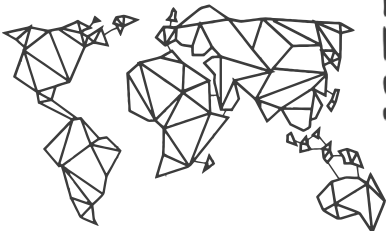




¹ John C. Maxwell, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership: Follow Them and People Will Follow You - 10th Anniversary Edition* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2007), 1.

Notes:

**GREAT
COMMISSION
LEADERSHIP**
HOMEWORK
PACKET
FIVE



BREAKING THROUGH MINISTRY LIDS

Leadership ability is the lid that determines a person's level of effectiveness. The lower an individual's ability to lead, the lower the lid on his potential. The higher the individual's ability to lead, the higher the lid on his potential.¹

John Maxwell

BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, IS CHRIST ON THE THRONE?

If not, make sure He is!

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2 [ESV]

LEADERS DESTROY THEIR LIDS

Jesus taught His followers to follow Him past their natural limitations. A lid is anything that limits you from experiencing what God has for you in life and ministry. Peter was a fisherman by trade but Jesus called Him to follow Him and become a fisher of men (Matt. 4:19). Peter was naturally cowardly, fearful, immature, ignorant and emotionally unstable (just a few examples: Jn. 18:17, 25-27) but God brought him to a place of being fearless, bold, confident and effective in ministry (Acts 2, especially v.41). Many Christians live similarly futile and carnal lives but can experience the same transformation Peter did. It is important to notice that Peter's transformation was the direct result of the Holy Spirit working in Him and every believer can experience the same type of growth as they yield to the Holy Spirit! God obliterated Peter's personal and leadership lids and He desires to do the same with yours. Will you let Him?

² C.H. Spurgeon, *An All Around Ministry: Addresses to Ministers and Students* (BookAndSuchNW, 2009), Ch. 11, Kindle.

Notes:

BARRIERS AND LIDS

Growing into the leader God made you to be requires that you deal with barriers and lids. We find the key to this in Heb. 12:1-2. It is imperative that you get your eyes on Jesus not the lids that limit you. Personal maturity and effective ministry require that you allow God to destroy the lids that limit you. Never be satisfied with your current level of growth. Spurgeon warned, "Satisfaction with results will be the knell of progress ... and he is not useful who thinks he is useful enough."² Always keep growing (remember Isaiah 35:3).

→ **What barriers have kept you from experiencing God's will for you in the past?**

→ **What was the result in your life when those barriers were dealt with?**

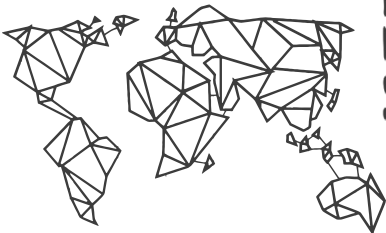
DEALING WITH PERSONAL LIDS

Last week we discussed the measure of a leader. We asked, "what does it take to get you going and what does it take to stop you?" We encouraged you to begin taking risks, allowing God to expand you. You could think of that as getting growth started. This lesson will discuss keeping growth going by removing lids. Personal lids keep you from that and prevent you from growing personally. You should strive to grow into the full potential God created you for, in His power of course. Imagine your personal God given abilities on a horizontal axis (see figure 5.1). We'll call this horizontal growth because your growth here effects mostly yourself and a much smaller sphere of influence. It is important that you remove any lids that could prevent your personal growth. For example, remove anything keeping you from moving from 7 to 8.

Personal Ability



Figure 5.1



³ John C. Maxwell, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership: Follow Them and People Will Follow You - 10th Anniversary Edition* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2007), 6.

Notes:

DEALING WITH LEADERSHIP LIDS

Leadership growth allows you to grow into the leader God made you to be so you can accomplish all God has called you to do. Leadership lids keep you from that and prevent you from growing as a leader. Imagine your natural God given leadership abilities on a vertical axis (see figure 5.2). We'll call this vertical growth because your growth here effects many others along with your effectiveness and contributions

