



TAKE THE LEAD
**leading
with e's**
WORKBOOK

Leading with E's

NAME:

1

leading with enthusiasm

Enthusiasm can be defined as great excitement for or interest in a subject or cause. Other words for enthusiasm are zeal, passion, energy, eagerness, and fervour.

Passion is the fuel of our ministry - it gives us the energy to work hard.

Because in youth ministry the results are not always immediate or obvious, sometimes it can be hard to remain enthusiastic.

What things do you find bring down your enthusiasm levels the most?

Here are a couple of tips on how we can be more enthusiastic leaders:

- » Focus on the right things.
- » Externalise your enthusiasm.

We need to communicate and express our enthusiasm to those we are leading.

One way we can express our enthusiasm is to practice the language of enthusiasm by adding superlatives to our speech.

Replace or add to the following statements to make them more enthusiastic.

I want to see people in my youth group get to know God better.

The Bible is a good way to find out more about God.

My favourite food is KFC.

I went to the beach yesterday and had a nice time sitting in the sun and swimming in the warm water.

I am looking forward to going to church tonight.

Since I was a kid I've been hoping that one day I can go to Disneyland.

I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit today.

Leading with enthusiasm will add strength to your cause, as people are attracted to passion.

Better to be an enthusiastic novice than a passionless expert.

2

leading with excellence

Excellence isn't about reaching perfection, it's about reaching your potential.

Excellence is about being a good steward of the roles and resources you have been given.

Which of these do you think you do?

- I strive to learn from my mistakes.
- I'm not content with giving less than what I'm capable of giving.
- I hate to leave tasks unfinished.
- I try to leave things in better condition than they were when I arrived.
- I am always seeking to improve.

Excellence is often an expression of the value we place on others.

Imagine that your favourite music artist or actor rang you out of the blue and said they were coming to your house for dinner. What would you do?

As Christians, pursuing excellence can be a form of worship, as we seek to honour God in gratitude for what he has given us.

As leaders, excellence is also a form of serving others, as we seek to honour them by giving our best.

List the different areas of your life - e.g. school, home, work etc. In each of these areas you will have various jobs and responsibilities. Give yourself a grade based on how much you think you aim to do the best you can do.

Think about the roles and responsibilities you have at youth group. What would change if you were to really give it your best?

One of the things that work against excellence is over-commitment.

God gave us his best... we shouldn't give him any less.

3

leading with empathy

Empathy is the ability to identify with and understand another's situation or feelings.

When leaders lack empathy they can end up hurting people as they don't recognize or acknowledge the struggles of the people in their group or of their co-leaders. People can then feel unappreciated and stepped on.

Instead of looking down on others and assuming what they need, empathetic leaders seek to come alongside people and discover what's going on in and around them.

The foundation of understanding is listening.

Was there anything you found difficult about the listening activity?

Pity looks down. Empathy kneels down.

4

leading with encouragement

What is the most encouraging thing anyone has said to you?

Who is the most encouraging person you know?

As leaders we want to see people thrive and released into their gifts so they can be all they were created to be.

Many people struggle with fears and insecurities, which often play over and over in their heads.

Being an encourager doesn't mean you can never challenge or confront anyone.

Encouragement strengthens our relationships - people love to be around positive people

Some reasons why we don't always encourage:

- » We don't want people to become arrogant.
- » We are jealous of others, and so we don't like to see them do better than us.
- » We feel discouraged ourselves, which can make it hard to be encouraging of others.

Where/from who/in what ways can you find the encouragement that you need as leader?

A lot of people struggle to receive encouragement. A couple of reasons why:

- » We don't want to be arrogant. So we deflect any compliments.
- » We don't believe it. We are often so focussed on our faults that we find it hard to accept that people might think good things about us.

***Do whatever builds people up.
Criticism rarely does, but encouragement really does.***

bible reading guide

We have prepared four short bible studies for each of the 'e's. You might use these during your teaching sessions or you could read these in your own time.

1. enthusiasm

ROMANS 12:11

What does it look like to be lacking in zeal/enthusiasm?

If you are lacking in enthusiasm, how can you get more of it?

