities. And, you can do it.

So here’s the plan. As you go through each session I want you to **mull** over key issues in the corresponding chapter. Read the chapter, fill in the study guide and the exercises and come to your group ready to roll up your sleeves and go to work. Let’s not play around here. So, please don’t use the group sessions just to fill in new data. Use it to share your insights, compare notes, sharpen one another and take action. Life is short, the trained leadership pool is small, and God wants to use you to lead—trust me.

Second, I want you to begin to **master** some skills (turn these skills into habits). Make them a reality by practicing them over and over again until they become core competencies. Remember, knowledge without application = stagnation. But, knowledge plus application = transformation. Let’s be transformed.

Third, I want you to begin to **memorize** key Scriptures (especially the 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 on which the 10 core qualities are based). Memory is a lost art in our day but God “transforms us by the renewing of our minds,” as Paul tells us in Romans 12:1-2. Memory builds motivation, sensitizes us to hear and respond to God’s voice and provides a pivotal tool for spiritual warfare. So, start stretching that memory muscle.

Finally, I want you to **meditate** on the passages that apply to the skill you are working on. You do this by ruminating on the word of God, as a cow chews on her cud, consistently and persistently throughout the day. Remember, Joshua 1:8: “The word of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth but you shall meditate upon it day and night in order to do everything written therein. Then God will bless you in every way and give you good success.” At the end of each session I will show you how I meditate and pray the truth we are studying into my life. Make time for meditation four times a day at least (when you rise up, go to bed, stop for lunch and around dinner).

So, keep looking for these key words as guides through the study:

Mull Over
Master
Memorize
Meditate

Where are we going?

Bottom line, we are proposing you embark on a life-long journey of being radically committed to Jesus Christ and reproducing His principles in the lives of others. This kind of purposeful discipleship includes going beyond our personal concerns and living in light of God’s discipleship priorities in our relationships (John 17).

The description of a real man and a radical follower of Christ is seen in the ten core qualities of leadership derived from 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12.

Mull Over

- In the first chapter, The Overview, I introduce three characteristics of a healthy church—faith, hope and love. Which of those qualities did the church at Thessalonica manifest? What evidence did they provide that these qualities were

evident? Finally, why is this important to the discussion of this book and the style of leadership of Paul, Timothy and Silvanus?

- The *Taking the Lead* book is based on ten core leadership qualities that provide a positive framework from which to launch our drive toward becoming the men God created us to be. With these built into our lives, we will be more effective husbands, fathers, workers and neighbors. Read again the passage below and take special note of the sensitivity and seriousness Paul includes in his statements. As you read, it might help to pretend this is a letter written directly to you.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

7 - But we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.

8 - We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

9 - Surely you remember brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

10 - You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed.

11 - For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children.

12 - Encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory (NIV).

- **IF** this were a letter written directly to you:
 - How would you feel?

- What challenges from the passage do you see in your own life?

- Go back to the section in this opening chapter in the book on the three attributes of maturity, faith, hope, and love and reflect on those questions with reference to your personal life, home, and church. Then evaluate yourself in this table (2 = weak performance and 10 = outstanding performance).

AREA OF LIFE	FAITH	HOPE	LOVE
Personal	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10
Home	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10
Business	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10
Church	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10

- What one thing can you do this week to improve your own life in the areas of faith, hope, or love?

- Now identify one area where you are strong (e.g., hard work at business) and one area where you need to grow (e.g., affection at home). Thank God for that strength then commit to do one thing this week to strengthen your weakness. Write out the activity below and put it into your calendar (listing when, where, and with whom you will do this).

- **Evaluate your own life in light of these qualities**

(2 = weak performance and 10 = outstanding performance)

Leadership Quality	Home	Church	Work
Team Orientation	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10
Disciplined Life	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10

Gentle Spirit	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10
Fond Affection	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10
Effective Communication	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10
Personal Openness	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10
Servant Leadership	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10
Hard Work	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10
Godly Model	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10
Caring Confrontation	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10	2 4 6 8 10

Memorize

- Take five minutes right now to commit 1 Thessalonians 2:7 to memory. If you are with a group, pair up and practice with one another. During the next week, get it down cold. (Tips for memorizing: Write the verse on a small card and carry it with you. Read it and say it out loud 25 times the first day, 20 times the second day, 15 times the third day, etc. Within a week it should be part of you.)
- Now, memorize the 10 skills just listed and evaluated above. Get these down cold and learn them in the right order! You'll need to share your memory exercises with someone in the group and/or a study partner during your next meeting.

Master

- Practice explaining why faith, hope and love is important to a study partner or friend.
- Explain the ten core competencies of leadership from 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 using the text to teach. Get these down for the next session. They will become the grid through which you can build an effective ministry at home, church, and work.

Meditate

Gracious Lord, thank You for not giving me what I deserve, but for loving me out of Your grace. I am so thankful for that! I know I have failed to be the

leader You want me to be in my home, church, business, and community; I now commit to change.

As I seek to build the ten core competencies into my life in the days to come, I'll depend upon You for the power, insight, and motivation needed to make the changes necessary. I'll "put off the old man" (bad habits) and "put on the new man" (good habits) as I discipline myself "for the purpose of godliness" as You command in 1 Timothy 4:7. Help me as I determine to develop real manhood.

And, Lord, I'll not allow Satan to immobilize me through fear, shame, or defeat. I won't let him rob me of the joy You have for me and the impact on others that You want to flow through me. I am Yours. Mold me and use me for Your glory and Kingdom. Amen.

Session 2: Team Orientation (1)

But we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.

Mull Over

Now that we've grappled with the overview of 1 Thessalonians 1 and 2 as a framework for healthy leadership, let's begin the journey of studying each of the principles and turning them into skills and core competences.

- Before we begin studying about team orientation, take some time and recite the verse you memorized from the last session (1 Thess. 2:7) and then share the 10 principles from memory. Someone begin the sharing and all of you encourage one another to get through these. Remember, we're a team.

- Now go back to the chapter and opening section on friends. I ask you a few questions there like "do you have the kinds of friends you want?" and "how do you know you can count on your friends?" Process these the some of the other questions as a group. Go ahead...take the initiative. Remember, this is all about taking the lead, right!

- In the section of this chapter called the Vital Need I talk address why we need others. Do you agree with my assessment? If so, why? If not, why? Go ahead and discuss this issue and don't be hesitant to disagree. Remember, we are to be "iron sharpening iron" and this process can cause sparks. Just be sure to "speak the truth in love" and with respect.

- Now, reflect on the following passage for a few minutes, write out your insights and answer the questions below.

“Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. But *encourage one another* day after day, as long as it is still called ‘Today,’ lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” Hebrews 3:12-13

WHY is it so hard for men to admit they need each other?