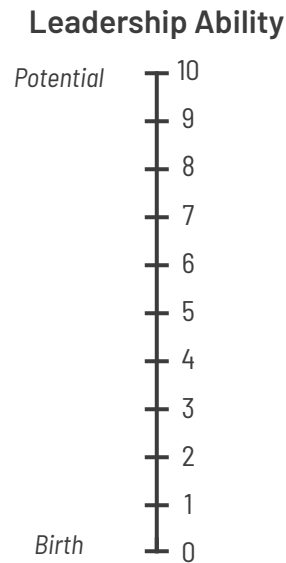
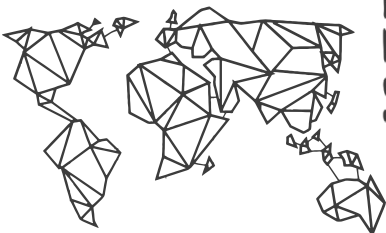


Figure 5.2

MAXWELL'S DIAGRAM

Maxwell's diagram³ describes this. Personal ability and leadership ability are both 1 dimensional but together they are 2 dimensional and synergistic. Maxwell illustrates the effect of removing personal and leadership lids with a powerful diagram (see figure 5.3). You may be very talented personally but you'll have only a minimal impact until you grow as a leader. For example, an 8 out of 10 in natural ability with just a 1 in leadership ability results in just 8% effectiveness. However, personal ability with leadership ability leads to effectiveness! For example, an 8 out of 10 in natural ability with an 8 in leadership ability results in 64% effectiveness.



Notes:

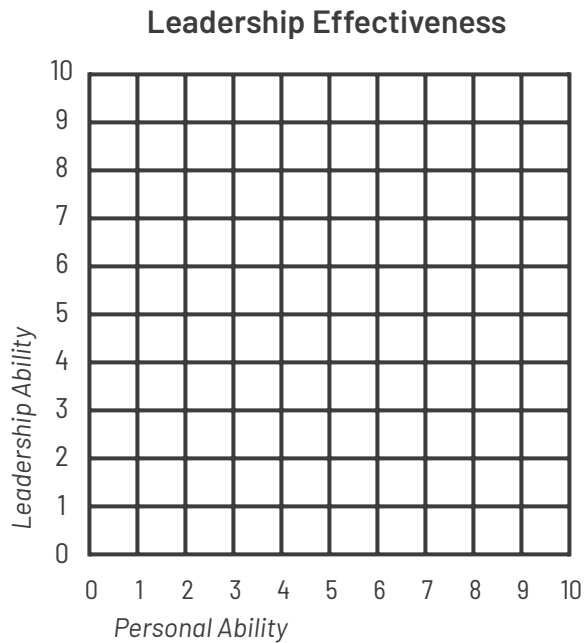


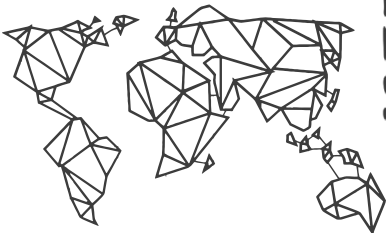
Figure 5.3

ACCOMPLISHING YOUR LIFE PURPOSE & THE GREAT COMMISSION

Effectively accomplishing your life purpose & the Great Commission requires breaking through lids in both personal and leadership areas. But, you need to know how to diagnose your lids (and humility is required for this). This is sometimes difficult because you don't know what you don't know. Often, though, we know all too well. It is usually easy to spot something like a relationship keeping you from personal growth or a habit preventing leadership growth.

- **Ask God to reveal your lids to you (James 1:5). Does anything come to mind? Evaluate yourself in humility (Rom. 12:3). List any lids God reveals to you:**

- **Ask others what lids they see in your life. What have people told you in the past? Listen to and learn from criticism. What criticisms have you heard about yourself?**

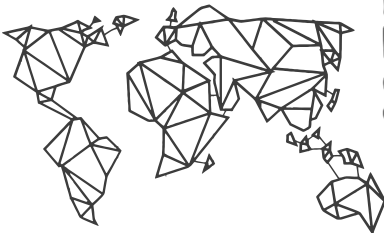


Notes:

→ **Learn from failures and successes. What lids have these exposed in the past?**

