

THE LEADER AND HIS MENTORS

BEING MENTORED

All leaders need other leaders to guide and direct them in all of their ways. It has been my experience, if a leader surrounds them with other leaders who can keep them focused and directed in their calling they will be able to multiply their efforts exponentially. I have had five mentors in my life for many years. These mentors were “hand-picked” for advising me in each of the list areas of life.

Consider the following model of Biblical accountability:

Ministry Mentor – this individual should have experience in the day-to-day operations of ministry activities. They make great “sounding boards” for your ideas and plans. Their experience will help you avoid unnecessary “mistakes.” Plus, when they pray for you, they know what it is like to embrace the challenges of ministry.

Business Mentor – most “ministers” do not like to look at the business side of ministry. The reality is, all ministry activities must function under the ethics and organizational management of business. Business doesn’t mean “making money,” business is the practical elements of managing a structure that involves people, strategic plans and measurement outcomes. Your business mentor will be able to help you effectively manage the administrative side to your ministry.

Personal Mentor – this individual keeps a close eye on your personal life; marriage, family, financial affairs, and personal vulnerabilities. Pray that God gives you a personal mentor that has their “household” in order. This does not mean they are without “sin,” it means that they are faithful in walking after the spirit and active in keep their personal affairs in order.

Leadership Mentor – this is a man of God who has the gift of leadership. They will be quick to lead you and assist you in leading others. I have a dear friend (mentor) that is highly gifted in this area. He plays a major role in my life. His wisdom and insight is more valuable to me than words could ever express. This mentor is easy to find – he usually has a group of people following him.

Friend – is a man who is simply one of your friends. This friend is faithful, loyal and true to you. They are “always there for you” through the “good” and the “bad” times. This type of friend is quick to love on you and support you when you “mess-up.” If you do not have such a friend – pray for one. All men need a friend like this. My friend mentor is my “armor bearer” and we talk almost on a daily basis.

It is my recommendation that you meet with your mentorship group on a weekly basis. I meet with my mentor group every Tuesday morning, same time, day and location. Don’t allow scheduling or vacations to get in the way. Who ever is able to come – comes! Through the years,

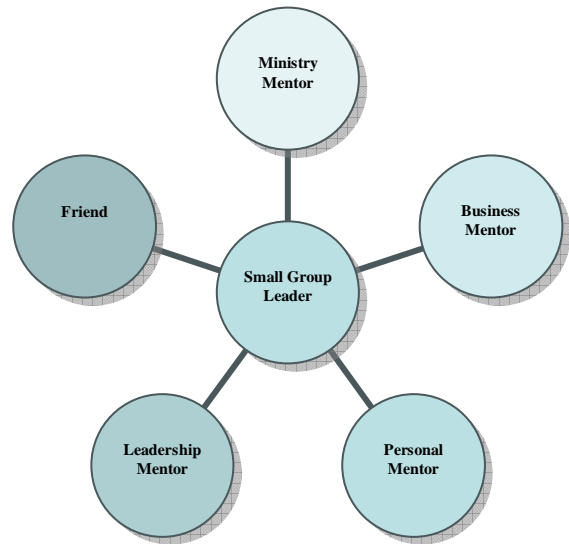


Illustration #1

there have been times that I was there alone having coffee with me, myself and God. Show your mentors that you are committed to be there at all cost. If you are out of town – they meet without you. This will keep a steady consistent pattern going for all of you. In due time, this meeting will become a “top priority” for each of them.

