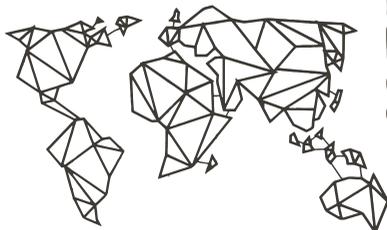




¹ John C. Maxwell, *The 17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork: Embrace Them and Empower Your Team* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2001), 2-3.

Notes:

**GREAT
COMMISSION
LEADERSHIP**
HOMEWORK
PACKET
THIRTEEN



LEADING IN MULTIPLE CONTEXTS

As much as we admire solo achievement, the truth is that no lone individual has done anything of value. The belief that one person can do something great is a myth ... Nothing of significance was ever achieved by an individual acting alone.¹

John Maxwell

BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, IS CHRIST ON THE THRONE?

If not, make sure He is!

MEMORY VERSE

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

1 Peter 5:2-3 [NIV]

DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP

Jesus demonstrated leadership and taught us how to lead (Matt. 20:25-28). Gideon reluctantly grew to become a capable leader. God called Gideon to deliver Israel from the oppression of the Midianites (Judges 6:14) and then tapered down the Israelite army from 32,000 to 300 (Judges 7:2-8) in order to show His own power. Gideon then divided those 300 men into 3 groups and, utilizing the leadership and teamwork from Gideon, the Lord defeated the entire Midianite army of 135,000 (Judges 7:9-25 & 8:10). As you apply the principles of teamwork and leadership in the power of the Holy Spirit, God will accomplish great things through you as well.

THREE CONTEXTS OF LEADERSHIP

Leaders must be able to lead in many contexts. Today, we'll discuss three big areas leaders must be able to excel in: leading individuals, leading teams, and leading events. Remember, ministry is about people (not numbers) and a process (not just events). An effective ministry must be able to maintain that focus while also working with

³ Forbes, "21 Quotes From Henry Ford On Business, Leadership And Life," <http://www.forbes.com/sites/erikaandersen/2013/05/31/21-quotes-from-henry-ford-on-business-leadership-and-life/> (Accessed October 6, 2013).

⁴ John C. Maxwell, *The 17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork: Embrace Them and Empower Your Team* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2001), 251.

Notes:

discuss this in detail in later homework packets. For now, just remember that God has called you to invest your life into others' lives one-on-one. That involves modeling an example of life and ministry that they can follow, and helping them become the people God made them to be.

- **How do you think Jesus led His individual disciples and how can you follow His example?**

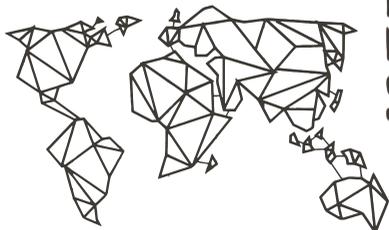
- **Have you been discipled? If so, how can you multiply to the next generation? If not, name a mature believer in Christ who you could reach out to, to train you as a disciple of Jesus.**

Leading individuals can be difficult but stick with it. If you want them to become Christ-like you'll have to be patient with their flesh. Be concerned with character development first, then skills and finally specifics. Think about the long term rather than the short term. Be more concerned with the next 30 years of their ministry than with the quality of the event you've delegated to them this weekend. Help them see their potential in Christ; don't give up on them!

LEADING TEAMS

Henry Ford said, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."³ Accomplishing anything significant requires a team. A team is not a luxury but rather a necessity—even Jesus had a team! Leading teams well is not optional for effective leaders. The following section on teamwork is a summary of *The 17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork*, by Maxwell.

First, be the right leader for the team. Be who you need to be. Lead humbly! Maxwell reminds us that, if your team experiences success, give credit to the team; if the team does okay, include yourself along with the team in the credit (ex. "we did our best..."); if the team experiences failure, be quick to accept the blame yourself.⁴



⁵ John C. Maxwell, *The 17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork: Embrace Them and Empower Your Team* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2001).

⁶ Herbst, N. J., *Leader-Leader Exchange in Shared Leadership Teams: An Investigation 2 of Collaborative Harmony Among Co-Leaders in Christian Ministry* (Doctoral Dissertation). Retrieved from Piedmont International University Library, May 2021. (2017).

Notes:

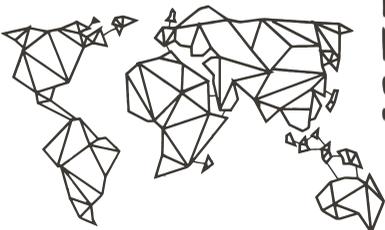
These principles will help you build your team's trust and support of you. Do your part, set the pace, and lead by example.

Second, build the right team! John Maxwell's *17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork*⁵ are very helpful. In his book, he reminds us of the following principles. You cannot achieve great things on your own, you need a team. In great teams, members will be focused on team goals not just their own roles but they will also find the unique place they can best support the team and do that well. As the team's mission and responsibilities expand, team members will have to rely on each other but the team will never be stronger than its weakest members. Every team will have members who are willing to do whatever it takes; find those people and empower them to lead. Inspire your team with vision and make sure to get rid of bad attitudes as they will poison the team and prevent it from accomplishing its vision. Teams need a diversity of strengths and expertise so that they can work together to accomplish what they are called to do. Teams need empowering leadership and leaders who invest in their teams will accomplish far more than those who try to do everything on their own.

