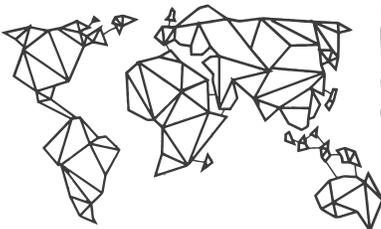




¹ John C. Maxwell, *Developing the Leader Within You* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1993), 161-162.

Notes:

**GREAT
COMMISSION
LEADERSHIP**
HOMEWORK
PACKET
SIX



THE LEADER'S BALANCED LIFE

All great leaders have understood that their number one responsibility was for their own discipline and personal growth. If they could not lead themselves, they could not lead others.¹

John Maxwell

BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, IS CHRIST ON THE THRONE?

If not, make sure He is!

MEMORY VERSE

...set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."

Hebrews 12:1-2 [ESV]

LIFE-LONG LEADERSHIP REQUIRES BALANCE

Jesus taught that His followers need to be balanced in life and ministry, making time to rest with Him, even in the midst of intense ministry (Mk. 6:30-32). Timothy was a great example of this balance. Paul told Timothy to set an example "in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity" (1 Tim. 4:12). Everything we know about Timothy confirms this young pastor was balanced in all these key areas of life and ministry. His well rounded life and spiritual maturity equipped him for effective ministry at a young age. Balance in your life will prepare you for effective ministry as well!

DEVELOPING MEANINGFUL BALANCE

Balance will help you fulfill your purpose and accomplish all God has called you to. In Luke 2:52, Jesus demonstrates an example of the type of balance that we have based this week's homework on. This verse states, "Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." Jesus grew in these areas, and so should we. Personal discipline is vitally important in maintaining balance in these four key areas of life: **1** fellowship with God, **2** relationships with others, **3** wisdom, & **4** stature. We must be balanced in both spiritual and physical areas (1 Tim. 4:8).

Notes:

- List a relationship you need to make right (along with a plan to make it right):

- How can you better prioritize your family relationships?

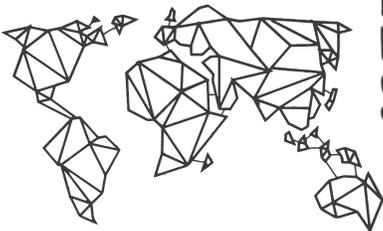
- How can you better prioritize your relationships with those you lead?

- How can you better prioritize your relationships with your team?

- How can you better prioritize your relationships with non-Christians?

- How can you better prioritize your other relationships?

Special note: Relationships and ministry both require that you get good at meeting new people. The **REACH** acronym for meeting new people will help: **R**elate (Smile. Compliment. Wave), **E**nvironment (Look for conversation starters in your surroundings), **A**sk (Ask a stranger a question they might be able to answer and then strike up a conversation), **C**ompliment (make it a point to appropriately and authentically uplift others, it can lead to great ministry opportunities), **H**elp (Help someone that needs it or ask for help if you do). Make it a point to meet 3 new people using these ideas this week.



Notes:

BALANCE AREA 3 | WISDOM

You can think of wisdom as knowledge applied correctly. Both the intellectual side and the application side are important. A leader never stops learning, but is committed to growing in the knowledge of God's Word and other areas as well. Howard Hendricks says, "If we stop learning today, we stop teaching tomorrow." A leader is always committed to applying all they learn. Remember James 1:22!

- **What areas of Biblical knowledge are you weakest in and how can you begin growing in those?**

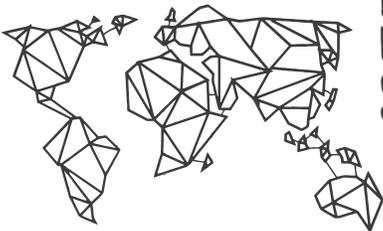
- **What areas of Ministry knowledge (ex. apologetics, leadership, counseling, etc) are you weakest in and how can you begin growing in those?**

- **What other areas of knowledge do you need to grow in (ex. languages, history, politics, etc.) and how can you begin growing in those?**

- **Are you wise according to James 3:17? If not, why not? Challenge: Ask God to give you wisdom (James 1:5) and begin reading the book of Proverbs!**