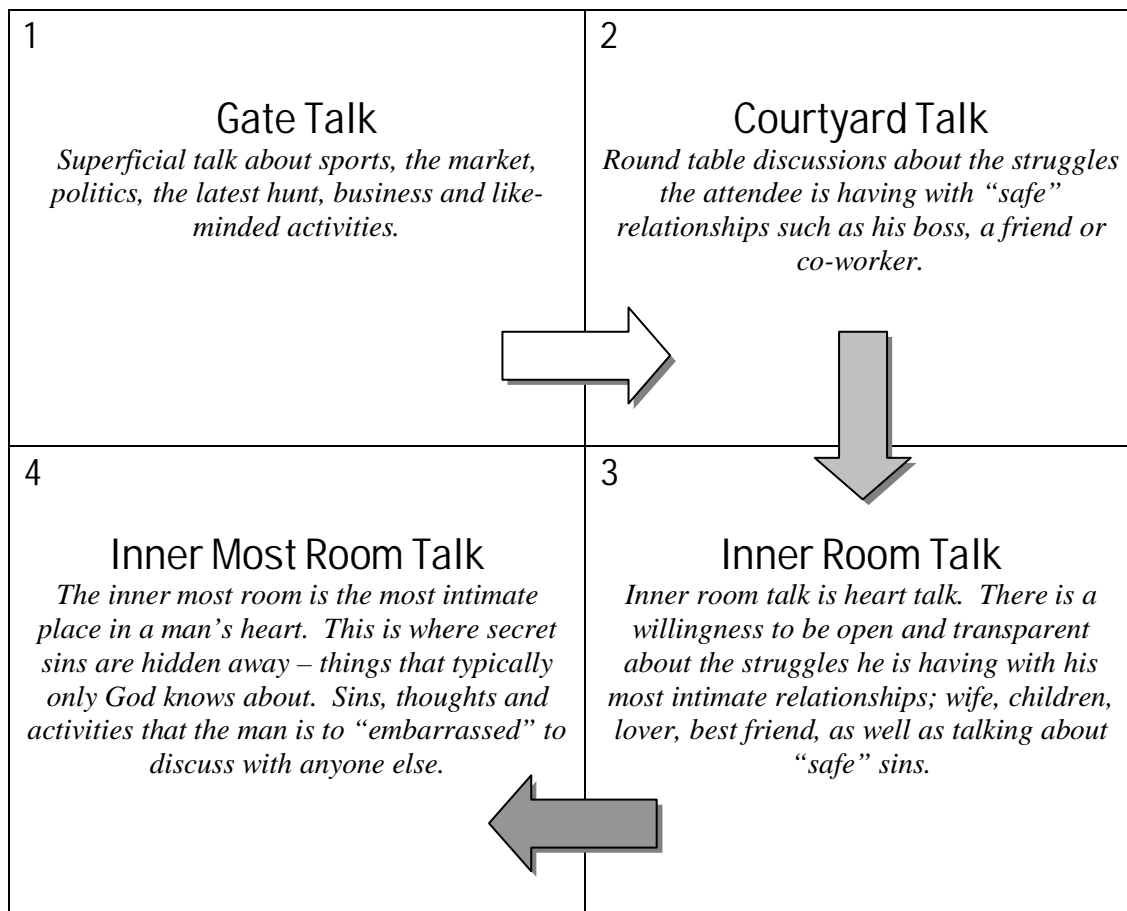
FOUR LEVELS OF TRANSPARENCY & INTIMACY

It is “wishful” thinking on a leader’s part to think that every man that attends his group will be ready and willing to allow you as a leader to go into their “inner room.” Most men need “runway” talk to feel comfortable or they typically run away. Transparency is a difficult thing for most people to demonstrate and enjoy. It usually brings up all kinds of fear; fear of the unknown, losing control, getting emotional, confessing some unknown sin, or just the fear of someone hurting them once they took the risk of being transparent. Whatever the case may be, it is your responsibility as a leader to help each person attending your group how to feel safe enough to be intimate and transparent with all those within the group.

Through out my years of counseling, I have learned that there are four primary levels of intimacy within relationships. Most “hang out” in the first two quads. Every once and a while you will have someone go to 3 and 4 on their own but this is rare. Usually the leader has to lead the attendee to “deeper” levels of intimacy.

Please consider these four levels of intimacy when attempting to minister:

Four Quads of Intimacy



It is the leader's responsibility to lead the wounded man into each of the different levels of intimacy. A leader should not expect the man to walk into these quads without help. Don't get me wrong, many men are open, willing and ready to step into the *Inner Most Room* quickly. However, this certainly is not the "norm."

When walking a brother into deeper levels of vulnerability and intimacy, it takes the leader building trust in the relationship. Trust comes through love, acceptance and forgiveness. The leader needs to allow *gate talk* and *courtyard talk* as often as necessary to help the individual feel comfortable and safe. Once there is a certain level of trust build, the leader should begin asking questions that will gently lead them into the next quad. Yes, this will take time. It will completely depend upon the level of openness that exists between the two men. What I have found to be the most successful strategy is, to confess my own struggles with temptations of the world and the flesh. This places the leader and the follower on the same playing field.

TRINITY OF BROTHERS

The *Trinity of Brothers* concept offers men a more intimate environment to build relationships. The plan is simple. Find two other men you trust to form a group of three. Get together on a weekly basis to discuss the topics disclosed in the Study Guide. This will challenge all members to become intimate and transparent with fellow brothers in Christ.

My personal experience is, the *Trinity of Brothers* concept is the glue that holds men together. I think you will find the same thing.

The key: Each of the men are to get "close and personal." This arena is conducive for each man to challenge one another with revealing personal struggles they did not feel comfortable sharing in the small group setting.

The triads will produce vulnerable and intimate men that will become valuable contributors for your small group meetings.

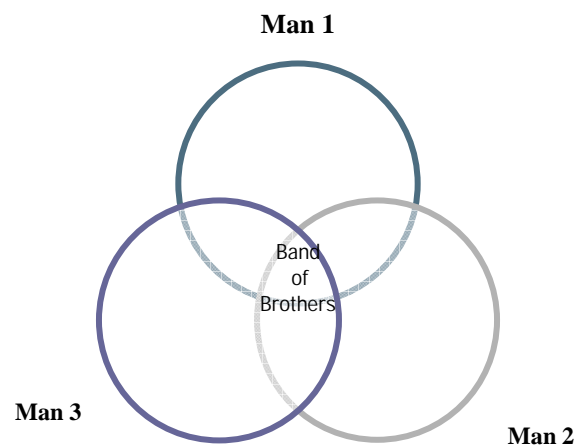


Illustration #3