



- August 5 – Mission, Love Others (Prepare for community)
- **August 12 – Love Yourself (Prepare for leadership), Part 1**
- August 19 – Love Yourself (Prepare for leadership), Part 2
- August 26 – Love God (Prepare to prayerfully study His Word), Part 1
- September 2 – Love God (Prepare to prayerfully study His Word), Part 2

Minimum Requirements of a WEPC Small Group

1. Study the Scriptures – PROPHET – listening for God's Voice
2. Pray together – PRIEST – presenting requests to God
3. Leadership – KING – leading your people to God

As you evaluate your Small Group, are you missing one?

Has one of them fallen by the wayside?

Basics of Leadership

"If the world is to hear the church's voice today, leaders are needed who are **authoritative**, **spiritual**, and **sacrificial**.

- **Authoritative**, because people desire leaders who know where they are going and are confident of getting there.
- **Spiritual**, because without a strong relationship to God, even the most attractive and competent person cannot lead people to God.
- **Sacrificial**, because this follows the model of Jesus, who gave himself for the whole world and who calls us to follow in His steps.

"Churches grow in every way when they are guided by strong, spiritual leaders with the touch of the supernatural radiating in their service" (Oswald Sanders, *Spiritual Leadership*, 18. Bold & bulleting are mine).

Authoritative [J. Oswald Sanders, *Spiritual Leadership*, 1967] KING

Where are you going?

SG mission

1. Renewal/revival
2. Gospel growth
3. Being (and growing) as a community of faith

How can you exercise your kingly role in your Small Group?

Do you have in mind where you are going and where you want your group to go?

What are you doing to go there?

Spiritual [Jack Miller, *The Heart of a Servant Leader*, 2004] PROPHET

"Please don't be afraid of the working of God. He calls us to repentance, but in that call supplies the Spirit to bring us to the cleansing of the Lamb. There is no greater joy than leaving our idols at the cross and walking away freed of these cruel bondages. Expect, welcome, and treasure repentance in yourself and others. Let Christ break down sloth, lust, pride, coldness, prejudices, despair. He has had a great deal of experience cleansing His temples, and you can trust Him to overturn in order to fill you with songs of gladness" (Miller, *Heart of a Servant Leader*, 63).

"I like to think of repentance and praise as allied to each other – both forms of sanity. Repentance is a return to God as my center. Praise is the lifting up of God in honor as my center. But to move out away from the center without repentance or praise it to be eccentric, irrational, and insane. But what a simple thing it is to humble the heart and return to sanity by repentance and praise" (Miller, *Heart of a Servant Leader*, 56).

How can you exercise your prophetic role in your Small Group?

What role does God's Word have in your life?

What prevents you from enjoying repentance and praise?

Are you forgiven? Then why do you live like you aren't?

Sacrificial [Dan Allender, Leading with a Limp, 2006] PRIEST

"A leader needs to ask these questions: *Who am I? Where am I meant to serve? How am I to use my gifts and suffer my weaknesses for good?* A good story is one in which I co-create with those whom I serve. We are meant to be a community that loves the stories of our great need for the gospel, the stories of celebrating the glory of grace, and the stories of how we have come to be who we are." Allender, *Leading with a Limp*, 154.

How can you exercise your priestly role in your Small Group?

Are you hiding? Do you find the need to lead from a position of strength, even if you are not strong?

You could do worse than spend some time grading yourself in these three categories.

1 Timothy 3:1-8

1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

8 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. 9 They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. 11 Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. 12 Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. 13 For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

What do you notice about these requirements?

More than 20 requirements on character. Only one is on skill: "able to teach"

What are the essential qualities of the type of leader for whom Paul is looking?

- "Above Reproach"

- **How does the world view you? What is your reputation?**
- Family – "husband of one wife" "manage his own household"
 - **How is your family? Your marriage?**
- Judgment – "sober minded" "self-controlled"
 - **Are you a careful leader?**
- Motivation
 - **What are your motives for leadership?**
 - Motivations reveal one's character, our character matters.
 - Hospitable (generous with time, energy, and property)
 - Lover of good (desires are inclined toward constructive efforts, people, and ideas)
 - Self-controlled (faith has formed his discernment)
 - Upright (a stance toward life that is godly, equitable, and fair)
 - Holy (reflects the character of the holy God as one set apart)
 - Disciplined (covers the preceding list; his character is shaped by the Spirit)
- Confidence – "gain... great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."
 - **Do you see Jesus working through you? Look for it.**
 - As you lead, and see the Gospel regularly proven over and over again in ministry, you grow in confidence. Let Jesus prove Himself to you, and through you. He will succeed.