WHAT conditions make it easier for men to understand and commit to the needs of others?

- Look again at the four types or levels of relationships described in Chapter 2 (summarized below), and respond to the directions.

- **Concerned Relationships**

These are one-sided relationships that we initiate with everyone we meet. God calls us to “love your neighbor as yourself” and that includes how we relate to people every day.

- ✓ **READ** Romans 12:9-21 and identify several characteristics of this type of relationship:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

- **Corporate Relationships**

These relationships are reflected in our responsibilities to the people in our churches, our jobs, our civic activities and our neighborhoods.

LIST the corporate relationships you are currently involved in and any goals you have set for yourself to contribute to the good of the communities you list (i.e. church, job, community).

GROUP

GOALS

▪ **Committed Relationships**

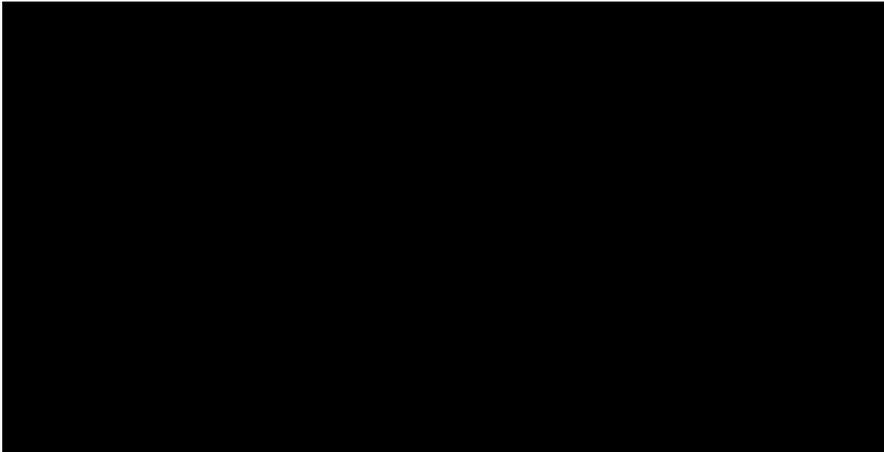
Committed relationships are established with a limited number of close friends or relatives who can hold us accountable, encourage us, and show us love in specific ways. Describe the kind of committed relationships that sound the best to you.

▪ **Covenant Relationships**

These involve a deeper level of commitment between you and a very few others. Time and maturity serve to strengthen these covenants. What kind of help would you like from a covenant relationship?

-
- **EVALUATE** your present relationships. List in the table below your five most significant men friends and identify which of the four types of relationship you presently have with each—casual (concerned), corporate, committed, or covenant. Then write what kind of relationship you *would like to have* with each.

(You may not want to make *any* changes.)



- **WRITE** the name of your closest friend below. Then list five things you can do to build into his life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

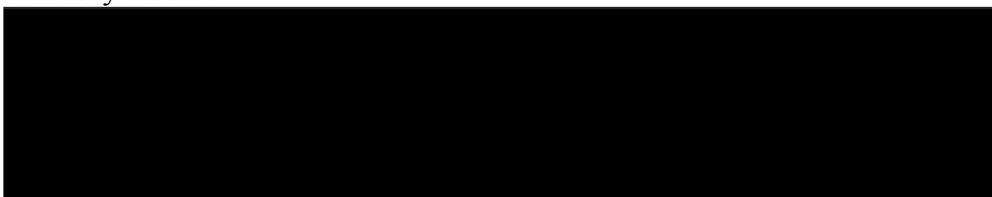
“And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt.” 1 Samuel 18:4

- Go back and read the story of David and Jonathan’s relationship in *Taking the Lead* and in 1 Samuel 18-20, and describe how David and Jonathan fleshed out their need for each other in the following areas: self-sacrifice, concern, verbal support in front of others, openness, availability, and affection. Write down your insights here.

EVALUATE yourself in light of each of the six principles of committed and covenant relationships. For each, identify where you are strong and weak.

Relationship Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
Self-sacrifice		
Concern		
Verbal Support		
Openness		
Availability		
Affection		

WRITE in the “Activity” space below one thing you can do this week to build a strong sense of team with your closest friends. Then write when and where you could implement your idea.



Memorize

- 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 (the first verse was memorized last week). Take a few minutes to do this and share from memory right on the spot. This will show you that you *can* memorize Scripture.
- Keep reinforcing your memory of the 10 core leadership skills. Practice sharing them with others this week in two or three settings.

- Memorize the 6 qualities of committed and covenant relationships to share with the group or a friend during the next session.

Master

- Practice acting like a committed friend with one other man. Concentrate and focus on building a new, improved habit of support. Once you master this with one person, you can build on this skill with others. Keep a journal of your progress and share your insights during the next session. Remember, we want to be authentic and accountable.

Meditate

Lord, thanks for my friends! I long to go deeper and be a better friend myself. But You know how selfish I can get. Please, Lord, get me out of myself. Let me focus on my friends and being their friend, instead of demanding or even expecting that they be my friends. Teach me the power of Philippians 2 where Paul says, “in humility of mind I am to esteem others as more important than myself. I’m not to just look at life from my own perspective but look through the eyes of others.” Man, that’s tough. But, make it so, dear Father. Make it so.

Leave Blank on Purpose

Session 3: Disciplined Life (2)

...but we were (we proved to be) gentle among you (2:7)

Mull Over

- Review the memory work from last week (take turns sharing what you've memorized and try the 10 principles again). Also, review the skills to master you worked on from the last session. Again, our goal is transformation through putting these principles into practice over and over again until they become godly habits.
- Review the section in this chapter call What is Self-Discipline? And write out the definition here. Then discuss how self-discipline is seen in 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12.
- There are many passages in the Word of God that deal with godly self-discipline. Read the following passages and write down what you learn about discipline.

•1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Principle about Discipline

Application to Your Life

•1 Timothy 4:7

Principle about Discipline

Application to Your Life

•Philippians 3

Principle about Discipline

Application to Your Life

-

How well do you function in the arena of self-control? To get an idea of your level of maturity in this area, evaluate yourself against the following examples of a godly, disciplined lifestyle by circling the appropriate number (1 = seldom practiced; 3 = practiced

Control of my tongue	1	3	5
Godly behavior	1	3	5
Spiritual leadership in the home	1	3	5
Practice of selfless love	1	3	5
Purity in thought and action	1	3	5
Daily quiet time (prayer and study of the Word)	1	3	5
Regular physical exercise	1	3	5

inconsistently; 5 = a consistent, formed habit).

Your score should reveal whether you need to focus more specifically on the development of self-discipline.

