



PREPARE MODULE #2

LEADER:: COMPASSION | EASTSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

COMPETENCY: Engage/collaborate with key partners in a way that both supports our partners and demonstrates servant leadership.

OBJECTIVE: To learn the value of being flexible with your project and to lead your teams from a servant's perspective.

- Assignment 1 // Read *Philippians 2:1-8* and answer the corresponding questions. Read *Principles of Effective Collaboration* by Erica Flora and answer the corresponding questions.
- Assignment 2 // Read *Flexibility* by Jeff Swaney.
- Assignment 3 // View the video: *Servant Leadership* with Ken Blanchard and answer the corresponding questions. Read *The Greatest Servant* by Jeff Swaney and answer the corresponding questions.

ASSIGNMENT 1

Read *Philippians 2:1-8* and answer the corresponding questions.

Read *Principles of Effective Collaboration* by Erica Flora and answer the corresponding questions.

Philippians 2:1-8 (ESV)

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

QUESTIONS:

1. What posture is Paul exhorting the Philippians church to take? In what practical ways is that posture to be expressed?
2. How does Jesus' example speak to the posture of Paul's desires for the Philippian church?

Principles of Effective Collaboration

Erica Flora

Note: On the Local Compassion side of things this principal is commonly put to use at the leader level. When dealing with Global Partners, it is more often at the Coach level; however, never too soon to start learning.

Leaders who want to make a long-lasting impact with our ministry partners first recognize that there is huge value in listening to, learning from, and watching others. Being a constant student, of those you partner with, is one of the biggest keys to success in being a great leader because it helps you broaden and enrich your perspective. Great leaders also humbly recognize their strengths and the part they play in the big picture. Just as the body needs all of its members to function properly, so does a community need all of its sectors to be fully engaged to make significant change.

True collaboration can only take place when we take time to learn from perspectives other than our own.

As you navigate relationships with partners in your ministry, asking questions is such a valuable tool. It not only shows that you are interested in taking the time to understand what they experience, need, and value, and also what they DON'T need and what is NOT helpful. Being knowledgeable about the climate and reality of the various challenges they face will also help you shift the perspectives of those you lead.

Asking questions to gain understanding is crucial because it...

- builds trust.
- informs decisions.
- brings knowledge about various issues the community faces.

- prevents decisions being made on assumptions or community chatter.
- shifts your perspective and demystifies stereotypes about the topic or group.
- helps you learn from others' past mistakes.

Look for Gaps

When we don't take the time to first understand the issue, we can risk wasting time, resources and energy on something that might not solve the problem and could also perpetuate the very issue we set out to resolve.

Example from the local side of Compassion:

When the Anaheim Homeless Collaborative [facilitated by City Net] first came about, the leadership of that group spent one full week at a local "hotspot" for those who are experiencing homelessness. They spent time asking questions and getting to know the transients who live there and began to track how many different groups went to the park for outreach or distributions. What they found was astounding. Not only was it a "hotspot" for those who were experiencing homelessness, it was a "hotspot" for those who were looking to help "the homeless." They discovered that the residents of the park were served nine dinners by nine different groups in a single day! None of these groups were working together, coordinating, or even communicating. With this realization, they knew where they needed to start. Therefore, we at Eastside, do not start any stand-alone program. We only move forward on coordinated efforts to stretch our dollars and ensure that we are helping more than we may be hurting. Our goal is to fill gaps in the community, not duplicate efforts. Don't be hesitant to learn about all of the gaps even if you won't be able to fill all of them.

Know your Resources and Strengths

Once you have learned extensively about a partner, it is important to understand what your resources and strengths you have to offer. Resources could be manpower, money, or items. Examples of strengths are availability, organizational skills, money or passion. Being aware of these will help you meet needs without overextending. It's always better to under commit and over deliver than over commit and under deliver.

Stay Engaged

It is so important to continue to stay engaged. Always be open to feedback and new input. This is key because it shows that you are truly interested in being helpful. Continue to maintain a posture of humility, learning and adaptability.

QUESTIONS:

1. What perspectives have you gained through the art of asking good questions?
2. In what areas can you improve your looking, listening, and learning in your current role at work, home, or community?
3. Who have you seen demonstrate these principles well/poorly?

ASSIGNMENT 2

Read *Flexibility* by Jeff Swaney and answer the corresponding questions.

Flexibility

Jeff Swaney

Flexibility is defined as...a personality trait that describes the extent to which a person can cope with changes in circumstances and think about problems and tasks in novel, creative ways. This trait is used when stressors or unexpected events occur, requiring a person to change their stance, outlook, or commitment.

