

“Leading Well . . . Following Well”
Hebrews 13:7, 17-19

Ice Breaker:

Describe the best leader you ever had the privilege to serve under. What made it so easy, even energizing to work with them?

Read: Hebrews 13:7, 17-19

1. What insight, principle or observation did you find to be most fresh, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. What makes it difficult for people to respond well to the leadership of the church?
3. Is it always right to support church leadership? If not, what are the exemptions?
4. What does it mean for a leader to “watch over ones’ soul?” (verse 17)
5. In what ways can the leader pursue joy?
6. Brainstorm ways people can increase the joy of your leaders.
7. What holds you back from asking for prayer?
8. If you are a leader, look over the list of six challenges. Which one is most difficult? Which one do you need to work on to become a better leader?
9. If you are a follower. Look at the three challenges for you. Which one is most difficult? Which one does God want you to work on?

Pray with each other:

October 22, 2017

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Until Christ comes back and sits on the throne as King Jesus, God has chosen to have human leaders here on earth guiding the church under His direction. This passage is a challenge for leaders to lead well and the people to follow well. Nobody gets left out today. Listen as God's Word gives a challenge both to the leaders and to the followers.

Challenge the leaders to...

1. Be faithful to God's Word. (verse 17)
2. Fix your eyes on Jesus. [godly example] (verse 17)
3. Fill your life with faith (verse 17)
4. Shepherd the sheep. (verse 17)
5. Be humbly accountable. (verse 17)
6. Pursue after joy. (verse 17)

Challenge the people to...

1. Follow. (verse 17)
2. Pursue after joy [yourself and your leaders]. (verse 17)
3. Pray. (verses 18, 19)

Next Step:

Leaders: Are you intentionally pursuing your joy in the Lord? How are you feeding your joy? Whatever you feed will grow. If you feed on criticism and bitterness, those weeds will grow in your heart. If you feed on Jesus Himself, not His gifts, but Him, fruitful trees of joy will grow. Are you spending time in His presence? "In His presence is full joy."

Followers: You have the potential to make your leaders glad or groan. Which kind are you? Have you been faithfully praying for your leaders? Satan wants to blind you from their need. Your prayer is not optional...it's essential. And your prayer for your leaders will change your heart.