- What did you learn as you evaluated yourself against the seven examples of a disciplined life? For instance, look at your total score this way: 7-10=WEAK, 10-20=WORK ON IT, 20-35=GREAT overall. This may mean you are outstanding in most and really weak in others. Or it might mean that you are just so-so across the board. In light of this, write your insights here and then discuss them:

- Look again at the five areas in which the apostle Paul admonished Timothy to provide a positive example. Circle the one you need to give the most attention to right now—*Speech, Conduct, Love, Faith, Purity*

- Now, let's put the HABIT concept to work. Remember how long it takes to build a good habit (see below)? Take the skills of HABIT development and work them through on some new habit you want to develop in the area of speech, conduct, love, faith, purity or any other area that is holding you back. Ask, "What is the one thing I need to do consistently and persistently in my personal life that would give me the most bang for my buck?" That is the habit you want to develop.

Practice a skill over and over again for 21 days until it becomes a habit.

- **Have a plan**

- *LIST the major area where you need to change.*

-

- *IF you could ensure victory in one aspect of the above area, what would you choose (i.e. stop harsh or hurtful language)?*

- **Allow God's power to work**

- *WHAT is God's part in helping you build your habit?*

- *HOW can you cooperate with Him?*

- **Build an accountability structure**

- *LIST at least three ways you could begin building an accountability structure.*

- 1.
2. _____
3. _____

➤ **WHAT** are some positive implications of building the new habit?

➤ **WHAT** are some negative consequences of **not** building the new habit?

- **Internalize God's Word**

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.

And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

➤ **HOW** does memorizing God's Word help you stay on track with your new habit?

➤ **WHEN** do you plan to meditate on it?

➤ **HOW** do you plan to start “minding” God’s Word in your daily practice?

- **Training consistently**

➤ **PRACTICE** this skill over and over and over again for at least 21 straight days until it becomes an embedded, core habit.

➤ **HOW** will you put this skill to practice in the next 21 days?

Memorize

- 1 Timothy 4:7 ...”discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.”
- The HABIT acrostic and what each letter stands for. Be prepared to share these from memory during the next session. Yeah, yeah, I know this is tough but it is good for you. Trust me!

Master

- Practice the discipline plan you developed daily for 21 days. Remember, there is great power and freedom in habit development.
- Be sure to keep your personal accountability journal daily of how you are doing, where you are struggling and specific evidences of progress.

Meditate

Lord, let me be an example as You say in 1 Timothy 4:12 in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity. Instead of pretending to be perfect or trying to project some false image, teach me to go deep with You and let You build these qualities in and through

my life. I will trust You to empower me as I “discipline myself for the purpose of godliness.” I’ll work out what You are working in me.

Session 4: Gentle Spirit (3)

...but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. (2:7)

Mull Over

- **Share** your memory work from the last session. Have everyone in the group share and keep encouraging one another. Also report back on how you did with the HABIT acrostic. Did you put your plan to work? Where did you succeed and where did you fail? What adjustments will you make?
- Before you read this chapter on gentleness and saw the example of these three guys, what was your concept of gentleness? Where do you think you got that concept? Process this as a group and write down your insights here.
- **As we discuss** the concept of gentleness, several concerns must be addressed. **First**, we need to challenge some myths concerning gentleness, especially the typical “macho” definitions. **Then**, we need to develop a much better understanding, from a biblical point of view, of what gentleness really is. **Lastly**, we need to identify the essential qualities of gentleness. I encourage you to process this section with chapter open.

What Gentleness Is Not...

- It will help you to turn to this section in this chapter and read together 1 Thess. 2:1-6 for a frame of reference. Among other things gentleness is not...
 - Weakness - 1 Thessalonians 2:2
IF weakness is the antithesis of gentleness, what is your definition of weakness?

IF a “nursing mother” is an illustration of gentleness, what is an illustration of weakness?

- *Lack of confidence or assertiveness - 1 Thess. 2:2*

DESCRIBE a situation where you lacked confidence, or when you received opposition. How could you have responded differently?

HOW can someone be confident and assertive and still be gentle?

- *False flattery or color-coating the truth - 1 Thess. 2:5*

Mark Twain called flattery the “phony express.” Do you agree? Why or why not?

- *Passivity - 1 Thess. 2:1-6*

WHAT is the opposite of passivity? Can you be that way and still be gentle?

WHOM do you know who models this kind of gentleness?

What Gentleness Is...

IN YOUR OWN WORDS describe how each of the following personal characteristics is linked to biblical gentleness.

❖ **Need oriented**

❖ **Tender**

❖ **Patient**

❖ **Available**

- Now, write out an action plan of how you will apply this quality of gentleness this week with someone in your personal or professional life (family is always a good place to start). What will you do, when, how? Be specific and put it to work.

Memorize

- 1 Thessalonians 5:14
- Memorize the 4 traits of gentleness describe in this session.

Master

- Put your plan to work this week. Practice...practice...practice gentleness. Remember, this is a learned habit. As you practice it, you will begin to feel it.
- Keep using the 10 qualities of leadership from *Taking the Lead* as a grid to evaluate and frame your own leadership at home, ministry and work.

Meditate

Lord, I'm so sorry that I get so hacked off at people at times. What astounds me the most is how I can get the angriest at those closest to me—my kids, my wife, my friends. Lord, I give my “violated rights” back to you. I know I am to live as a

servant with no rights but many responsibilities. I have chosen to follow that path and I follow it gladly.

Therefore, empower me by Your Spirit to be gentle the way Jesus was. I know this isn't weakness but controlled strength. Let me die to myself and treat others as fragile, needy people. And, Lord, even if they deserve less (an over-demanding boss, frustrating wife, or obnoxious friend) let me give them more. Lord, I'm just so thankful that You are gentle with me and don't give me what I deserve, but give me an abundant life, out of Your grace. Therefore, I choose to treat others as You treat me.

Leave Blank on Purpose

Session 5: Fond Affection (4)

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. (2:8)

Mull Over

- **Before** we dive in to this session take a few minutes to review your action steps from last session. Focus on your memory work and those items that you were going to master since the last session. Share your successes and failures. Especially share what God is teaching brothers. This should be a rich time. Write you insights here.

- **Read** the following definition and answer how well that describes your behavior.

***Fond affection:** Affectionately desirous of “warm, inward attachment,” “to feel drawn to something or someone with intense longing.” (Kittel, Strong)*

- **THIS concept** of an affectionate and significantly emotional attachment to other people is a pattern that runs throughout all of Scripture. This same emotional intensity must be true of our love if we are to call ourselves strong Christian men. We are not only to be assertive, bold, and mighty; we are to be strong by being gentle, affectionate, and caring at the deepest level of our being.

