

## **NOTES FROM LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE 5/8/04**

- Anyone influencing another is a leader
- Leading is more about the life we lead than the things we know
- There is a false mentality that leader = expert –
  - The reality is more like:
    - = co-laborer
    - = “midwife” (role is to assist more than direct)
    - = servant
    - = librarian (doesn’t have all the answers/resources, but knows where to find them)\
    - = guide (think of a naturalist guiding a group of hikers, etc)
- Knowledge should function as a tool and a means of growth rather than an idol (attaining knowledge for the sake of having it)
- There is a cultural addiction to being right – we have difficulty embracing help, sharing knowledge, yielding
- Simplicity is a major theme in leading, in following, in growing in Christ
- Some thoughts about reading Scripture:
  - Can approach it in a more monastic tradition, which emphasizes quality, not quantity – taking a small passage and letting it sink in
  - Sometimes, though, it may function in the opposite way – more like “background noise” for life.
  - Perhaps we aren’t always meant to understand what we read right when we read it – God will reveal meaning to us in time, or maybe not at all. Following doesn’t always mean understanding.
    - Likewise, we may not always be understood or received as we hope to be when we lead discussion/Bible study, but we should facilitate an environment where the group can work it out, so to speak. Adjust the “learning pace” so the teaching isn’t over folks’ heads.

### Additional resources

[www.theooze.com](http://www.theooze.com)

[www.offthemap.org](http://www.offthemap.org)

*Discovering the Bible for Yourself*, J. Arnold

*Using the Bible in Groups* Hestenes

*How to Read the Bible*, Goldingay

*Jesus on Leadership*, Wilkes

*Built to Last, Good to Great*, J. Collins

*Life Together*, Bonhoeffer

*Leading Without Power*, M dePree

*Have You Ever?*, Christie

*Out of Solitude*, Nouwen

*Handbook for Churches & Mission Groups*, Devers

*Missional Church*, Guder (see especially chapter 7)

*Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community*, Farnham et al.

*Relational Leadership*, W. Wright

*Spiritual Storytelling*, R Peace

*Make It So*, Roberts & Ross (lessons in leadership from Cpt J Luc Picard – I’m not kidding)

## **Leader Resources for Faith-forming Missional Communities**

### **Bible study**

Postmodern Bible Commentary - <http://www.bible.gen.nz/>  
Crosswalk Bible Study Tools - <http://www.biblestudytools.net/>  
Center for Digital Storytelling - <http://www.storycenter.org/index.html>

### **Inductive Bible Study**

What is it - <http://www.path-light.com/inductive.htm>  
Resources for it - <http://www.intervarsity.org/biblestu/communal/>

**Exegesis** - The explanation of a text. This may be undertaken in a number of ways, so **hermeneutics** [interpretation] is (in part) the science of exegesis.  
Lots O'links - [http://www.catholic-pages.com/dir/bible\\_study.asp](http://www.catholic-pages.com/dir/bible_study.asp)

**Lectio Divina** – literally “divine reading”

St. Andrew’s Abbey - <http://www.valyermo.com/ld-art.html>

### **Organizations**

Church Multiplication Associates (CMA) - <http://www.organicchurchplanting.org/>  
Articles - <http://www.organicchurchplanting.org/features/archive.asp>

House2House - <http://www.house2house.tv/>  
Articles - <http://www.house2house.tv/index.pl/articles>

DAWN Ministries – <http://www.dawnministries.org/regions/nam/index.html>  
Resources - <http://www.dawnministries.org/regions/nam/resources/index.html>

Servant Leadership School - <http://www.slschool.org/>  
Resources -  
<http://www.slschool.org/pages/withus/21libraryshelves/recommend/20libraryrecommend.html>  
Articles and eBooks -  
<http://www.slschool.org/pages/withus/21libraryshelves/ebook/20libraryebooks.html>

### **Books**

The Church Comes Home: Building Community and Mission through Home Churches  
by Julia Banks, Robert J. Banks

Making Sense of Church: Eavesdropping on Emerging Conversations About God, Community, and Culture  
by Spencer Burke

The Wounded Healer  
by Henri Nouwen

### **Random**

Dr. Mark Lau Branson, Homer L. Goddard Associate Professor of Ministry of the Laity -  
[http://www.fuller.edu/sot/faculty/branson/cp\\_content/BransonHomePage.htm](http://www.fuller.edu/sot/faculty/branson/cp_content/BransonHomePage.htm)

