



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

A MEN'S DISCIPLE-MAKING, MISSIONAL COMMUNITY



THINK BIBLICALLY > LIVE UPRIGHTLY > LEAD COURAGEOUSLY FOR CHRIST'S KINGDOM & GLORY!

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS – HIS KINGDOM & GLORY!

Our #1 value at Valley is 'Glorifying God!' Simply put it is all about Him and it ain't about us.¹ We understand this to mean that everything we do is to be about showcasing the surpassing value of Christ Jesus our Lord² who called

¹ Psalm 96:3

us out of darkness and into His Kingdom of Light.³ We are a church that wants to put anything and everything gladly aside to live in and for Jesus' Kingdom and glory, honoring Him by enjoying Him forever.

Because of this as we are creating this leadership development institute we know that it is critical that it be led by our Lord, allowing Him to direct our steps.⁴ Many young leaders who are eager to make a difference in this world make the critical mistake of dreaming up ideas for God rather than receiving revelation from God.⁵ God's revelation is infinitely preferable.⁶ So what is God revealing to me as lead pastor, our leaders here at Valley and our church community as it relates to glorifying Him in the area of leadership development for His church called Valley both now and until He returns? Jesus is building His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Jesus commands us to go and make disciples, immersing them in GOD and teaching them to obey all that He commands. He teaches clearly that we are to develop disciple-making, missional leaders for His local church from one generation to the next until He returns. Developing a leadership development community therefore is a way to honor and obey Him seeking to multiply disciple-making disciples and healthy church leaders so that His Kingdom and glory may be furthered through our church in Great Falls until He returns.

THE NECESSARY SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH

Leadership development is a community building effort. No leader will be able to raise up another to leadership without the full support and involvement from the church – top to bottom. We believe that the local church is called to invest in and raise up the next generation of Church leadership. To do this, just like anything else that is important, requires an investment of time, money, and sacrifice. The Apostle Paul takes three letters, 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, to write about the importance of raising up and training leaders in the local church. He personally invested much time into men like Timothy and Titus so that they would lead and shepherd Christ's church and train others in the same way he trained them. Paul talks about His training of local church elders in those books and also in Acts 20. Where do you think Paul got this idea of training up leaders for local churches? He received it from our Lord who spent the majority of His time training 12 men as disciple-making, missional leaders for His church. Jesus taught them to worship God, connected them in true, biblical community, equipped them by teaching them Word for ministry and launched them into disciple-making, kingdom advancing gospel mission. This is the way that the Lord has revealed He wants His church to be run. We are to be a disciple-making church that is training and launching disciple-making leaders who are on mission with Jesus to our time and town. The training ground for this leadership development is to be the local church.

Anything worth doing has a cost to doing it. What is the cost? First, our staff will need to commit time to this. Pastor Dave believes his calling from the Lord as a Pastor involves leadership development. As such, a good chunk of his time will be spent developing and investing in the current and future leadership of Valley training them to pastor and lead in the local church. In this way the whole church body will benefit from better pastoral care and biblical leadership. Second, we will be investing money and time into training young men for ministry. The congregation needs to see this as a priority and be willing to invest in the lives of those being developed. This will come in the form of hiring ministry interns and providing training via classes and conferences and training events. Third, a sacrifice required by the church in leadership development is not expecting perfection but leaving room for the interns to grow in their area of ministry. We must have an environment of grace and patience much like Jesus had with his disciples in order to make this a successful and fruitful ministry. An intern may make a bad

² Philippians 3:8

³ 1 Peter 2:9-10

⁴ Proverbs 3:5-6; 16:9

⁵ The Apostle Paul teaches us to seek revelation from God not a vision for God – Eph. 3:3; Gal. 1:11-12.

⁶ Romans 11:33-35; Job – 'nuff said.

decision, reveal a character short-coming, or offend a long-term member. We must create an environment where risk is right even if it fails. We must labor patiently with our interns as they are developing bearing with their weaknesses and creating an atmosphere conducive to leadership development. Are we committed to raising up, training, and launching into ministry the next generation of leaders the Lord Jesus has entrusted to us? Are we willing to try new ministry styles and initiatives for the sake of the gospel advancing to the next generation?

LDC – IT'S PILLARS AND TREKS

There are three pillars to the Leadership Development Community:

1. Biblical Thinking -
2. Christ-like Character Development -
3. Ministry Skill -