HOW do you rate in this area so far?

ARE you more tough or tender?

HOW hard is it for you to you feel affection?

DO you demonstrate it?

WHAT would your wife or some close friend say?

WHAT would other brothers in Christ who know you say?

- Most of us have pulled away from people at some time. We have closed ourselves off from intimacy and recoiled from vulnerability. We can't find true happiness that way; neither can we experience authentic Christian maturity or fulfillment. In the book we identified six positive, proactive steps to help us grow in the process of developing the kind of fond affection that Paul was modeling in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- I encourage you again to process this in your group with the book open for reference and perspective. Underline, highlight, star or do whatever makes this book a long term leadership guide for you. Now, write out your candid responses below as you rate how you are doing in each of the following areas and identify where you need to grow. Now review these 6 areas and respond to the coaching I gave you in the book summarized below. The key is to find our soft spots and then let the Holy Spirit and godly discipline move us into transformation here.

Feel Positive Emotions
Think Positive Thoughts
Visualize the Positive in People
Offer Positive Prayers
Say Positive Words
Practice Positive Actions

1. Feel Positive Emotions

Start with forgiveness. This is a biggie!!!

- **Get rid of negative, bitter feelings (“put off, put on”)**

HOW am I doing?

WHERE do I need to grow?

- **Don’t dwell on the offense**

HOW am I doing?

WHERE do I need to grow?

- **Don’t talk to others about it again**

HOW am I doing?

WHERE do I need to grow?

- **Don’t bring up offense to offender again**

HOW am I doing?

WHERE do I need to grow?

- **Don’t expect future failure on the part of the offender**

HOW am I doing?

WHERE do I need to grow?

2. Think Positive and Affectionate Thoughts

HOW am I doing?

WHERE do I need to grow?

3. Visualize the Positive in People

HOW am I doing?

WHERE do I need to grow?

4. Pray Positively

HOW am I doing?

WHERE do I need to grow?

Speak Positively To and About People

HOW am I doing?

WHERE do I need to grow?

Act Positively and Affectionately

HOW am I doing?

WHERE do I need to grow?

Memorize

- The six steps to building affection: feel positive emotions, think positive thoughts, etc.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:7-10

Master

- Build your action steps into your calendar (when will you say that affectionate word or do that affectionate act?). Remember, “Faith without works is dead.” Remember also that if it doesn’t reach your schedule and your pocketbook it probably isn’t real. So, go to work!

Meditate

Father, I hurt! I feel that I was so unjustly treated when _____ did _____ to me. It wasn't fair. I didn't deserve it. Yet, I suffered. But, now I know, in part, why. No one has ever suffered like You, dear Lord. And yet You did not react when You, went to the cross. You just kept entrusting Yourself to the Father. You knew the Father had a plan. And so it was by Your wounds that I have been healed.

Now, I can help others to be healed as I respond lovingly and with forgiveness even when I am mistreated. In fact, You say I have been called for this very purpose. So, I

choose to forgive. I will not allow bitterness to rest in me. I give it to You. And, “as You have forgiven me,” so I forgive others. Right now I forgive _____.

And I choose to love with affection. I will think, feel and act as You do toward me—with overwhelming love and affection.

Session 6: Effective Communication (5)

...share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

Mull Over

- **Review** your memory work from the last session and discuss briefly your progress on mastering key areas you addressed during the session.
- **Review** the definition of effective communication below and talk through your understanding based on the corresponding chapter in the book and your own experience. Write out how well you sense you communicate.

“Communication is a process (verbal and nonverbal) of sharing information with another person in such a way that the other person understands what you are saying.” (*Communication* —*Key to Your Marriage*, Norm Wright)

- Now, discuss the process of communication by answering the questions below. Keep referring to the chapter in the book as needed. In other words, open book is a good thing.
 - **Seek first to understand—empathize**

➤ Listen

HOW can you tell when someone is listening to you?

HOW does it feel when you are saying something personal and important and you are interrupted or ignored?

WOULD your close friends and family members say that you are a good listener? Why or why not?

WOULD they say that you show empathy?

➤ **Ask questions**

Open questions create an atmosphere of genuine concern and allow the person questioned to answer in their own words. These types of questions usually begin with words like: *what, where, when, how, why and who*.

Closed questions begin with words like *did* and *do*, are answered with a simple *yes* or *no* and usually don't facilitate understanding beyond a report mode.

LIST some examples of good open questions, which might convey to someone that you are interested in getting to know them better.

1. _____ ?

2. _____ ?

3. _____ ?

LIST some examples of closed questions which can be answered only with a *yes* or *no*.

1. _____ ?

2. _____ ?

3. _____ ?

- **Don't try to "fix" things. Remember, people aren't normally trying to be fixed but rather understood and supported.**

DO you try to fix people who just want you to listen? Write out an example.

•Seek to be understood—speak the truth in love

RATE yourself on the following activities (2 = weak performance and 10 = outstanding performance)

• *I watch my tongue* 2 4 6 8 10

• *I put the speaker at ease* 2 4 6 8 10

• *I don't avoid disagreement* 2 4 6 8 10

• *I watch my emotions* 2 4 6 8 10

• *I remove distractions* 2 4 6 8 10

• *I am patient* 2 4 6 8 10

Memorize

- The vital principles for effective communications. These will help you! Get these down cold. Then put them to work.
- Ephesians 4:29-32. Let this become your gauge for effective communication. Be ready to share this with the group from memory during the next session.

Master

- Choose one person toward whom you can apply these skills this week (try your spouse or a close friend). Then, think through these skills several times daily and carefully apply them. If you “fall off the horse” get back on. Remember, discipline is painful at times but very rewarding when a skill becomes a habit. And, if you can master communicating, you will be a big winner.

Meditate

Oh, Great God, I am so often guilty of not applying the truths in this chapter. I normally want others to understand me much more than to understand them. Change me here. Let me seek first to understand and then to be understood. Let me listen more and talk less—with others and You.

And empower me to watch my tongue. How many times I have opened my mouth and said words that hurt! Help me be aware of this. Show me how to be sensitive and loving with my non-verbals as well—my tone, my eye contact, my body language.

I need a lot of help, precious Father. I am Your man and want to reflect Your character here. So, make me “effective” in my communications.

Session 7: Personal Openness (6)

...share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well

Mull Over

- **Review** your memory work from the last session and discuss briefly your progress on mastering key areas you addressed during the session.

- In this chapter, I quoted Edmund Burke who said, “the only thing that is needed for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” This gets to the heart of apathy and complacency in the church today. Yet Paul says that we are to lead by impart our very own lives—that’s commitment. **ONE** way to impart yourself to other people is to get involved in their lives. Give people time. Show that you care. Demonstrate your concern over even the smallest matters in a person’s life.
 - In what ways are you involved in the lives of others in the present?

