

Let's Talk About.....workshops from the Servant Leadership Calling are one-day intensive Biblical learning opportunities on a variety of timely topics designed to provide spiritual refreshment and theological foundations. Workshops are facilitated by our Servant Leadership curator and LDN facilitator, Wilma van der Leek. All of the workshops emerge from the deep well of scripture, trusting the Bible as the best leadership manual there is. Participants are asked to read and reflect on assigned scriptures before the workshop. At least one other significant resource is also drawn on. Workshops can be flexibly adjusted to suit time available.

Available for Booking

- **Let's Talk About...*Biblical leadership***

Does leadership in the church ever feel overwhelming? Is there a way to lead out of joy rather than mere duty? What are the non-negotiables of Biblical leadership? Learn more about the possibility and the joys of healthy Christian leadership that remains vitally connected to the core convictions of the Christian faith. Have the gift of your own leadership “fanned into flame” through engaging Paul’s pastoral letters to his overwhelmed friend, Timothy. Additional insights from *Lead: 12 Gospel Principles for Leadership in the Church* by Paul Tripp.

- **Let's Talk About...*discerning God's will together***

Christians pray “your will be done” on a regular basis, but the truth is that it’s not always so clear how we are to distinguish and respond obediently to God’s voice, particularly in community. This workshop considers what it means to become leaders who intentionally seek God’s will and choose companionship with the Spirit, no matter the cost. A Biblical approach to group spiritual discernment based on the story of the Church’s first major decision-making moment in Acts 15 will be presented, as well as a close look at the difficulties of discernment revealed in the stirring story of Jesus’ healing of a blind man in John 9. Additional insights from *Pursuing God's Will Together* by Ruth Haley Barton and *Grounded in God* by Suzanne Farnham.

- **Let's Talk About...*busyness, exhaustion and healing our divided selves***

Being pulled in a hundred directions often characterizes the Christian life. And it’s hard to receive Jesus’ reminder that we carefully discern “the one thing necessary.” *But what are we as leaders teaching our communities by our busyness? Is an undivided heart even possible?* This workshop opens up the story of Martha, Mary and Jesus in Luke 10, with insights from *Wholeheartedness* by Chuck DeGroat.

- **Let's Talk About...*being Christians in a post-Christian world***

Not that long ago, confidence in North America ran quite high that Christian belief and cultural change could proceed quite nicely hand in hand. It was “the Christian century.” Today, many Christian churches find themselves not in the mainstream, but on the fringes, seeking faithful responses to loss of members, resources, influence and even enthusiasm. Delving into the apostle Peter’s letter to a diverse group of Christians, this workshop will provide church leaders with hopeful Biblical grounding to the questions of: *where are we? How did we get here?* and *What is a faithful response to our current situation?* Insights from

The End of Christendom and The Future of Christianity by Douglas John Hall as well as *Reformation* by Allan Hirsh & Mark Nelson will also be drawn upon.

- **Let's Talk About...small groups**

Small groups remain an important feature of our gathered life in Christ, even though their various forms constantly change. This workshop will explore a Biblical basis for the unique quality of Christian small groups to provide a safe place where individuals can be formed into a healthy, inter-dependent, accountable body of Christ. We will examine what it means to be made in the image of "three-who-are-one", as well as the power New Testament vision of a communal "one another" life. The day will also include practical "how to's" in leading healthy small group meetings, from beginning to end. The workshop draws on *Experiencing the Trinity* by Darrell Johnson and *Leading a Meeting* by Catherine Widdicombe.

- **Let's Talk About...mentoring leaders**

The practice of limiting leadership in our CRC communities to three-year terms can helpfully provide times of respite for busy leaders. But some have wondered if it also contributes to a lack of sustained cultural/spiritual change in our churches as well as an absence of the relational grace available to us in Christian leadership. *Have we become a Christianity of efficiency rather than transforming relationship? Is there a more empowering, equipping way to practice leadership?* This workshop will examine several Biblical pictures of mentoring, including Elijah & Elisha and Paul & Timothy. Keith Anderson's book *Spiritual Mentoring* will also be drawn on.

- **Let's Talk About...reading the Bible**

The Bible and its authority are today both vigorously challenged and defended. *What kind of a book is the Bible that it provokes such strong reactions? How is the Bible being "used" in our CRC communities?* Drawing on Psalm 119 and the book of Nehemiah, as well *The Fire of the Word* by Chris Webb, this workshop will explore the intensely special & inspired book the Bible is, as well as some of the current challenges to reading it well. The workshop unfolds with a goal towards building leadership in our BC CRC churches that eagerly reads the scriptures as a present source for faith in order that we might recognize and enter into the mission of God in our time and place.

Who are These Workshops Intended For?

Elders, deacons and any other lay leaders in our BC CRCs who desire ongoing growth in their leadership skills as well as spiritual refreshment. Each workshop provides a lens onto an essential paradigm of servant leadership.

What does a Servant Leadership Workshop Look Like?

L.T.A. provide a chance for prayerful reflection and interactive conversation that helps build leadership into a Biblically imaginative community of trust in God and each other.

- introduction to theme
- morning prayer
- close, interactive study of Bible passage
- Implications/applications
- closing blessings & prayers (if possible, over a meal)