→ **See if any of these common lids apply (check any that do):**

- Not being fully surrendered to Christ (obeying Christ in some areas, but not all areas—compartmentalized obedience)
- Insufficient fellowship with Christ (i.e. in the Word, prayer, etc.)
- Lack of eternal perspective
- Character deficiencies (remember LEADERSHIP areas)
- Secret sin
- Lack of accountability
- Pride and/or comparing yourself to others
- Issues from your past
- Physical health (either medical or fitness issues)
- Incorrect expectations
- Bad habits
- Wrong desires (Mt. 13:7 & 22, 2 Tim. 2:3-4)
- Personality weaknesses
- Relational issues
- Fears
- Lack of balance
- Lack of vision, goals, priorities, or purpose/mission statement
- Bad boundaries (i.e. can't say, "no")
- Lack of discipline and diligence
- Negative side of your gifts (i.e. gifted leaders may come across as overbearing)
- Insufficient knowledge & training (i.e. in content, in principle, and/or in strategy)
- Lack of experience
- Bad time management
- Inadequate resources
- Technology imbalance (technologically challenged or addicted)
- Other: _____



⁴ Dictionary.com, *Diligence* definition, <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/diligence?s=ts> (accessed December 1, 2013).

⁵ Henry Cloud and John Townsend, *Boundaries Workbook: When to Say Yes When to Say No To Take Control of Your Life* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995), 41.

Notes:

HOW TO BREAK THROUGH YOUR LIDS

Keep your eyes on Jesus, not your lids (Heb. 12:1-2). Confess sin (1 Jn. 1:9). Be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Rom. 12:1-2). Walk by faith not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). Spend more time in fellowship, your “issues” will surface (1 Jn. 1:5-7; Accountability is key, James 5:16). Spend more time applying God’s Word (James 1:22, 1 Jn. 3:18). Be diligent in dealing with your lids. Diligence is defined as “constant and earnest effort to accomplish what is undertaken; persistent exertion of body or mind.”⁴ Check out these passages for more on this issue: 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 1 Tim. 4:12-16, 2 Peter 1:3-9.

- **How do you think Pr. 12:24 and Pr. 21:5 apply to dealing with lids?**

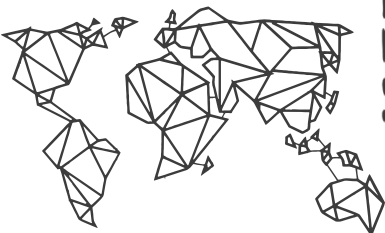
- **How do you think the Holy Spirit can empower you to break through your lids like He did with Peter (Eph. 5:18)?** Note: The Spirit filled life naturally destroys lids!

- **What do you think it means to do your best to become a workman approved (2 Tim. 2:15)?**

BREAKING THROUGH LIDS TAKES TIME

Working through your lids over time has amazing results! Cloud and Townsend tell us that growth is a product of grace and truth over time.⁵ As you grow in both personal and leadership areas over time you’ll grow into the ministry potential God created you for!

- **How have you seen God grow you personally over the past year?**





⁶ C.H. Spurgeon, *An All Around Ministry: Addresses to Ministers and Students* (BookAndSuchNW, 2009), Ch. 5, Kindle.

Notes:

- How have you seen God grow you as a leader over the past year?

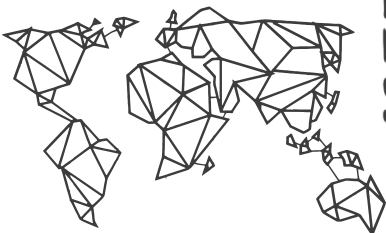
- How has God used this workbook to grow you in those areas?

- What area of growth do you need to trust God with right now?

THE BOTTOM LINE

Always keep growing. Spurgeon admonishes us writing, “Beloved brethren, we cannot afford to remain in any state lower than the very best; for, if so, our work will not be well done.”⁶ Deal with personal lids and leadership lids patiently over time in the power of the Holy Spirit and you’ll grow into the person God made you to be, able to accomplish the purpose He has for you.

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

DESTROY SOME LIDS!

→ **Make a list of 5 things you know are holding you back personally.**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

→ **Make a list of 5 things you know are holding you back as a leader.**

1.

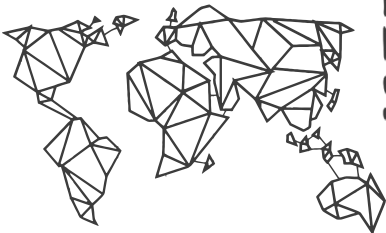
2.

3.

4.

5.

Put a line through each and write, "God is big enough," above it. Add these to your prayer list and begin giving them to God daily. Share these with your accountability partner and ask them to pray for you as well. God really will help you break through these so you can love and serve Him the way He created you to. Take some time coming up with some goals to deal with these and write those down!



⁷ 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) goal¹⁶ 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.

