



TAKE THE LEAD
**leaders
can c**
WORKBOOK

NAME:

1

leaders can connect

Leadership is about people and so a huge part of being a leader is building and maintaining good relationships. Good leaders seek to connect with the people in their group, not just to get them to do or be what you want them to, but simply because you recognize the value and worth of people.

At its essence, connection is about sharing common ground with someone.

Write down the following things in the spaces provided:

- » Countries you've visited (not counting NZ): _____
- » The number of siblings you have: _____
- » Your favourite fruit: _____
- » Your favourite colour: _____
- » The month you were born: _____
- » Your biggest fear: _____
- » Bones in your body you have broken: _____
- » Instruments you play: _____
- » Sports you play: _____
- » Pets you have: _____
- » Your favourite potato chip flavour: _____
- » 5 bands/musicians/singers I like: _____
- » The primary school(s) you attended: _____
- » Your favourite fast food place: _____

What does connection feel like?

What are some barriers to connection?

Because of these barriers, connecting with people often requires perseverance as it can take a long time for some of these barriers to come down. It may require courage on the leader's part as when we offer connection we become vulnerable to feelings of rejection or awkwardness if it isn't received easily.

Now not only should we seek to connect with the individuals in our youth group, we should also seek to build connections with each other. The best youth groups feel like a family. Good leaders seek to strengthen the existing relationships within the group and try to connect individuals who are on the fringe. While it is natural that within a group there will be certain sub-groups of people who connect with each other more than the rest of the group, leaders need to also work to help those connections not be too exclusive or 'cliquey'.

It is our job as youth leaders to notice people who seem on the outside and to try to integrate them into the group.

Are there any young people in your youth group who seem to be on the 'fringe'? What could you do to help make your youth group more inclusive? Think in regards to new people, people who lack social skills, and people who are different on the surface eg girls in a group that is mostly boys, a Pakeha child in a group that is predominantly Polynesian (or vice versa).

What could we do to strengthen connections within our youth group in general? Think both in terms of leaders connecting with the young people, and the young people connecting with each other. What might we need to change about our programme/ format/environment/practice if we were to make connection one of our main goals as a group?

Connection builds a bridge between people that allows information, ideas and intimacy to cross.

bible readings: connect

We have prepared four short bible studies for each of the 'c's. You might use these during your teaching sessions or you could read these in your own time.

EXODUS 33:7-11

Moses had a connection with God that no one else in his time had - he spoke with the Lord face to face like a person speaks to their friend.

Spend some time connecting with God - talking to him as well as being still and listening for what he might be saying to you.

COLOSSIANS 4:6

Conversation is a big part of connection.

Ask the Lord to fill your heart with his love and joy so that it will flow out in the way you talk with others. Make it your goal today to add value to every conversation you have.

HEBREWS 13:2

The writer to the Hebrews encourages them in this verse to be welcoming to strangers.

Ask God to give you opportunities to meet new people as you go about your day. Also spend some time praying for the young people in your youth group who don't seem to be as well connected as they could be, that the Holy Spirit would help make your group an inviting and inclusive community of people that is easy for newcomers to find friendship and fellowship.

JOHN 4:1-26

In this story Jesus meets a woman and connects with her through conversation. In the cultural context of the day it would have been very unusual for a man to speak to a woman, and especially to one from Samaria who had been married five times.

What does this show us about Jesus' heart to connect with people, and how does it challenge us to follow his example?

2

leaders can collaborate

Leaders need to be able to work alone, however they also need to be able to work as a team.

As Christians, God has designed us to need each other.

We have been given different gifts and abilities and personality traits, and collaboration is about sharing those things.

When we collaborate we can often achieve more together than we would as individuals.

Have you ever been part of a team that didn't work together well? What stops people from collaborating with others?

Two of the biggest barriers to collaboration are pride and insecurity.

Pride and insecurity both come from comparing ourselves to others in an unhealthy way.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

How does this passage challenge our pride?

How does this passage challenge our insecurity?

Your personality plays a big part in collaboration.

Different personality types tend to act and react in different ways.

Our actions affect the people around us. Good collaboration requires us to offer our strengths while also recognising and working on our weaknesses. It will also require us to show others grace and forgive them when they let us down.

Circle the different skills and gifts you think you might have. Write in any others you are aware of that aren't listed.

