

SESSION 1:

The Adventure Of Leadership

PARTICIPANT'S NOTES



WELCOME

- What is the greatest personal challenge you've faced?
- What was the outcome?

WORSHIP

Read Psalm 37 out loud in your group, without comment.

Pause for a quiet moment of reflection on the content of the psalm.

WORD

Read

- Read 2 Timothy 1:1–14
- Read the passage again and make a list of the five most important words from the passage. Why do you think they are important?

Understand

- Who wrote this passage?
- To whom is this passage written?
- Why was this passage/letter written?

Discern

- What do you think is the gift of God that is in Timothy? (verse 6)
- What do you think it means to “fan into flame” this gift of God?
- What has God not given us? What has God given us? Why has God given us this? (verses 7–8)

Apply

- As a leader, what is the gift of God that is in you?
- What do you think you might do to “fan into flame” this gift of God?
- Why do you think Paul emphasized that God has not given us a spirit of cowardice?
- How would you describe “the spirit of cowardice”? What does it look like in leadership?
- How do power, love, and self-control counteract cowardice?
- Why are power, love, and self-control important for leaders?
- In light of this passage, what might you expect as a leader – both positively and negatively?

Commit

- In your leadership, when have you experienced “the spirit of cowardice”? Why? What did you do when you were faced with this cowardice?
- In light of this passage, what might you do as a leader when faced with cowardice?



Purpose Of *Freed To Lead*

To enable Christians to lead confidently from a vision of Christian leadership based on our identity in Christ.

Pause For Thought

Throughout this course, we will give you many opportunities to discuss your own thoughts and ideas about leadership. When we use the word “leadership”, we all assume that we know what we’re talking about. So let’s consider the following questions:

What is “leadership”?

What makes a good leader?

Which of the two questions was more difficult to answer? Why?

The Bible And Leadership

The Bible is our foundation for understanding leadership.

In *Freed To Lead* we will **not** reduce Jesus or the Bible to

- a set of principles
- a private morality
- a surface covering of worldly styles of leadership.

**Christian leadership is the leadership the world really needs today
– not just the Church.**

Leadership Is Tough

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God has not given us a spirit of cowardice (that comes from anxiety) but of power and of love and of self-control.

(2 Timothy 1:6-7, our own translation)

Why Is It So Difficult To Lead – Especially For Christians?

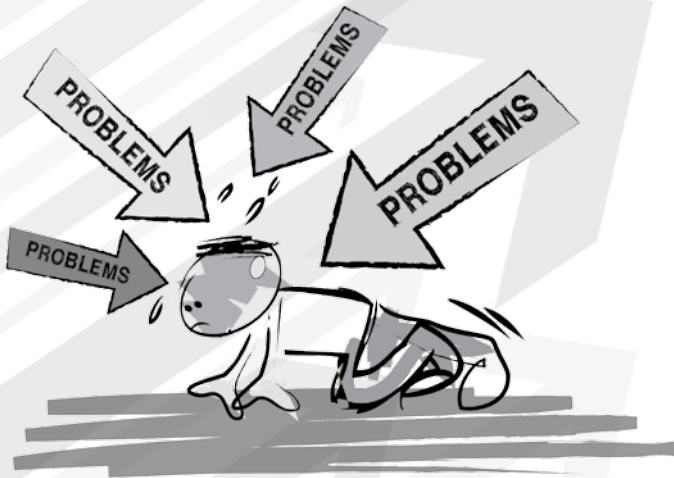
Leaders feel like failures

No adventure is easy – adventures test our stamina and courage

Struggles in leadership do not indicate that something is wrong with you

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

2 Timothy 3:1



Why Leadership Is Tough

People are **overwhelmed by**

- Change
- Challenges
- Choices

People are **overloaded**

- Information overload
- Choice overload

People are **unfocused**

- Without a coherent worldview
- Without a strong set of values
- Without a focus

People are **undisciplined**

- Lawlessness
- Changing morality

People are **anxious**

- Broken society
- Unstable
- Hopeless, expecting loss

Leaders feel **disempowered** and **demoralized**.

The Leadership Dilemma

In each session we will consider a "Leadership Dilemma".
A dilemma is a challenge with no straightforward solution.

Our society needs real, effective leadership. Such leadership is the only way we can resolve the great issues of our times, whether they are personal, social, economic, or global. Yet the very people who need true leadership are the ones who consciously or unconsciously undermine, attack, sabotage, and destroy leadership.



Pause For Thought

Take a moment to review your own perspectives about the times in which we live as leaders. Discuss the following questions:

Do you agree that it is difficult to be a leader today? Why or why not?

Have you experienced resistance to your leadership? What effect has this had on you?

As a leader, do you generally feel encouraged or discouraged? Why?

The Message Of Freedom In Christ

Know the **truth** of who you are in Christ:

A saint – a holy one

Significant

Accepted

Secure.

Be aware of the reality of the spiritual world and resolve spiritual issues with **truth**.

Be transformed through the renewing of your mind with **truth**.

As Christians, we have a great leadership advantage. Jesus Christ, the greatest leader who ever lived, lives in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus has destroyed the power of sin, death, and hell in the cross and the empty tomb.

WALK IT OUT 

What action(s) will you take in the coming week to apply what you have learned?

Pray for those who are feeling discouraged as leaders.

Pray for one another's leadership challenges.

For further information on the topics covered in this session, see the accompanying book, *Freed To Lead*, by Rod Woods, chapters 1 and 2.



Your Leadership Journey

PARTICIPANT'S NOTES

Throughout *Freed To Lead* you are encouraged to create a timeline of your leadership experiences. The purpose is to help you reflect on your leadership experiences – both positive and negative – so that the concepts presented in the course can be applied to your leadership context.

You can complete your timeline on the next page. If you need more space to write, simply copy it out onto a separate sheet of paper.

At this point, record your first experiences of leadership – at school, at church, in sports, in family life.

Progress to your first “professional” or “official” position of leadership – first job, position at church, leading a club or team.

Who were influential leaders you followed as you were developing as a leader?

You will come back to do more work on the timeline in future sessions of *Freed To Lead*.

First experiences of leadership

Influential leaders

First "official" position of leadership

Memorable successes

Subsequent positions of leadership

Times of conflict or disappointment

Current position of leadership

Hopes and dreams for this position

Who do you lead?

Signs of the health of your system

What do you do?

Periods of personal anxiety

Periods of systemic anxiety

Who are you as a leader?

Potential pitfalls

Potential future position?

Goals to transform your leadership