

## Unit Two: THE FOUNDATION OF OUR LEADERSHIP

### Lesson One: God's Grace

1. For what reason do we lead? Do we lead out of a feeling of responsibility and duty? Is our focus on getting results? Do we focus on pleasing the church members? What is the primary motivation for us to lead? We will begin to answer these questions by looking at an event in the life of Jesus. Read Luke 10:38-42.

What did Mary do when Jesus visited their home? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did Martha do when Jesus visited their home? \_\_\_\_\_  
Martha was D\_\_\_\_\_ (verse 40) by the preparations for Jesus. This caused her to be W\_\_\_\_\_ and U\_\_\_\_\_ (verse 41).  
Mary chose that which was \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 42).

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2. Mary listened to the important things Jesus had to say. However, Martha immediately started making preparations to feed Jesus and his disciples. She was showing hospitality. She was worried, upset and distracted by all the preparations. She felt it was very important to please her guests with a fine meal. She felt it was wrong for Mary not to help her in the preparations. She complained to Jesus about Mary's actions. However, Jesus said that Mary had chosen to do the better thing.

Jesus said that only one thing was needed. What was the one thing that was needed?

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3. The one thing that Jesus needed at that time was for people to listen to the important things he had to teach. This was more important to Jesus than eating or anything else. His teachings were, and still are, more important than eating or anything else that we may feel we need to do. We must first devote our time to developing a relationship with Jesus and understanding his teachings before we try to serve him.

Martha sought Jesus' approval by preparing a fine meal. She had her own ideas about that which was most important. However, Mary sought to know Jesus better. She wanted to know the things which Jesus thought were important. We must be careful that we are not like Martha. If we focus too much on our performance as a leader, we may miss out on knowing and doing the things which are most important to God.

We can build our leadership skills by focusing on **performance** or we can build our leadership skills by focusing on **fellowship with God**. When we focus on our relationship with God, we will know Jesus better and we will understand the things that are important to God.

The foundation for our leadership should be (choose performance or fellowship with God)

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4. The foundation for our leadership must focus on fellowship with God. Performance is important. We must do the best we can to accomplish the work God has called us to do with the resources God has given to us. However, if we focus on our performance, we will fall into traps and our leadership will not be all it can be. Below is a list of the dangers of focusing on performance compared to focusing on our relationship with God.

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| <p><b><u>focus on performance</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. we value rules and routines . . . . .</li> <li>b. we act out of duty . . . . .</li> <li>c. we are driven by guilt . . . . .</li> <li>d. we seek to please men . . . . .</li> <li>e. we compare ourselves to others . . . . .</li> <li>f. we wear ourselves out . . . . .</li> </ul> | <p><b><u>focus on fellowship with God</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. we value relationships</li> <li>b. we act out of love</li> <li>c. we are driven by gratitude to God</li> <li>d. we seek to please God</li> <li>e. we accept and respect others</li> <li>f. we are empowered by God</li> </ul> |
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What do you see as the biggest difference between focusing on performance and focusing on fellowship with God? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. We will discuss your answer in the next group meeting.

Leadership that is done out of a feeling of duty based on human strengths and abilities for the purpose of gaining the approval of others is a leadership that is focused on \_\_\_\_\_.

Leadership that is done out of humble gratitude for God's mercy and a personal experience with God's Word is a leadership that is focused on \_\_\_\_\_.

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6. There is a big difference between focusing on performance and focusing on fellowship with God. When we focus our leadership on a close fellowship with God, the impact of our leadership will be service to others and spiritual growth for both ourselves and others. If we focus our leadership on performance as the most important thing, the impact of our leadership may be worldly rather than spiritual. Below is a comparison of these two impacts.

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| <p><b><u>focus on performance</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. We depend on human strength. . . . .</li> <li>b. We are motivated by rules. . . . .</li> <li>c. We are more interested in the things we want to do than our relationship with God.</li> <li>d. We want to please people. . . . .</li> <li>e. We compare our performance and compete with the performance of others.</li> <li>f. We try to use and control people. . . . .</li> <li>g. We do not feel joy or peace. . . . .</li> <li>h. Our life is uncertain. . . . .</li> <li>i. We are not satisfied with our performance.</li> </ul> | <p><b><u>focus on service</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. We acknowledge our weakness and wait on God's strength and timing.</li> <li>b. We are motivated by love.</li> <li>c. Our relationship with Christ will determine the things we do.</li> <li>d. We are able to say no to people when God shows us the best thing to do.</li> <li>e. We praise God that the service of others also fulfills God's purpose.</li> <li>f. We help people find God's will for their life.</li> <li>g. The fruit of the Spirit are in our life.</li> <li>h. We have peace in our heart and we are confident of God's will for us.</li> <li>i. We are satisfied with where God has put us.</li> </ul> |
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|---|---|
| j. We experience emotional highs and lows.                                | j. We experience a steady spiritual growth to maturity.               |
| k. We perform to get God's approval.                                      | k. We thank God for his mercy and ask him to use us for his purposes. |
| l. We produce people who put their trust in performing religious rituals. | l. We produce spiritually mature people who know God.                 |

A leadership that causes people to follow man made rules, depend on their own strength and evaluate their spiritual growth based on the amount and quality of work they do for the church will have an impact of focusing people's attention on \_\_\_\_\_.

A leadership that causes people to seek God's will for their life and to depend on God for strength, guidance and satisfaction will have an impact of focusing people's attention on \_\_\_\_\_.

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7. We must be careful that we are not distracted with concerns about performance so that we lead people to depend on their own strength and to evaluate their spiritual life in terms of the amount and quality of work they do in the church. God wants us to point people toward Jesus Christ where they will learn to depend on him and discover God's purpose for their life. The impact of this type of leadership will be service to God, service to others and spiritual maturity.

