

## LEADERSHIP LAB

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### The Courage to Lead in Difficult Times

**ILL: POLITIANS CAN'T WIN EITHER WAY.** It's hard to have to stand up and make decisions that are unpopular.

#### **Courage is strengthened by practice.**

- Courageous people are in the habit of doing what they are scared of.
- **Courage is activated by hot water.**
- Difficult times is the hot water that draws out the character of a leader.
- Do not allow difficult times to cause you to question yourself or your call.
- *Jesus never questioned who He was during times of testing.*
- The voice that questions you is the voice of the enemy.
- Let the difficult times be reminder of who and Whose you are.
- Let God refine your character during the difficult time.

#### **Expect to be unpopular.**

- Expectations helps us mentally prepare for difficulty.
- Remember this: You can't make everyone happy.
- **ILL: SELLING ICE CREAM.** If you want to make people happy, sell ice cream. If you want to make a difference, lead with courage.
- **Live to please and fear God, not man.**
- This compass will guide our decision-making as leaders. God always wants what best for His people and He knows how to accomplish it.
- As leaders, we don't have to know all the answers; we just have to know the One who does.
- God is just as much leading us to trust Him during this season as the people we are leading
- How do you push through when people don't like how you're leading? How do stay motivated?
- Remember your WHY.
- **Make decisions based on the mission, not on the mood.**

#### **Manage the noise.**

- It is very easy to get your ego hurt when receiving negative feedback. That is why it is crucial to stay grounded in who you are in God.
- Some criticism over the years that came across negative or that I wasn't doing a good enough job as a leader, helped me get better. It didn't shake my identity, but it did get me to think.
- **Leadership courage is rooted in a secure identity and a heart to serve others.**
- The perspectives of others keep us sharp and make us stronger.
- It takes a secure person to hear the noise, learn from it, and keep moving forward.
- Some people get stuck and become unmotivated.

- Guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Don't give your time into thinking about what other people think about you. Remember, you too much to do than to waste your mental and emotional energy on what other people think about you.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does courage look like to you?
2. One a scale of 1 to 10, how courageous would you rate yourself?
3. What criticism have you been given that stung at first, but then ended up making you better?
4. What are some of the difficult decisions you've had to make that was unpopular?
5. How do you overcome going down mental rabbit trails that are not building you up?