BALANCE AREA 4 | STATURE

Strictly speaking, stature refers to one's age, height or accomplishments. We'll include the areas of physical health and



¹Footnote

Notes:

resources in this discussion as they are both important aspects of stature. If any of these are out of balance, you'll be hindered tremendously. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16). God has called you to steward each of these areas diligently (Mt. 25:14-30); neglecting them is sin. Steward them well. Your physical health, diet, exercise, habits, conditions, fun and personal recharging are vital. It is imperative that you find ways to recharge. Know yourself and how you tick, then organize your life and schedule to make it work. Russ Akins always says, "You must first survive and then do ministry." That is very true. You must minimize stress and schedule and cultivate fun activities and hobbies that will recharge you. Prioritize rest and recharging (Heb. 4:1-11) and schedule a sabbath (Mk. 2:27).

→ **List 2 areas your health is not where it needs to be and what you plan to do about it:**

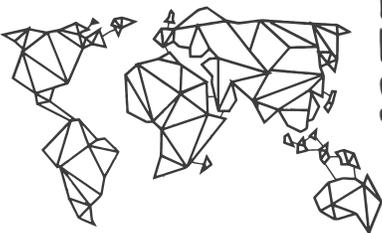
1.

2.

Your resources (What Randy Alcorn calls your time, talent, and treasure) are as vital to you and your leadership success as your physical health. Steward them well!

→ **How can you use the resources God has given you to bless others and to do ministry?**

TIME. You have 86,400 Seconds in a day. Steward them well. We understand that different cultures value time in different ways. No matter your culture, learn to steward your time wisely for the Lord. Here are 10 tips for managing your time (from various sources): ① Don't negotiate with your alarm. It has been said that, "Getting up in the morning has a lot to do with getting up in life." ② Prioritize and write down your priorities. ③ Set goals to achieve them (remember the SMART acronym). ④ Use a schedule and plan your priorities and goals into your schedule. Multiple tools can be a benefit here as well (Ex. paper, day-planner, phone and online). Leave yourself good reminders. Do whatever it takes to schedule well. ⑤ Use a pencil in your day-



Notes:

→ **List 2 areas your health is not where it needs to be and what you plan to do about it:**

1.

2.

3.

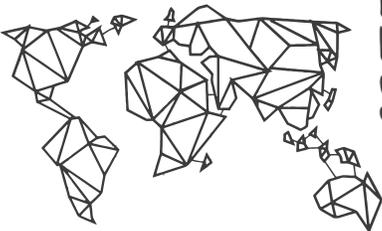
4.

Our friend and former co-worker, Leah Hillewaert, asks the students she disciples, "if Jesus looked at your priorities and schedule would he change anything?" Consider that question as you consider managing the time God has given you. When you work through your schedule in the application section for this lesson, see how much time you would have if you eliminated these time wasters. Then, come up with a plan to do just that! In addition to completing the schedule worksheet in this lesson's application section, utilize online resources as well. Your phone, computer, e-mail and social media all have schedule capacities. Use them! There is no longer an excuse for mismanaging time. Also, there are many online resources to help as well as apps than can help you stay focused and productive.

→ **Being late is a waste of your time and others' as well (it also conveys that you think you're more important than they are). How are you at being punctual and how can you improve?**

TALENTS. Know your gifts and talents and don't neglect them (1 Tim. 4:14). Do develop them (2 Tim 1:6). Again, more on this soon!

→ **List a few talents you have and describe how can you maximize these and use them in leadership (Mt. 25:14-30)?**



³ Chip Ingram, *Good to Great in God's Eyes: Ten Practices Great Christians Have in Common* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007), 207.

