🔷 **Zion Baptist Church**
Diaconate Leadership Training Program

🧭 **Week 3 & 4: Growing Through Discipleship and Leadership Commitment**

📘 **WORKBOOK OVERVIEW**

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Devotional Reflection #1

"The Preeminence of Christ"

(Colossians 1:15–18)

Scripture

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.
18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Reflection Question

Where does Christ rank in your life?

Spiritual: _____

Physical: _____

Social: _____

Professional: _____

Political: _____

Financial: _____

Devotional Reflection #2

“The Necessity of Training”

Striving for a Crown

(I Corinthians 9:24–27)

Scripture

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.
25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.
26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.
27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Week 4 Assignment

Bring your Lord to Training

(3 – 1 minute each)

Who Jesus is to me?

Why is our relationship important?

Would I recommend Him to others?

Personal Reflection Notes

Standards of Christian Leadership

Christian Leadership:
Leadership in the church is a responsibility and not a right. It is extended to those who come under the authority of the church's teaching as expounded in the Bible. Christian leadership is a demanding call because it positions one to model Christian beliefs and lifestyle. As we serve Christ in leadership, we model what we really believe about our faith.

Standards of Christian Leadership:

-Integrity
-Distinctive Lifestyle
-Personal Faith
-Servanthood
-Christian Growth
-Church Commitment
-Stewardship
-Balance

Integrity:

The Christian leader shall be committed to the highest ethical standards in both personal and professional conduct.

Distinctive Lifestyle:

The Christian leader' will demonstrate in lifestyle what is desirable in all believers, the fruit of the spirit; love, joy, peach, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Personal Faith;

The Christian leader requires a mature, vibrant and Christ-centered faith. That faith includes a personal grasp of basis Christian beliefs; an active, ongoing relationship with God, rooted in prayer; obedience to Scripture; and a commitment to growth in love, holiness, service and fellowship. Christian leaders should not be recent converts.

Servants:

Christian leaders are to be the servants of others, and be willing to help those in need.

Christian Growth:

Christian leaders make spiritual growth a continuing priority, reflected in Bible study, fellowship with other Christians, worship and involvement in Christian community.

Church Commitment:

Christian leaders are regular in attendance at worship services and faithful to the extra commitments their positions require.

Stewardship:

Christian leaders are to have a growing commitment to progressive and disciplined giving, proportional to resources. They are to be generous in giving of their time, talents and financial resources,

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Balance:

The Christian leader makes an ongoing effort to balance quality relationships among family, occupation and church responsibilities.

Scriptural Foundation

The aforementioned standards of Christian leadership have been developed on the basis of the following Scriptural references: I Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9, I Peter 5:1-5, I Corinthians 6:3 10, Ephesians 5:1-5, Ephesians 4:11 -16, and Philippians 2:1-4.

I Timothy 3:1–7 (NKJV)

1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.
2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; 3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; 4 one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence 5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); 6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Titus 1:5–9 (NKJV)

5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you— 6 if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.
7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, 8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, 9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

I Peter 5:1–4 (NKJV)

1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

I Corinthians 6:3–10 (NKJV)

3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? 4 If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? 5 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren? 6 But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers! 7 Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? 8 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren! 9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:1–5 (NKJV)

1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. 3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Ephesians 4:11–16 (NKJV)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint

supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Philippians 2:1–4 (NKJV)

1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Final Reflection

Both our beliefs and our lifestyles are critical to the way we serve Christ and project Christian leadership. The Christian leader should continually seek the Lord's help in achieving the standards set forth in this document. We, as a congregation expect that you will prayerfully consider and commit to these standards as leaders in Zion Baptist Church.

Six Marks of Discipleship:

(From Power Surge by Michael Foss)

“LEADERS ARE, ABOVE ALL ELSE, DISCIPLES THEMSELVES.” *(Power Surge p.85)*

Six Marks of Discipleship:

(From Power Surge by Michael Foss)

1. Daily Prayer
2. Weekly Worship
3. Bible Reading/Study
4. Service
5. Spiritual Friendships
6. Giving (Stewardship)

Reflection

Which of the marks of discipleship are strengths for you and which are areas where growth is needed?

What might you do to turn areas of growth into areas of strength?

"FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERS, THE MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP ARE AN INVITATION BACK TO THE REASON THEY ENTERED THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH." *(Power Surge p.108)*

Emotional Health Check (cont.)

