

Follow the Leader

In order for there to be leaders, there must also be followers. Many worship leaders are either volunteers or are in an associate role and are not the lead worship pastor. But even those who are leading their department will be in a position to be following the vision and direction of the lead teaching pastor and the elder board. This class will be a conversation about the challenges, responsibilities and opportunities that come from being both a leader and a follower, and some thoughts on how we can be better at both.

“Are we following well, not just in ways that will win the approval of our leaders, but with a quality, consistency, and selflessness that will also garner the respect and appreciation of our fellow followers?” –from Embracing Followership

What is FOLLOWERSHIP?

What comes to mind when you hear the word “follower”? _____

In what ways do these perceptions influence your approach to following? _____

The truth about the importance and value of followers _____

The RESPONSIBILITIES

Participation _____

Stewardship _____

Attitude _____

Reliability / Commitment _____

Relationships _____

Communication _____

Respect / honor / submission _____

Helping our leaders develop _____

Other obligations? _____

The CHALLENGES

Internal _____

Relational _____

Cultural _____

Leader Shortcomings _____

“Everyone is always learning and developing. Instead of feeling frustrated by your leader’s lack of leadership experience, ask yourself - how can I help them develop or grow their skills?” – from Leadership is Half the Story

Taking ACTION

Personal development _____

Self-Awareness _____

Clarifying role & expectations _____

Cultivating our walk with the Lord _____

Creating space for rest & spiritual growth _____

For CONSIDERATION

Giving intellectual assent to leadership and followership principles does not make us better at either, these are skills that need to be cultivated and practiced. We need to be willing to routinely evaluate ourselves and acknowledge that there is always space for growth and learning.

What is my reputation? What example do I set? _____

How do I respond to feedback? From my leader? From others? _____

Do I need to initiate a conversation with my leader about anything learned today? _____

*Think about the people in authority over you in your ministry role. In what ways could you better serve them? How can you be a better **follower**? How can you encourage them in their leadership?*

Identify at least one thing you would like to improve _____

What action can you take, or goal can you set to help you make the desired improvements to your **followership**?

*Think for a moment of your **leadership** role and the people you lead. How can you lead them better? How can you serve them more effectively? How can you encourage them in their followership?*

Identify at least one area where you would like to improve. _____

What action can you take, or goal can you set to help you make the desired improvements to your **leadership**?

Recommended Reading:

Embracing Followership: how to thrive in a leader-centric culture.

by Allen Hamlin Jr.

Leadership is Half the Story: a fresh look at followership, leadership and collaboration

by Marc and Samantha Hurwitz

Leading from the Second Chair: serving your church, fulfilling your role and realizing your dreams

By Mike Bonem and Roger Patterson

I'm delighted to be part of the faculty at WorshipNW again this year!

I've been involved in worship/music ministry and leading teams and congregational worship for about thirty years.

I'm currently part of the creative arts department leadership team at River Valley Church in Grants Pass, Oregon.

In addition to leading worship at our various campuses, I'm also involved in vision-casting and leadership development. I love leading congregations in praise & worship as well as encouraging, training, teaching and equipping other worship leaders & teams!

Thank you for your time. I hope you found this class discussion valuable.

Please feel free to reach out to me if I can be of any help to you or your team.

Also ~ I'd love to connect with you on Instagram (@mhaywoodsmithmusic) and Facebook (@michellehaywoodsmithmusic)

Thanks! Michelle