

ELEVATE

equip • empower • encourage

The E-Zine of Leadership Development
vol. 1 issue 2 Spring 2013

Community Bible Study

thoughts.on.elevate.

Springtime – the time of year when school draws to a close, students graduate, college basketball fever recedes and snow melts away, just as new jobs begin, trees bud, flowers bloom, baseball bats crack on opening day, and next class year is out in front of us. Necessary endings and new beginnings. At times we move from one into the next with only a short break. Such is the story of the Community Bible Study leader. What keeps CBS leaders moving forward?

Vision is the force that keeps us motivated to finish well while thinking of improving the future. In their corporate vision statement, Hilton Hotels states their reason for existence and their goal for the future as “to fill the earth with light and the warmth of hospitality”. It is a statement that is easily altered to answer the question, “What is Christ’s vision for Community Bible Study?”. Fill the earth with the light of Christ and the warmth of His love. We are partners in a ministry whose specific stated vision is “transformed lives through the Word of Christ”. Light. Love. God has chosen us to stay on the job -



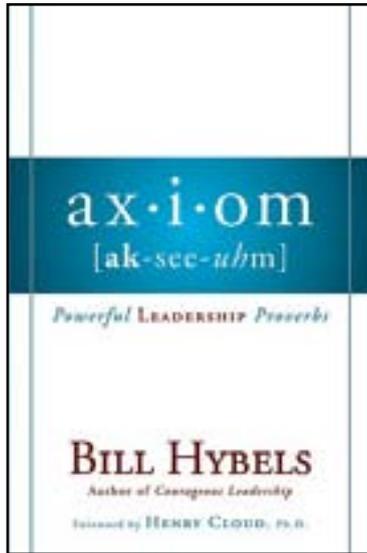
motivated to finish this year well. Thirty opportunities exist in a class year to reach those we shepherd. Only a few of those remain. Let’s make the most of them. God also charges us to plan and prepare for an even better future. Spreading light, sharing love, teaching the Word and participating in transformation. So as spring rolls into town, finish well what God has asked you to do and begin to plan with excitement and dreams for the fall. ■

teaching.directors.

Okay, be honest. Are you weary right now? Are the members of your Servants Team weary? It has been a long cold winter. There is much to be done before the end of the CBS year. There are green sheets to

be processed, observations to be done, invitations to be extended to potential leaders. Registration is ongoing and Sharing Day/Night is just around the corner. Without intentional planning every person on your team could become “task oriented.” As the Teaching Director of your class you have some very important sheep to shepherd. These sheep sit around the table at a Servants Team meeting and NEED to know that you and everyone else in that circle cares about what is going on in their lives. Paul says in Galatians 6:2

that we fulfill the law of Christ when we agree to “carry



one another’s burdens.” The people you lead have to know they’re part of a burden-carrying team. They have to know there’s an avenue for them to convey whatever personal or professional struggle they face. They have to know they can trust this circle of people to hear them out. You may be tempted to start your meeting with a short prayer and get down to business. After all, you have an agenda to cover in a limited amount of time. Before you dive into the tasks at hand, Bill Hybels in his book Axiom, suggests that you go around

the circle and have each one answer the question, “How are you doing Really?” Hybels goes on to encourage you to say something like this... “Give the rest of us a minute or two of insight into that question and then we’ll tackle the business issues we need to tackle.”

Once everyone has had a turn to verbalize their feelings, then pray for each situation – the good, the bad and the ugly. The experience doesn’t necessarily take that long, but the result is significant. Your Servants Team will feel better understood as individuals and more unified as a team. ■

Be on the lookout for a video message coming to your email inbox from Kimm Carr, new Executive Director of CBS. Please share this greeting with your Leaders Council!

coordinators.

Do you have an end of the year LEADERS Sharing Day/Night? This is an opportunity as a leadership to come together one last time and share the ways God has used the course of study this year to change YOU! Why not invite new, incoming leaders to this celebration? This serves two purposes. First, these new leaders will get to know faces and fellowship with the leaders they will interact with week after week. Second, it provides them with the opportunity to be encouraged by seeing leaders’ hearts devoted to the Lord and this ministry. Assign a “buddy” (experienced leader) to each new leader according to his/her role. (core leader with core leader, children’s leader with children’s leader, etc.). Be prepared with nametags so that each can be recognized by name. Make certain that new leader introductions are made so that they can be welcomed warmly. Ask the veteran leader to make one contact during the summer with their buddy. This creates a bond and unity that eases the anticipation of walking into training in August. At this Leader’s Sharing Day/Night, you may wish to hand out a reminder with important dates for the fall (beginning of class, leadership training days, craft day – if your class has one, and upcoming leadership conference in your area), so everyone has advance notice to mark their calendars and “save the dates.” ■

core.leaders.