Dr. John Maxwell says, "Our ministry must move from performance to service." We must pursue fellowship with God before we pursue quality in our performance. "We cannot be grace-givers until we are grace-receivers."

It is only by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God that we can be the kind of leader he wants us to be.

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8. Through fellowship with God we will experience the grace of God which will enable us to know his purpose for our life. His grace will then enable us to be effective in carrying out his purpose in our life. When we seek God's will for our life through Bible study and prayer, and submit to his will, it will not be us who is leading, but it will be God leading through us. This is the reason we must always give God the credit for any good thing that comes from us. Our performance will not be based on our strengths and abilities. Our performance will be based on allowing God to use us for his purposes.

Do you want your leadership to be based on your performance or on God's grace? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. A leadership based on God's grace can be powerful. We cannot be the leader God wants until we spend time in fellowship with him to understand the grace he has for us. Every success in God's kingdom comes by God's grace through our faith in him, not through faith in our own abilities to perform.

Here are some teachings of how God's grace works. Let us say that you have the gift of giving that the Apostle Paul mentioned in Romans. Paul said, "*if it [your gift] is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously (Romans 12:8).*" Now read the things that Paul wrote concerning giving in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

If we have the gift of giving and we use that gift to give generously and cheerfully, God will make his grace to \_\_\_\_\_ on us so that we will have all that we \_\_\_\_\_ . We will also \_\_\_\_\_ in every good work.  
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10. If we use the gift that God has given to us in generous and cheerful service to others, God's grace will abound on us. We will have everything we need. We will abound in every good work. The word abound means to occur in large numbers, to be well supplied, to be filled.

Now read the rest of the things Paul wrote about using the gift of giving generously and cheerfully. Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-11.

The person who uses his gift of giving generously and cheerfully to serve others will be made \_\_\_\_\_ in every way. He will also be able to give generously on \_\_\_\_\_ occasion.  
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11. The person who cheerfully and generously uses his gift of giving to serve others will never be poor. He will be rich in every way. This means every part of his life will be blessed. He will also continue to be rich in money so that he can give generously on every occasion.

Look at verse 11 again.

Who will be honored by the generous giver? \_\_\_\_\_  
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12. God is the one to honor for the blessings that come through the gifts given by men. We can thank the person who gave, but we must always honor God as the one who enabled the person to give. If you have the gift of giving, you must always direct people to honor God for any blessings received from your giving.

Now do you understand how the grace of God works to make us successful leaders? It works the same way no matter which gift he has given to us. We look to God to show us the best thing to do with the gift he has given to us. Then we ask him to enable us to do it

for his glory. His grace begins to work in our life. He is able to do powerful things through us as long as we look to him for strength and give him the glory. It is not our performance that will be a blessing. It is allowing God to use us for his purposes that will be a blessing.

One more thing about using the gift of giving before we move on. Read Malachi 3:8-12, Luke 7:38 and 2 Corinthians 8:1-7.

Do you think that God gives the gift of giving only to rich people? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. We will discuss your answer at the next group meeting. Just remember, God has given us gifts that we may not realize we have. The successful use of our gifts depends on God's grace, not on our performance.

Here are some more thoughts about how God's grace can make us successful leaders. Paul had a problem in his body that made him physically weak. We do not know the kind of problem that Paul had, but he called it a "thorn in my flesh." This problem became an opportunity for Paul to witness to God's grace. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

God can use our weaknesses, hardships, persecutions and difficulties to demonstrate his G\_\_\_\_\_ and his P\_\_\_\_\_.

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14. God's grace and power can be demonstrated through our weaknesses and our hardships. God may be calling us to keep our weakness or to continue in our hardship so that his grace and his power can be seen by others. God may give us special gifts so that we can continue in our weakness and our hardship in a way that will bring glory to him.

The Apostle Paul was not wealthy. He was not liked by many religious leaders who focused on their personal performance instead of their fellowship with God. However, Paul's witness for the truth and his teachings were powerful. His high intelligence and his deep understanding of the Old Testament were gifts that were powerfully used by God to spread and establish the church in other nations beyond Israel. We still look to his writing to teach us God's will for the church. Read the things Paul wrote about his own leadership in 1 Corinthians 15:9-10.

Paul worked harder than any of the apostles, but it was the \_\_\_\_\_ that made him a successful apostle.

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15. We must learn to accept and rely on the grace of God if we want to be successful leaders for him. Read Ephesians 2:8-10.

It is by God's \_\_\_\_\_ that we have been saved and it will be by God's \_\_\_\_\_ that we will be successful leaders.

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16. We must always look to God's grace. We need his grace for every part of our life from our salvation to our service for him. We need to have a grace filled lifestyle. Our successful leadership will come through our fellowship with God. Our successful performance will come through the power of God. It is only by God's grace that we can be successful in carrying out his purpose for us.

The success of our leadership will depend on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. We will develop this foundation for our leadership when we focus our life and our leadership on \_\_\_\_\_ and not on our \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Unit Two: THE FOUNDATION OF OUR LEADERSHIP

### Lesson Two: Emotional Security

1. Problems can develop, get worse and never be resolved because of emotional insecurity in leadership. Emotional insecurity is another name for a lack of self-confidence. A leader may feel personally attacked when others do not agree with him. He may feel neglected or useless or a failure when no one seems to notice the things he has done. He may feel like a failure when no one calls for his help. For these reasons he may be afraid to confront a problem. He may lack courage to stand up for the things he knows are God's will. He may even become a part of the problem. If you do not have emotional security or self-confidence, you may allow your emotions to lead you into a wrong decision or a bad action.

