



Session #4: Flourishing as a Leader

Agenda, Discussion and Homework (Allow 55 minutes)

Goal: To create space for God together, to listen to the Spirit's leading through teaching, reflection and sharing with one another, and to act on what we hear about growing a Christ-centered flourishing church.

1. Prepare (3 minutes)

- Have each person offer a one-word check-in. (Think of one word that honestly describes how you feel right now. This is a way of connecting with each other and offering yourself to God.)
- Enter into a brief time of **silence** in order to still hearts, clear minds, and become attentive. Silence is a way of waiting, watching, and listening for the presence of God's Spirit in your midst. Meditate on Scripture:

Ephesians 4:1-7 (ESV)

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

2. Listen (15 minute video) – Flourishing Church

As you listen, refer to the Ephesians passage on Page 23 and the Flourishing Church Diagram on Page 24

3. Reflect on what we heard (2 minutes)

Reflect silently for a few moments on the key points of the video:

- The roles are given to the whole church, not just clergy.
- All five roles are still active and necessary
- Understand of the Five Roles: Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd and Teacher

Reflect silently on these questions:

According to your APEST self-evaluation, what do you discern is your primary and secondary APEST giftings?

4. Share what we heard (15 minutes)

A. As a whole group, have each person share their top two roles. Chart the responses on the table on page 25 by adding names as each person shares.



(Facilitator note: Ideally this table could be written on a whiteboard or flipchart so that whole group can see it. Alternatively, use the following page for your group to chart your responses.)

Example

Apostle	Prophet	Evangelist	Shepherd	Teacher
Joe (1)			Joe (2)	
	Jane (1)		Jane (2)	
			Jim (2)	Jim (1)

B. As you look at the chart what do you notice about the distribution of the gifts amongst your team? What roles are most prevalent? What roles are less prevalent? How do you think this affects the ministry of your team?

5. Decide together how we will act differently based on what we've heard. (10 minutes)

Take 2 minutes to silently reflect on this question:

- What is one way I could live more fully into my #1 APEST gifting (on this team, in my church, in my life)?
- Have each person share one idea.

6. Pray together and commit your action steps to the Lord. (3 minutes)

Pray for each leader to more fully live into their top APEST gifting.

Additional Resources:

Permanent Revolution, Alan Hirsch (ISBN: 978-0470907740 *Jossey Bass San Francisco 2012*)
2015 National Gathering video, Alan Hirsch (available on the e-course)

Homework Assignment Session #4



To be completed by next session on _____(date)

- Continue to work on you Discipleship Design and keep it in front of you daily.
- Observe where you see your APEST role guiding your thoughts and actions.

Ephesians 4:1-16 (Adapted from the ESV)

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

⁸ Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to his people." ⁹ (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

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