As you grow and mature in your walk with Christ through discipleship, the natural question to begin asking is "what next?" How will you take the things that you have learned and grown in through your walk with Christ and His church and be a part of moving it all forward in your generation? That's the question we answer through leadership development.

Putting definition and words to the calling that God has on our lives is not an easy thing to do. On top of that, the temptation inside all of us is to run hard with things God never called us to do in the first place, simply because they seem to be good things! Every believer has a purpose of God on their life. Through discipleship we help one another discover and begin to live in the midst of that purpose.

For those who feel called to step up and lead specifically in the local

church, there are a unique set of challenges that await! Don't get us wrong... leadership in the church is a wonderful thing, but it also presents challenges you just don't find in other places. There is a high calling that comes with high responsibility when you step into leading God's people and the Bible has a LOT to say about exactly how it should and should not be done.

Right on the heels of learning those lessons is learning the art of dealing with conflict in a healthy way. As we go through life, we're guaranteed conflict with others...and as Christians, we are expected by God to handle that conflict in a way that brings glory to His name and brings unity to the body of Christ. As you develop as a leader, your discipler can help you to distinguish your personal tendencies in these areas so you can lead people with confidence and compassion.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONT.

Have you discovered your calling in this season? Do you feel like you have clear direction for what it should look like? Are you constantly improving in the areas needed for that calling?

Are you willing to serve wherever is needed in the church, including jobs you would hate? Are you willing to invest long term even if it's not fun for you?

Are you operating as a team player? Are you willing to drop what you are doing to help someone else with their role? Do you only think about your job, or do you always think about the church as a whole?

Are you able to help others in the church who are in conflict? Can you mediate well? Do you chose sides, or do you seek unity? Do you ever talk behind other people's backs?

Are you working hard in areas where you are lacking, to be ready for a future leadership calling? Is there any future calling that you say is off limits for God to ask of you?

Do you have marked goals for personal development in preparation for a role in the church? What are they? Do you think you deserve that role now? Are you okay if you are called to something else instead?

Are you able to overlook personality differences in people in the church instead of taking offense? Are you looking at yourself for areas in which you can grow in those relationships?

Is there something that the local church or the city as a whole is not doing that you see a need for? Are you willing to let God start something totally new through you?

| RESOURCE | AUTHOR / CREATOR | TYPE |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|
| The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership | John C. Maxwell | Book |
| Simple Church | Thom S. Rainer | Book |
| Leaders Eat Last* | Simon Sinek | Book |
| Visioneering | Andy Stanley | Book |
| Kingdom First | Jeff Christopherson | Book |
| The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill | Christianty Today | Podcast |
| Good to Great* | Jim Collins | Book |
| The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* | Patrick Lencioni | Book |
| Spiritual Leadership | Henry Blackaby | Book |
| The Character of Leadership | Jeff lorg | Book |

^{*} Not a Christian Resource