A leader may not realize he is suffering from emotional insecurity. However, emotional insecurity will keep him from being the leader God has called him to be. There are six dangerous attitudes that can weaken our emotional security and cause us to make mistakes. Those dangerous attitudes are comparison, compensation, competition, compulsion, condemnation and control. These are not totally bad attitudes, but they can be dangerous if the motives behind them are not evaluated and properly controlled. We are going to look at some examples of emotional insecurity in the Bible as we try to see how these dangerous attitudes combined with wrong motive and emotional weaknesses can mislead us.

List the dangerous attitudes that can mislead us and destroy our emotional security. You will understand them as we go through this lesson.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |

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2. The six attitudes that can mislead us and destroy our emotional security are: comparison, compensation, competition, compulsion, condemnation and control.

Jesus told a story about a farmer who hired men to work in his harvest. Some were hired early in the morning and others were hired towards the end of the day. At the end of the day some of the workers were unhappy. Read Matthew 20:9-16.

Some workers were unhappy because the men who were hired toward the end of the day were treated \_\_\_\_\_ to those who had worked all day.

Did the farmer fail to fulfill his agreement with the men who had worked all day? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you suppose that the farmer was willing to pay those who had worked only a short time the same wage as those who worked all day? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Some workers were unhappy because the farmer treated those who had worked a short time equal to those who had worked all day. The farmer did not cheat those who had worked all day, but he did have mercy on those who had not worked long enough to earn a full day's wage. He knew they also had family responsibilities and needed the money. His harvest was good and he could afford to be generous to those who had special needs. Everyone had the money he needed even though some had worked harder than others. We can say that the farmer was generous and showed mercy.

Those who had worked all day did not think about the needs of others. They did not rejoice that others were going to be blessed by the farmer. They wanted to compare their performance to the performance of others. When they saw that they were not being rewarded more because of their longer performance, they felt emotionally insecure. This led them to be critical of the farmer and to feel cheated.

We can feel emotionally insecure when we C\_\_\_\_\_ our rewards to the rewards of others.

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4. We can become emotionally insecure when we compare our rewards with the rewards of others. We may know we are working as hard or harder to serve God than others. However, when we compare ourselves to others we may notice that others are paid better, they live in a better place, they get more praise for the things they do, or in some other way their circumstances seem to be better than ours. We may feel jealousy or we may feel mistreated. When these emotions are applied to the comparison, we may make bad decisions and say wrong things. This is how the Apostle Peter felt about the Apostle John. Read the things Jesus said to Peter in John 21:18-21.

The important thing in life is not our rewards on earth nor the circumstances under which we serve God. The important thing is that we F\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

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5. The most important thing is that we follow Jesus by using our gifts where, how and when he asks us. God knows all things and he knows how we can best serve him. Our rewards are waiting for us in heaven. Worldly praise and earthly rewards are not the most important things.

Jacob of the Old Testament is another example of emotional insecurity. Jacob did many wrong things because of his emotional insecurity. Complete each statement below after reading the scripture.

Jacob tried to compensate for the fact that he was the second born by stealing the \_\_\_\_\_ . Genesis 27:18-19

Jacob tried to compensate for the fact that his father-in-law was not treating him fairly by taking his father-in-law's \_\_\_\_\_ . Read Genesis 30:41-43 and 31:1-2.

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6. The word compensate means to try to make something right or equal. Our emotional insecurity may lead us to have our own idea about which things that are right or equal. Because of our emotional insecurity, we may do something that is wrong in order to compensate. Emotional insecurity led Jacob to steal the family blessing / birthright. It led him to take the stronger animals of his father-in-law.

Emotional insecurity can lead us to do wrong things in order to C \_\_\_\_\_ when we feel we are not being treated in an equal or a fair manner.

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7. Trying to compensate for something that we feel is unequal or unfair can lead us to do a wrong thing. We may compensate in a wrong way because of our emotional insecurity. We may steal or cheat because we feel we are not paid enough. We may be deceptive or tell lies about others because we feel we are not praise enough.

Jesus told the story about a son who took his inheritance while his father was still alive. He wasted it on sinful living. When the son humbly returned home with a repentant heart, his older brother struggled with emotional insecurity. Read about the brother's response in Luke 15:25-32.

The older brother felt he was in competition for his fathers love when the father gave a \_\_\_\_\_ for the return of the younger brother.

This made the older brother to become A \_\_\_\_\_ with his father.

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8. Emotional insecurity led the older brother to become angry and feel he was in competition with his younger brother. The older brother felt the party indicated that the father loved the younger brother more. The older brother tried to convince the father that he was the better son. The truth was that the party was celebrating the younger brother's repentance and had nothing to do with which son was more important to the father. The

father was happy to have both of his sons at home. The younger brother would never hold a respectable position in the family like the older brother, but he would be back in the family. For the father, that was a good reason to celebrate. He loved both of his sons.

When circumstances make it appear as if we are not as important as someone else, our emotional insecurity will lead us to feel we are in C\_\_\_\_\_ for the love and the respect of others.

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9. When someone gets special attention and we do not, emotional insecurity can lead us to focus on competition instead of service. The older brother should have had mercy on his younger brother and also rejoiced at his repentance. However, because he did not feel secure in his relationship with his father, he viewed the circumstances as a competition. He did not share his father's joy over the return of a lost son. People who are focused on competition keep score on people's life. They are very critical of others and they are very proud of themselves. They find it difficult to forgive and show mercy. An attitude of love and service keeps no record of wrongs (1 Corinthians 13:5).

Now let us look at Mary and Martha again (Luke 10:38-42). Martha felt that her performance as a hostess was the most important thing for her to think about. She felt compulsion (emotionally forced) to make everything in her house perfect for Jesus. This compulsion led her to work hard in her preparations. It led her to criticize Mary for not joining her in the preparations. Because of this compulsion, she missed the important thing that was happening in her house.

