

CASTING A VISION FOR TRAINING LOCAL CHURCH LEADERS

OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

LEVEL I (PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF NLC LEADERSHIP TRAINING)

OBJECTIVES

1. GATHER SOME INFORMATION SO YOU CAN MINISTER THAT CHURCH/GROUP ON A LATER VISIT.
2. DEVELOP RAPPORT, MUTUAL RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE.
3. TO TEST SPIRITUAL AND DOCTRINAL COMPATIBILITY.
4. TO TEST MINISTRY GOALS AND PHILOSOPHY.
5. TO ENABLE THE MEN TO MORE CLEARLY DEFINE THE CHURCH AS GOD INTENDED IT.
6. TO ENABLE THE MEN TO MORE CLEARLY DEFINE THE BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF DISCIPLESHIP.
7. TO GIVE THE MEN A VISION, HOPE, CONFIDENCE AND A WORKABLE STRATEGY, TO MATURE AND MULTIPLY THEIR CHURCH.
8. TO ENABLE THE MEN TO SEE THE HISTORY, STRATEGY, GOALS AND ADVANTAGES OF A CHURCH-BASED LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM.
9. TO ACQUAINT THE MEN WITH THE SPECIFICS OF THE NEW LIFE FOR CHURCHES TYPE MINISTRY.
10. TO MEET NEEDS IN THE GROUP THROUGH TEACHING THE BIBLE.
11. TO ASSIST EACH MAN TO EVALUATE AND TO IMPROVE HIS CURRENT MINISTRY.

LEVEL II (PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF 2ND GENERATION STUDY GROUPS.)

LEVEL III (DURING 2ND GENERATION COURSE STUDIES)

IN CONCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

God has put a burden in your heart to train some younger brothers for church leadership. Now you want to meet with some of the church leaders and explore this possibility. Meeting with church leaders for the very first time to introduce New Life for Churches' Leadership Training . Cast a Vision and Grow a Desire.

Casting a Vision is something that you are going to do many times. As you are going to go visit different churches, you will be invited to speak as a guest and the system you use is: **Advertise, Preach, Advertise**. It is called using the "sandwich" approach. You need to present the church based leadership training by saying, "A group of men in the province have been studying the Bible and have been blessed tremendously, and now God has given us the opportunity to start a small-group Bible study here in your church. And I would like to share some of the blessings with you that we have received through studying the Bible." Then you preach a

good message. Not long, but deep and lovely. Afterwards you end the message by saying, "Brothers and sisters, I hope you were blessed with these words from the Bible. I hope that you will be excited about having a Bible study group for your own church leaders here. And I hope that you will pray for me."

Now after that you will probably have a meeting with some of the church leaders. Or maybe at the end of the message you say, "If you are interested in studying the Bible with us, please meet me after church." So, you maybe have a meeting with some of the church leaders, or if they are not interested, maybe you just have a meeting with three or four people that have come and said, "I would like to study the Bible." What are you going to do with these people for the next hour? That is what we are going to discuss in this lecture.

In this lecture I will discuss 3 different levels of meeting with church leaders. For each level you can use the same lecture materials because people need a lot of repetition. However, you apply the materials differently at each level.

LEVEL I (PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE TRAINING SESSIONS)

Your Objective: For each man in the group to be ready to begin taking NLC training as a result of sharing the same understanding of, and commitment to, **discipleship** in the local church.

If you do not have a goal for that meeting, what will you have? It will just be talking and some questions. So, you must have a goal. Your objective is: "Before I leave this meeting, I want to see this and this accomplished." What goal should you have?

1. If you meet with church leaders you should have the goal:

--That they will be convinced and desire to have a discipleship program in their church. —

In other words, that when the church leaders leave they say, "Yes, we would like to have such a small-group Bible study in our church."

2. If the group of people that you meet with is not just church leaders but potential students, then your goal is:

--That each person in the group wants to join and start a Bible study.—

Another way of saying this is: you want all these men licking their chops. Just like a dog licks his chops in anticipation of a good bone. You want each man to be full of excitement, "I cannot wait until we start our first class."