 - Can you list three ways to get involved in the lives of others in the future?

- Being transparent is another way to “impart our lives (souls) to others”. This isn’t easy for believers. We so often are tempted to “pretend to be perfect.” Look at how Paul models openness and transparency in 2 Corinthians 4:7-12:

But this precious treasure – this light and power that now shine within us – is held in perishable containers, that is, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own.

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, but we don't give up and quit.

We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going.

Through suffering, these bodies of ours constantly share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be obvious in our dying bodies.

So we live in the face of death, but it has resulted in eternal life for you.

- Talk about how demonstrated openness here and then try to describe your own life over the past month in a transparent way like Paul did. Remember, it’s OK to struggle, battle and fail. This is the reality of life.

- Read this quote and talk about how true this is in your own experience. “We conceal our persons behind a protective barrier; we let it be seen only through the bars; we display certain of its aspects, others we carefully hide” (*Paul Tournier, The Meaning of Persons*).

- According to this chapter in the book, what is transparency not and what is it? Discuss this based on what you learned in your reading.

- Read together the quotation by James Dolby under the Pretending to be Perfect section of this chapter and talk about how this plays out in your life.

- Share your responses to the Questions on openness on page ? Where do you see a need for improvement?

- HOW are you doing in the following areas?

1. I listen carefully for feelings	2 4 6 8 10
2. I avoid statements beginning with “you”	2 4 6 8 10
3. I strive to come to a meeting of the minds on the issue	2 4 6 8 10
4. I refrain from defending myself	2 4 6 8 10
5. I make my questions honest inquiries for information	2 4 6 8 10
6. I do not insult, criticize, or yell	2 4 6 8 10
7. I state clearly how I feel, but do it in love	2 4 6 8 10
8. I do not bring up past experiences that have created bad feelings	2 4 6 8 10
9. I do not insult, criticize, or yell	2 4 6 8 10
10. I build up the other person, not tear him down	2 4 6 8 10
11. I do not embroider statements with	

emotionally charged words	2 4 6 8 10
12. I try to come to a conclusion	2 4 6 8 10
13. When our disagreement is over, I	
delve into why there was a problem	2 4 6 8 10

- Now, where do you need to improve? Write down one thing you'll work on this week to listen better.

- Talk through your self-evaluation based on the communications table. (This was the one that asked about the percentage of time spent on communicating to others at the cliché, gossip, opinions, feelings and complete honesty level on pg. __.) What did you learn about your relationships? What do you need to do to improve?

Memorize

- 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

Master

- Put in place a strategy this week to be more transparent. Go back over the session, determine your greatest need here and begin a tangible action to turn into a positive godly habit. This will be a tough one. Most of us guys just aren't good here. Remember, though, your goal is not "to pretend to be perfect but to

progress.” That phrase will set you free if you can embrace it. It’s OK to not be perfect. None of us is. You’ll free others up to progress themselves if you will choose to be vulnerable.

Meditate

Lord, I am afraid to tell others who I am. They might not like me if they really know me. Yet, You tell me in the Word that if I “walk in the light as He is in the light” I can have true fellowship with You and others. You know my sin and yet embrace me. But will others?

I do believe You Father. So, I’ll open up. Show me how. Show me when and where. Give me some friends who will love me just as I am (flawed and yet seeking to grow into Your likeness).

Let me experience a new level of intimacy with You and others as I impart not just the gospel (truth) but my very own life (my inner soul).

Left Blank on Purpose

Session 8: Servant Leadership (7)

You recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

Mull Over

The biblical picture of Servant Leader is a picture of a real man! When we consider the qualities of a real man from the world's point of view that list might not carry the idea of one that is humble and sensitive. However, the Bible presents Paul and his fellow workers in just that manner.

In 1 Thessalonians 2:9, Paul clearly states the fact that he and his coworkers were living a certain kind of lifestyle. They were not living as weak and pathetic individuals, lacking will and purpose. They were real men, choosing to live a life of service and humility to others in the name of their powerful and risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

- In the open page of this chapter I tell the story of my telling a flight attendant that she was a “great servant” and then I tell her response. Why do you think she responded as she did and what does that say about serving and the culture?
- How do you think your view of being a servant leader has been affected by the world culture? How specifically does that flesh itself out at work, home and in ministry?

- In this chapter I state that a Servant Leader conveys an attitude of *humility*. Please make your honest and candid comments below regarding the statements of *what humility is* and *what humility is not*.

WHAT Humility is not

My Comments

- **Inferiority**
- **Underestimating our abilities**
- **Self-hatred**
- **Passivity**

WHAT Humility is

My Comments

- **Staying broken before God**
- **Trusting God to work**
- **Through you and your gifts**

A Servant Leader includes *selfless giving*.

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God which hath been given in the churches of Macedonia;

how that in much proof of affliction the abundance of their joy

and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

For according to their power, I bear witness, yea and beyond their power, [they gave] of their own accord,

beseeking us with much entreaty in regard of this grace and the fellowship in the ministering to the saints:

and [this], not as we had hoped, but first they gave their own selves to the Lord, and to us through the will of God.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

DESCRIBE in your own words how each of the following traits of **Selfless Giving** would apply a man who wants to start taking the lead:

Trait _____ *Description*

Anonymously

Generously

Voluntarily

Personally

Evaluate yourself in respect to how your live out the following areas:

MY Evaluation	Weaker - Stronger
1. Not Inferiority	2 4 6 8 10
2. Not Underestimation of Abilities	2 4 6 8 10
3. Not Self-Hatred	2 4 6 8 10
4. Not Passivity	2 4 6 8 10
5. Broken Before God	2 4 6 8 10

6. Realistically Evaluating Capacities	2	4	6	8	10
7. Being Willing to Serve	2	4	6	8	10
8. Giving Anonymously	2	4	6	8	10
9. Giving Generously	2	4	6	8	10
10. Giving Voluntarily	2	4	6	8	10
11. Giving Personally	2	4	6	8	10

Memorize

- Philippians 4:13

Master

- Review the actions steps at the end of this chapter and write out your plan of attack in living out servant leadership in the space below.

- Take the plan of action you wrote in response to the action step and write into your schedule (right now) when, where, with whom and how you will put it to work. Then, work that plan. Remember, you're "putting on" the new man as you build godly habits. The name of the game here is *repetition*.

Meditate

A servant? Lord, I am anything but a servant! The fact of the matter is that I don't want to serve my wife, my children, my friends and certainly not just the

average Joe. I want to be served. I want others to meet my needs. I want to receive not to give. I want my way not their way. I want to be first not last.

