



## **MONTH 1**

### **LIFE FOCUS: WHERE HAS GOD CALLED YOU?**

#### **Hebrews 13:7 (NIV)**

*"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith."*

#### **OBSERVE**

Who is a leader who spoke the word of God to you? As you reflect on this person's life, what character traits rise to the surface? How might these character traits influence the way you "consider the outcome" of this person's life?

Think about a woman (or man) from the Bible whose story inspires you? What can you learn from how she (or he) lived out her (or his) faith?

What would imitating this person's faith look like in your life and ministry?

How are you ensuring that the outcome of your way of life and your faith are worthy of consideration and imitation? Who in your sphere of influence does this behavior impact?

#### **IDENTIFY**

In the pages below, you will find a leadership assessment to help you focus on **the five habits of effectiveness** of a leader. This assessment was developed by Terry Walling and is based on the leadership emergence theory of Dr. Bobby Clinton, retired senior professor of leadership at Fuller Seminary, and his book *The Making of a Leader*.

#### **Take the assessment and prepare these questions prior to your coaching conversation:**

- Which of the five habits of leadership effectiveness do you consider strengths? Where might your limitations be?
- What initial observations can you draw from this leadership assessment?
- Which areas might need development or improvement regarding your life and leadership focus?
- What are three key next steps you should take as a follow up to this assessment? What accountability can your coaching partner/triad provide?

## **APPLY**

### **Luke 1:46-49 (NRSV)**

**And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."**

### **John 17:3-4 (NIV)**

*"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do."*

### **Esther 4:14 (NRSV)**

*"For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."*

In Scripture, we encounter many moments in which people pause and assess their lives (or assess the lives of others). These three passages (above) give us a window into Mary's and Jesus' assessments of their lives, and into Mordecai's assessment of where Esther found herself. Mary considered the magnitude of the calling God had given her. Jesus completed all the work God gave him to do. Mordecai reminded Esther that at "such a time as this" she had the opportunity to live into the calling that was placed before her.

If you could fast forward to the end of your life, what do you imagine it would look like for you to have completed the work God gave you to do and to have served God's purpose in your generation?

How clear are you on the focus of your life and leadership? What kind of guiding statement could you write that would reflect your best understanding of God's calling on your life and ministry? What key elements need to be included? How does this statement reflect the unique and ultimate contribution you can make for God's kingdom? Start working on a statement below. We will continue to work together on this throughout our LC journey.

**My call and life mission are to . . .**

**NEXT STEP**

From this conversation, what do you need to do to discover greater clarity or reinforce your current commitment to living out God's purpose for your life and leadership?

**REFLECT****Frederick Buechner**

*"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."*

**Saint Angela Merici**

*"Do not lose heart, even if you should discover that you lack qualities necessary for the work to which you are called. He who called you will not desert you, but the moment you are in need he will stretch out his saving hand."*

# The Five Habits of Effectiveness

INSTRUCTIONS: As you read each statement check the number on the continuum that most accurately describes you. Check "0" if the statement on the left represents you exactly; check "5" if you feel you are perfectly described by the statement on the right. Numbers "1" through "4" reflect the various positions between the two extremes.

## Section One

1. I have a desire to do some personal growth projects, but I seldom have the time or discipline necessary to do so.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I view my personal development as a lifelong learning process and am regularly involved in study projects.
2. I hear of various workshops and seminars that others find helpful, but I seldom attend.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I regularly attend workshops and seminars that help enhance my personal growth and development as a leader.
3. I am simply too busy or have little desire for continuing formal education.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I enjoy my continuing education classes and am currently enrolled in an education program.
4. I do some things for myself, but I don't really feel fulfilled or that I am growing as a person or leader.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I work to develop my "whole" person and set improvement goals for wide areas of personal growth development.

## Section Two

1. I feel overwhelmed by the needs of the ministry and seldom, if ever, spend time developing new leaders.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I am always in the process developing a pool of new leaders to release into ministry.
2. It is often hard for me to imagine that I have something to offer in a mentoring relationship to others.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I generally have a good estimation of the strengths and abilities I can offer to other leaders.
3. I feel "alone" in the ministry and feel there are few who are helping me grow.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I deeply value others and have a regular series of relationships that help me grow and develop.
4. I don't know what my actual development needs are or how a mentor could help.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I view my development as a high priority and have obtained mentors to help ensure my ongoing growth.

### Section Three

1. I often feel frustrated, wondering if I am doing what God really intends for me.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I feel the things I do each day are meaningful and part of my biblical purpose and reason for existence.

2. I sometimes get glimpses of what I should do with my life, but somehow these visionary moments get lost in busy activity.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I have thought deeply about why I exist as a person and have clarified my personal vision and what God is calling me to accomplish.

3. I often work based upon the “need of the moment” as opposed to a clear philosophy of ministry.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I am able to decide what is important for me to do, basing my decisions upon a clear ministry philosophy,

4. I am easily frustrated by changes in the direction of ministry or in my life situation.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I feel like I have a clear direction, but I allow God to teach me new things and alter how I should minister.

### Section Four

1. I nearly always feel “buried,” having more to do that I can handle. Getting away for me seems impossible.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I regularly schedule times away for personal retreat and reflection.

2. I feel that “personal” time is selfish, especially when I am called to help minister to others.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I feel an investment in my personal walk with Christ will cause us to experience deeper intimacy with Christ and greater effectiveness.

3. If someone were to ask me how long has it been since I felt the presence of God, I’d have to respond, “Quite some time.”

0	1	2	3	4	5

I regularly experience times of renewal and freshness in my walk and intimacy with Christ.

4. Although I know the spiritual disciplines are important to real growth, I seldom have time to focus on them.

0	1	2	3	4	5

My walk with Christ is greatly enhanced through regular usage of a variety of spiritual disciplines.

## Section Five

1. I have trouble rising above the current circumstances to get a big-picture perspective on my life.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I earnestly try to understand my current circumstance in light of what God has been doing over my lifetime.

2. I realize that God is shaping my life, but I seldom am able to understand how He is at work in my life.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I feel that the things that happen to me every day are part of God's development of my life, and I can recognize patterns of His work.

3. I have trouble trying to keep track of the many areas of my life: home, office, etc.

0	1	2	3	4	5

I feel a sense of order in my life because I am able to regularly gain perspective on my life.

4. I hear other leaders talk about their calling and vision, but I rarely feel I have a sense of destiny.

0	1	2	3	4	5

In my times with Christ, I continue to sense a unique, personal destiny that He has for my life.

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## Effectiveness Checklist: Summary

Go back and total your score in each section. Record your totals in the boxes below.

1: Maintains a learning posture throughout life.

Section One Total:

2: Commitment to mentoring and being mentored.

Section Two Total:

3: Dynamic ministry philosophy.

Section Three Total:

4: Repeated times of personal renewal.

Section Four Total:

5: Lifetime perspective on ministry and development.

Section Five Total:

Your scores profile your relative strengths and weaknesses in each of the habits. You should base your interpretation not on the total number score in each section, but on how the scores compare with each other, which can help you determine where you need to focus your efforts.