So, you have those two goals. Then, when you leave, you will know whether you have accomplished your goal, or you failed to accomplish your goal. If you do not have a goal, you do not know whether you have been successful or not. So you need to have a goal. The following objectives will help you to obtain your goal.

Objectives

So, what are the different things you do in the meeting with people you have never seen before and who have never heard of Church Based Leadership Training ?

1. **Gather some information so you can minister to that church/group on a later visit.**

You do not know if there are many potential students in that church. You do not know if they are open to change in that church. So, through talking with different people, you want to discover what kind of a church it is and how you could develop a small-group there. You need to get information. You need to write that information down so you can take it home and pray about it and analyze it. Then, maybe a month later, you would go back for a second visit.

Now you can go into a meeting and say, "Well, let us see." And maybe there is a 70 year old pastor who gets pretty panicky. So, you just sit down, start talking a little bit and say, "Oh, thank you for sharing that. That is good. I do not want to forget that." As you get out your briefcase you say, "I cannot remember all these things. Do you



mind if I write them down?" In doing this you have crossed a barrier. You look intelligent. You did not create fear or an objection.

2. Develop rapport, mutual respect and confidence.

They may tell you that they have done some evangelism. So, you express your appreciation for that. Maybe they tell you that they are all over 60 years old in their church, and you say, "Praise God there are some 60-year-old people with young minds." And they will think, "Oh, he is not rejecting us. That is interesting." You are not rejecting them, and therefore you develop rapport, mutual respect and confidence.

How do you do this? This comes through spending time with the men around the Word of God. Very briefly you can say, "Brothers, let us have a short prayer and then I would like to share a couple of interesting verses from the Bible." And you show one or two verses about how Jesus trained His disciples. You also say something briefly about Ephesians 4:11, 12 & 32. Maybe you will be invited to a meal. Maybe you will have a meal together with these men at the church. Maybe you will have an opportunity to stay overnight. If you can sleep at the house of one of these church leaders or potential students, then you can really get to talk and relax and share in depth.

When you leave there are four things that you want these people to remember you by:

"He was a really nice man." "He was also spiritual and intelligent." "I think he had a good program." "And the books that he showed, boy, they are nice."

So you leave a positive image behind and it gives them time to think about it. Then about ten days later, you phone them up and say, "Have some of the people in the church been praying about this?" And see if they are talking about it in their church.

3. To test spiritual and doctrinal compatibility.

You need to discuss a little bit about their doctrines. They are not all the same. Even in Baptist churches they are not. We found some members in Baptist churches that were Jehovah's Witnesses. Through talking about their doctrines, you will learn a little bit about their church traditions. You learn whether there is compatibility between what you want to do and what the church does and believes in. Look for compatibility.

They may ask you, "Well, could any ladies study the Bible?" And you say, "Sure!" "Oh, but we do not believe in the sisters studying and teaching." So you quickly take a couple of steps back, you say, "Oh, it is not necessary. Our main ministry is with men. And we only want to work with the people that you would like to have trained." Our main ministry is working with preacher boys, elders, and pastors.

So you want to become acquainted with sensitive areas and any distinct characteristics they have in their church. And you better write them down. They can prevent you from a lot of heartaches and making mistakes in the future. So the three things to think about are:

- a) the sensitive areas.
- b) distinct characteristics.
- c) compatibility.

4. To test ministry goals and philosophy.

This is similar to the above, but a little bit deeper. Either in this meeting or in a subsequent meeting, you need to come to a basic agreement. There must be agreement on what you are going to do there, and whether they want to accept your type of ministry. It does not mean that the people in their church have to be necessarily successful in **evangelism** or in **planting** a new church, or in having **small-groups**. But at least they should have spiritual agreement that these things are important.

In addition to this, in order to maximize your ministry, you want to work with those most likely to propagate the faith. People who will share the faith. You need to be selective. You want to select those churches that have the most potential for spiritual development and evangelism.