- » Music/singing
- » Discernment (sensing good and evil)
- » Preaching/teaching
- » Understanding the Bible
- » Prophecy (hearing messages from God and sharing them)
- » Dance
- » Wisdom (knowing what is right to do in a situation)
- » Leading games
- » Generosity
- » Praying for others
- » Hospitality
- » Cooking/baking
- » Healing
- » Designing posters/flyers etc
- » Serving others
- » Writing
- » Organisation
- » Facilitating discussions
- » Sports
- » Drama
- » Counselling
- » Speaking in tongues (speaking in a language the Holy Spirit has given you without you learning it and that you may not understand)
- » Faith
- » Computer skills
- » Good with technology
- » Physical strength
- » Decorating walls/rooms etc
- » Practical 'handyman' skills
- » Photography
- » First aid
- » Humour
- » Doing make up/hair/nails

***You are needed way more than you realize,
and you need others way more than you realize.***

bible readings: collaborate

ROMANS 12:3-8

In this passage Paul challenges us not to be proud but to use our gifts to bless others.

Spend some time thanking God for the talents, gifts and skills he's given you, as well as thanking him for those he's given to others.

EXODUS 31:1-11

God gave Bezalel and Oholiab practical, creative abilities to help build the tent which would house his presence.

Sometimes we find leadership easy, and sometimes leadership requires us to be courageous and do difficult things. But regardless of the situation it is always important to set aside time for preparation and for God. Ask God to help you manage your time well, so that you can feel prepared and so that you can dedicate what you do to God.

ACTS 6:1-7

The apostles realized that it wasn't good for them to do everything and so they selected others to help them. The result was that the word of God spread and the number of disciples increased. When we collaborate as God designed us to it causes the Kingdom to expand.

Pray that God would help people find their place in the Body of Christ and that his Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven.

ECCLESIASTES 4:1-4

This passage is often read at weddings as it speaks of the benefit of having someone else to partner with in life. It doesn't just apply to getting married though... it's true for every area of life.

Spend some time thanking God for the people he's placed in your life. Pray that God would bless them greatly and that you would be a good friend/co-worker/family member etc. to them.

3

leaders can coordinate

Coordination is about organising and managing a project and it can involve ‘juggling’ a variety of people, equipment and resources.

Have you ever had to coordinate a project? What was your experience like ie what did you enjoy about it and what did you find difficult about it?

Have you ever been involved with an event or project that was not well coordinated? What was that experience like ie what effect did it have on the event and those involved?

Coordinating an event well will require you to plan, delegate and then oversee your team, both leading up to the event and then at the actual event itself.

A good leader aims to oversee everything and overlook nothing.

bible readings: coordinate

NEHEMIAH 7:1-3

Nehemiah had the huge job of repairing Jerusalem's walls. In this passage we see a good example of someone coordinating people to do different tasks and giving them instructions on what to do.

EZRA 3:1-9

Jeshua and Zerubbabel led the people in rebuilding the altar.

Identify the different groups, tasks and resources they had to coordinate.

PROVERBS 31:10-31

This description of a wife of noble character shows someone who oversees many different projects and tasks. She makes sure everything is done and she has servants and family members to coordinate.

While this is quite specific to that culture and time, what characteristics can you learn from her and apply to your own life?

PSALM 37:5

God is always available to help and strengthen us to carry out the task we are given. Spend some time praying about any current or upcoming things you need to coordinate.

Ask God to help you manage them well and that you will achieve what you set out to do.

4

leaders can celebrate

When we make it a habit of looking for things to celebrate we create an environment where faith and expectancy can flourish. When we don't celebrate well we can end up becoming negative and pessimistic.

Think about your culture. What kinds of things are celebrated in your culture, and how are they celebrated?

Tick any of the following statements that are true for you:

- I tend to see and focus on what is wrong with people more than what is right.*
- I feel awkward and/or arrogant celebrating my own achievements.*
- I enjoy celebrating other people's achievements.*
- I can usually find the 'silver lining' in a bad situation.*

What sometimes stops us from celebrating?

Sometimes our perspective stops us from celebrating.

How could you help create a culture of celebration in your youth group? Think both in terms of celebrating people for who they are and what they do, as well as celebrating God and acknowledging all that he does for us.

***Celebration elevates your enthusiasm
and escalates your expectation!***

bible readings: celebrate

PSALM 100:1-5

This Psalm is a prayer of thanksgiving and celebration.

Spend some time thanking God for all that he has done.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

Here Paul tells us to rejoice always and to give thanks in all circumstances.

Consider the different situations you are going through and identify what you can be thankful for in each of those situations regardless of how good or bad the circumstances are.

Make a choice to celebrate who God is for you in the good times and the bad times.

LUKE 15:1-31

The biggest thing to celebrate is when people turn to God in repentance.

Spend some time praying that God would help more people find Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, and thank him for your own salvation and for all those you know who follow him too.

JOHN 1:47

Jesus meets Nathaniel for the first time and he greets him with a compliment.

Make it your goal to celebrate the good things about people today... brag about them and thank them for being who they are.