Martha wanted everything in her house to be \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus. She wanted Mary to help her with the hard \_\_\_\_\_ of the preparations. She missed the \_\_\_\_\_ thing that was happening.

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10. Some people who are emotionally insecure are driven by a feeling of compulsion. They want everything to be perfect. They work hard to please other people. Their emotional security depends on pleasing others and receiving their praise. They take pride in their performance and judge others by their own standard of success. But, sometimes they miss the most important thing that they should be doing.

People who wear themselves out trying to make things perfect in order to please others, but miss doing the most important thing are driven by C\_\_\_\_\_.

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11. The compulsion to be perfect and to please others can be a sign of emotional insecurity. It can lead us to miss God's will for our life. We may miss important opportunities and we may misjudge others because we are focusing our attention on the wrong thing. We may become tired from doing work, but the work we do may not fulfill God's purpose for our life. We may miss out on something that is important to God.

The prophet Elijah had a different type of problem with emotional insecurity. Do you remember the time when he challenged the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel? He proved that the prophets of Baal were false prophets. He thought this would convince King Ahab and his wife Jezebel to repent of their evil ways. However, the opposite thing happened. Read 1 Kings 19:1-18.

Elijah condemned himself, he condemned the King and he condemned the nation of Israel. He decided he had \_\_\_\_\_ of this struggle against idol worship and he wanted to \_\_\_\_\_.

Elijah felt he was the \_\_\_\_\_ one left who was trying to follow God. God told him that there were \_\_\_\_\_ left who had not worshipped Baal.

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12. Although Elijah did exactly as God asked him to do, the impact on Israel and its king were not the results he expected. His emotional insecurity led him to feel that his challenge with the prophets of Baal had been a total failure. Emotional insecurity led him to condemn both himself and his ancestors for failing to bring King Ahab and his wife Jezebel to repentance. He felt he was the only person who was trying to do God's will. He lost all hope that his people would repent. He felt he had struggled and sacrificed for nothing. He decided he had enough of the struggle. He was so discouraged, he wanted to die. He did not realize that there were yet seven thousand faithful followers of God left in Israel. Those followers needed encouragement. Those followers needed Elijah to continue his fight so they would not become discouraged or tempted to follow Baal.

Emotional insecurity may lead us to C\_\_\_\_\_ ourselves and others for something which seems like a failure.

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13. Elijah condemned himself even though he had done God's will. Sometimes we feel as if we are a failure because we do not see any good results from our work. We are tempted to quit the struggle against evil and abandon God's work. We may not realize the good we have done. We may never have the opportunity to see it, but God sees it. Seven thousand Israelites remained faithful to God because of the things Elijah had done. Elijah's work had accomplished God's purpose and God was pleased with Elijah. The most important thing is that we do God's will, whether we please men or not. Read the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:3-5.

If we are doing the will of God and fulfilling his purpose for our life, then our conscience should be \_\_\_\_\_.

We will not know all the results of our work until the Lord \_\_\_\_\_.

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14. There were some religious leaders who condemned Paul for the way he did missionary work. Paul reminds us that it is only when the Lord comes that we will know all the results of our work. At that time God will praise us for our faithfulness when it seemed as if we were failing. If we are fulfilling God's will for our life, then our conscience should be clear. We must be sure we are doing God's will and we must be careful that emotional insecurity does not lead us to condemn ourselves when others think we have failed.

Sometimes emotional insecurity will lead us to try to control things when we do not live up to the expectations of others. God promised Abraham that he would have children who would be a blessing to the world. Sarah, the wife of Abraham, was very old and had no children. This was not acceptable in her culture. She felt embarrassed. Read Genesis 16:1-6 to learn the thing she did about it.

Who did Sara say had kept her from having children? \_\_\_\_\_

Sarah controlled the circumstances of having no children by forcing Abraham to have children by \_\_\_\_\_.

When the maid servant became proud because she was going to have Abraham's child, Sarah blamed \_\_\_\_\_ for it.

Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ Hagar until she finally fled.

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15. Sarah was not happy with the way her marriage was going. She blamed God for not having children. Emotional insecurity led Sarah to control her marriage and force Abraham to have a child by her maidservant, Hagar. This was an acceptable custom in the culture of that day, but it was not God's will and it was not the child that God had promised to Abraham. When Sarah's plan caused Hagar to become proud, she blamed Abraham for the problem. When Abraham refused to take any action, she used her controlling ways to mistreat Hagar until Hagar became unhappy and fled from the household.

When something does not turn out like we expect, emotional insecurity can lead us to blame others for the results and to C \_\_\_\_\_ things so that our expectations can be fulfilled.

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16. Emotional insecurity can lead us to control things in a way that we think will result in meeting our expectations. In the end, we only create more problems. Sarah's decision for Hagar to have a child by Abraham resulted in the birth of Ishmael. Ishmael is the father of the Arab nations. These are the nations that support Islam which is disturbing peace in the world today. Sarah's decision not only caused problems in her family, it caused problems in the world.

When our expectations are not met and we feel embarrassed, frustrated or discouraged about it, we may be tempted to take control of God's work in a way that is outside of God's will. We may do things that are against his teachings as we try to make things happen. We may create more problems than we solve.

Dangerous attitudes combined with wrong emotions will lead us to make wrong decisions and take bad actions. Emotional insecurity can keep us from seeing the truth and can cause us to believe a lie. **Comparison** will lead us to believe we have been cheated. **Compensation** will lead us to believe we are justified in taking wrong actions. **Competition** will lead us to believe we are not respected. **Compulsion** will lead us to believe we are doing the best thing. **Condemnation** will lead us to believe we have failed. **Control** will lead us to believe that we know the best thing to do. We deceive ourselves into believing lies.