I guess that is in no small measure why You came and died for me—I'm so innately selfish. So, today, let me live in Your humility realizing that I carry all those sin habits and desperately need to realize that it is "through Christ who strengthens me." Therefore, I'll stay broken, yielded and pliable in Your hands. But, I will also embrace the reality that "I can do all things." You have called me special. You have forgiven me, loved me, chosen me and ordained me to make a difference and reflect Your glory. Therefore, I will live with my head erect, understanding that You have chosen me to be a Kingdom Rep—where ever I go I'll represent You and the principles of Your Kingdom.

And, I'll do it Your way—by sacrificially giving of myself that others might truly live. Make it so, Lord. Make it so!

Session 9: Hard Work (8)

Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

Mull Over

- Review the action steps from last session. Focus on these .
 - Review Philippians 4:13 from memory. How successful were you at putting this verse to work this week?
 - What opportunity did you take to live as a servant leader this week? What were the circumstances? What did you do? How did it make you feel?
 - Review 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9 from memory.
- **Hard** work is encouraged and modeled throughout the Scriptures. Only a few decades ago, a man's willingness to work hard was the only reference necessary to secure a job. A real man is not afraid of hard work; in fact, hard work is a quality a real man admires and seeks to cultivate in himself. Be he knows that we are to "do our work heartily until the Lord not unto man."
- In the opening couple of pages of this chapter in the book I refer to historic figures who lived out the value of their work. Who were some of these and what did you learn about your own work life in light of their role models?

- In this chapter I share with you 4 core competencies of working hard. What are they? Try it from memory or go back and look at page ??.

1. Expect life to be tough! Go back and read 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, then review pages ?? to ?? in this chapter and finish the following statements and then discuss examples of how you see these issues flesh out in your life:

❖ We are afflicted (hard pressed) - **BUT NOT** _____

❖ We are confused (perplexed) - **BUT NOT** _____

❖ We are persecuted - **BUT NOT** _____

❖ We are rejected (struck down) – **BUT NOT** _____

2. Remember whom you serve! What does this imply when it comes to how we approach life and work? Hey, we're kids of the King and Ambassadors of Christ. What are the implications of this in terms of our language, thoughts, behavior, attitudes, work ethic, relationships, etc. Process this.

1. Focus on the roots not the fruit! As you review this section in the book, what do you think this means? What are the roots in your life (basic attitudes, beliefs and actions) that you should focus on? What are the areas of fruit that should not be the primary focus for you? Why? Roll up your sleeves and talk this through.

? The book of Proverbs has much to say about our attitudes toward work and the habits we should be cultivating. **READ** the following passages from Proverbs and **WRITE** your responses accordingly.

1. **Proverbs 12:11** - **WHAT** does this passage say about being diligent?
 2. **Proverbs 12:27** – **WHAT** does this passage tell us about our position of responsibility?
 3. **Proverbs 11:3** – **How** would this passage be applied to a man’s measure of integrity?
 4. **Proverbs 30:24** – **WHAT** does this passage remind us about planning and preparation?
 5. **Proverbs 24:27** - **HOW** does this passage describe our priorities?
 6. **Proverbs 22:29** - **HOW** does this passage describe the relationship between our approach as skilled laborers and the pride we take in our work?
- **GO** back through each of the passages and respond to how well you are doing personally in each area?

Area of Growth	How I’m Doing
♦ <i>Diligence</i>	
♦ <i>Responsibility</i>	
♦ <i>Integrity</i>	
♦ <i>Planning and Preparation</i>	
♦ <i>Priorities</i>	
♦ <i>Pride in my Work</i>	

2. Renew yourself daily! In this section I refer to the concept of having margins in our life or white space. What does that mean? Why is it important?

Now, how are you doing in getting margins in your life in the these areas:

- Physical
 - Mental
 - Emotional
 - Spiritual
 - Financial
 - Relational
-
- What one thing could you do this week to improve in gaining some more margin in your life?

GO back to the 4 Core Competencies listed in this chapter. Rate yourself on a scale of 2-10 on each one (2 being weak and 10 being strong). Then check the one you need to work on the most.

1. Expect life to be tough!	2...4...6...8...10
Remember whom you serve.	2...4...6...8...10
Focus on the roots of your life.	2...4...6...8...10
Keep renewing yourself daily.	2...4...6...8...10

Now, take a few minutes and write out an action plan of what you can do this week to grow in this area.

Memorize

- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. This is a great text on the right perspective to have toward life.

Master

- Meditate on the 4 core competencies of hard work discussed in this chapter, evaluate daily how you are doing in living these out and come back to the next session with your insights.
- Put your insights into a strategy for change and seek opportunities to put it into practice this week.

■

Meditate

How often I get frustrated and overwhelmed with my circumstances, Father. I am such a wimp at times. When I see how Paul and the disciples suffered or think of the persecuted church today, I am stunned at my own softness.

Lord, don't let me be soft. Let me, instead, toughen up, be strong, be courageous, not quit. Let me know that resurrection power of Christ, not just when I am in a "ministry" setting but in every moment of my life—when I feel like punching out a guy at work for something he says, when I am doing "gofer" work that I don't think I deserve, when I am confronted with obstacles and challenges in my personal life.

Dear Father, let me be Your man. Let me focus on the roots and let You take care of providing Your fruit in and through me. I commit to renewing myself daily as I spend time in Your Word, prayer, fellowship, rest, reflection, planning and growing. I'll stay a sharpened ax in Your hand. Use me!

Session 10: Godly Model (9)

You are witnesses and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed.

Mull Over

- Review the actions steps from the last session and be honest about your progress —successes and failures. **REMEMBER**, you will fail. Just keep failing forward. Learn from your mistakes, setbacks and even sins. God doesn't give up on you so don't let Satan cause you to give up on you.
- In the section on Being an Example: The Power in this chapter, I quote a number of passage from scriptures that drive home the impact of modeling Christ like behavior. Review this section and then **READ** the following passages and write down what they say about being a godly model:
 - ❖ Not because we do not have the right to do this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, that you might follow our example (2 Thessalonians 3:9).
 - ❖ Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe (1 Timothy 4:12).
 - ❖ In all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds... (Titus 2:7).
 - ❖ I exhort you therefore, be imitators of me (1 Corinthians 4:16).

- ❖ Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

- ❖ Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us (Philippians 3:17).

- ❖ The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you (Philippians 4:9).

- Under the section called Being an Example: The Pattern, I quote some of Jonathan Edwards Resolutions. He lived to be 54 yet changed the world through his vivid life and example. What kind of iron clad resolutions do you have for your life? Write down several here:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.