Christian Classics Ethereal Library (Classic Christian books in electronic format, selected for your edification. There is enough good reading material here to last you a lifetime, if you give each work the time it deserves!) - <http://www.ccel.org/>

Monastic Spirituality Self-study (*Ancient Texts and Downloadable Lectures*) - <http://www.ldysinger.com/>

There's No Place Like Home - <http://www.vineyardcentral.com/10resour/resources.html> - House Church Guidebook and Lectio Divina guide

### **The Third Chapter: The Doctrine of Truth (from Imitation of Christ by Thomas a Kempis)**

Happy is he to whom truth manifests itself, not in signs and words that fade, but as it actually is. Our opinions, our senses often deceive us and we discern very little.

What good is much discussion of involved and obscure matters when our ignorance of them will not be held against us on Judgment Day? Neglect of things which are profitable and necessary and undue concern with those which are irrelevant and harmful, are great folly.

We have eyes and do not see.

What, therefore, have we to do with questions of philosophy? He to whom the Eternal Word speaks is free from theorizing. For from this Word are all things and of Him all things speak -- the Beginning Who also speaks to us. Without this Word no man understands or judges aright. He to whom it becomes everything, who traces all things to it and who sees all things in it, may ease his heart and remain at peace with God.

O God, You Who are the truth, make me one with You in love everlasting. I am often wearied by the many things I hear and read, but in You is all that I long for. Let the learned be still, let all creatures be silent before You; You alone speak to me.

The more recollected a man is, and the more simple of heart he becomes, the easier he understands sublime things, for he receives the light of knowledge from above. The pure, simple, and steadfast spirit is not distracted by many labors, for he does them all for the honor of God. And since he enjoys interior peace he seeks no selfish end in anything. What, indeed, gives more trouble and affliction than uncontrolled desires of the heart?

A good and devout man arranges in his mind the things he has to do, not according to the whims of evil inclination but according to the dictates of right reason. Who is forced to struggle more than he who tries to master himself? This ought to be our purpose, then: to conquer self, to become stronger each day, to advance in virtue.

Every perfection in this life has some imperfection mixed with it and no learning of ours is without some darkness. Humble knowledge of self is a surer path to God than the ardent pursuit of learning. Not that learning is to be considered evil, or knowledge, which is good in itself and so ordained by God; but a clean conscience and virtuous life ought always to be preferred. Many often err and accomplish little or nothing because they try to become learned rather than to live well.

If men used as much care in uprooting vices and implanting virtues as they do in discussing problems, there would not be so much evil and scandal in the world, or such laxity in religious organizations. On the day of judgment, surely, we shall not be asked what we have read but what we have done; not how well we have spoken but how well we have lived.

Tell me, where now are all the masters and teachers whom you knew so well in life and who were famous for their learning? Others have already taken their places and I know not whether they ever think of their predecessors. During life they seemed to be something; now they are seldom remembered. How quickly the glory of the world passes away! If only their lives had kept pace with their learning, then their study and reading would have been worth while.

How many there are who perish because of vain worldly knowledge and too little care for serving God. They became vain in their own conceits because they chose to be great rather than humble.

He is truly great who has great charity. He is truly great who is little in his own eyes and makes nothing of the highest honor. He is truly wise who looks upon all earthly things as folly that he may gain Christ. He who does God's will and renounces his own is truly very learned.

## **The Fifth Chapter: Reading the Holy Scripture (from Imitation of Christ by Thomas a Kempis)**

TRUTH, not eloquence, is to be sought in reading the Holy Scriptures; and every part must be read in the spirit in which it was written. For in the Scriptures we ought to seek profit rather than polished diction.

Likewise we ought to read simple and devout books as willingly as learned and profound ones. We ought not to be swayed by the authority of the writer, whether he be a great literary light or an insignificant person, but by the love of simple truth. We ought not to ask who is speaking, but mark what is said. Men pass away, but the truth of the Lord remains forever. God speaks to us in many ways without regard for persons.

Our curiosity often impedes our reading of the Scriptures, when we wish to understand and mull over what we ought simply to read and pass by.

If you would profit from it, therefore, read with humility, simplicity, and faith, and never seek a reputation for being learned. Seek willingly and listen attentively to the words of the saints; do not be displeased with the sayings of the ancients, for they were not made without purpose.

\*Imitation of Christ by Thomas a Kempis - <http://www.ccel.org/k/kempis/imitation2/>