Now, you need to realize that many churches have not at all thought through the direction that their ministry should be going. So, what you are talking about is brand new to them. Write down a memo about their attitude. There can be an **attitude of openness** to the Spirit of God and that is crucial. If their attitude is negative, or their mind is closed, there may not be much you can do in that church at present. You need to wait for the Spirit of God to open that church maybe a year or so later.

5. To enable the men to more clearly define the church as God intended it.

There are many church leaders, who simply do not know what a church is. They say, "Well, it is a building with electricity that works sometimes and sometimes not." And they do not know much more than that. "You go there every time that the door is open. You sing, you pray, you listen. That is church." So through your discussion with them, you are helping them to discover the non-optional dynamics of a healthy maturing church, as we understand it.

"Where are you going to find your new elders? Most of the people here are forty years or older. Where are you going to get the young people to come from? How are they going to come to church? You have this church in a village of 500 people, but just 3 kilometers from here I came through another village of 5,000 and there is not any church there. Are you going to do anything for those people?"

Especially important is that these men see and be committed to the concept of group leadership, and the need for discipleship. They should develop a vision for discipleship: training Sunday school teachers to become youth workers; training deacons to become assistant elders; training elders to become pastors. So you are building a vision in their minds. Many churches do not have such visions. You may be the first to calmly, quietly sit down with these church leaders and start sharing from the Bible what God's intention for the church is.

6. To enable the men to more clearly define the Biblical concept of discipleship.

This is similar to point number 5. However, this time the emphasis is not on church leadership development, but on evangelism, Bible content, experience, and becoming the right kind of individual (character development). Crucial in this development is the emphasis upon 'obedience-oriented' training. So it means that you are beginning to focus their attention away from their church traditions and their man-made rules and onto, "This is what the word of God says, and this is how we should live and operate our churches."

7. To give the men a vision, hope, confidence and a workable strategy to mature and multiply their church.

Through using your NLC materials, give the men a vision. Many churches have no vision. Many people do not have hope that a change can happen, that young people are interested in studying the word of God.

So, the emphasis is upon expanding each man's vision, each person that is in that group. And you can do that by talking to him directly or asking him to agree "Would that not be wonderful? Do you not think that is possible?" And so you create in each man a vision for what God can do when the ministry emphasis and strategy is pursued in faith. You say, "I will tell you what, brothers. If you want to do it and you will promise to pray about it and believe that it is possible, I will come every week. I will bring books with me. And I promise to be faithful. And I will help the people who would really like to study the Bible and grow in Christ."

8. To enable the men to see the history, strategy, goals and advantages of a church-based training program.

You want them to see how such a training program will strengthen and expand their church. I just received a wonderful testimony. One coach had an elderly father who had been hearing about the **Basic Christian Life** course and he was in agreement. But after he saw the changes in the students, he said, "Well, next September you make sure you have a place for me in the *Galatians* or *Romans* course, because I want to study the Bible. I thought I was too old. I thought, 'Why should I study the Bible now?' But now I see people's lives have been changed." There he is in his sixties and he wants to grow spiritually.

God is good, here is another story. A brother of one of the pastors and his wife were unbelievers their whole life. Now they have repented and become Christians. Praise God. I had just a tiny little part in that. I could have never done that by myself. But through a local church-based Bible program, things are happening.

9. To acquaint the men with the specifics of the NLC type training ministry.

What are the goals? What type of strategy do we use? What requirements are there for students? What about financial concerns? What about your relationship to the church leaders?

That is why we have been giving you several different lectures on what the NLT ministry is: *The Secret Ministry of Jesus; Introduction to the NLC Ministry.; Leading a Small-Group; Introducing Church Based Leadership Training; Selecting and Training Faithful Men; Coach Prerequisites and Commitments; Seminar*

Objectives; lectures on The Great Commission of Jesus, Matt. 28; Church Group Leadership, Ephesians 4:11-12; Multiplying Your Ministry, II Timothy 2:2.

