



# SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

TRAINING GODLY LEADERSHIP

Overview of Modules 1 & 2



# MEN OF GRACE

## SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING (S.L.T.)

### PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

#### I. Leadership

1. Andy Woodfield (Associate Pastor of Discipleship)
2. Jeff Warkentin (Pastor/Elder)
3. Jack Barley (Director of Adult Ministries)
4. Tom Atchley (Administrative Assistant)
5. Wesley Bucher (Administrative Assistant)
6. Tom Rios (Elder - Spanish Ministries)
7. Casey Banks (Pastoral/Elders)

#### II. Vision

All to maturity, some to leadership, is the heart cry of every pastor who seeks to present every man complete in Christ (Col 1:28-29). We understand from Scripture that godly men don't appear out of a vacuum, they come from an intentional and purposeful pathway of exhortation and life-on-life training with the Word of God. The training Paul speaks to in Colossians 1:28-29 is both Christ-centered and Christ-exalting.

Men of Grace (GCV Men's Ministry) offers **Spiritual Leadership Training (S.L.T.)** as a means to move men towards maturity in Christ, who can then be spiritual leaders for God. S.L.T. will complement our Wednesday morning Bible Study by providing life-on-life mentoring for men who want to be sharpened and aspire to prepare themselves for biblical leadership.

#### III. Core Values

Fundamental to training up spiritual leaders is the need to avoid ineffective means to spiritual leadership training. We must seek to:

1. *Avoid a passive leadership model.* This approach just sits around with its hands in its pockets waiting for God to mature men for leadership in the church. While it is true that Jesus Christ has given gifted men to the church (Eph 4:11), these gifted men were to be about training up others for the work of the ministry. Paul modeled leadership training by choosing men to come alongside him and partake in the duties and responsibilities of ministry such as Timothy and Titus. In Acts 20 he exhorts the elders of Ephesus to fulfill their task of leadership. Paul was active in finding men and training them.
2. *Avoid handing off this process to someone else outside of the local church.* Paul tells Timothy, as the leader of a local church, to personally train other men for the ministry who will then be able to teach the church (2 Tim 2:2). Training elders, deacons, and ministry leaders is the responsibility of church leaders and the church as a whole. As the local church invests time, gifted men, and resources

to training leaders, there will be men ready to share in the responsibility of leadership over God's flock.

3. *Avoid thinking that all we need to do is "give them the Word".* The dispensing of knowledge alone misses essential elements of **life-on-life training**. Paul likened his ministry to the church to a family model, where a father and mother are deeply and personally invested in the lives of their children. He writes, *"We were gentle among you, like a nursing mother..." "For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted you and encouraged you, and charged you..."* (1 Thess 2:7,12) Training involves your life being poured out to others, not just the impartation of head knowledge.

4. *Avoid just doing "man events" as if these are sufficient to produce godly leaders.* These are great fellowship times and evangelism times, but this is not equivalent to training men when there is no interplay and challenge to one's beliefs and practices. Training NFL players involves much more than handing the men a play book for them to memorize, or simply watching the plays of the other team. These things alone will not make them great players. Having memorized the play book, the coach then sets about drilling the players over-and-over again until the plays become second nature – that's training. It is a process of accountability and practice and life-on-life. Jesus did this for His men. He helped them understand how a life lived for God was fleshed out in the every-day arena of life. Jesus didn't choose great men; he chose *ordinary men* and made them *extraordinary leaders* through instruction, modeling, and practical training, followed by a dialogue and assessment of their practice. And all of this took three years. The 12 were with Him every day hearing and seeing all that took place. He modeled for them a righteous life while unfolding a picture of who He really was. He equipped them to be His witnesses and to establish His global mission of making Him known to all the nations of the earth.

### III. Philosophy

For Grace Church of the Valley to continue to grow up in all aspects of Christ, to model a mature expression of Christ's love, and function with an ever-expanding ministry base, we must be training up men; men who will be our future elders, deacons, and ministry leaders; men who can lead Jesus' charge of making disciples of all nations.

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* (Matt 28:19–20)

This Great Commission was given personally to the men Jesus trained over a three-year period. All these men made a personal commitment to be trained, and now Jesus commissions them to train others. While the text clearly states that disciples are to be made, let us never forget that this commission is given to men who recognized that their lives were under the sovereign will and wisdom of God. We understand that we don't make anyone a Christian – this is a result of God's sovereign choosing; yet we must preach the gospel if we are to see the elect of God saved (Eph 1:3). In the same way, we don't make godly leaders. Godly leadership is the work of God. However, we must be willing to teach men to observe all that Jesus commanded and model Christ-like leadership for the equipping of those whom God is sovereignly raising up for leadership in His Church.

