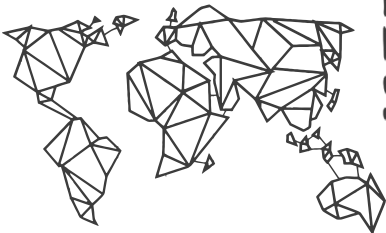


<sup>1</sup>J. Oswald Sanders, *Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer* (Chicago, IL: The Moody Bible Institute, 2007), 115.

Notes:

**GREAT  
COMMISSION  
LEADERSHIP**  
HOMEWORK  
PACKET  
FOUR



## THE MEASURE OF A LEADER

*To aspire to leadership in God's kingdom requires us to be willing to pay a price higher than others are willing to pay. The toll of true leadership is heavy, and the more effective the leadership, the higher it goes.<sup>1</sup>*

**J. Oswald Sanders**

## BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, IS CHRIST ON THE THRONE?

If not, make sure He is!

## MEMORY VERSE

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

**2 Corinthians 5:17 [NIV]**

## LEADERS SET THE PACE

Jesus taught that a student is not above his teacher but when fully trained can become like him (Lk. 6:40). Godly leaders must strive to emulate the greatest teacher, Jesus, becoming more and more like Him, growing as leaders. God will grow you to become the leader He made you to be. Leaders must start sooner, go harder and last longer than anyone else. They have to if they're going to lead by example. Paul is the prime Biblical example of this, describing his own life saying, in 2 Cor. 11:23-28:

*Are they servants of Christ? - I speak as if insane - I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.*

Notes:

*Paul summarized his perspective in 1 Cor. 15:10, saying, "But by the grace of God I am what I am ... I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me." Godly leaders must follow Paul's example becoming people of initiative, drive, perseverance and commitment, stopping at nothing!*

## THE MEASURE OF A PERSON

Howard Hendricks has been quoted as saying that the measure of a person is determined by what it takes to get them going and what it takes to stop them. If it takes a whole lot to get you going and very little to stop you, you are not cut out for leadership. If it takes very little to get you going and a whole lot to stop you, you might be ready for leadership!

- **Do you agree with the statement that "the measure of a person is determined by what it takes to get them going and what it takes to stop them?"**

## A LEADER DOES EVERYTHING FROM A FIRM PERSPECTIVE OF THEIR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

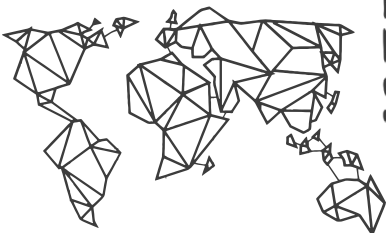
When a leader takes a stand on who they are in Christ and for all that God has called them to, they will find a resolute passion for serving Him regardless of opposition or obstacles.

- **How does your concept of your identity in Christ motivate you?**

## A LEADER TAKES THE INITIATIVE

Growing closer to God, knowing His will, deciding what needs to be done, taking the initiative in the power of the Holy Spirit and being accountable to keep going will set you up for a lifestyle of being intrinsically motivated.

- **What does it take to get you going and how can you better follow Paul's attitude in 1 Cor. 9:24-27?**



Notes:

## A LEADER KEEPS ON GOING NO MATTER WHAT

Are you internally motivated by love or externally motivated by rewards and consequences? Learning to be motivated correctly is vitally important for effective leadership.

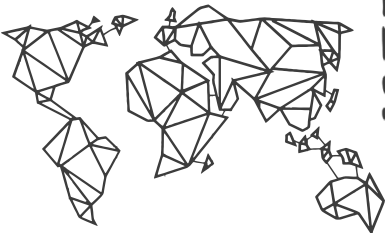
→ **What does it take to keep you going?**

God is constantly motivating you. If you don't feel motivated it is not His problem. Stay motivated by eliminating motivation barriers and cultivating motivation builders.

→ **Check any motivation barriers you want God to remove from your life:**

- Spiritual apathy
- Temptation and Sin
- Loneliness
- Incorrect expectations
- Fear
- Burnout
- Unbelief
- Lack of knowledge & wisdom
- Controlled by feelings
- Comfort zones
- Controlled by circumstances
- Rationalization
- Procrastination
- Time wasting habits
- Lack of discipline

→





<sup>2</sup> Scott Alexander, *Rhinoceros Success* (Seattle, WA: Amazon Digital Services, 1980).

Notes:

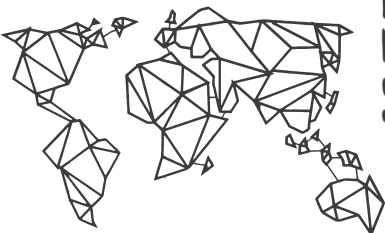
→ **Check any motivation builders you want God to grow in your life:**

- Identity in Christ
- Confidence about your life purpose
- Daily fellowship with God
- Frequent fellowship with other believers
- Accountability
- An active prayer life
- Growing in God's Word
- Filled with and empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Eternal perspective
- Walking by faith, not by sight
- Hoping in God alone
- Motivated by loving God and others
- Receiving and giving grace
- Balance

## A LEADER STOPS FOR ONLY 2 REASONS

The only times a leader stops are when they realize they've missed God's will or when God's will has been accomplished. A leader must refuse to stop when circumstances sour, when adversity and opposition increase, when expectations aren't met or when something "better" comes along. Scott Alexander uses the analogy of a rhinoceros to describe this kind of leadership, stating, "A rhinoceros charges with singleness of purpose. All energy is directed towards the attainment of one burning desire."<sup>2</sup> Godly leaders should lead that way, in the power of the Holy Spirit. A leader must be resolutely focused on the vision, not hindered or distracted by other issues.