Flexibility is characterized by...

- ...a ready capability to adapt to new, different, or changing requirements.
- ...inviting others to stretch your potential.
- ...the willingness to change your plans or ideas according to the direction of leaders.
- ...not setting my affections on ideas or plans that could be changed by god or others.
- ...a willingness to change. (Agility is the ability to change!)

Perhaps the simplest definition of flexibility was written and lived out by Jesus when he said: *“For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.”* John 6:38 (ESV)

The opposite of flexibility is resistance – to always oppose change. How can you tell if you are resistant? Ask yourself this question: “What is my first response to suggestions of impending changes?” Is it:

“I can’t!”

☐

“That will never work!”

☐

“That’s crazy!”

☐

“That’s not how we planned it!”

☐

Or, is it:

“I can do that!”

☐

“That could work!”

☐

“That’s a great idea!”

☐

“Our plan was good, but it could be better. Let’s adapt!”

☐

Mark your first response to impending change with a “1”. Continue marking your responses through 8, as your least likely response to change.

QUESTIONS:

1. What characteristic of the definition of flexibility is the most challenging and/or affirming to you? What would you add to the definition?

2. Quick pivots, regular experimentation, and the ability to respond to a rapidly changing environment are strategies that are crucial to project success. Discuss how these attributes contribute to flexibility.
 - a. Which of the three resonates with you most? Why?

- b. Which of the three is the most challenging? Why

ASSIGNMENT 3

- View the video: *Servant Leadership with Ken Blanchard* and answer the corresponding questions.
- Read *The Greatest Servant* by Jeff Swaney and answer the corresponding questions.

Servant Leadership

-- Ken Blanchard

Management legend Ken Blanchard reveals why servant leadership is the only model for better organizations and a better world. Watch the following and answer the corresponding questions. [*Servant Leadership with Ken Blanchard*](#)

1. Significance is a better benchmark for our lives than success. What's the difference between the two? How can we balance the significance quotient of the projects we are involved in with their successes?
2. Servant leadership is other centered. It asks, "What's in the best interest of the other?" And, "How can I help that person succeed?"
3. How often have you been "caught" and acknowledged for doing what's right versus being realigned for where you've gotten off track? Give a percentage. What's the proper balance? Explain.

The Greatest Servant

Jeff Swaney

John 13:1-17 tells the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet:

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The evening meal was in progress...he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean..."

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

When the disciples booked the upper room for the last supper, they had forgotten to book a servant to wash the dirty feet at the door, as was the custom. Yet, when the disciples realized the servant was missing, none of them volunteered for the job. Instead, they argued over who was the greatest.* Jesus saw an opportunity to teach an important lesson, and so, after supper He stripped down to a small piece of cloth around his waist, even looking the part of a servant. He then took a basin of water and a towel and began washing the feet of His disciples.

As He interacted with them, several lessons about servanthood became clear. True Christian servants...

- ...are motivated by love to serve others.
- ...possess a security that allows them to serve others. *The insecure are into titles; the secure are into towels!* (John Maxwell)

- ...take the initiative. Jesus didn't wait for someone to clarify protocol. He saw a need and met it.
- ...expect nothing in return. *Servanthood begins where gratitude and applause end.* (Timothy Keller, Ministries of Mercy 1997)
- ...are able to receive servant ministry from others. A servant's heart can expose pride in others. Peter, for instance, had a hard time letting Jesus serve him.
- ...teach servanthood to others by their example. Jesus let them know that as the Master washed their feet, they should imitate Him.
- ...learn to walk slowly through the crowd.

Most importantly, Jesus' love was undeserved, unending, unconditional and unselfish. He served because He loved. Think about how intentional you are, when it comes to servanthood. How observational? Do you only serve when it's scheduled or suggested, or do you respond with spontaneous compassion?

Thomas à Kempis, who wrote the devotional classic The Imitation of Christ, penned these words concerning servanthood and following in Jesus' steps:

Four things we must do...

- Seek another's best interest rather than our own.*
- Choose always to have less rather than more.*
- Seek the lower places in life, dying to the need to be recognized and important.*
- Always and in everything desire that the will of God may be completely fulfilled in you.*

**A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. - Mark 22:24*

QUESTIONS:

1. What characteristics of true servanthood from Jesus' model recorded in John did you highlight? Why?
2. Have you been on the receiving end of servant ministry? Describe how it made you feel.

3. How does shifting the focus from self to others impact your agenda and pursuit of rewards?

4. How does sacrifice play a role in servant leadership?

What are at least two LEADERSHIP TAKEAWAYS from this module? Be prepared to discuss with your group.

1.

2.