

Cultivating Second Chair Leaders

Conversations about living out servant leadership in the second chair

Episode #027: Build the Community

Date: October 5, 2023

On this episode of Cultivating Second Chair Leaders we will discuss the importance of grounding our identity as God's Child as the baseline for establishing Christian community. Our guest, Mary Stafford-Nunez shares the joys and challenges of what genuine community engagement looks like in both her local and international ministry contexts.

Scripture for Reflection

- Colossians 3:16
- Acts 2:42-47
- Hebrews 10:25

Quotes for Reflection

- "He has given us all the gifts in our faith community to do the work he has called us to do."
- "It's so important to help people feel seen and heard and known in a community."
- "Christ-like servant leadership is the only way of leadership that makes sense to me."

Engagement Questions/Next Steps

- How do you engage those who walk in the doors of the church and help them feel part of the community?
- Mary shares these four actions when experiencing a new community/culture. Which one is most challenging for you? What gifts have you received when you have engaged in one or more of these ways?

Be Present

Be Prepared

Make time for conversation

Slow down and listen

We would love to hear insight from your discussion. You can send an email to emily@kindleservantleaders.org and we may share your story in the future!

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Episode #028: Identify Common Vision

Date: October 12, 2023

On this episode of “Cultivating Second Chair Leaders,” we look at the practice of Identify Common Vision: Facilitate groups as they discover their common mission and vision. Our guest, Krista Young shares how regardless of cultural context, relationships and trust are the key elements to creating partnerships that move forward with a common vision.

Scripture for Reflection

- If you have a copy of the devotion, *Kindling the Heart*, walk through the devotion on page 20 or 44 to begin your discussion.
- Ephesians 4:1-16

Quotes for Reflection

- “In between the large group things, He [Jesus] is just sharing his heart, and giving examples and telling stories and they’re soaking it up. It is life together.”
- “If we don’t take the time as leaders and we don’t have that relationship of trust then I think you could have the very very best idea, but it’s not going to have momentum because people don’t trust that or they don’t trust you.”

Engagement Questions/Next Steps

- We lead such busy lives...who are you spending time with? How are you imparting any sense of stories or values?
- Jesus meets us where we are at. How do we, as the Church, meet people who are “on the fringe”? When and how do we speak the truth?
- How can we really listen and honor someone’s story?

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Episode #029: Promote Communication

Date: October 19, 2023

On this episode of “Cultivating Second Chair Leaders,” we look at the practice of Promote Communication. Today’s episode is formatted a little differently as we hear a conversation between the leadership staff of First Trinity Lutheran Church (@firsttrinity) in Tonawanda, New York, including Jason Christ (@jasonthedce), Sue Steege (@suesteege) and Chuck Whited. We listen in as they discuss what it means to speak the truth in love, live out healthy communication patterns, and discuss specific tools that help them carry out the mission of their congregation.

Scripture for Reflection

- Hebrews 10:19-25
- 2 Samuel 12 - David confronted by Nathan

Quotes for Reflection

- “You will have to pay attention to what it means to be a Christian community, and that is actually a thing to tend to and take care of and watch for when it’s going astray and love one another.” - **Sue Steege**
- “We are so often willing to speak the truth, but not always willing to hear it.” - **Pastor Chuck**

Engagement Questions/Next Steps

- “Promote Communication” is a practice, which means it’s never perfect and there is always room to grow. How does that perspective help you engage in communication in your own setting?
- How do you keep from/prevent triangulation when it comes to support/communication with the first chair?
- What did your team learn about communication during the pandemic? What if any tools did you implement? (*Ex. Daily Check in, referenced in episode*)

We would love to hear insight from your discussion. You can send an email to emily@kindleservantleaders.org and we may share your story in the future!

COMMUNICATION

Cascade



Who needs to know this?



How should we get the word out?



What is the sequence for communication?
Who needs to know first?



What is the impact of this decision on the staff?



Is there anyone who needs ownership in this discussion?



How does this impact promotion or programming?



Should we slow down and bring others around the table before we finalize this decision?

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Episode #030: Manage Anxiety & Conflict

Date: November 2, 2023

On this episode of “Cultivating Second Chair Leaders,” we look at the practice of Manage Anxiety and Conflict, which is defined as applying Biblical means to both maintain healthy relationships and restore broken ones. Our guest, Brian Amey shares how knowing the sources of conflict can help reduce anxiety and evaluate our priorities when it comes to supporting the bigger picture as a 2nd chair leader.

Scripture for Reflection

- Colossians 1
- Philippians 2
- Matthew 7:3-5

Quotes for Reflection

- “If the Christian community is a place where truth is spoken and heard, then we have to be able to acknowledge our priorities and expose them. And expose sinful attributes: frustrations, impatience, words poorly chosen, those types of things, and be able to call them out, so we can continue to have the conversation.”
- “God can be glorified through conflict.”

Engagement Questions/Next Steps

- What would it look like for you to pause and consider the root cause of the conflict (poor communication, differing values, competition over limited resources, sinful words/actions) before reacting to it? How could this improve the way you interact with others in the midst of conflict?
- What does your accountability among staff/fellow leaders look like in managing anxiety and conflict? If you don't have a good set up, what are next steps to pursue this support in your ministry area?

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Episode #031: Nurture Collaboration

November 9, 2023

On this episode of “Cultivating Second Chair Leaders,” we look at the practice of Nurture Collaboration which is working together to achieve a group’s mission and vision. Today our guest is Rev. Dr. Gerard Bolling, who provides important insight about what it means to be part of a team, the value of relationship between a first and second chair leader, and how his local congregation is working together to engage the community with a microschool.

Scripture for Reflection

- John 1:35-51
- Acts 4:32-37

Quotes for Reflection

- “I think a lot of the collaborative work on a ministry team has everything to do with the players involved.”
- “I felt like an everything-ship had ended with another person because as a second chair leader, it’s not just a working relationship as colleagues, it’s deeper than that.”

Engagement Questions/Next Steps

- Do you have a crisis plan for your congregation/org? If yes, have the details been communicated out to the staff/leadership? If not, what are the next steps to create that plan?
- “Second chair leaders have more fun!” Reflect on this quote with your first chair/fellow staff. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- This episode highlights a congregation’s investment in a micro school. How is your congregation/org investing and serving your local community?

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