Ask God to help you be more passionate about the things he is passionate about.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

In this verse Paul encourages the Corinthian believers to give generously of their finances but to do it cheerfully and not just out of compulsion. This is good advice that we can apply to any opportunity to serve God - not doing it because we should but with joy and enthusiasm in response to the freedom God has given us.

Think about the different things you do for God - are there any that you think you do out of obedience but your heart is not really in it?

2 SAMUEL 6:12-15

David danced with all his might in worship of God.

What would it look like for you to be more enthusiastic in your praise of God? Try doing that by yourself with God and see how it feels. Then the next step might be to do it at church on Sunday!

NEHEMIAH 2:17-20

In this passage Nehemiah experienced opposition to his enthusiasm. Sometimes we will experience the same when we get passionate about something. Nehemiah responded with more enthusiasm!

Spend some time praying for the things you're passionate about.

2. excellence

GENESIS 4:1-7

Abel brought the firstborn of his livestock as a gift to God, whereas Cain brought some of his crops 'after some time'. It seems like maybe he gave God his leftovers rather than the best of his first fruits.

In what areas do you think you act more like Cain and in what areas do you act more like Abel?

MATTHEW 5:14-16

The Greek word in this verse used to describe our works/deeds as 'good', is 'kalos'. Kalos can be translated as 'excellent, well done, or beautiful'. As we do things with excellence it helps shine God's light into the darkness of the world!

Spend some time praying that God will help you to be the light of the world he has called you to be.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

Sometimes we can aim for excellence in those things that seem to directly serve God, but when it comes to things like schoolwork, housework, and secular employment we think that it doesn't matter whether we give our best or not.

Make it your goal today to do your chores and secular responsibilities as if it was of eternal value to God...because it might just be.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27

Here Paul compares serving God to an athlete training for a competition.

Think of an area of youth ministry that you would like to get better at. What could you do/where could you go/who could you talk to, in order to improve in this?

3. empathy

JOHN 11:32-35

Here we see Jesus deeply moved and weeping with compassion for Mary as she grieved for her dead brother. This is a remarkable display of empathy, especially as if you carry on and read the rest of the story you see that Jesus knew Lazarus was about to be raised from the dead!

Be encouraged that whatever you are struggling with at this moment, the Lord cares about you and is moved with compassion for you.

ROMANS 12:15

Empathy is about sharing in other people's experiences.

Where around you do you see rejoicing, and where do you see mourning? It could be people you know or it could be people you are aware of through others or from the news.

Spend some time praying for other people both giving thanks for their joys and asking the Lord to comfort them in their struggles.

JAMES 1:19

The foundation of empathy is listening.

Make it your goal today to focus on listening to people and finding out what they are thinking and feeling.

MATTHEW 7:12

This is known by many as the 'Golden Rule': to do unto others as you would have them do to you. This requires you to put yourself in other people's shoes and thinking what you would really appreciate if you were in their situation.

Think about the people around you and do something for someone that will hopefully communicate to them that you care about them and are with them in whatever they're going through.

4. encouragement

1 SAMUEL 30:1-6

That sounds like a bad day! But David's response to the terrible situation he found himself was to 'strengthen himself in the Lord'. It doesn't say how he did that though...

...In what ways do you connect with God's strength/encouragement?

ACTS 9:26-27

Saul (later known as Paul) had been the main persecutor of the Christians, until one day he had encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus. However he was so feared that when he arrived in Jerusalem wanting to join the church as a Christian, they viewed him with suspicion. There was one man by the name of Barnabas which means 'Son of Encouragement' that welcomed him in. He would go on to mentor and then serve Saul/Paul as an apostle to the Gentiles.

Who could you be a 'Son/Daughter of Encouragement' to today? Spend some time praying for them and ask the Lord to show you how you could help them discover their purpose and calling as a disciple of Jesus.

PROVERBS 18:21

Make it your goal today to be someone who only speaks words of life and encouragement to the people you interact with.

2 TIMOTHY 1:2

Timothy was a young leader who Paul mentored and encouraged.

Who do you have in your life who encourages you? Spend some time praying for them and giving thanks to God for putting them in your life. You might also like to text/message/call/visit them to thank them personally.