Emotional insecurity leads us to believe \_\_\_\_\_ about ourselves and our circumstances.

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17. We will believe lies because of our emotional insecurity. These lies lead us to make bad decisions and to take wrong actions. We need to be on the lookout for things that may cause us to compare, compensate for or try to control circumstances. We must recognize when circumstances cause us to experience feelings of competition, compulsion or condemnation.

When we have these wrong feelings and dangerous attitudes, we need to discover the L\_\_\_\_\_ that is deceiving us to feel or act this way. We also need to discover God's \_\_\_\_\_ for our life under these circumstances.

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18. If we are going to avoid the mistakes of emotional insecurity, we must discover the lies that deceives us to feel insecure. We must focus on God's will for our life. We must realize that we each have a different life to live for God. We must base our emotional security totally on having a right relationship with God. The moment we begin basing our emotional security on our performance in the eyes of this world, we will start falling into the traps of these six dangerous attitudes. The wrong application of one dangerous attitude can lead to the wrong application of others in the list. We may be guilty of applying several of these attitudes in the wrong way to the same set of circumstances.

We can feel emotionally secure when we:

- (1) humbly admit to ourselves and to God our sins and our weaknesses.
- (2) know we are saved and loved by Jesus Christ.
- (3) humbly admit we cannot do it alone but we need the help of God and others to do God's will.
- (4) submit to God's will and know we are doing the work God has called us to do.

It is not our circumstances that should make us feel secure, it is our relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ and fulfilling his \_\_\_\_\_ for our life.

From the list on the right find the lie that we believe for each emotion of insecurity listed. Write the number for each lie in front of the emotion that causes us to believe that lie.

Dangerous Attitudes

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. comparison
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. compensation
- \_\_\_\_\_ C. competition
- \_\_\_\_\_ D. compulsion
- \_\_\_\_\_ E. condemnation
- \_\_\_\_\_ F. control

The Lies we believe

1. We think we know the best thing to do.
2. We think we are justified in doing a wrong thing.
3. We believe we have failed.
4. We feel we have been cheated.
5. We think we are doing the best thing.
6. We feel we are not respected.

***At the next group meeting be prepared to discuss how each of these dangerous attitudes can destroy our emotional security.***

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## Unit Two: THE FOUNDATION OF OUR LEADERSHIP

### Lesson Three: The Ultimate Purpose of Leadership

1. The word **ultimate** means the greatest, the highest and the most important. In this lesson we want you to learn the most important reason for being a Christian Leader. We want you to understand, accept and make a part of your life the greatest goal you should have as a Christian Leader. Once you understand this ultimate purpose for leadership, it will encourage you to become the best leader you can possibly be. We will start by asking some questions.

It is good to be a leader, but for what reason should we become a Christian leader? Is it because we are concerned about our personal maturity? Is it because we are concerned about our local church? Is it because we are concerned about our community? All of these are important and must be involved in our leadership, but there is a purpose that includes these and more.

God has spoken to us by his \_\_\_\_\_ . (Hebrews 1:1-2)

All things were \_\_\_\_\_ by Jesus. (Colossians 1:15-16)

God wants \_\_\_\_\_ person to worship Jesus. (Philippians 2:9-11)

God sent Jesus to be the Saviour of the \_\_\_\_\_ . (John 3:16)

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2. God loves everyone in the world. He sent his only son, Jesus, to deliver this message of love and to pay the penalty for the sins of all mankind. Jesus was with God in the beginning and he created everything (John 1:1-4). Everyone who accepts Jesus as Lord and follows his teachings brings glory to God.

As a Christian Leader, how can we increase the glory that is given to God? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. We can increase the glory given to God by helping people to accept Jesus as their Lord. God has always wanted to have close fellowship with mankind. He created us in his image and put us in the special garden. He gave us a choice to continue fellowship with him or to turn our backs on him. It is mankind that has chosen to turn away from God. However, God has never totally given up. He has always been reaching out to call mankind back into his fellowship.

Who was to be blessed through Abraham? (Genesis 12:3) \_\_\_\_\_

God blessed the Israelites so that his name might be known on \_\_\_\_\_ and his salvation might be among all \_\_\_\_\_ . Psalm 67:1-2

\*\*\*\*\*

4. God did not bless Abraham just so his descendants could become great. He blessed Abraham so that his descendants could be a blessing to all peoples of the world. God wanted the Jews (Israelites, descendants of Abraham) to make God's ways known on the earth and to bring fellowship with God to all nations. However they failed to do this because of their self-interests and their disobedience.

Jesus has asked us to make disciples for him in \_\_\_\_\_ . (Matthew 28:19)

Jesus' sacrifice is for the sins of the \_\_\_\_\_ . (1 John 2:2)

\*\*\*\*\*

5. Jesus has made a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. He has asked us to make disciples in all nations of the world. The Jews failed to bring glory to God in this world, but we can bring glory to God by bringing people to Jesus no matter where they live or which tribe they are from. God's purpose for each one of us has something to do with this ultimate purpose. If we fulfill his purpose in our life, we will be doing something that, in some way, will be involved in bringing others into his fellowship. Read Revelation 5:9-10

Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ of the worship of every tribe, and language and people and nation.

\*\*\*\*\*

6. We want to bring all nations to Jesus because he is worthy of their worship. Our ultimate purpose is not to win souls, but to bring worship to Jesus and to bring glory to God. Worship will continue for all eternity, but the winning of souls will come to an end some day.

What is the ultimate purpose of evangelism and mission work? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. The purpose of evangelism and mission work is to bring worship to Jesus and glory to God. Our leadership and our service to God will contribute to this ultimate purpose if we can see the world the way Jesus saw it. Read Mark 6:34.

if we are like Jesus, we will have \_\_\_\_\_ on people who do not know how to live a righteous life that pleases God. We will see them as sheep without a \_\_\_\_\_ . We will want to \_\_\_\_\_ like Jesus did.