In other words, we are to train up godly leaders as we embrace the SOVEREIGNTY of God in the process. In Ephesians 2:10 we are reminded that we are God's workmanship, created for good works,

which GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND so that we would walk in them. This means that, as part of our philosophy of training men, we must:

- *First, admit that God alone will raise up His leaders.*
- *Second, understand our job is to help men discover the good works God has prepared for them to walk in.*
- *Third, recognize leadership is not one size fits all.*

Therefore, this training process is the means to help men find out God's purpose and equip them as best we can to fulfill that purpose. Speaking of Saul in Acts 9, God told Ananias to "go to him because *HE IS A CHOSEN INSTRUMENT of Mine, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the sons of Israel*" (Acts 9:15).

This brings us to God's sovereign plan for the church. The church exists as a glorious gift from God the Father to God the Son. Yet, for Jesus to receive this gift, He had to give up His life for it. Jesus loved the church so much that He willingly went to the cross for her (Acts 20:28; Eph 5:25). If we love Christ, we will love the Church for which He died. We will long for His bride to be built up and strengthened. This means we will, by the power of the Holy Spirit who is in us, be involved both in being trained and training others.

The place in which this training takes place is the context of the local church. Consider what Paul pointed out to Timothy, "*The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also*" (2 Tim 2:2).

- *First, notice that there are four generations of training mentioned here.*
- *Second, this is life-on-life training.*
- *Third, the key to generational training is the word "faithful."*

This passage speaks the faithful man's service in the Lord in the context of the church. He has proven himself to be one who can be relied upon. Faithfulness is the test of leadership. Leaders are men who are reliable, dependable, and unshakeable in their testimony and service of the Lord. S.L.T. will target faithfulness in men's lives. We will not graduate men who are not faithful.

S.L.T. is designed to be relational, not academic.

- *First, we will be looking to strengthen each one's relationship with the Lord. The reason for this is that true wisdom, which is essential in leadership, finds its beginning in the fear of the Lord; that is, in a heart that worships God and communes with Him.*
- *Second, God has saved us and immersed us in the church, where we learn how to express the grace and love of God to others.*

Beyond this, S.L.T. takes a corporate or a team training approach. We need each other to exercise our gifts in order to mature in Christ. Paul illustrates this with the metaphor of the human body, "*but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in*

love” (Eph 4:15–16). S.L.T. will focus on these men learning together, praying together and working together, using their God-given gifts to build each other up.

## II. Purpose

Spiritual Leadership Training (S.L.T.) is designed to prepare, equip, and evaluate men, developing Christian leadership in the home, workplace, and church. The church will only rise to the spiritual maturity and level of its leaders; therefore, it is critical we train current and future godly leaders for this and the next generation of gospel growth. The structure of this course will provide a broad-based leadership training with an emphasis on equipping men to be effective shepherds and leaders of others.

S.L.T. requires a one-year commitment and covers three distinct modules over three years. There is an in-class time of 27.5 hours and out-of-class reading and project commitment of approximately 70 hours spread over 11 months, followed by a yearly graduation. This will enable men to come on-board at any time in January with any module.

Three Yearly Modules of Training:

1. Module One- **The Character of a Leader: Recognize the Call** – The focus will be on shaping the character of men. This is by far the most important aspect of godly leadership as seen in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
2. Module Two- **The Responsibilities of a Leader: Own the Call** - Module two is designed to help leaders think through the areas of their lives that they are accountable to before God, and how they should seek to fulfill those responsibilities. SLT will consider topics such as responsibility to self, marriage and family, prayer, worship, evangelism, and missions. We will look at the Christian leader’s responsibility in relation to church growth, discipleship, and shepherding believers, along with pastoral care, counseling, and how to help people experience change and growth as they are conformed into the likeness of Christ.
3. Module Three- **The Skills of a Leader: Excel in the Call** - We will look at developing the **skill** of resolving conflicts, exegetical processes, homiletics, and preaching.

We meet once per month on a Saturday morning for 2.5 hours from 6:00am-8:30am. Alongside this commitment there will be a reading program with written reports to be handed in each month. The purpose for these reports is engagement with the subject and accountability, assisting you to reach the objectives of this course.

## III. Goal

S.L.T.’s goal is to see men maturing in the following seven areas:

- **Commitment** – an inner passion, a clear desire to be that man regardless of the cost.
- **Content** – a knowledge of the whole counsel of God, to see the Word living through your life, to observe personal convictions being formed through a solid biblical theology.
- **Character** – Christ-like, honest, and transparent, holy men.

- **Chemistry** – how you work with others - how you interact, lead, listen and connect.
- **Compassion** – a genuine heart-felt concern for the fallen condition of man.
- **Control** – personal spiritual disciplines.
- **Confession** – someone who is humble, sincere, not afraid to mention mistakes, sins and struggles.
- **Consistency** – faithfulness in character and life.

