Linchpin Leadership

Segment 1

Introduction

Discussion Guide

**Intro: Before watching Segment 1**

Getting Started…

Name a time you really needed someone’s help and you were so glad they were trained in such a way that they could help you?

Examples:

Car Mechanic

Air Conditioning Repair Person

Sick and needed a doctor

Name a profession for which training is necessary in order to do the job well?

Why do you think it might be beneficial for someone who sits on the governing body of their church to go through some basic training?

Could you see any potential pitfalls that might take place if the governing body of a church was not well trained?

Have you ever witnessed or heard about the governing body of a church operating in dysfunctional ways?

What is the cost of that to a church and to the Kingdom as a whole?

**Watch Segment 1 of Linchpin Leadership**

In this segment, both Chris and Dan Reiland from 12Stone Church mention several examples of what a healthy governing body looks/acts like. As you start this Linchpin Leadership series, what do **you** think it looks like when a church governing body is operating on all 8 cylinders; i.e. in your opinion, what are a few of the attributes of a well-functioning governing board?

**Spiritual Leadership**

As Paul writes Timothy, our responsibility as leaders within the local church is to:

*…set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.* 1 Timothy 4:12

Why do you think it is important for those who serve on a church’s governing body to set an example for other believers in this way?

Think of someone whose relationship with God you admire. What is it about their walk with Christ that is appealing to you?

Be self-reflective for a moment. For you personally, what are the indicators that your relationship with Jesus is on track and growing?

Spiritual disciplines are those activities we give ourselves to that are given to us by God to help us grow in our relationship with Him. The goal of spiritual disciplines isn’t that we would be practicing all of them at once, but that we choose the ones that most help us, individually, grow in our walk with Christ. While there are several “lists” that have been developed when it comes to spiritual disciplines, the list most often includes:

Study

Prayer

Worship

Celebration

Service

Fellowship

Submission

Solitude/Silence

Fasting

Confession

What spiritual disciplines are you presently practicing or would like to begin practicing to keep your relationship with Jesus vibrant and alive? Could we hold each other accountable for practicing a spiritual discipline between now and the next time we meet together?

In this segment, Chris encourages us to ask ourselves every six months: “How is my spiritual life today as compared to six months ago?” If you were to answer that question, what would be a highlight of your relationship with Christ and what would be an area in your spiritual life you would love to see some improvement in?

In the closing moments of this first segment, Chris also encourages us to regularly ask God for His wisdom as we provide leadership for our local congregation:

**…** ***if any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask of God who gives to all generously! who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.* James 1:5**

***We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.* Colossians 1:9**

Are you ever tempted to act out of your own wisdom instead of seeking God and the wisdom He has to offer us?

Dan Reiland shared a powerful example of what can happen when a board comes to a place where they choose to humbly seek God and **His** will for their church. What is something tangible you could do, or that we could do as a governing body, to set an atmosphere where we rely on God’s wisdom instead of our own?

**Next Steps: So what are the “takeaways” from Linchpin Leadership Session 1?**

Many Governing body (board members) do not see board training as a critical part of “board business.”

What do you think is the cost of a board that is not trained to do their job well?

What do you think are the benefits of board members spending their time developing their “spiritual muscles” and their leadership capacity as board members?

Answer this question for you personally, “Board Governance training is important to **me** because:

What are the one or two spiritual disciplines/practices you want to begin or restart in order to continue to develop in your relationship with Christ?

What can you/we do to increase our dependency on God’s wisdom and less on our own?

Other Resources:

Spend time studying 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1 looking for key aspects of what it means to serve on a governing body in a way that honors the name of Christ.

*The Great Omission* – Dallas Willard

*Experiencing Leadershift: Letting God of Leadership Heresies* – Don Cousins