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8. We need to have compassion on the people of this world. They are confused like sheep who do not have a shepherd. They do not know which way to go and they do not have a reliable leader. They do not know how to live a good, righteous life. We need to teach them many things about God and his ways. We need to lead them to God.

There are over six billion people on this world. About one fourth (1/4) of them do not have access to any teaching about God. Most of the unbelievers who have access to God's teaching do not realize the value of it, because no one has taken the time to personally explain to them who Jesus is. We can do something about this. Read Romans 10:14.

Before people can worship Jesus and bring glory to God, someone must \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus.

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9. It is very important that we take time to teach unbelievers about Jesus. This is the only way that they will know who Jesus is, worship him and bring glory to God. The English translations of the Bible tell us that Jesus asked us to make disciples in all nations. The English word "nation" means a political government. The original Greek word in this passage is *ethnos* which really should be translated ethnic groups or tribes.

The original Greek tells us that Jesus want us to make disciples in all \_\_\_\_\_.  
\*\*\*\*\*

10. Jesus wants us to make disciples in all tribes no matter where they may be living. It is not that we should teach and preach Jesus in every political nation, but we should teach and preach about Jesus among every tribal group in this world.

What was Paul's ambition about preaching the gospel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 15:20-22)  
\*\*\*\*\*

11. The ambition and the priority of Apostle Paul was to preach the gospel where Christ was not known. He quoted Isaiah 52:15 where Isaiah prophesied that Gentiles who had been denied the privilege in the past would hear about God and understand who he is through his son Jesus. Paul was hindered (kept from) visiting the believers in Rome because he was busy taking the gospel to those who did not know Jesus. He promised to visit the believers in Rome on his way to Spain where the gospel had not yet been preached (Romans 15:23-24).

Jesus called his first disciples to be his witnesses: Acts 1:8  
in \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
and to \_\_\_\_\_  
\*\*\*\*\*

12. Jesus' last commandment to his followers was that they teach others about him in Jerusalem (*the city where they were living*), in Judea and Samaria (*the regions near to them*) and to the ends of the earth. The first believers in Jerusalem devoted themselves to this work by first of all preparing themselves to serve.

The first believers devoted themselves to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:41-42)

The first believers did many things T\_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:45-46)

The first believers enjoyed the \_\_\_\_\_ of all people in Jerusalem. (Acts 2:47)

What was the result of their strong witness in Jerusalem? ( Acts 2:47) \_\_\_\_\_  
\*\*\*\*\*

13. The first believers prepared themselves to be witnesses for Jesus by devoting themselves to the teachings of the Apostles, to fellowship with one another, to the Lord's Supper and to prayer. They did many things together, even sharing their possessions, so they could be a strong witness for Jesus in Jerusalem. These new Christians were viewed in a favorable way by the citizens of Jerusalem. People were being saved daily as a result of their witness.

Some of the Jewish leaders did not like all the favorable attention that was given to Jesus and his followers. It made them look bad because they were the ones who demanded that Jesus be crucified. They stirred up the citizens against Christians. They led the people to kill Stephen, one of the young evangelists. Read the next thing that happened in Acts 8:1-4.

What did these Christians do everywhere they were scattered? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Although these first Christians were persecuted and scattered, they continued to preach about Jesus everywhere they went. They became his witnesses in the regions of Judea and Samaria. They went to all parts of the Roman Empire with the gospel. Not everyone of them was an evangelist or a teacher. However, each one of them had gifts from God that they could use to be his witnesses. Each one of them brought some leadership to the work of building God's Kingdom. Each one used his or her gifts in a way that brought people to worship Jesus and to glorify God.

Someone has brought the gospel to you. Who are you going to take it to? What if no one had brought the gospel to you? What would you be today?

What is the ultimate purpose of our leadership? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. The ultimate purpose of our leadership is to bring people to Jesus so they will worship him and bring glory to God. As a leader we must use our gifts for this purpose. As a leader we must help others to discover their gifts and to find a way to use their gifts that will bring others to Jesus and will bring glory to God.

#### PERSON NOTES FOR PERSONAL GROWTH:

Below is a form to help you discover and/or plan how you and your church can fulfill this ultimate purpose of leadership. The first column is a list of *things to think about* in order to fulfill this purpose. The second, third and fourth columns are the areas where Jesus has asked us to do it. Write the things your church is doing in the box below each area and beside each list of *things to think about*. For example, you may be trying to reach the youth of your community, so you can write the word youth in the box that is under *community* and is beside "*Who are we trying to reach?*" Next look at the column labeled *region* and write the people group or age group you are trying to reach in the region you listed. Do the same thing for *ends of the earth*. If you cannot write something in one of these boxes, you will want to pray about it and to investigate ways to meet that need. You may be able to partner with someone who is already doing something that fits in that box. That is the purpose of the last row of boxes at the bottom. If you are partnering with someone who is working in these areas, then you can fill in those boxes as well. If not, you may want to find someone that you can partner with so you can write something in that box.

<i>(things to think about)</i>	<b>COMMUNITY (Jerusalem)</b>	<b>REGION (Judea/Samaria)</b>	<b>ENDS OF THE EARTH</b>
<b>Where are we trying to reach? (location)</b>			
<b>Who are we trying to reach? (age group or tribe)</b>			
<b>How should we reach them? (our strategy)</b>			
<b>Who should we partner with? (other churches or organizations)</b>			

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## Unit Two: THE FOUNDATION OF OUR LEADERSHIP

### Lesson Four: Write a Mission Statement for Your Life

1. Leadership is more than responding to the needs around us. There is something that God wants us to do which goes beyond our circumstances. If we wait for things to happen, then we are on the defensive. If we discover God's purpose for our life and begin to fulfill that purpose, then we are on the offensive.

