

# Cultivating Second Chair Leaders Discussion Guide

*Conversations about living out servant leadership in the second chair*

## Episode #001 - Christ-like Servant Leaders in the Second Chair

January 19, 2022

On this episode of Cultivating Second Chair Leaders we will learn about the term “second chair leader” as we converse with KINDLE founding member, Bill Karpenko (@billkarpenko). This podcast plans to highlight organizations that support living out servant leadership in the second chair and in this first episode we start with KINDLE as we talk to executive director, Michelle Pavasars (@mpavasars; email: [michelle@kindleservantleaders.org](mailto:michelle@kindleservantleaders.org))

### Quotes for Reflection:

- “Second Chair Leadership is a glorious, fulfilling and needed lifelong calling.” - **Bill Karpenko**
- “Our worth in ministry is not determined by position but by character, competence and commitment.” - **Bill Karpenko**
- “God has burst the doors wide as we think about all the different types of second chair leaders in the church.” - **Michelle Pavasars**

### Engagement Questions/Next Steps:

- What ways are you seeking to learn and grow as a Christ-like servant leader?
- Who can you help in their second chair role?
  - Paid staff (full or part time)
  - Super volunteer
  - Family member, friend or neighbor
- Three Paradoxes
  - Subordinate & Leader; Deeply invested in narrow role/awareness of wider vision; Content in current role/Still Dreaming
- Possible next steps:
  - Create your own stay/go group to provide honest, authentic feedback for you in your setting
  - Identify a first chair (other than one you work with) who you can relate to and can give you perspective on that role

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## Episode #002 - Embrace Sabbath Living

January 26, 2022

On this episode of Cultivating Second Chair Leaders we will discuss the topic of Embrace Sabbath Living and what that looks like for Rebekah Freed (@bekahfreed) in her daily rhythms as she currently serves in campus ministry. We will also highlight Run Hard, Rest Well (@runhardrestwell), an organization founded by Brenda Jank (brenda@runhardrestwell.org), which promotes Sabbath rest for teams and groups of all types and ages.

### Quotes for Reflection

- “Sabbath reminds me what’s real, again.” - **Rebekah Freed**
- “I love that it’s called a spiritual practice. We don’t have to figure it out.” - **Rebekah Freed**
- “Most people cannot learn how to rest well as a solo endeavor.” - **Brenda Jank**  
How can you invite others to rest well and be encouraged to do it within the context of community?

### Scripture for Reflection:

- Psalm 23
- Psalm 92

### Engagement Questions/Next Steps

- What activity does (or could) help you transition into Sabbath time? (Examples include: dessert, family meal, listening to worship music, going for a walk, etc...)
- What does Sabbath look like for you right now (24 hours, Half day, A few hours, none)? Reflect and assess what you need in this season.
- What’s your favorite read about Sabbath rest? (Rest of God, Keeping the Sabbath Wholly, Other?)
- What personal story can you tell to help others in their own Sabbath journey or struggle?
- In your current ministry setting, what are the personal retreat opportunities in addition to Sabbath and days off? Is there the opportunity to discuss this with your first chair?

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## Episode #003 - Learn & Live Scripture

February 2, 2022

On this episode of Cultivating Second Chair Leaders we will discuss the topic of Learn and Live Scripture and what that looks like for Jennifer Hills (@jenhills), a ministry professional who started a missional community in her neighborhood. She learned about this concept from our second guest, Greg Finke (@gregfinke), the author of “Joining Jesus on His Mission” and founder of Dwelling 114 (@dwelling114).

### Quotes for Reflection

- “It’s always about who we are as Christians and how significant that is to be a child of God, and the power we yield as changemakers in this world, not just for ourselves, but for our neighbor.” - **Jennifer Hills**
- “Jesus cared about people more than he cared about tradition.” - **Jennifer Hills**  
How does that shape your view of the Bible and its truth?
- “‘Love your neighbor’ is not a memory verse or a lyric to a song. It’s an invitation from Jesus to put an action verb into action for the good of others.” - **Greg Finke**

### Scripture for Reflection

- Matthew 18:20
- John 1:14
- Luke 6:39-40
- Matthew 13 - The Parable of the Sower

### Engagement Questions/Next Steps

- Jesus was with his people: at meals, traveling, celebrations and grief in community. What small change can we make in our daily rhythms to live more like Jesus?
- What do you appreciate about your team and opportunities for collaboration?
- Blindspot - Is studying what Jesus says the same as doing what Jesus says?
- Create a self-identified plan for 1) Seeking the Kingdom, 2) Loving our neighbors, and 3) Supporting each other with encouragement and accountability. Share it with a friend or teammate and pray for your next steps.

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### **Episode #004 - Pray Unceasingly**

February 9, 2022

On this episode of Cultivating Second Chair Leaders we will discuss the topic 'Pray Unceasingly' and how Daniel Baker's (@bakerthrive) prayer rhythms changed in a challenging season of life. We will also highlight Lutherhaven Ministries (@lutherhaven) located in Idaho, a mission closely connected to shaping Daniel as a Christ-like servant leader.

