

Handbook for Spiritual Leadership Training

Serving Power

SL Coach's Training Guide for Long Distance Learning

Week/Session 4 – Holding Power

Resources:

- *Serving Power-Practice, Hints and Helps for Serving Power (third section)*
- *Discussion Handout – Week/Session 4 (pdf)*
- *Power Points—Week/Session 4 (pdf or slides)*

Before the Training: Have your SL Learner read the third section of **Serving Power, Practice, Hints and Helps Serving Power**, and complete the *Discussion Handout* questions.

Purpose of the Training: In spite of the intimidating forces of Human Power which can be used in ministry if subordinated, it is the Omnipotent Power of God in us that is the only distinguishing characteristic of our ministries from a secular organization.

Begin (PP2):

What were some “ahah”s that came from your reading of this section? Why was it significant to you?

Was there anything you read that either confused you or that you didn't completely agree with?

Read Ephesians 4:3:17b-21 (PP3)

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

How does this passage relate to our personal power?

Questions for Conversation

Power – How to Pursue and Prepare for it (PP4)

How do you pursue power by preparation and then waiting? Can you describe an example of that from your observations or experiences?

One of the more difficult balances of life is that of ambition and opportunity. So often we want success when we should have been focused on developing a successful lifestyle. Success is an event. Successful is a life style. God will use us because he doesn't save something he won't use.

How have you been preparing for power?

Education and training are some of the more excellent ways. Others include strengthening personal spiritual disciplines, learning to take risks and be stretched, being willing to be utilized and even used, and seeking accountability and feedback.

Power – How to Hold It (PP5)

Describe specific examples of where you have seen power used as a weapon of goodness and a weapon of harm.

What is the difference between a weapon and a tool (PP6)?

A weapon's primary purpose is to destroy either for self-preservation or as an instrument of conquering. A tool's primary purpose is to build something useful.

What are some positive examples you've seen or experienced where power was held as a tool for ministry?

What are some examples when power, as a tool, has become counter-productive to the purposes of ministry? (PP7)

What does this paragraph from the article mean to you? "When ministry uses power as a tool, it is essential to remember that the purpose of a tool is to channel the force of power into a useful intention and when that intention is accomplished, what's left is the purpose, not the tool." (PP8)

There is a strong temptation to rely on the power of the tool rather than the power of the tool holder. When that relationship is flipped the object for the use of the power has become distorted and possibly even corrupted.

What are the distinguishing characteristics of an instrument? (PP9)

How does power become different when



held as an instrument instead as a tool?

Power – How to Keep it From Going Bad (PP10)

What, in your view, is the difference between power and empower?

Wrapping Up the Training Topic

Ask if there is anything you can agree in prayer for.

Remind the SL Learner to fill out the SL Learner Training Assessment and email to their Area Director.

Fill out the SL Coach Training Assessment electronically and email to ronkuest@spirituallead.com. Conclude with prayer.