We have said a lot about God's purpose for your life and how to find it. Now it is time for you to focus on God's special purpose for your life and make a plan to fulfill it. This plan will be your personal mission statement.

First, let us review some guidelines for identifying our gifts and discovering the things God wants us to do with them. See if you can fill in the blank spaces below.

God has given each one of us a different P \_\_\_\_\_ to fulfill in his Kingdom.  
We will be the happiest when we F \_\_\_\_\_ his purpose for our life.  
Our purpose is probably built on the primary G \_\_\_\_\_ God has given to us.

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2. We can never be happy trying to be like someone else. We each have a different purpose in God's Kingdom. We will be happy only when we are fulfilling God's purpose for our life. God's purpose is built on the gifts he has given to us. This is the reason we will never be happy trying to be like someone else. We do not have the gifts to be like someone else. We only have the gifts to fulfill God's purpose for our life.

We can identify our gifts in the following ways:

- our gifts are the things that we do W \_\_\_\_\_.
- Our gifts are the things that O \_\_\_\_\_ say we do well.
- Our gifts are things that we E \_\_\_\_\_ doing.
- We can know that something is our gift when it produces F \_\_\_\_\_.

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3. The first place to start in discovering our gifts is to take note of the things that we do well and the things that others say we do well. These will also be things that we enjoy doing and things that produce fruit.

Another way to discover our gifts is to T \_\_\_\_\_ doing things we have never done before.

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4. You may have some hidden gifts that you are not aware of. The way to discover them is to try doing things you have never done before. When you did the gift discovery worksheet on page 13, there may have been a statement you could not respond to accurately because you had never experienced the circumstances in the statement. This may be an area that you need to explore to see if you have some gifts for it. With God's help we can develop new skills and do new things. Sometimes our calling will lead us to discover gifts we did not realize we had.

God is calling each one of us to fulfill his purpose in our life. There are different ways in which God calls us to our purpose. Our calling will be different from the calling of others. Here are some ways that God called people in the Bible. These are also ways that God may call you to your purpose.

When God called the Apostle Paul, God got his attention with a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and Paul heard the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. (Acts 9:1-6  
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5. Paul was a sincere man who was determined to do the right thing, but he was totally wrong in his understanding of God's will. It was for these reasons that God had to take special action with a bright light to get Paul's attention and then speak directly to Paul before Paul would believe what his true purpose was. God calls only a few people like this. They are usually people who have a strong will and do not submit easily to God.

Esther had been raised by her uncle because her parents died. She was chosen to be the new Queen by King Xerxes. She was from the tribe of the Jews who were under the control of his empire but she did not reveal this to the King. After some time had passed, a government official tricked the King into passing a law that would result in the death of all Jews. Read the message from Esther's uncle concerning this serious problem and her response. Read Esther 4:12-16.

It was not until a special problem arose that Esther and her uncle realized that God's purpose for her life had something to do with her \_\_\_\_\_ position.  
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6. Esther took the opportunity to be in a royal position as the Queen. She did not realize the purpose of this opportunity until the serious problem came. It was then that she knew God had a special work for her to do. She was the only one who could save God's people. It may take time before we know the special work that God is calling us to do. We may need to just keep on doing the things we do best and take every opportunity to improve our life until God shows us the special work we can do for him with the blessings and resources he has put into our hands. Whatever we can do, we need to do it the best we can until God shows us how we can use it for him.

Joseph was a favored son of Jacob. Out of jealousy, his brothers sold him as a slave into Egypt. Joseph was a good worker, but he was wrongly put into prison because of the lust of his master's wife. Joseph did not become bitter or discouraged because of all the bad things that happened to him. He continued to trust God. He remained a righteous person. He continued to work hard and to do his best with every opportunity that was given to him in the prison. He did not use his circumstances as an excuse to stop doing good for others. Eventually God enabled him to become second in authority in Egypt. Many years passed before Joseph realized God's purpose in all the hardships he had endured. Read Genesis 45:4-8.

We may have to endure H \_\_\_\_\_ in order to fulfill God's purpose in our life.  
\*\*\*\*\*

7. It was not until much later in his life that Joseph realized that his hardships were part of God's purpose for his life. He remained faithful to God and he continued to work hard and live a righteous life even though he was mistreated by men. God's calling and purpose for us may not become clear until after we have lived much of our life. God may be using our circumstances to set us up where we can serve him. It may seem as if we are not doing anything useful for God, but we do not know his plans. It may be necessary for us to remain faithful to God and his ways even in hardship until he finally reveals his special purpose for us.

These are just a few examples of how God has called others and shown them his purpose for their life and their place of leadership in his kingdom. From these examples we can learn that:

- a. If we are stubborn and strong willed like the Apostle Paul, God may have to take special \_\_\_\_\_ and speak \_\_\_\_\_ to us before we will know his purpose for our life. (See frame 5.)
- b. Like Esther, we may not realize why God is blessing us until we see a serious \_\_\_\_\_ that only we can solve because of where God has put us. (See Frames 5 and 6.)
- c. Like Joseph, we may have to endure \_\_\_\_\_ in order to arrive at the place where God can use us. (See this frame and frame 6.)

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8. God has a different purpose for each one of us. He will reveal that purpose to each one of us in a different way. For some he may take special action and speak directly. For others, they will discover it when they find a problem that only they can solve. Others may have to endure hardships before God can use them.

The important thing is that we remain \_\_\_\_\_ to God and continue to live a \_\_\_\_\_ life no matter what our circumstances may be.

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9. No matter what our circumstances may be, we will not learn God's purpose for our life unless we remain faithful to God and continue to live a righteous life.

