PREPARE MODULE #4

LEADER :: YOUNG ADULTS | EASTSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

COMPETENCY: Connect with people in a way that builds trust and relationships.

OBJECTIVE: Understand the importance of genuine connections in leadership. Learn practical strategies to build trust and strong relationships within your team, particularly focusing on the platforms and communication styles prevalent among young adults.

ASSIGNMENTS: (55 min)

- Assignment 1 // Scripture in Practice (15 mins)
    - Read Matthew 4:18-25, focusing on Jesus' approach to connecting with his disciples.
    - Reflect on how genuine connection can lead to strong team dynamics. Consider the platforms where you connect with others daily (e.g., social media, online meetings).
    - Discuss how these digital environments can both help and hinder genuine connection.
- Assignment 2 // Modern Leadership: Connecting in the Digital Age (20 mins)
    - Read the adapted content from John Maxwell, focusing on connection in leadership.
    - Reflect on how these principles apply in an age where digital communication is dominant. How does social media influence the way we "Live our Message" or "Know our audience"?
    - Consider the challenges of building deep, authentic connections through digital means. How can we ensure sincerity and honesty in our online interactions?

- Assignment 3 // Interactive Session: Embracing Jesus's Model in Today's World (20 mins)
    - Break down the L.E.A.D.E.R.S acronym, relating each aspect to modern scenarios young adults might face, including online communication, social media influences, and the fast-paced digital world.
    - Discuss practical ways to apply these principles in daily life. How can we "Listen" *effectively on social media? How does "Accountability" look in online spaces?*
- Assignment 4 // Real-World Perspectives: Learning from Others (15 mins)
    - Connect with someone you admire. Ask them about their experiences in team settings or community projects. How do they use digital platforms to foster genuine connections and build trust?
    - Share insights with your group, discussing similarities and differences in experiences.
- Group Discussion // Leadership Takeaways in the Digital Era (15 mins)
    - Discuss the complexities of building authentic connections in the digital age. Share stories of successful online interactions that led to genuine relationships or instances where digital communication felt superficial.

ASSIGNMENT #1: (15 min)

Matthew 4:18-25

> Great leaders take the time to become effective. They continually put their people first. If you do not take the time to connect with people, you will not be able to lead them effectively. A leader is not really a leader until he has connected with his people.

18One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. 19Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” 20And they left their nets at once and followed him. 21A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. 22They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind. 23Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. 24News about him spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing

to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all. 25Large crowds followed him wherever he went—people from Galilee, the Ten Towns, Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River.

QUESTIONS:

1. *What themes emerge from Jesus' ministry concerning connecting and building trust?*

2. *How do these themes reflect in our modern understanding of leadership?*

3. *How can these principles be applied in our teams or work environments?*

ASSIGNMENT 2 (10 min)

Adapted from John Maxwell's *21 Minutes in a Leader's Day*
The Best Lessons I Learned from John Maxwell

Connection Requires Intentional Effort:
Leaders Touch a Heart Before They Ask For A Hand

Connect with yourself
You will reproduce what you are in your teams, so before you try and connect with others, learn about yourself. One of the easiest ways to connect with others and learn about yourself is by asking this question to those on your team: “What is it like to be on the other side of me;” then use their responses as a way to learn about how you listen, care, hear, and respond.

Communicate with openness and sincerity
Be honest, honesty paves the path to intimacy and that is where trust is formed. Your team doesn’t need you to be perfect; they need you to be honest. Both with the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Live your message
Your ability to connect with others will flow naturally from you if you’re practicing what you preach. If you talk all day about connection but at the end don’t listen well you will find yourself alone. It is those people that communicate with their words and actions that have staying power and authority to lead.

Know your audience
Leadership is stewardship, especially when it comes to the people you lead. You will never be able to connect with your team if you don’t spend time getting to know them. Ask questions, listen, and learn. There is no greater way to help people on your team connect than by getting to know them.

Communicate on others’ level
As you learn about yourself and about the others on your team, you will also begin to see that they communicate differently. It is our job as leaders to do the hard work by learning and adapting to their needs for communication. It isn't what you say, often it’s how you say it. And nothing can eliminate connection and trust quicker than a misplaced communication.