- Much of this section dealt with the key words the authors used to explain being a godly model—devout, upright and blameless. Review this section and WRITE out in your own words what these words mean and then how you need to improve in each one.

Concept	Definition	Area of Improvement
Devout		
Upright		
Blameless		

- Now, take a few minutes and go deeper here on the subject of blamelessness. This isn't being perfect but it IS being transparent before God, confessing your sins, experiencing God's forgiveness and living in brokenness and dependence

upon Him. If you are in fact blameless what are the implications in the following areas:

- Your thought life (pornography, affairs, etc.)
 - Your view of yourself (healthy pride balanced by godly humility)
 - Your sense of truly depending upon God and becoming intimate with Him
- My final point in this chapter was on Being an Example: The Product. The point here is that God is very specific about areas of our life where we need to walk the talk. The passage in Col. 3 I discussed isn't exhaustive by any means but it gets us on the right track. Circle the traits below (from Colossians 3) which you would like to ***Put Off*** and then circle the ones you would like to ***Put On***.

Trait to Put Off	Description
Immorality	illicit sexual involvement
Impurity	inappropriate thoughts
Passion	degrading emotions
Evil desire	all manner of evil desires
Greed	compelling desire for more, self-seeking
Anger	slow burning anger, bitterness
Wrath	quick tempered outburst
Malice	settled, cruel meanness
Slander	insulting speech to cause harm
Abusive speech	foul mouthed, shameful speaking
Lying	falsehood in any form

Trait to Put On	Description

Heart of compassion	selfless and practical caring based on real empathy
Kindness	treating everyone as important by honoring them
Humility	submitting to God and putting His interests first
Gentleness	tenderness based on real strength under control
Patience	sustaining joyfully through tough times
Forbearance	enduring misuse by others and making allowances
Forgiveness	overlooking and dropping others offenses
Love	practical, deliberate demonstration of caring
Peace	resting joyfully in the center of God's will
Thankfulness	deliberate appreciation for God's goodness

Memorize

- 1 John 1:9 and 1 Thessalonians 2:10
- Memorize the poem at the end of the chapter by Longfellow, *Footprints on the Sand*. Be ready to share all of these during the next session.

Master

- Practice the power of 1 John 1:9. Keep confessing your sins and experiencing God's forgiveness many times each day. God wants you in the light. Satan wants you defeated and in the dark. It's your choice which voice to follow.
- Practice living each day as you would want to live if Jesus was with you every moment, seeing everything. He is you know. But, believe it and put shoe leather to it.

Meditate

Lord Jesus, help!! This concept of being a godly example by being devout, upright and blameless absolutely intimidates me. Frankly it scares me to death. When Paul says, "follow me as I follow the Lord," I know I can say that as well. But, the problem is how much do I follow You? Far too little I fear.

So, what kind of model am I? Who should follow me? Yet, some many do whether I like it or not. So, dear Abba Father, make me your man! Don't let me be a wimp who lives a weak, listless, aimless, powerless life. Instead, fill me with your Spirit now and through each day. Let me practice your Presence and live in your Word.

Then, as you tell me in John 15:7f "I will prove to be your disciple." And, I so long to be an example of holiness and known as a man after God's own heart

Session 11: Caring Confrontation (10)

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory

Mull Over

- Review your assignments from the last session. Begin with your memory verses and the poem you were asked to memorize. Then, talk about how you did on moving toward mastering the insights on modeling. Guys, be open. Test your transparency. Don't wimp out here. Write down any insights from your sharing you learn here (i.e. I need to give more attention to Scripture memory).

- **From Paul**, we get some great ideas of how a godly leader is to confront and encourage others. It is helpful to group these ideas into ***PATTERNS***, ***PRACTICES***, ***PROCESSES*** and ***PURPOSES***.

- Take a few minutes and write down and then discuss the answers to these two questions.
 1. How was conflict handled in your home growing up (yelling, hiding, denying, anger, frustration, denial, resolution, etc.).

 2. How did you experience in conflict resolution growing up affect the way you resolve conflict at home, work and in

ministry? The tendency is to practice flight (run away, deny) or fight (get aggressive and even abusive).

- Regardless how conflict was dealt with in your home or how you handle it now God has given us a clear pattern for dealing with people. Review this passage and your notes under the Pattern section of this chapter and then follow the instructions below:

And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men. (1 Thess. 5:14).

- **WRITE** in your own words what you think each of these statements means in your own life and relationships.

❖ Admonish the unruly

❖ Encourage the fainthearted

❖ Help the weak

❖ Be patient with all men

Having the right pattern is key but God also gives us the right pattern. Review the section in this chapter that talks about God's pattern for caring confrontation and then write out the implications for your life below.

❖ **Exhorting**

- ◆ **WHAT** is the opposite of flattery? Why is it better not to use flattery when confronting in love?

- ◆ **WHAT** is the result of honest compliments in a tense situation?

- **WHAT** can you learn from the power of expressing confidence in the section of the chapter where Jesus deals with his disciples? Can you think of an example where you need to express confidence in a child, spouse, friend or co-worker this week? Write down what you would say and share it with one another.

❖ **Encouraging**

- ◆ **CAN** you recall a time when someone encouraged you in a tough circumstance? How did you feel as a result?

- Now, since encouraging deals more with comforting and not trying to “fix” someone, where you feel that you need to apply this principle this week? Write down a name and a strategy.

❖ **Imploring**

- ♦ **CAN** you think of a good example of someone who was “*solemnly warned*”? Was the result positive or negative? Why?

- ♦ Do you remember the story I told about confront a guy who trying to witness at a parade in Seattle, WA and then what he said? OUCH!! Have you ever totally blown it, like I did, when it comes to confront people? Write down and then share an example. Hey, I was honest so open up yourself. It’s good for you.

- ♦ Let’s focus now on how we caringly confront people. Review the section in this chapter that addresses this and then work through the exercise below:

- ♦ **WRITE** a personal application to each of the following approaches to confrontation.

APPROACH

HOW TO APPLY THE CHALLENGE

- Privately i.e. I will speak to Mark personally on Wednesday at Denny’s

- Prayerfully
 - Patiently
 - Passionately
 - Positively
 - Practically
 - Progressively
-
- Remember, we caringly confront for a Right Purpose. Do you remember what that purpose is? Talk through these two questions:
 - WHY** should we confront others?

IS there someone in your life you need to confront because you care so deeply about them? What is holding you back? What skills that we've discussed in this session do you need to apply?

Now, practice confronting the person with a friend in your group right now. Don't use names but be as specific as possible to gain some experience and comfort in doing this. Go ahead. I know that this seems weird but you need to turn these thoughts into skills and that takes practice. Try it in this safe environment and then given one another constructive criticism. Write down what you learn here.