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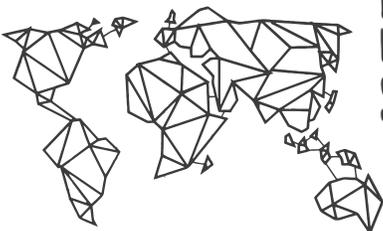
TREASURE. Your money and other resources are a gift from God for you to use for Him. Are you stewarding them well. Do you have a budget? Why or why not? Do you tithe and give (2 Cor. 9:6-8)? Why or why not? Do the budget worksheet in this week's application section. Take advantage of the numerous online resources to help you with budgeting and managing your money (like <http://crown.org>). Remember that Christians are called to give. No matter where you are at in life you should be giving generously. Tithing and giving are not just for those with extra money. Special challenge: Make a donation to a godly ministry today! Also, If you are following God in leadership and ministry you will eventually have to warm up to the idea of support raising. This is a Biblical concept. Check out the following references on support raising: 1 Tim. 5:17-18, Deut. 25:4, Luke 10:1-7, Luke 8:3, 1 Cor 9:14, 2 Cor 8:5, Phil. 4:10-19, Rom. 15:24, 2 Cor. 8:1-5 & 2 Cor 9:3.

→ **Is it hard to trust God with your money and possessions? Why or why not?**

→ **How do you think God wants you to take a step of faith in trusting Him with your finances?**

HEALTHY BALANCE STARTS WITH GOOD HABITS

Develop good habits in each of these areas. We've mentioned the significance of habits a few times so far and wanted to reiterate this topic here. Character development is a process going from thoughts to choices to actions to habits and leading to character. Ingram writes, "We need to grasp the fact that the sum of our good and bad habits will dictate who we become."³ Leaders develop great habits and avoid bad ones. As Ingram notes, the sum of your habits really will really determine the impact you make for Christ. Learn to make the balance areas described in this lesson life habits and you'll be taking a huge step towards the person God made you to be and the purpose He made you for.



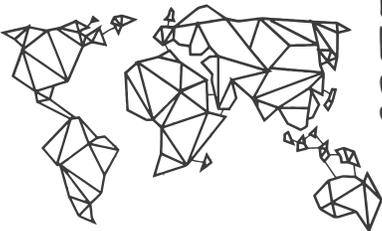
Notes:

→ How are your habits contributing or limiting your character development and what needs to change?

KEEP ON GROWING

As you grow in balance you'll find enormous peace and effectiveness in ministry! Follow Christ's example in Lk. 2:52. Balancing your fellowship with God, relationships with others, wisdom, and stature will free you up for effective leadership. Finally, recognize activities that recharge you and do whatever it takes to stay physically and emotionally sharp for life and ministry. Sacrifice is the essence of leadership. Seek to live a life of sacrifice across all these areas (Rom. 12:1-2), but be careful what you'll sacrifice for success in ministry (Judges 11:29-40); don't sacrifice what doesn't belong to you (2 Sam. 24:24). God, your family and friends, physical needs and more all require energy, time and resources; be careful not to sacrifice at their expense. Wisely live sacrificially for Jesus (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

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!



⁴ Learn more at:
<http://crown.org/Library/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=751>

Notes:

BUDGET WORKSHEET⁴

INCOME

- » Paycheck..... \$ _____
- » Other Income:
 - › _____ \$ _____
 - › _____ \$ _____
 - › _____ \$ _____
- » **Total Income** **\$** _____

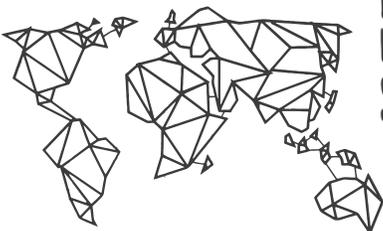
EXPENSES

Distribute total Income as needed below. (Remember: Expenses < Income)

- » Tithe/Giving..... \$ _____
- » Rent/Mortgage \$ _____
- » Utilities \$ _____
- » Food..... \$ _____
- » Debt Payments \$ _____
- » Car (Payments, Insurance, Gas, etc.) \$ _____
- » Miscellaneous Living Expenses..... \$ _____
- » Health Insurance \$ _____
- » Savings..... \$ _____
- » Fun (i.e. Activities, Eating Out, etc.)..... \$ _____
- » Other Expense(s):
 - › _____ \$ _____
 - › _____ \$ _____
 - › _____ \$ _____
- » **Total Expenses** **\$** _____

DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR WORK

1. Make any adjustments as needed.
2. Decide what you need to do to make ends meet.
3. Establish accountability for your budget to keep you on track.



⁵ 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.