We have also been sharing with you the philosophies of **academic**, **character**, and **ministry** skills. All these things and many more—that is what you need to share with them. However, I can tell you right now, they are not going to understand all that. They are certainly not going to remember it. So, you are going to have to repeat some of that stuff later on again. But you do need to share it, nevertheless, in a short and simple way.

10. To meet needs in the group through teaching the Bible.

There are two kinds of needs.

- a) Felt needs that the group feels, and
- b) Needs that you see they have which they are not aware of.

They may say, "In our church we have some special problems here. Would you be able to share a few Bible verses about that?" That is a felt need. They feel that need. That is why we use the special terminology — **felt need**. Or they may ask you to come back a little bit later and teach on a certain topic. Or simply you may make some notes of needs and shortcomings that you saw in your visit, and next time you are going to preach or teach according to the things you discover.

11. To assist each man to evaluate and to improve his current ministry.

To assist each man in the group to evaluate and improve his current ministry. He should prioritize his ministry responsibilities to reflect a discipleship emphasis. Use the lectures: *How to Organize New Groups. Parts of the Basic Christian Life course, Questions for New Groups, and Solving Student Participation Problems*, to gain some information and to help them make a list of the spiritual work they are doing.

You can orally ask them some questions about all the things they are doing. Then you show how they can prioritize their ministry responsibilities. Demonstrate how, if other people were disciplined, the others could help them with some of the things that they do not have time for.

"Brother, what is your position in the church? What things are you doing?" Have them list some, and you say, "Are there others?" They list some more. You say, "How can you do all that?" "Which ones do you think are the most important?" "Would it not be nice if somebody else could help you with some of the other ones? If we could train somebody with some Bible classes for several months, they could begin to help you with some of these other things. I think that would be fantastic. And it would be so nice for your wife and family. How about we just pray about that?" You close the meeting with a prayer.

I hope this lecture helps you to see how that you can mold the thinking of these people towards a desire for Bible study and discipleship.

LEVEL II (PRIOR TO ADDING NEW GROUPS.)

This level focuses on the following two steps for church leaders:

- 1. Steps to take for a new mentor/discipler prior to the beginning of new groups doing course work
- 2. For students now already actively taking courses

Your Objective: For each man to be ready to begin using a course to disciple the men with whom he has a Paul-Timothy type of discipleship relationship.

- 1) Each man has worked through his own definition of discipleship. Among other things this will include a recognition that there are different discipleship models presented in the Bible (Jesus and the twelve, Paul-Timothy, Priscilla and Aquila-Apollos, body-life.)
- 2) Each man will be able to list the Biblical criteria for the selection of men who are good candidates for the discipleship process that has church leadership and effective ministry as the goal. See the lecture on *Selecting and Training Faithful Men*.
- 3) Each man will evaluate and select men with whom he would like to develop a Paul-Timothy type of discipleship relationship.

- 4) Each man will be able to understand and is beginning to implement the principles of discipleship as illustrated by Jesus and the twelve, and Paul-Timothy.
- 5) Each man to currently begin meeting with a group of men on a regular basis, the purpose of which is discipleship.
- 6) Each man is leading his group to the point where they meet the controlling objective for Level 1.

LEVEL III (DURING COURSE WORK)

See lectures on: *Anatomy of a Seminar, Seminar Objectives, Solving Student Participation Problems.*

Your Objective: For each man to be effectively leading / coaching / facilitating his own group, through the course work and thus fulfilling the Priscilla & Aquila—Apollos dimension of discipleship.

CONCLUSION

I hope these objectives will help you know what your target is when you meet with church leaders that are not acquainted with New Life for Churches' leadership training . And that you will be able to hit that target every time.

Practical assignment

	Completed
➤ Meet with a group of people who are on one of the three levels	<input type="checkbox"/>
1. Review what your goal is for the type of group you choose	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Review the objectives that will help you reach your goal.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Begin developing good relations with the group	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Test compatibility	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Meet with the group.	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Enable them to more clearly define God's design for the church and the biblical concept of discipleship	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Give them new vision and ideas for their church	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Acquaint them with the specifics of the New Life for Churches training ministry	<input type="checkbox"/>