#### **Quotes for Reflection**

- "I think that hurried culture has seeped into the way we do ministry, and church and our faith walk as well."
- "My strength is being able to empathize; listening is a form of relational leadership."
- "When I'm outside it seems like the veil between heaven and earth is a bit thinner and prayer becomes easier."

#### **Scripture for Reflection**

- Mark 5:21-43: Jairus' daughter
- Genesis 32:22-31: Jacob Wrestles with God
- 1 Kings 18-19; Elijah's victory; The Lord Appears to Elijah
- Job 2: Job's three friends

#### **Engagement Questions/Next Steps**

- What is one concrete way you have or could be set apart from the culture, in your faith walk/ministry setting?
- What do you hear/see from your seat as a second chair leader? How do you communicate that to your first chair?
- Where do you pray out loud?
- In the Psalms, the prayers of grief, joy and despair are all woven together. What resonates for you when it comes to your own prayers?

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## Episode #005 Witness Willingly

February 16, 2022

On this episode of Cultivating Second Chair Leaders we will discuss the topic of Witness Willingly with Tina Jasion (@tinajasion), who came to know God and join the church in her adult life. We will discuss how her life experiences have shaped the way she follows Jesus. Also on the show, we will highlight Faithful Innovation Coaching (@faithfulinnovation), an organization founded by our guest, Tina ([tina@faithfulinnovation.com](mailto:tina@faithfulinnovation.com)).

### Quotes for Reflection

- “Jesus is very focused on the people (like Zacchaeus) looking for him.”
- “Regardless of what chair we are sitting in, ultimately we are serving the Lord.”
- “I never saw witnessing as an added extra, rather it’s just who I am as a child of God.”
- “We are God’s poem to the people we meet.”

### Scripture for Reflection

- Ruth - description of the relationship between Ruth and Naomi
- Micah 6:8
- Matthew 5 - “You are the salt of the earth; You are the light of the world”
- Acts 1:8
- Ephesians 2:10

### Engagement Questions/Next Steps

- For Tina, she was going to have a baby and didn’t know God, which led her to the church. If you or someone you know came to faith in adulthood, how did the Holy Spirit lead you/them to get to know Jesus?
- When you enter a room as a leader, does the anxiety go up or down? Why?
- Who is a Christ-like servant leader in your realm who isn’t in a formal role, but is adding value? Tell them you appreciate them and the value they have added.

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## Episode #006: Serve Others

February 23, 2022

On this episode of Cultivating Second Chair Leaders we will discuss what ‘Serve Others’ looks like specifically for Megan Mantey (@megan\_mantey) as a long term missionary along with her husband, in Uganda. We discuss the relevance of context, culture and community in how we serve. Also on the show, we will highlight LCMS International Mission (@lcmsinternationalmission) and talk with Anne Gonzalez (@dceanne) about how you can learn more and serve in physical and digital ways!

### Quotes for Reflection

- “I can do my job with the crowd but I want to make sure I’m pouring and investing into those groups and individuals that we are really cultivating to be leaders.” - **Megan Mantey**
- “Serving others is a sacrifice of your time and a sacrifice of your comfortability.” - **Megan Mantey**
- “Help people see where else they can serve. Who are the ‘least of these’ in your community?” - **Anne Gonzalez**

### Scripture for Reflection

- Galatians 6

### Engagement Questions/Next Steps

- In what ways are you a cheerleader/advocate for the mission and vision cast by your first chair in your ministry setting?
- Who are you investing in to go deeper as a Christ-like servant leader?
- Have you ever prayed, “Lord, I don’t know how you are going to use me.” as you entered a serving opportunity? What was the outcome?
- Do you have a mission statement? Do others know what it is? How do you live it out?

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## Episode #007 - Season 1 Wrap Up

March 1, 2022

On this episode of Cultivating Second Chair Leaders, we discuss highlights from this first season of the podcast with guest Audrey Duensing-Werner (@dceaurey). Audrey also shares some encouragement from her own personal experience of living out Cultivating Faith practices in her own life. You will also hear part two of an interview with Dr. Bill Karpenko (@billkarpenko) as he shares application of Christ-like practices in his life, along with several resources for continued growth.

### Quotes for Reflection

- Referencing Episode 5 guest Tina, “Even Jesus took that second chair role when he came down from heaven to walk with us and show us what servant leadership is.” - **Audrey Duensing-Werner**
- “Daily I ask myself, ‘What is it you have for me to do today, LORD? What is it you have for me to be aware of in this place?’” - **Audrey Duensing-Werner**
- “We [Second Chair Leaders] are serving in a critical, vital role in the public ministry of the church...The second chair role is not going to go away. It is just crucial for the well being of congregations.” - **Bill Karpenko**

### Scripture for Reflection

- Philippians 2:1-4; 4:17-19
- 1 Corinthians 15:58
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

### Engagement Questions/Next Steps

- Snow day analogy: “Wow! We didn’t plan this, it was a gift to us!” How can we shape Sabbath with the same attitude?
- Often there isn’t safety to share that we lack rest or need margin, Is this a conversation you need to have? Do you have a safe space (spouse, family, 1st chair, team) to have this conversation? What needs to change to provide you this safe space?
- Prayerfully consider: Which uncomfortable places is God calling me/my team to serve?

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