→ **What does it take to stop you?**



<sup>3</sup> Xerxes, "Xerxes Quotes," <http://www.quotatio.com/x/xerxes-quotes.html> (Accessed January 31, 2013).

Notes:

## EXPANDING THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN GETTING STARTED AND STOPPING

If you want to become the leader God made you to be it is imperative that you expand your comfort zones, the area between what it takes to get you going and what it takes to stop you. Comfort zones are comfort zones because they are safe places without risk of loss. Your comfort zones are the areas you feel confident; expanding them will allow you to be capable in many more areas. The best way to crush comfort zones is to take risks in line with God's will. Xerxes, one of the greatest warriors in history, said, "Only by great risks can great results be achieved."<sup>3</sup> That definitely holds true in the Christian life which is by definition a walk of faith (2 Cor. 5:7).

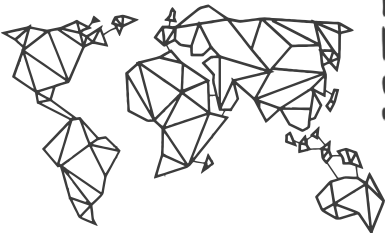
→ **Have past failures kept you from taking risks? Why?**

## LEADERSHIP IS RISKY BUSINESS

You will fail often in life and ministry if you never take risks. Learn to choose the right risks, evaluate those risks and then take those risks. When evaluating a risk ask consider whether this will help you become the person God made you to be? Will this help you become obedient to something God has specifically commanded you to do in Scripture? Will this help you fulfill your life purpose and calling? Will it glorify God? If so, this is probably a risk worth taking. Do any come to mind? Analyze the risk. Note: if the risk is specifically outlined in Scripture, you need not do a cost benefit analysis. When you consider a risk ask these questions. What is the highest potential good? What can be gained? What is the biggest potential loss? What's at stake? Does the benefit outweigh the cost? If you will grow and God will be glorified, take the risk!

Mark Batterson writes:

*You need to put Isaac on the altar like Abraham. You need to throw down your staff like Moses. You need to burn your plowing equipment like Elisha. You need to climb the cliff like Jonathan. You need to get out of the boat like Peter. There comes a moment when you throw caution to the*



<sup>4</sup> Mark Batterson, *All In: You Are One Decision Away From a Totally Different Life* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013), 32.

Notes:

*wind. There comes a moment when you need to go all in. There comes a moment when you need to burn the ships. This is that moment. This is your moment. It's all or nothing. It's now or never.*<sup>4</sup>

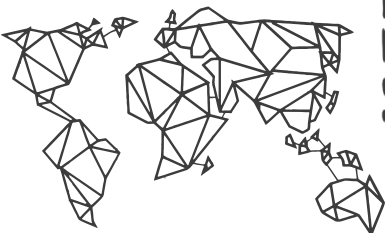
It is time to start taking risks for Jesus. Php. 4:13 reminds you that you can do all things through Him who strengthens you. As you grow in your walk with God, becoming the leader He has made you to be, you will have to cultivate a risk taking perspective on life. As Bill Bright said about evangelism, "Take the initiative in the power of the Holy Spirit and then trust the results to God." Get yourself into a situation where if God doesn't show up, you're dead. Then watch Him show up, growing you into who He made you to be.

→ **What makes risk-taking hard for you?**

## CRUSHING COMFORT ZONES AND FEARS

Crushing comfort zones and fears will expand the boundaries between what it takes to get you going and what it takes to stop you and in turn you'll grow into the measure of the leader God made you to be. Never miss an opportunity to take a step of faith (2 Cor. 5:7). If incorrect motivators, like anger and greed, can get you going, how much more will correct motivation, in the power of His Spirit, motivate you? Be motivated correctly to accomplish your purpose. As you grow you'll notice yourself transitioning from inward focused (meeting your own needs) to outward focused (meeting others' needs) to upward focused (serving God however and whenever He directs), living with eternal perspective (2 Cor. 4:18) rather than selfish ambition (Phil. 2:21). Live every day focused on Jesus (Heb. 3:1 and 12:1-2).

*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!*



Notes:

## ACT NOW

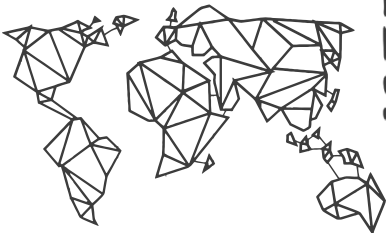
### TAKE SOME RISKS!

- Write out a personal goal (something about who you want to become):
  
- List a risk you can take towards that goal:

#### EVALUATE THE RISK.

- Will this help you become the person God made you to be?
  - Yes
  - No
- Will this help you become obedient to something God has specifically commanded you to do in Scripture?
  - Yes
  - No
- Will this help you fulfill your life purpose and calling?
  - Yes
  - No
- Will it glorify God?
  - Yes
  - No
- What are the potential gains:
  
- What are the potential dangers and losses:
  
- Should you take this risk?
  - Yes
  - No
- If so, write out a SMART goal that will help you take this step:

Repeat this process for each ministry risk/goal.



<sup>5</sup> 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) goal<sup>16</sup> 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.

