

CLASS 1

Introductory Class: Why a Leadership Course?

CLASS OVERVIEW

In this class we will review:

1. The importance of leadership in God's Church.
2. The need for leaders and the need for developing leadership skills.
3. God's perspective on leadership.
4. Qualities of effective leaders.

Opening Group Questions:

- Why should you participate in a leadership course?
- What do you hope to gain from this course?
- How will this course benefit leaders in God's Church?

I. Introduction

Most leaders are made—not born! Effective leaders develop specific qualities that enable them to effectively fill leadership roles. The first law of success is to set a *goal* worth striving for. God calls His people to become leaders *now* and to reign with Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God (Rev 5:10). Thus, preparing to lead with Christ in the kingdom should be a fundamental *goal* of any Christian. The second law of success is *preparation*. Developing the skills of a leader and learning how to lead in a Christ-like manner is a major part of our Christian calling.

No one becomes an effective leader overnight. The process of becoming a leader is on-going and involves learning and refining a set of skills: vision, courage, emotional strength and control, communication skills, honesty, patience, risk taking, timing, wisdom and discernment. The desire and ability to develop and improve these skills is what distinguishes leaders from followers.

Successful leaders are continuous learners. They pursue their goal of becoming a leader with self-discipline and perseverance. Leadership involves training and experience—which is why leaders require a lot of *seasoning* and *testing* in order to be effective.

Successful leaders seek out wisdom with their whole being (Prov 4:7) and understand that “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 111:10).

The purpose of this class is not to train future ministers, but to develop men and women as leaders, both for today and in God's kingdom. Leaders are servants. And there are opportunities to serve today, both inside and outside of the Church of God. Whether you serve your family, your employees, your colleagues, your classmates, or your Church brethren, the skills you learn today will be applicable in God's kingdom. Ultimately, how you serve and lead depends on your attitude, aptitudes and abilities, and what God has in mind for you.

Regardless of your current position or role in the Church of God, the purpose of this course is to provide you with the knowledge, understanding, and opportunity to build your own skills, so that you can serve God's people and ultimately God more effectively, today and in His kingdom. This course will provide you with the tools to become even more powerful instruments of righteousness in God's hands (Rom. 6:12-14).

“Do you care enough about others to try to change the conditions that make their lives difficult?”