

# SESSION

# three

**BETTER TOGETHER**

AS IRON  
SHARPENS  
IRON, SO  
ONE PERSON  
SHARPENS  
ANOTHER.

PROVERBS 27:17



The Indonesian language has no word that means “privacy.” In fact, when someone finds himself in a private location, the Indonesian word for the situation means “a place where he feels lonely.” In that part of the world, going through life by yourself automatically equals loneliness, and it is to be avoided!

Of course, our culture is very different, and we place a high value on individuality and self-sufficiency. Our country began by declaring its independence, and our heroes are characters like the Lone Ranger, who fought outlaws in the wild west, and entrepreneurs like Bill Gates and Walt Disney who built empires based on their unique visions.

But Gates connected with other leaders to develop Microsoft, Disney employed thousands to create his movies and theme parks, and even the Lone Ranger had Tonto to join him in battle. We were designed by God to work, learn, and grow together; not only can we accomplish more when we partner this way, we also experience more fulfillment in the process, more freedom to use our own gifts, and more opportunities to develop other leaders. In this session, we’ll talk about why it’s easier – and more enjoyable! – to move forward together.



# listen

**Q** How have you experienced the power of community in your own life? This might be at work, in friendships, at church, or even with your Propel chapter. Share your story briefly with the group.

**Q** Do you find it difficult to delegate responsibilities or authority to others?

# learn



Take a few minutes to watch part one of the video, then use the following questions to guide your conversation.

- Q What would it look like for you to share leadership at work? In your relationships? With your family?
  
- Q In what area of life do you need to ask for help? Could “focusing on the now” make it easier for you to ask for the help you need?
  
- Q Can you relate to Lisa’s comment that it’s easier to give because it allows us to stay in control? What parts of your life do you need to allow others to give to you?

READ EPHESIANS 4:15-16 (NLT).

<sup>15</sup> Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. <sup>16</sup> He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Q What does it mean to speak truth in love to those around us? Why is this so important in our spiritual growth?

Q How are we designed to interconnect? Are any parts of the body (or any people) unimportant?

“We’re not meant to compete, but to cooperate.”

- Christine -



# Lead

Watch the last few minutes of the video in which the panel answers questions from the audience.

- Q Do you give to others as a way to avoid abandonment or rejection? Do you ever delegate as a way to control or manipulate?
  
- Q What is the difference between healthy independence and an unhealthy refusal to receive? How is it connected to our view of God?
  
- Q If you are married, what are some practical ways you can begin connecting better with your spouse? Are there things you're looking for from him that you should really be looking for from God?

“My perspective shifted when someone said, ‘Don’t rob me of this blessing.’”

- Bianca -

# LOOK closer

A major theme of this week's teaching was the importance of delegating both responsibility and authority to other people. Whether it's at work, at school, at home, or at church, learning to share the load and empower others is crucial for raising up other leaders-and for preserving our own sanity!

As we grow in our delegating skills, it's important to recognize a few common myths about delegating and to identify what delegation is-and what it's not. Are any of these beliefs holding you back from sharing leadership and learning with those around you?

- **Delegation is just making others do the work I don't want to.** Simon Sinek is the author of a book called *Leaders Eat Last: Why Some Teams Pull Together and Others Don't*. The title comes from a conversation he had with a Marine Corp general, and it reminds us that the role of the leader is to be the lead servant who sacrifices her own comfort for the good of the team. You may not be serving in the military, but the principle is the same. Delegating is not about keeping the "fun" work for yourself and off-loading the drudgery; it's about giving others the opportunity to grow in their skills. If you consistently serve your team by "eating last," they'll trust your leadership even when the work you delegate is difficult.
- **Delegation means giving up on quality.** Delegating can be difficult when you care about things being done perfectly, but it's less of a challenge when you focus on things being done well. Yes, there will be times your team doesn't complete a project the way you would have, and there will definitely be times when they simply make mistakes – after all, part of the reason for delegating is to allow them to stretch their skills. But it's fine to build in some checks and balances along the way, especially when you're delegating something new or complex, and you might be surprised at how others rise to the challenges you've given them.
- **Delegation takes too much time.** Whether it's teaching your children to set the table or trusting your vice president with the budget reports, delegating always takes some additional time at the beginning. The people you're giving the new work to naturally need to understand what's expected and how their success will be measured, and you'll also want to share your own experience and point out areas where they might face difficulty. But don't avoid delegating because of the initial time investment – in the long run you will have a stronger team, a more effective organization, and a little more time for the things only you can do!