

***Leading Decisively! Leading Faithfully! Reflections and Markers*****Edward LeBron Fairbanks****Study Questions by Chapters****Study Questions prepared by Pastor H.E. McBride****Marker One:** *The Passion for Leading Decisively Is Grounded in a Vision of Ministry***Big Question:** How is leading decisively and faithfully expressed in a Christian community? (p. 8)

Why must a theological vision of those with whom we live and work precede organizational vision?  
(8)

How do we envision the people with whom we work in our personal ministry assignment? (8)

Do we have a consuming, passionate, compelling inner picture of...

- a. who we are as the People of God?
- b. how they may live together as the Family of God?
- c. what they are called to do with their lives in the Mission of God? (8-9)

What is it about ourselves that we want our students, staff, or parishioners to catch from us? (19)

How do you teach commitments, priorities, values, and spiritual disciplines? How do you teach a lifestyle? (19)

What is your response to these definitions [Definitions of Leadership p.22]? (23)

What are the key words, phrases, or key themes in the statements? (23)

How would you modify the references? (23)

Which is the most meaningful definition of leadership to you? Why? (23)

What are some recurring themes in the definitions of leadership? (23)

How would you combine your thoughts on leading others with the thrust of this first marker of leading decisively being grounded in a vision of ministry? (23)

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\*Was this chapter informative, convicting, affirming, and/or troubling to you regarding your present exercise of leadership?

**Marker Two:** *The Imperative in Leading Decisively Is Speaking to Not Past Each Other*

**Big Question:** How do we lead a faith community to understand and embrace this [Eph. 4:1] calling? (31)

In the midst of [many factors]...how can we live together Christianly? (p. 30)

How does our pursuit of Christlikeness translate to a Christian leadership lifestyle? (30)

\*How well do those in your church, including yourself, live out the communication model and the biblical expectation for us to “speak the truth in love”? Which of the four imperatives lettered A-D is most fulfilled? Which is the least fulfilled?

\*Pages 45-46 list seven different questions to consider “regarding the use of our words within the community of faith”. Are any of these new to your consideration? Which do you most often use to help guard and filter your words within the community of faith?

How do we intentionally nurture the spiritual life within us and within others for mission and ministry effectiveness in the midst of our family, our work, and our many other commitments? (49)

**Marker Three:** *The Goal of Leading Decisively Is Focused on Effectively Preparing the Body of Christ – the People of God – for Ministry and Mission*

**Big Question:** What is discipleship, and how is discipleship related to the mission and ministry of every follower of Christ? (p. 74)

How do we exemplify a lifestyle transformation and teach that such transformation is a lifelong pursuit including the necessity for change in values, priorities, commitments and character qualities? (59)

How can we tell when/if we succeeded in preparing others for their ministry and mission? (62)

Evaluate your strength from 1-10 in the four leadership functions listed in the first column of fig. 3.1 (71)

What are the specific goals for your church? (80)

\*Of the ten descriptions of a leader on pp. 81-82, which characterize you? List them in the order of strongest to weakest.

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**Marker Four:** *The Method of Leading Decisively in Accomplishing the Vision Includes Mentoring, Board Governance, Missional Planning and a Robust Community*

**Big Question:** What are the responsibilities of the leader and the board to each other and to the ministry they both serve?

\*As a pastor, what are the challenges in mentoring those in your congregation?

\*Of the ten mentoring questions listed on pp. 91-92, which of them could be used or modified for use in a pastor / church leader setting?

\*How could the six questions listed on pp. 92-93 be used for the pastor and Board?

What are your top two priorities? (95)

How do we adjust to the facts, context, and trends we face in our changing community? (100)

\*Is there space in your Board meetings for the kind of questions that are listed on pp. 105-106? ...pp. 114-115?

How do your board members know what they are supposed to do? (110)

\*How can the eight "Visional Questions" on pp. 112-113 apply to your church?

What are some major components to be included in your mission and vision statements? (141)

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**Marker Five:** *The Pain of Leading Decisively Is Experienced in the Tension between Good and Godly People...Over Vision, Values, and Traditions*

**Big Question:** What does it really mean to lead a divided faith community with the mind of Christ in the midst of conflicts and personal pain? (p. 154 *paraphrase*)

\*Can you share an experience of pain between your vision and the reality of your ministry? What did you learn through the pain?

Where is the line between faith and irresponsibility? How is that line drawn at your church? (157)

On pp. 162-163 there are seven leadership anchors. Which one is most needed in your current assignment? In which of these do you most need God to hold you steady? Which are your greatest strengths? (163)

What does it mean to be content, and what is the nature of contentment? (163)

Are we living faithfully as members of the “community of the King,” with Kingdom “eyes,” ruthless trust and a radical hope? (173) Give specifics of how that looks.

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**Marker Six:** *The Evidence of Leading Decisively Is Reflected in the Qualitative Growth of the Led*

**Big Question:** How can an individual lead in such a way that the persons served grow in the process, as the leader and the led work together to accomplish agreed upon goals for the advancement of the Kingdom? (p. 179)

This chapter identifies the six core qualities of a leader: Trust, Brokenness, Gratefulness; Hospitality; Compassion; and Endurance.

\*What would you add to this list based on your own experiences and current leadership role?

\*Which of these do you feel may not truly be “core” but are simply helpful?

TRUST - \*What factors impact the time required for trust to build?

\*How can trust be displayed as the foundational quality when it requires time to grow/exist?

\*How does one initially lead effectively before trust is established?

BROKENNESS - There are 12 questions about our brokenness on page 194. Which “characterize you at your best and convict you at your worst?”

GRATEFULNESS – How can we recapture a spirit of gratitude as we work daily with problems, people, and the conflicting perspectives of those whom we serve? (201)

How does gratefulness as servant leaders enhance our ministry? (207)

HOSPITALITY – What can I do to be hospitable in leading others? Where can I be hospitable? (210)

How will my attitude of hospitality impact the way I live, learn, and lead? (210)

How do I deal with my unfinished agenda for the day when I attempt to “create space” and make room for others and in so doing *not* accomplish what I think needs to get done? (211)

COMPASSION – As a pastor...how can I express compassion appropriately in my servant leadership to members of the opposite sex? (218)

How can I increasingly make compassion central to my leadership ministry? (218)

ENDURANCE – Page 224 lists ten strategies for enduring. \*Which of these have you intentionally used to lengthen the duration of a leadership role?

\*Have any of these ineffective in enabling your endurance in a leadership role? Why did it not help?

\*Which of these have always helped you to endure when you otherwise would have been ready to move on?

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### **Epilogue and Appendices**

\*What material in the appendices would be most applicable for use in your current assignment?

### **Concluding Thoughts**

**Big Big Question** – How does the life of Christ change how we carry out our roles as leaders? (189)

\*What is your “take-away” from this book that will help, has already helped, you to be a more decisive and faithful leader in your current assignment?

\*What material has been convicting to you that you need not ignore after completing this book? What specific steps can you take to continue to address these areas?