

**GROWING LEADERS
SESSION 5
DISCERNING
DIRECTION**

Introduction

Session 5: Discerning direction is the first session of part 2 of the course which focuses on key skills of Christian leadership. In that sense it represents something of a transition in the course. Once again this session is a Friday evening and all day Saturday affair. It focuses on the responsibility leaders have to help those they lead be clear about where they are going.

Leadership is about going somewhere, and whatever level of leadership people operate at, it is important that they have a sense of direction that means things are moving forward. The session identified a number of ways that leaders can discern God's way forward, and advocates that generally the best way is to not do it on your own, but include others in the process (thereby gaining their involvement, and through their involvement their ownership of the outcome).

It may raise interesting issues about the overall direction of the church, as well as the specifics of how they work on discerning God's way forward for the area of leadership they are involved in.

The questions we encourage them to explore with their mentor after this session are:

- What has been the most significant influence on what you think and feel about vision?
- How do you feel about the priority of vision in your own leadership role?
- What are the obstacles you are facing at the moment in the area of discerning God's direction with those you lead? What is the best way to tackle them?
- When thinking about turning vision into reality, what aspects may you need to work on at this time?

Half-way point

Session 5 marks half way through Growing Leaders. At this point it will be good to review how things are going.

REFLECT

Perhaps you could explore with them the following at some point in your meeting.

- How are you feeling about the course so far?
- What are you finding helpful?
- What are you struggling with?
- How could you get the most out of the second half of GL?
- What are the things you might need to change (attitudes, actions, aspirations) to help you do this?
- What could I offer that would help with this?

REVIEW

As part of the mentor process, we also encourage mentor and mentee to review how things are going in the mentoring relationship at this stage in the course. This helps with any mid-course corrections that would keep the relationship on track.

Perhaps you could initiate a brief review of the mentoring relationship at your next meeting. The following questions may help:

- What are you finding helpful about our times together?
- How closely are your expectations being met?
- What would take the usefulness of our meetings up another level?
- What are the areas we've not covered that in all honesty you think I should be raising with you?
- Are there things I am doing/not doing that it would be helpful to change?

Ideally send these out ahead of the meeting as part of your preparation so that your participant has time to think about their answers before they come.

And remember, feedback is your friend.

Growing Leaders
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