Peter Scazzero

About the Author

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- Large, Multiracial, International Church (65 countries)
- MDiv. (Gordon-Conwell)
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- Other works include *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* and *Begin the Journey with the Daily Office*

Premise

"It is not possible for a Christian to be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature."
— Peter Scazzero

Imbalanced Spirituality (EHC p.17)

1. The board member who never says, "I was wrong" or "Sorry."
2. The children's church leader who constantly criticizes others.
3. The high-control small group leader who cannot tolerate different points of view.
4. The worship leader who interprets any suggestion as a personal attack and rejection.
5. The Sunday School teacher struggling with feelings of bitterness and resentment toward the pastor but afraid to say anything.
6. The exemplary "servant" who tirelessly volunteers in four different ministries but rarely takes any personal time to take care of himself or herself.
7. The people in your small group who are never transparent about their struggles or difficulties.

True or False

a) "A subtle message has filtered into our churches that to be human, to be emotional, is somehow sinful or at least less than spiritual." (T/F)

b) "Feelings and emotions are opposed to the Spirit." (T/F)

c) "Repression of feelings and emotions is a form of spiritual virtue." (T/F)

d) "Denying anger, ignoring pain, skipping over depression, running from loneliness, avoiding confusing doubts and turning off our sexuality is a way of working on our spiritual lives." (T/F)

Imbalanced Person

- Intellectual — 20%
- Social — 25%
- Spiritual — 15%
- Physical — 35%
- Emotional — 5%

Balanced Person

- Intellectual — 20%
- Emotional — 20%
- Physical — 20%
- Spiritual — 20%
- Social — 20%

Achieving Balance (Imago Dei)

Genesis 1:26–27

- Substantive — ability to reason (free agency)
- Relational — "in relationship" (reflections)
- Functional — ability to act on behalf of God

God's Vision for Us (Christ-like)

Romans 8:28–29

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- God's vision for us is found in Christ.

Luke 19:41, Luke 10:21, Mark 14:34, Mark 3:5, Matthew 26:37, Luke 7:13, John 11:35, Mark 6:6, Luke 12:50

Luke 19:41 (NKJV)
41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it.

Luke 10:21 (NKJV)
21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

Mark 14:34 (NKJV)
34 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch."

Mark 3:5 (NKJV)
5 And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.
Matthew 26:37 (NKJV)
37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

Luke 7:13 (NKJV)
13 When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

John 11:35 (NKJV)
35 Jesus wept.

Mark 6:6 (NKJV)
6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit.

Luke 12:50 (NKJV)
50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished.

Discipleship Leads Us to Evangelism

From **Becoming a Contagious Christian** *by Bill Hybels & Mark Mittelberg*

Key Formula

HP + CP + CC = MI

Definitions

High Potency – Authentic relationship with God

Close Proximity – Being in the world and not of it

Clear Communication – The ability to rightly divide the Word of Truth

Maximum Impact – Being light in darkness (Christlike)

Personal Commitment to Be Better

From **I Will by Thom S. Rainer**

Commitments

1) I will have the attitude of Christ and put other church members before my wants and desires.

2) I will gladly participate in corporate worship with my fellow church members as long as I am physically able.

3) I will get involved in a group or a class so that I might grow spiritually together with others, and so that I might be accountable to them.

4) I will go and share the gospel with others in words and deeds and not be ashamed of my Savior.

5) I will give abundantly and joyfully, recognizing that God is the owner of all things I currently steward.

6) I will participate in the life of my church because God leads me to do so, not because I feel compelled to please people or to feel guilty for saying no.

7) I will focus on the positive ways God is using my church, and not on the flaws of my church, its leaders, or its members.

8) And I will pray that God will use me as an instrument to revive His church, for His name, and for His glory.

(DLTP) Assignment

Personal Reflection

Each Leader is to read/reflect on **I Corinthians 12:1–11** then complete the Spiritual Gifts Inventory which can be taken online or downloaded.

(To download the Spiritual Gifts Inventory go to:
www.Kodachrome.org/spiritgift/download.htm)

My Top Three Spiritual Gifts

Gift 1:

Gift 2:

Gift 3:

Sharing with My Tribe

How I will share my gifts with my tribe:

(DLTP) Assignment (Cont.)

Scripture Reflection

Each Tribe should reflect on:
Romans 12:6–8
I Corinthians 12:1–11
I Peter 4:11

Group Discussion Notes

Discussion should be centered around the importance of **Spiritual Gifts in Church Leadership**.

Tribe Report

Tribes should be prepared to report **three ways that Spiritual Gifts help to maintain healthy and fruitful leadership in the Church.**

1)

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2)

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3)