What a privilege to walk alongside the men and women in your core group for the past eight months! As you shared phone calls, a meal or coffee and heard answers in class from these core members, you witnessed the transforming power of the Word of God in their lives. Have you heard first-hand how God's Word has empowered one in a crisis? Have you listened to how the Spirit of God convicted one of your sheep to repent and turn from sin? Was it exciting to hear the difference made in a household because a family member recognizes a noticeable life



change in his/her spouse because of being impacted by CBS? How about the mother who shared a story of her child repeating a memory verse to a neighbor or a grocery store clerk? Can you cite examples of prayers answered in your core group this year? Seize the moment NOW..... ask those members that have shared with you and have a "God story" to tell - to pray about sharing in the large group on Sharing Day/Night. This day/night is all about giving God the glory...for great things He has done and continues to do in the lives of His people. Be intentional about asking others to share so that ALL might be strengthened in their faith and God may be glorified. "Let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name." Heb. 13:15 (NKJV) ■

children's. leaders.

"Plant a word of love heart-deep in a person's life. Nurture it with a smile and a prayer and watch what happens." - Max Lucado

Marathon runners sometimes "hit the wall" when they get three fourths of the way through a race. The most successful runners are those who persevere through the wall, press on, and receive that last wind to finish successfully. How do children's leaders stay engaged until the very end? Each CBS year offers thirty weeks - thirty different opportunities to speak into children's lives. How

have you done so far? Do you still have a few in your class that you long to see reach a goal? J.R.R. Tolkien says, "All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us." Remind them in the remaining weeks that God loves

them and that His Word is planted firmly in their hearts. Review memory verses and ask each child which verses have a special meaning after studying them this year. Ask God to give you an extra measure of love and attention for those that are difficult to love. Rejoice and give thanks for your victories along the way!

As you pray about serving God next year, take time to ask God what He wants. Don't give an answer "when you have hit the wall." Instead, pray out of a desire to fulfill His call on your life. ■



July 22-26, 2013
Bible Alive!
Teaching the Bible in Context

A four-day
intensive designed for
Teaching Directors
and hosted at the
Ministry Service Center

space is limited to 50 ppl
\$250 includes all materials

contact: dawn.griffin@communitybiblestudy.org
for more information

associate. teaching. directors.

As your class year winds down, you are in the role of “seeker of new leaders”. The Servants Team Manual always offers a solid reminder of the prayerful and confidential way to handle this process. Visit the Servants Team manual and refer to Chapter 2: Class Leadership Overview > Key Attributes and Primary Responsibilities and Chapter 2: Class Leadership Overview > Placement Procedures > Calling Leadership– Established Classes.

Be certain to review the process and desired qualities of new leaders with the core leaders who are the front line of leader recommendations. And remember to pray, pray, pray. Keep in mind that good leaders are characterized by the following:

- Clear communication
- Focus on relationship building
- Loving people more than position
- Building team connections
- Willingness to speak the truth in love and gentleness
- Spirit of encouragement
- Desire to help others grow
- Value the mission and core values of CBS
- Humility
- Praying consistently for those they shepherd ■



area.directors.

Have your classes asked you to provide one more opening before the end of the year? Are you looking for some new ideas to spruce up openings and give them life and meaning? Questions have been posed by many of you about appropriate and interesting openings you can give on the days that you are visiting classes. Here are some suggestions: Ask the Teaching Director if there is a particular issue he/she would like addressed. Subjects like persevering to finish the year, the gift of relationships formed, a single lesson learned this year, or a view toward the start of the next class year can reinforce ideas that will

encourage class members. Be sure to include a story or illustration told in colorful language that will engage the audience. Focus on the season. In spring everyone’s thoughts turn to completion of some events and beginnings of new life. Create an opening around one of these two themes that carries thoughts of celebration and fresh starts. It is also the season when we celebrate Easter. Present something that

pertains to the resurrection of Jesus – its significance to you personally or a story or illustration that brings home the life-changing impact of this historical event.

Put to use the new resources on the CBS Membership System under the Leadership Development – Resources tab. Included there are sample openings that can be used just as they are or can be adapted by you to best fit your classes. ■

"Our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

"You cannot have a great leader without a great group – and vice versa."
 —Warren Bennis

senior.leaders.

It is the time of year to create a finish line for those you shepherd – a moment in time to join together and agree, “we finished the job, rest is coming”. We all look forward to the completion of a task, even when we know it will begin again in the future. We all love and need the sense of accomplishment that it brings. It is the very picture that Jesus paints in



scripture when the master says, “Well done, good and faithful servant”, Matthew 25:21.