So that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians 2:12

Memorize

- 1 Thessalonians 2:11, 12
- Review 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 and be ready to share the entire passage from memory next week.

Master

- Take the one person you identified in the action step and follow the procedures you listed. Now, work at making this a habit on all issues. Build consistency into your life here.
- Try to resolve a conflict this week using the techniques you've learned in this session. Write down your insights below—what did you do right, where did you mess up, what were your fears and other emotions, what was the response, why??

Meditate

Lord God, I am very uncomfortable about confronting others. I don't know if it is because I am fearful of rejection, unaccustomed to doing it, unaware of how to do it or sensing my own inadequacies so much that I feel hypocritical identifying the "speck" in my brother's eye.

I suppose the reality is that all of the above are true. But, regardless, You urge me to care enough to confront—not just admonish but encourage, lift up, support and be a

true friend. Lord, I confess my own selfishness here and turn to You for Your supernatural love. Help me to help others become all that You want them to be.

Session 12: Where to Go from Here!

Mull Over

It's one thing to gain knowledge (facts) about being a godly leader. It's another thing to apply these principles to your life (understanding) and an entirely different thing to become a pro in fleshing out these qualities into core competencies and solid habits (wisdom). That is the name of the game—becoming a man of wisdom who becomes an artisan or craftsman in being gentle, disciplined, a godly model and a communicator of truth.

So your job now is to become a pro in doing just that. How do you become a pro (not perfect but progressing consistently) in these principles and skills?

First, believe in the urgency of the day. We are in a life and death spiritual warfare! Do you believe that?

- ✓ How do you see this warfare around you? List the forces that are attacking you under these categories:

The World System...

Satanic influence (overt and covert)...

Your own sin...

- ✓ What kind of specific steps can you take to address these issues?

- ✓ Now list the number one thing you can do to live with a sense of eternity and urgency and begin to turn this into a habit (practice it every day for 21 days) and see what happens.

Second, believe that you as one person, can do something.

- ✓ Do you believe that? List how you have seen God use you over your lifetime (come up with 5 specific examples and identify one within the past year).

- ✓ Oliver Wendell Holmes said, “Most of us go to the grave with the music still in us.” Is that true of you? Write down one skill and one opportunity God has given you in your desire to take the lead. Then, write out a plan on how exactly you are going to do this. Set a measurable goal and then write out a plan of action.

- ✓ Write down your insights about Phil. 4:13 which says, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” What does this mean to you? Identify examples at home, work and in your church/parachurch ministry.

- ✓ Knowing that “body of Christ is knit together by what every joint and ligament supplies (Eph. 4),” why and in what ways do you need other brothers and sisters to support, encourage, equip and hold you accountable? List 2-4 people and specifically how you need them to leverage the impact God wants you to have.

Third, confess your inadequacy to God and accept his forgiveness and empowerment.

- ✓ Why do you need to admit your inadequacy to God and depend upon Him? Be specific with a list of reasons you need God’s power and the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

- ✓ What will you do to lean completely on the power of God in your life in a spirit of humility? Be specific and create an action plan.

- ✓ Why do you need to confess your sins routinely and experience God's forgiveness (1 John 1:9)? Do a T Bar of the benefits and losses of confessing your sins in the space below.

Benefits	Losses

Fourth, you need to pass on and multiply what God is teaching you. You need to lead by mentoring and coaching others to train others to replicate the same. Second Timothy 2:2 needs to become your call to action.

- ✓ Identify two people you can begin to mentor and coach at home (starting with your children and grandchildren or young people you can engage). Make a list and set up a time for a first appointment.

- ✓ Begin building relationships with them by facilitating them through the process of the Taking the Lead program. Use the tools to help them understand and apply these principles with the ultimate goal of their reproducing these principles in the lives of others. Confirm a time for your first meeting (s).

- ✓ Begin to learn more about impacting youth through the Parents of Purpose tools and influencing your workplace and the community at large through the Marketplace Life Coach tools and program both found at www.futureachievement.com.

- ✓ Deepen your skills of coaching and mentoring by working through the Personal Coach self study as a Mentoring/Coaching/Disciplining 101 course that is again available at www.futureachievement.com.

- ✓ Begin a regular (every 2-3 weeks) Taking the Lead Ministry built around small groups in your church and/or ministry. Use this time to keep processing and practicing the Taking the Lead product as well as the other tools we've mentioned above. Remember, we desperately need to encourage, support, sharpen and holding one another accountable to be men of God who are taking the lead in our homes, ministries, businesses and community.

- ✓ Get going in the power of the Spirit and don't quit. Remember the closing poem of the book.

I counted dollars while God counted crosses,
I counted gains while He counted losses.
I counted my worth by things gained in store,
He sized me up by the scars that I bore.
I coveted honors and sought degrees.
He wept as He counted the hours on my knees.
I never knew until one day by the grave
How vain are the things that we spend life to save.

Guys, your legacy and your impact depend on your choices. From this point forward, forget the past, as Paul did, and with hands outstretched press on toward the goal of your high calling (changed lives and living for the glory of God).

Begin to build into the lives of your family and friends at church and work using these ten core discipling/coaching principles. Remember, you want to build these as core habits in your life.

Why can't God raise up an army of real leaders...men committed to build future generations of radical, loving, committed, sharp, professional bond slaves of Jesus Christ!

I'm asking you to step up! Now is the time. Let's go!

Memorize

- Review the memorization work you've done during your study of *Taking the Lead*: the Scripture verses, the ten core competencies of leadership, the HABIT acrostic.

- Get the 10 Core Competencies of Taking the Lead down cold. Keep them before your mind's eye and spirit as a grid for evaluating your own leadership and how well you are doing at replicating leaders in the same image of these principles.

Master

- Keep the ten core competencies in your memory bank and build them consistently into your life. Let these become the grid through which you flesh out your own Christian manhood and leadership in the days to come. Let them expand your effectiveness in your home, church and workplace.

Meditate

Wow, Lord! Where do I begin? There is so much to do and I feel so inadequate. But You know that. In fact, I know it is good news to You that I realize I am inadequate. That means Your power can “be made perfect through my weakness” as I depend upon You.

Make me Your kind of man, my gracious God, a man after Your own heart. Mold me into Your likeness. Rule over me. Fill me with Your Spirit and keep me soft and pliable. I know I'll fail daily, but I also know Your grace is sufficient and You will transform me as I stay rooted in Your Word and controlled by Your Spirit.

I am Your man. Make me a servant/leader like Paul, Timothy, and Silvanus. And, dear Abba, give me others with whom I can be a co-laborer in Your work. I love You! Amen.