These seven areas to reach the overall goal of maturity will be evaluated in the following five ways:

1. Faithfulness in both S.L.T. and your service in church life will show ***commitment*** and ***consistency***.
2. Scripture reading, memorization, and book reading are all designed with ***content*** in mind.
3. Assignments, discussion time, and summation by leaders will develop ***character***.
4. Ongoing service in church, interaction during our monthly meetings, devotions, and prayer partners will help strengthen ***chemistry***, ***confession*** and ***compassion***.
5. Class requirements, assignments, and projects will help you be a ***controlled*** man.

Our prayer is that you will invest your time and energy in S.L.T. for the purpose of being shaped into a spiritually mature leader who will in turn, strengthen and grow the local church, thus impacting the generations to come for the glory of God.



## Overview of Yearly Training Modules

Each of the three modules has a primary focus of leadership which is then broken down over 11 months. As follows:

**Module 1: Focusing on the leader's character using various book readings and projects.** This year is a process of self confrontation as men examine their own character before the Lord. This is by far the most important aspect of godly spiritual leadership as seen in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

1. Introduction to S.L.T.
2. The Heart of a Leader – Pt. 1
3. The Heart of a Leader – Pt. 2
4. The Character of a Leader
5. The Influence of a Leader
6. The Motivation of a Leader
7. The Decision Making of a Leader
8. The Discipline of a Leader
9. The Fruit of a Leader
10. The Temptations of a Leader
11. The Purity of a Leader

**Module 2: Focusing on the leader's responsibilities using book readings and projects.** Men learn the breadth and depth of spiritual leadership responsibilities in their personal life, family, church, and community relationships.

1. Introduction – The Leaders Responsibility
2. Responsibility to Self
3. Responsibility to Marriage and Family
4. Responsibility to Worship
5. Responsibility to Prayer
6. Responsibility to Biblical Growth
7. Responsibility to Shepherding in the Church
8. Responsibility to Pastoral Care
9. Responsibility to The Great Commission
10. Responsibility to Helping People Change – Pt. 1
11. Responsibility to Helping People Change – Pt. 2

**Module 3: Focusing on the leader's skills using *Expository Studying* by Joel James.** Men work on developing the skills resolving conflicts, the biblical exegetical process, homiletics, and preaching and teaching.

1. The Leader's Skills Communicating Truth for God
2. Interpretation of God's Word
3. Grammar and Syntax
4. Sentence Structure
5. Block Diagramming
6. Outlining and Summarizing a Text
7. Biblical Narrative
8. Proverbs and Psalms
9. Preaching – 1
10. Preaching – 2
11. Preaching – 3



# **MEN OF GRACE**

## **SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING (S.L.T.)**

### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

#### **Course Description:**

S.L.T. requires a one-year commitment but has three distinct modules rolled out over three years. There will be a yearly graduation, enabling men to come on-board in January with any module available. The men will meet once a month for 2.5 hours. Additionally, they will have reading, Scripture memorization, projects, and short papers to complete each month.

#### **Three Year Training Plan:**

1. Module One- *The Character of a Leader: Recognize the Call*
2. Module Two- *The Responsibilities of a Leader: Own the Call*
3. Module Three- *The Skills of a Leader: Excel in the Call*

#### **I. Requirements to Participate and Graduate:**

1. Be a member of a local church, or pursuing membership at, Grace Church of the Valley.
2. Faithfully attend the essential meetings of the church a minimum of 8 meetings per month. These would include a combination of Sunday Worship Services, Equipping Hour Classes, and Grace Groups or weekly ministries.
3. Be actively involved in an area of service in the church.
4. Attend all S.L.T. sessions, missing no more than one class per year.
5. Complete all assignments in a timely fashion.

#### **II. Meeting Schedule:**

1. Meet the fourth Saturday of every month except December, 6:00 AM-8:30 AM in Generations Building.
2. 11 sessions per year (January-November).

### III. Assignments:

1. Read monthly assigned Scriptures and book chapters/articles (50-100 pages per month).
2. Complete various short papers, exercises, and projects.
3. Memorize assigned bible verses using the ESV. Recite them to someone before coming to class (See Appendix #4 for tips on memorization).
4. Devotional— each meeting begins with a designated student giving a brief meditation with application based on that month's memory verses, selecting a hymn to sing together (hymn books available), and praying to open our time together.
5. Papers— all assignments must be handed in or emailed to [sli@graceofthevalley.org](mailto:sli@graceofthevalley.org). Papers must include your *name* and *date* assignment is due. They must be *typed, 12-point font* (Times New Romans, or Calibri), single-spaced, with pages *numbered* on the top right-hand corner. Please save and upload you document to Emil as follows - E.G.:

[Your Name]

1.

[Date assignment is DUE]

SLT Module #1

6. Visit one elder meeting. Observe and list the elements of each meeting and evaluate what was accomplished through each meeting. Type and hand in/email your findings (See Appendix #3).
7. Final Project—*Research Project*. A 1000-1500 word paper demonstrating a good grasp of the subject of the Module you are doing.
8. This is not a pass or fail course but a life-on-life course to see you growing in your knowledge and application of leadership in your life to the glory of God.