→ **How will you keep these laws in mind as you build teams in the future?**

Good teams will also learn to share leadership. This is a biblical concept. The leadership structures in the early church always consisted of a plurality of leaders, not individual directors (see Acts 11:30, 14:23, 15:2, 4, 6, 22, 23, 16:4, 20:17, 21:18, Philippians 1:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13, 1 Timothy 5:7, Titus 1:5, Hebrews 13:7, 17, James 5:14, and 1 Peter 5:1-2). Sharing leadership effectively has been associated with exceptional outcomes, enhanced decision-making, complex problem solving, creative innovation, team-member fit, team synergy, organizational vitality, healthy organizational culture, individual health, and sustained growth.⁶ Sharing leadership only works when there are competent leaders, healthy organizational structures, and close relationships.

→ **How can cultivate better leadership-sharing in your ministry?**



⁷ Wikipedia, "Tuckman's Stages of Group Development," <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forming-storming-norming-performing> (Accessed August 21, 2014).

⁸ Daryl R. Conner, *Managing at the Speed of Change* (New York, NY: Random House, 2006), 137.

⁹ Patrick Lencioni, *Overcoming the Five Dysfunctions of a Team* (San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2005).

¹⁰ Ibid.

Notes:

Third, manage team dynamics well. Team dynamics are often interesting and hard to figure out. Delegate to your team and then cut them loose! Maxwell says if someone can do something 80% as well as you, delegate it! Be intentional about bringing people on your team with gifts different than your own. Remember that a diversity of gifts, talents and abilities will also bring a diversity of opinions. That will lead to butting heads; be ready to help the team be who they need to be and get where they need to go. Bruce Tuckman proposed four stages of group development: forming (becoming a group), storming (butting heads), norming (getting past differences and becoming unified) and performing (accomplishing the group's purpose).⁶ These four stages parallel Conner's description of how people always react to change: uninformed optimism, informed pessimism, hopeful realism, and informed optimism.⁸ There is always excitement when a new project begins but that can often sour as people realize the obstacles and sacrifices that lie ahead. A good leader will help people get through those rough times, realizing the potential and working together towards the vision. Every team leader will have to bring their team from the initial stage of forming to the goal of performing. There are rocky transition points along the way and the leader must be ready to deal with these in a unifying way that gets the whole team to the final destination.

As you seek to guide your team through these tumultuous phases, team building activities can be critical to help you strengthen your team. There are also pitfalls that can plague any team and it is vitally important that you avoid these before they destroy or limit your team. Patrick Lencioni's book, *Overcoming the Five Dysfunctions of a Team*,⁹ is an excellent resource that will help you avoid team crushers. He lists the 5 issues that will keep a team from accomplishing what it needs to accomplish. The following diagram¹⁰ (figure 13.1) describes the 5 dysfunctions of a team.

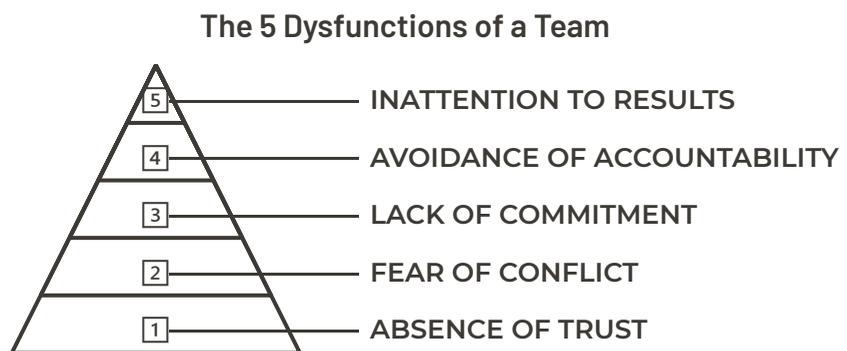
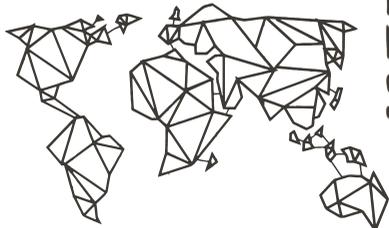


Figure 13.1



Notes:

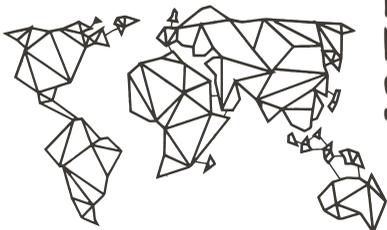
a Bible study, mission trip, outreach, weekly meeting, retreat, conference, or some other type of event, apply these principles to make it what it needs to be.

- **Have you had the opportunity to plan and/or lead events? If so, what would you do differently now?**

FINAL THOUGHTS

As you grow as a leader, you'll need to grow in each of these areas. Step out; this is on-the-job training. Trust God to develop you in these areas by the power of His Spirit. Remember, you don't have what it takes but He definitely does and He will help you lead individuals, teams, and events.

Remember, your weaknesses, inabilities, failures and past present no challenge to God's will for your life. Your willingness does. Be willing to be and do what God made you for. You don't have what it takes but God's Spirit in you does so be the leader He made you to be and turn this world upside down for Him!





¹² G. T. Doran, *There's a S.M.A.R.T. Way to Write Management's Goals and Objectives* (Management Review, Volume 70, Issue 11, 1981), 35-36.

Notes:

PERSONAL GROWTH

- Write out this lesson's memory verse (also, write it out several more times this week):

- List a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant & within a Time-frame) goal¹² for this lesson and action plans for achieving it.
SMART Goal:

Action plan:

Action plan:

Action plan:

- How are you staying close to Jesus, walking by faith and in integrity, trusting Him and the power of His Spirit in life and ministry rather than yourself, and how can you more?

- Jesus insisted that serving Him and serving others was the highest attribute of leadership (Mt. 20:25-28). How are you growing as a servant leader?

- How will this lesson help you better accomplish the Great Commission and multiply Christ-like multipliers?

- List any last thoughts and then put everything you learned in this lesson in God's hands, trusting Him to build these things into your life.