Tremendous opportunity exists at this moment for three finish line highlights:

1. A Time of Affirmation – Gather your leaders together and affirm one another for the talents, qualities and moments that led

to growth achieved, problems solved and relationships built.
 2. A Time of Learning – Discuss the spiritual truths recognized, the leadership skills honed and the insights gained over the year.
 3. A Time of Celebration – Share all of these blessings at a gathering filled with laughter, food and fellowship. Express to each your appreciation

for their faithfulness and the gifts and personality they bring to the group. Fashion a finish line that will remain in their hearts and minds and encourage them throughout the summer as they prepare for another year of service in CBS. Then, take a deep breath and give yourself a moment to celebrate leading well over the past nine months. ■

children's. directors.

“When we celebrate, we exercise our ability to see and feel goodness in the simplest gifts of God.” - John Ortberg



Plan a specific sharing time of celebration for your children's leaders. A year end lunch or dinner OR LD time offers the opportunity to share takeaways or nuggets from your current year. As you make your shepherding calls, ask your children's leaders to recall some of the blessings in their classes and some of the struggles they have prayed over and conquered this year. (You may have to remind them or prompt them – i.e. the little one who cried every time his mother dropped him off, the student who didn't want to complete his/her lesson, those that memorized scripture week after week). What an encouragement it will be for everyone to hear how God has moved and worked in the lives of our children.

Watch for all the exciting information coming from the National Children's Team about “The Year of the Child”. Keep your children's leaders in the loop. Create excitement with an opening to inform all class members. Showcase The Year of the Child video. A skit/monologue titled “Worth Remembering” highlighting the importance of the Children's Ministry, can be found on the membership system under Leadership Development. ■



resource.

As a Leaders Council, would you like to read a great book this summer that gets your wheels turning in the direction of your study for 2013-14? Summer is a great time to reflect on a resource that informs and inspires in advance of the CBS study. Listed below are books that will complement CBS studies.

Genesis:

“The Magnificent Obsession: Embracing the God-Filled Life” by Anne Graham Lotz

God’s Story by Anne Graham Lotz

“More Than Meets The Eye: Fascinating Glimpses of God’s Power and Design” by Richard Swenson

“Joseph: A Man of Integrity and Forgiveness (Great Lives Series)” by Charles Swindoll

Exodus – Deuteronomy:

“Moses: A Man of Selfless Dedication” by Charles Swindoll

“Gods at War” by Kyle Idleman

Servants of God:

“Making of a Man of God, The Lessons from the Life of David” by Alan Redpath

“David A Man Of Passion And Destiny” by Charles Swindoll

“You Were Made For More” by Jim Cymbala

Wisdom Letters:

“Making Life Work: Putting God’s Wisdom into Action” by Bill Hybels

“Walking Wisely” by Charles Stanley

Psalms:

“A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23” by W. Phillip Keller

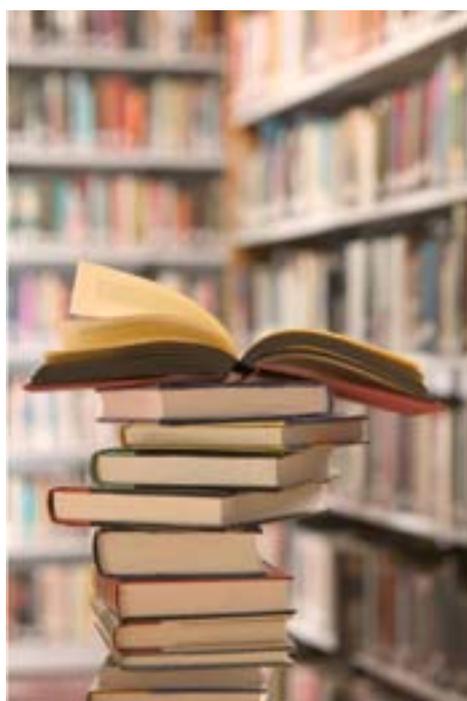
“Living the Psalms: Encouragement for the Daily Grind” by Charles Swindoll
“God’s Prayer Book” by Ben Patterson

Amos and Isaiah:

“I Saw the Lord” by Anne Graham Lotz

Esther:

“Esther: A Woman of Strength and Dignity” by Charles Swindoll



Job:

“Job: A Man of Heroic Endurance” by Charles Swindoll

Gospels:

“The Sermon on the Mount – DVD study series” by Rick Hale. Click here to order: www.lifechangerstudies.com

“Jesus: The Greatest Life of All” by Charles Swindoll

“Twelve Ordinary Men” by John MacArthur

“The Prodigal God” by Timothy Keller

“King’s Cross”, Timothy Keller (Mark)