Believe in people

It's one thing to want connection in order to boss people around, it's another to help them realize their contribution to the kingdom. It is our job to be champions of people at every turn. To encourage, to cheer on, to help get the obstacles out of the way.

Offer direction and hope

Ultimately we want to offer direction and hope towards a proffered future that includes our people and their investment in the kingdom. When a leader has done the hard work of connection and building trust, it is evident in the relationships they have, the direction of their teams, and the outcomes of their projects. Building connection and trust is the invisible currency that creates an opportunity to move any team from here to there.

When connection and trust are built, people feel honored and enthusiastic about being part of teams, the community, and the church. More importantly, they will be more effective at connecting others as well. We win people to what we win people with. Lets win them with connection and trust. If we as leaders can build trust and establish a connection with people then we will be people consistently looked to as the leaders. Leadership is influence and influence is carried by those that are trusted and connected.

QUESTIONS:

1. *Reflect on the statement, "Connect with yourself." How do you perceive yourself in a leadership role, and what feedback have you received from others? Use the question, "What is it like to be on the other side of me?" to guide your thoughts. How can this self-awareness impact your ability to connect with others?*

2. *Choose two principles from the assignment (e.g., "Communicate with openness and sincerity", "Live your Message", "Know your audience") that resonate with you the most. Describe a situation where you witnessed these principles in action or a scenario where applying them could change the outcome. How can these principles help in building a genuine connection with a team or group?*

3. *Think about the obstacles you've encountered or might encounter in building trust and connection within a team or group. How can the concepts of "Believing in People" and "Offering direction and hope" provide solutions to these challenges?*

4. *Considering Jesus's leadership model discussed earlier, how do the principles of "Listening", "Being an example", and "Staying accountable" align with the ideas presented in "Connection Requires Intentional Effort"? How can leaders today merge these ancient and modern concepts to foster deeper trust and connection?*

ASSIGNMENT 3: (25 min)

Understand and internalize the leadership model exhibited by Jesus and relate it to modern leadership principles encapsulated in the L.E.A.D.E.R.S acronym

Part 1: Unpacking Jesus' Leadership Model: L.E.A.D.E.R.S

Acronym Breakdown: (5 Mins)

- **Listen:** Relate James 1:19 to the importance of listening in leadership.
- **Example:** Discuss how 1 Tim 4:12 emphasizes being an exemplary leader.
- **Accountability:** Reflect on Matt 12:36 and its message on accountability.
- **Direction:** Relate Matt 11:28-30 to providing direction as a leader.
- **Encourage:** Discuss 1 Thess 5:11 and the role of encouragement in leadership.
- **Replicate:** Relate Matt 28:19 to the concept of replicating through people.
- **Support:** Reflect on Matt 28:20 and the importance of sending support to those you lead.

Part 2: Reflection on Jesus' Leadership Model: L.E.A.D.E.R.S

Journaling (10 mins)

- Write a reflection on the statement: **"Jesus didn't try to lead something, he loved someone."** What does this mean to you in the context of leadership?

- How can a leader today embody the spirit of this statement?

Part 3: Applying Jesus' Leadership Model: L.E.A.D.E.R.S

Application Exercise (10 mins):

- List down practical ways you can integrate each aspect of the L.E.A.D.E.R.S acronym into your leadership style. For each letter, provide at least one actionable step you can take in the next month.

ASSIGNMENT 4: (15 min)

Connect with someone you admire. Ask them about their experiences in team settings or community projects. How do they use digital platforms to foster genuine connections and build trust? What are the barriers they feel get in the way of being able to trust others well?

- *Share insights with your group, discussing similarities and differences in experiences.*

ASSIGNMENT 5: (15 min)

- *Discuss the complexities of building authentic connections in the digital age. Share 2-3 stories of successful online interactions that led to genuine relationships*
- *Share 1-2 instances where digital communication felt superficial and what impacted that experience.*
- *Brainstorm strategies to overcome the challenges of connecting authentically online. How can we, as young adults, leverage our familiarity with digital platforms to enhance our leadership capabilities?*

LEADERSHIP TAKEAWAYS: (to be completed during group discussion)

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