At the end of our life we want to be able, like Jesus, to say that we have brought \_\_\_\_\_ to God by \_\_\_\_\_ the work he gave us to do. (John 17:4)

At the end of our life we want to be able, like Apostle Paul, to say that we have \_\_\_\_\_ the good fight and \_\_\_\_\_ the faith. (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

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10. The ultimate purpose of our life is to bring glory to God by completing the work he has given to us. In order to do this, we must continue to fight for the good things and keep our faith.

**PERSON NOTES FOR PERSONAL GROWTH:**

Now let's start working on a personal mission statement.

**STEP ONE:**

The first step is to list the things in your life that God can use for his purpose in your life. Use the categories below to make your lists. Some things about your life may apply to more than one list. Be sure to write them on every list where they apply.

A. Make a list of the things that you do well. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

B. Make a list of the things you enjoy doing. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- C. Make a list of the things that others say you do well. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Make a list of the things you have done that brought fourth some spiritual fruit.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- E. List the circumstances in your life that few people have experienced. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- F. List the opportunities which you have that others may not have. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- G. List specific resources which you have that could be used in some way to do the Lord's work. These are things like property, possessions, time, money and positions of leadership or influence in the community and in the world. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- H. Make a list of things you feel you might be able to do but have never tried.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP TWO:**

Now make a list of three things that appear more than once in lists A, B, C, and D. If there are not at least three of them, choose three that you feel are your strongest abilities. If there are more than three, then list up to 5 possible things that you can do well, but choose only your stronger abilities. Leave the line behind each item blank for the next step.

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (4) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (5) \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP THREE:**

Now look at the things you wrote in lists E, F, G and H. These are opportunities and resources that you can combine with your gifts to fulfill your purpose. On the blank line behind each ability that you listed in step two, write items from lists E, F, G and H that can be joined to that ability as an opportunity or a resource to make use of that ability. Some items may be useful to more than one ability. Be sure to write the item behind every ability where it can be used by that ability.

**STEP FOUR:**

The fourth step is to understand how your abilities, opportunities and resources can fit into God's purpose. Remember that God's purpose for you will fit into his priorities. His priorities are summed up in the great commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and in the two greatest commandments. "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. . . . Love your neighbor as yourself.*" (Matthew 22:37-39) God's purpose for you will probably involve the unique things you listed in step two that fit into his

priorities.

God's purpose for you will in some way involve helping others. It will be bigger than yourself. It will be something that will require the help of others and the blessings of God in order to be successful. It may be something that you will do in partnership with others. It may take a life time to fulfill. It will be God-sized, not man-sized.

Do not under estimate the ability of God to work through you. God's purpose for you will be something that will change lives and bring blessings on others. It will be so fulfilling and so important that you will be willing to live and to die for it. Most important, the outcome of the things you do will have eternal results. It may enable people to be saved. It may enable people to live a righteous life and lay up their own treasures in heaven. It may enable others to find their gifts and fulfill their purpose before God. It will, in some way, lead others to worship Jesus and honor God.

Now I want you to think about the following things in your life in relationship to God's priorities. Write a response for each one.

1. What are the things that burden your heart when you look at the church, the community or the world? What are those thing that make you angry or that make you sad? What are the things that you would like to see changed or improved or accomplished that fit into God's priorities? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What are things that have changed your life, made you a better person and brought you closer to God. They may include books you have read, people you have known, events you have experienced. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What are topics that keep coming up in your conversations, your prayers and in your Bible studies, topics that you are concerned about which fit into the priorities of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Do you have any visions for the future or things that you would like to do before you die that might fit into God's priorities? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Which do you feel more comfortable being: a leader, a partner, a team member or a worker? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **STEP FIVE: WRITING YOUR MISSION STATEMENT**

Now you are going to write out a four part plan for your life. We will call this your mission statement. Everything that you have studied and written about yourself in this week and last week's lessons should help you to write your personal mission statement. This statement is about you, your relationship with God and the thing that you feel may be God's purpose for your life at this time.

**part one: MY MISSION:**

What do you feel is God's overall purpose for your life in view of the abilities, experiences, opportunities and resources he has given to you? Write out God's mission for your life in one to three sentences. We could call this a general statement (summary) about the thing you feel God wants to accomplish through you.

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**part two: MY VISION:**

Describe in detail the things you think God could accomplish using your abilities, experiences, opportunities and resources. There may be several visions you can list. Start each vision statement with these words, "I can see God using me to . . . "

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**part three: MY VALUES:**

List up to six guiding principles that are most important to you. These are moral principles that guide your life and affect your decisions which can be written with one or two words.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**part four: MY GOALS:**

Now you are going to look at the areas of your life that will be affected by your mission, your vision and your values. These areas will include your spiritual life, your family life, your social life and your profession (occupation). You will write specific goals that will enable you to focus on your mission and your vision in relationship to these areas of your life. There are five levels of goals starting with lifetime goals and going all the way down to the action that you need to take now. Start by writing your lifetime goal and work your way down to the bottom level which is the next step you need to take to begin fulfilling your mission and your vision in response to God's calling.

Lifetime Goals: What do you want to do in your lifetime?

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Five-Year Goals: What do you want to see happen in three to five years?

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One-Year Goals: What do you want to do in the next year?

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90-Day Goals: What will you do in the next three months?

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Next Steps: What will you do now in order to get started?

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**DISCUSSION:**

A. There may be hindrances to fulfilling the thing you feel is God's purpose for your life. Here are some possibilities to discuss. How should we deal with them?

1. Lack of support and encouragement from your family, parents, spouse, children.
2. Lack of support from the community, the church leaders, the church members.
3. Lack of financial and other resources.

B. Should we ask God to give us a sign to confirm his calling to us like he did for Gideon? (Judges 6:36-40)

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