

Phil Fisher

Key Roles Group Leaders Fulfill Finding Your Strengths

As we continue to explore ways to put **Acts 2:42-47** into practice in our small groups, we find that some leadership traits of effective leaders (**Catalytic Leaders**) can be surprising. In a national survey, personal integrity and teachability in a leader were found to be more helpful than bible knowledge or teaching ability. **This finding may seem counterintuitive**, but research shows that people are inspired to follow



integrity and humility more than polished speaking or profound scriptural insights.

The catalytic leader understands that **1 Corinthians 12** teaches that we are the body of Christ with many members. As such, our Small Groups possess diverse skills that can be used to make the Gospel attractive in their communities. **These skills include being Visionaries, Gatherers, Discussion Facilitators, Prayer Warriors, Spiritual Guides, Teachers, and Peacemakers.**

A catalytic leader identifies the talents of the Small Group and delegates responsibilities appropriately according to each person's skills and heart. As Moses learned in **Exodus 18**, God has given us one another so that no one person is worn out doing all the work on their own.

"...research shows that people are inspired to follow integrity and humility more than polished speaking or profound scriptural insights..."



"Your measure as a leader is not **only** what you do, but **also** what others do because of what you do."

Rodney Fuller

Catalytic Leadership

Prioritizing Five Key Actions

I slightly changed Howie Hendricks' above quote, because I believe what you do as a leader sets the stage for your group, and therefore can set you up for success, mediocrity, or failure. It is not the only measure, but it is the beginning. Let's look at **Five Key Actions** that will be beneficial for you to examine and will serve as a "catalyst" for your family group.

Keep this in mind:

A Catalytic Leader is someone who provokes or speeds significant change or action.

Also remember that what we are trying to achieve **IS** a marathon and **NOT** a sprint! God is doing His work in us (**Philippians 2: 12-13**). I will point to one challenge to focus on from each Key Action:

Consistently Articulate Purpose: Prioritize what matters most! Your group's purpose acts as the guide to help each person in the group set the priorities in their lives.

Set the Stage: Work together to **create the space** where the gifts and talents of each disciple in your group can come alive!

Cultivate Shared Ownership: Is everyone in your group **committed to sharing their time, talent, and treasures** for the benefit of the group? This is the foundation.

Stimulate Meaningful Discussions: **Ask stimulating questions** with the goal of having participation from the whole group.

Embrace Difficult Conversations: **Don't allow difficult topics to cause you to recoil**, but rather lean into them; allowing the group to grow. Let it get a little weird and uncomfortable. **This takes courage and guidance from the Spirit** (Ephesians 4: 1-3).

I look forward to working together with you, watching what God will do!

Good News!

The Spirit does Move

Stories of Encouragement!

Jesus told His disciples, **"The harvest is plentiful..." Matthew 9: 35-38.**

Read about the fruit of that truth below!

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The Needs of Others

Coming Together in Crisis

Chris & Allison Esquilin

The Esquilins share some practical tips they have used to work together in meeting needs in a time of crisis.

Page 2

The Scoop!

Let's keep this train Movin'!

Crystal Mbanuzue

We need your help and consideration on a few things, and we want to catch you up on the survey results!

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Rodney Fuller

DEVELOPING A DEEP FAITH

Work, Wait, and Watch

“...However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” Luke 18: 8.

This is the faith Jesus will be looking for when He returns. The parable is of a woman who never gives up beseeching the king, saying, *“Give me justice against my adversary.”* The lesson to learn for the disciples was to “...always pray and not lose heart.” What does it take to always pray and not lose heart? **Consider what your faith is built on.** What is the “Why” of your faith? Work to develop the faith that is talked about throughout scripture; the faith to

Work, Wait, and Watch.

Work: Paul reminded the church in **Ephesus** that they were *“...created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* (Ephesians 2: 8-10). **What is that work for you and those in your group, and why**

should you do that work?

Wait: One of the greatest displays of faith in scripture is what our ancient brother **Habakkuk** showed us in **Hab. 3: 16-19**. God told him that, though the Babylonians were coming to take them captive, God himself would rescue them (*“...Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come...”* 2: 2-3). Habakkuk responded with a faith and submission that challenges and inspires to this very day. Also consider **Psalm 33: 20-22**.

Watch: The lesson in **Malachi 3: 6-12** is to give God our best and not hold back from Him! This requires trust. But why should you personally trust God in this way? Consider the answer for yourself, and have your group do the same.



To work, wait, and watch happen in concert. They are not compartmentalized. So, in this way, you create a beautiful harmony of life as God works in you to do His will.

*Also remember that what we are trying to achieve **IS a marathon and NOT a sprint!** So, try to enjoy the journey...*



“Therefore go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything...”

Matthew 27: 19-20

BRINGING GOOD NEWS!

Ericka Torres (pictured above) was baptized into Christ **December 18, 2023!** She was baptized as a teen and shortly after, walked away, and as an adult she realized she did not fully commit her life to God, but is now committed to following Jesus as Lord! To God Be the Glory! The FOCUS ministry is so happy to have Ericka as our sister!

Carl Peroune was driving by the church building one day and saw diversity of fellowship. This reminded him of his need to have a right

relationship with God, so he came to a Sunday service on his own and Tim Franklin introduced himself.

For 2 months he and Tim, Bruce Dixon, Willie Jenkins, and David Cunningham studied the Bible together and developed a close friendship that continues to this day. Carl was baptized into Christ on **January 15, 2023!**

God used Tim’s spirit and heart of initiation and love to reach out to someone he didn’t know at church.

Chris & Allison Esquilin

THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

If you have experienced a crisis, medical event, or any other unplanned circumstance, then you have probably found that figuring out what you need in the moment can be difficult. Allison and I have found that providing **“care packages”** are an easy and simple way as a group to take care of those in need.



Some practical examples:

- Gift Cards (food/grocery delivery)
- Various “Feel Good” Treats
- Basic Hygiene Products

We encourage you to identify individuals in your group that can focus on one specific part of these “care packages.” You can work together to act in a timely and efficient manner when someone experiences a crisis.

If you would like to discuss in more detail, we would be more than happy to discuss further with you or your family group.

“...identify individuals in your group that can focus on one specific part...”

Crystal Mbanuzue

THE SCOOP OF THE DAY

Stuff you should know



Leadership Role Strength Assessment

Remember to send in your Strengths from the Strength Assessment Tool by [CLICKING HERE](#). This questionnaire will show you what your strengths are as a leader: Visionary, Gatherer, Discussion Facilitator, Logistics Organizer, Intercessor (Prayer), Spiritual Guide/Teacher, or Peacemaker.

Send yours in by March 3rd!

Announcements.....

To Be or Not to Be (That is the question)

We have a conundrum concerning our announcements shared during our Sunday morning services and we would love your input.

[Check out this Video](#) to learn more and then provide your feedback by completing this [Questionnaire](#).

Please respond by Monday Feb 27.

PICTURE CREDITS

Giving Honor

We want to acknowledge those photographers whose pics have been chosen to be part of our newsletter. Most of these come from the site "Unsplash".

1. [Man holding lights](#) by Riccardo Annandale
2. [Building house together](#) by Randy Fath
3. [Child reading leaning on tree](#) by Aaron Burden
4. [Child's hands & Heart](#) by Rod Long
5. [Green typewriter w/ "Update" paper](#) by Markus Winkler



The photo above is compliments of **Hanny Naibaho!**



Our Queen City! This city, and the region it leads is where we are called to be Ambassadors for Christ! Let all the saints be joined as one man to contend for the Gospel of Christ!

Photograph by Daniel Weiss