“Jesus the One and Only” by

Beth Moore (Luke)

“The Beloved Disciple” by Beth Moore (John)

“Just Give Me Jesus” by Anne Graham Lotz (John)

“The Parables of Jesus” by James Montgomery Boice

“Just Like Jesus” by Max Lucado

“The Explicit Gospel” by Matt Chandler, Jared C. Wilson

“Multiply” by Francis Chan

Acts:

“Upside Down Living” by Greg Laurie

“To Live is Christ” by Beth Moore (applies to Paul’s letters as well)

“Paul: A Man of Grace and Grit” by Charles Swindoll

Romans:

“In the Grip of Grace” by Max Lucado

“Paul: A Man of Grace and Grit” by Charles Swindoll

Ephesians:

“The Grace of God” by Andy Stanley

“Choose Joy” by Kay Warren

Philippians:

“Laugh Again” by Charles Swindoll

“Choose Joy” by Kay Warren

Timothy and Titus:

“The Measure of a Man Revised and Expanded Edition” by Gene A. Getz

1 & 2 Peter:

“Hope Again” by Charles Swindoll

Revelation:

“Insights on Revelation (Swindoll’s New Testament Insights)” by Charles Swindoll
“The Vision of His Glory” by Anne Graham Lotz ■

Are you ready for a few new twists on training? Looking for some different approaches that will engage leaders? Annual training can become rote and familiar. Employ some of these ideas to liven it up, hold leaders interest, and reaffirm their call.

- ✓ Start by sending out a letter in July to all members of Leaders Council. Remind them of the significance of their calling, provide the dates for training and a brief description of its theme and updated format. Answer the question lingering in many minds (especially the minds of new leaders), “Did God really call unprepared me to do this?”
- ✓ Join together before summer takes off to plan a theme, format and plenty of interactive activities. Make certain that the theme creates and reinforces the vision for the upcoming year. Divide up the sessions and assignments to allow plenty of preparation time. Create visuals and a key phrase that emphasize the theme. Avoid waiting until

just before training to plan and prepare!!

✓ Get the right people on the bus. Enlist the support, ideas and skills of other leaders who are creative, seasoned, and /or just plain fun. Solicit their input on improving and energizing the sessions.

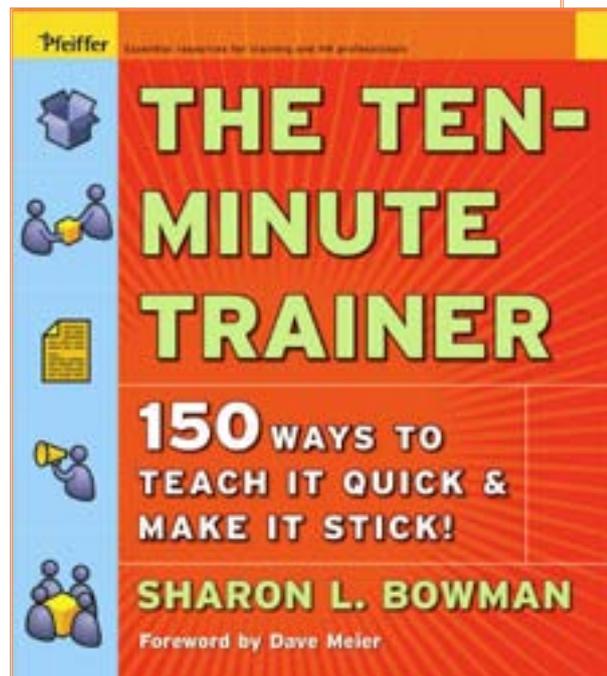
The more who can participate in the planning and presentation, the less the burden on any individual and the greater ownership all leaders feel in CBS.

✓ Consider dividing returning and new leaders during a few sessions to avoid repetition of well-known material and to give each group what will help them most. While new leaders are learning the fundamentals, returning leaders benefit from sessions on deeper prayer time, listening skills, asking good questions, building relationships, handling conflict, and other significant topics.

✓ Refer to the Servants Team Manual

for guidelines on topics, schedules and essential elements.

✓ The objective of training is not just listening but learning. People learn best when engaged in activity, discussion, and personal involvement.



Employ some of the interactive tools and training strategies in one of these resources: “Training for Dummies” by Elaine Bech and “The Ten-Minute Trainer” by Sharon Bowman to boost the active learning component of training. ■

ELEVATE is a publication of the Leadership Development Team of Community Bible Study. ELEVATE is designed and published exclusively for use by Community Bible Study Leaders. The views expressed by authors cited in this publication do not necessarily represent those of Community Bible Study.

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