



CONFERENCE CALL 1: LEADING FROM WITHIN **INTRODUCTION/DEFINING LEADERSHIP**

1. DEFINING THE LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

The Leadership Collaborative focuses on three areas:

1. **Personal leadership:** At the heart of leadership is the ability to lead one's own life. All leaders must first learn to lead themselves before leading others.
2. **Organizational leadership:** Every leader must exercise the competencies of leadership. Leadership skills can be learned and developed as one grows as a leader in community.
3. **Multiplying leadership:** The point is not to accumulate more followers but to develop more leaders. Leaders raise up other leaders, helping nurture their gifts and abilities to serve.

The process looks like this:

- **Monthly video conference/in-person group gatherings** (2 hours each)
- **Monthly peer coaching pairs/triads** with outline provided (2-3 hours personal prep; 90 minutes of coaching)
- **In-Person Weekend Retreat** (around month 6)

2. INTRODUCTIONS: CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

One at a time, introduce yourself, and then answer one of the following questions:

- What is one meaningful thing from childhood that has had an impact on your life?
- What is the most interesting or difficult challenge you had before you turned 18?
- What is one of the greatest celebrations in your current ministry work?
- What is the most interesting or difficult challenge you have as a leader today?

3. WHAT IS A LEADER?

A leader is a person with **God-given capacity** and **God-given responsibility**, who is **influencing** a specific group of **God's people** towards **God's purpose** for that group.

At the heart of biblical leadership is the **God-given capacity** to influence **God's people** towards **God's purposes** (Romans 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:11-12).

Other examples: Hebrews 13:7-8, John 17:3-4.

- **God-given capacity:** gifts, passion, experience, spiritual giftedness, natural abilities, acquired skills
- **God-given responsibility:** accountability to God for the call given a leader for the influence of others (i.e., how and where the leader leads people of God)
- **Influence:** capacity to impact others to bring change or transformation in people or organizations
- **God's people:** those entrusted to our care
- **God's purposes:** unique callings and biblical mandates that God gives the people

Leaders...

- Lead out of their character
- Inspire, invite, and motivate God's people
- Cast a vision others desire to follow
- Lead others to real change (for God's purpose)

Rosalynn Carter:

A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to go."

In his talk "How to Spot a Leader," John Maxwell names nine characteristics of leaders:

- Influence
- Self-discipline
- Proven track record
- Strong people skills
- Ability to solve problems
- Risk-taker
- Ability to see the big picture

- Ability to handle stress
- Positive spirit

4. LEADERSHIP LIMITATIONS

Even the strongest leaders can't do everything.

There are two primary limitations for leaders: external limitations and personal ones.

External limitations:

- I cannot lead people longer than they are willing to follow.
- I cannot lead people farther than they are willing to go.
- I cannot lead people faster than they are willing to change.
- I cannot lead people higher than they are able to climb.

Personal Limitations:

- I cannot lead people beyond my leadership skills.
- I cannot lead people above my level of trust.
- I cannot lead people past my level of commitment.
- I cannot lead people around my undisciplined lifestyle.
- I cannot lead people without my willingness to serve.

One at a time, share your answers to the following questions:

- How would you define leadership?
- What is one of your strongest leadership gifts?
- What is one of your leadership limitations?

5. 12-MONTH FOCUS

Personal Leadership

Month 1 Life focus: Where has God called you?

Month 2 Beliefs and Values: How will you journey?

Month 3 Priorities: Where will you focus your energy?

Month 4 Relationships: Who will journey with you?

Month 5 Accountability: What support do you need?

Month 6 Transformation: How will you grow in Christ?

In-Person Retreat: Self-care: Being a Female Leader

Organizational Leadership

Month 7 Trust: How can you fully put your trust in God?

Month 8 Vision: Where is God leading you?

Month 9 Embracing Change: Where is God inspiring change?

Multiplying Leadership

Month 10 The Current Reality: How do you support and empower leaders?

Month 11 Discipleship: How can you develop and build new leaders?

Month 12 LC Journey in Review: A look back to go forward!

9. NEXT STEPS

Monthly coaching pairs/triads:

Each month, you will receive an outline that will help you explore important leadership topics by yourself and then in your peer coaching triads. The upcoming monthly topic is:

- Month 1 **Life Focus:** Where has God called you?

Next Video Conference date:

Future In-Person Retreat:

Clarifying Questions:

Below you will find four questions that we encourage you explore throughout your 12-month leadership journey. Consider them now, at the start, and revisit them each month, to see how they may be changing for you:

- What kind of leader do I want to be one year from now?
- What kind of leader do I want to be 5 years from now?
- What phrases describe me and my leadership style?
- What do I hope is my leadership legacy?