Next time... August 19

Spiritual Formation – its origin and its direction

How to maintain relationships with separateness and closeness

How to identify and work with anxiety in the system

Seven Habits of a Healthy Leader

1. Focus on Self, not Others
2. Focus on Strength, not Weakness
3. Focus on Process, not Content
4. Focus on Challenge, not Comfort
5. Focus on Integrity, not Unity
6. Focus on System, not Symptom
7. Focus on Direction, not Condition

What kind of leader are you?

Modified from Thomas Kirkpatrick, *Small Groups in the church: a Handbook for creating community*, 1995, Appendix B.

Instructions: The following six items describe various leadership characteristics. In responding, please describe the way you lead a *small-group discussion*. Circle the number that best represents your leadership behavior, using the scale ranging from one (1) to six (6) with one (1) being "Never" or "Not At All" and six (6) being "Always" or "Completely." Work rapidly; your first answer is likely to be the most accurate.

When I lead a small-group discussion, I usually:

1. Coordinate the work of others.....
2. Value the participation of others.....
3. Make sure that work is completed on time.....
4. Am sensitive to group mood.....
5. Offer procedural guidelines.....
6. Make others feel accepted and comfortable.....

Never, not at all			Always, Completely		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

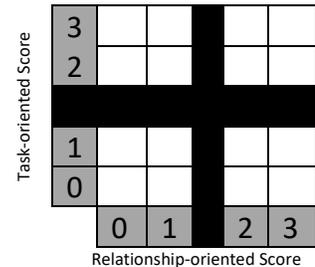
Scoring: Look at Items 1, 3, and 5. How many times did you circle the number 5 or 6? Write that number here:

_____ This number (0-3) is your task-oriented score.

Look at items 2, 4, and 6. How many times did you circle the number 5 or 6? Write that number here:

_____ This number (0-3) is your relationship-oriented score.

Interpretation: Put your core onto the grid. For example, if your task-oriented score is zero (0) and your relationship-oriented score is three (3), put an X in the box at the bottom right far-corner of the grid.



- If your scores fin into the lower right quadrant, you have a *relationship-oriented* leadership style.
- If your scores fin into the upper left quadrant, you have a *task-oriented* leadership style.
- If your scores fin into the lower left quadrant, you have an *undeveloped* leadership style.
- If your scores fin into the upper right quadrant, you have a *combination* leadership style.

How to identify your spiritual gifts

You might be wondering what your actual spiritual gifts are. Some have found help in online spiritual gift questionnaires. But maybe a better approach is found in Juan Sánchez's article "[How Do I Discover My Spiritual Gift](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-do-i-discover-my-spiritual-gift/)" (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-do-i-discover-my-spiritual-gift/>). He breaks it down to the following five steps:

1. **First, find out what help the body needs.** What are the biblical needs of any body? There are, of course, word ministry needs (preaching, teaching, etc. – Ephesians 4:11). There are also serving needs: widows, orphans, elderly, parents, children, single mothers, etc. (1 Peter 4:10-11). Ask the leadership of your church to find out what specific needs exist.
2. **Once you see and begin to understand the needs of the body, PRAY!** Pray for the particular needs of the body (Ask the leadership how you can join them in praying for the needs of the body). Pray that the Lord of the harvest would raise up laborers. Pray that the leadership of the body would have wisdom in guiding these ministries. Then, ASK the Lord if He is calling you to serve in one of those areas.
3. **Ask yourself, “What do I enjoy doing?”** Why do we think that doing the Lord’s will has to be miserable? If the Spirit has gifted us, and if we are growing in grace, then we will enjoy serving the Lord and the body with these particular gifts. However, there may be areas of need that you may not be thrilled about (i.e., nursery) but that are important needs. The Lord may also have equipped you with certain capacities (i.e., accounting) that would serve the body well but which you may be reluctant to use because that is what you do all day, every day. Serve the body! Normally, it will be a delight!
4. **Seek godly counsel – from elders (leaders), mentors, small group leaders, etc.** Mature Christians with whom you spend much time will be observing you and caring for you. They will be a valuable asset in either confirming or denying whether or not you have particular gifts in certain areas. Listen to them wisely.
5. **Serve! Don’t just sit there, do something!** Each of us is gifted for the common good; therefore, let us use our gifts (1 Peter 4:10-11). We don’t have to wait until we have discovered our gifts to serve. Serve the church! As you are serving, you may even discover that you really enjoy it; the leaders in your church may confirm what they see; and you will have discovered one of the areas where the Spirit has equipped you to build up the body in love. Imagine that! You discovered your gift(s) while serving. Don’t just sit there, do something! May the Lord deliver us from consumerism!