

A six-part course intended
for groups of Christian leaders.

with Dr. Alan Wilson



Refreshing Your Leadership

"There are few things more important in the church today than visionary selfless Christ-like leadership. Godly leadership liberates rather than suffocates. I honestly believe that Alan's course will help strengthen develop and resource the kind of leadership that is in line with God's purposes. I have no hesitation whatsoever in commending both Alan and this course. "

– Bishop Ken ('Fanta') Clarke

"These sessions have been so beneficial for our team in many ways. Alan taught us with wisdom and clarity, it was inspirational. He also created space for personal reflection, allowing God to speak and guide us individually. He led our conversations together with a gentleness and strength, challenging and encouraging us as a team. The material is pure gold...content I have and will continue to return to over and over again."

– Judith Cairns, CEO, Love for Life

Refreshing Your Leadership

A six-part course intended for groups of Christian leaders. It is designed primarily with church or mission/ministry leaders in mind (though it can be adapted to Christians leading in other fields). The course gives leaders the opportunity to grow in their leadership by reflecting on their own leadership journey, on the task of leadership and what it means to lead as a follower of Jesus.



The material is organised in 6 sessions (ideally of two hours each, though they can be condensed) and there is flexibility in how these might be arranged. For example it would be possible to run the course over a series of weekday evenings, as an intensive weekend event or as a series of day retreats for a team.

As well as the teaching content, the course allows time and space for personal reflection, not least the opportunity for leaders to reflect on their own leadership journeys.

The course is led by Dr Alan Wilson. Alan is a visiting lecturer at the Irish Baptist College in Moira, a part time associate tutor at Belfast Bible College, and part of the adjunct faculty of the Irish Bible Institute in Dublin. He has over 20 years of pastoral experience in Northern Ireland and Switzerland. His doctoral work explored the theme of 'crucible' experiences in the shaping of Christian leaders.

For more information, or to enquire about running the course, contact Alan – jsalanwilson@gmail.com

What will be covered in the course?

Part One: The Leader's Journey (Moses)

The first two sessions will explore the concept of a leadership journey and we will be making use of the story of Moses as a template to help us explore our own stories.

- Introducing the story of Moses. Moses is one of the most significant figures in Scripture's story line, and his own story is one of the most dramatic in the Bible: it is rich in insights into how God works with a leader.
- Introducing the concept of the leadership journey timeline. The narrative of Moses' life falls neatly into three distinct: formative years, exile years, and leadership years. The course encourages leaders to reflect on their own leadership timeline, highlighting ways in which they have been shaped and lessons they have learned along the way.
- The leader's formative years. The first stage of Moses' life helps us to reflect on the people who have influenced our development, and to think about key decisions that have shaped the direction of our lives.
- The leader in exile. While the biblical text gives us few details about the middle stage of Moses' life, it is a stage that opens up the theme of exile or wilderness when the leader's aspirations and the reality of their actual circumstances are quite different.

Part Two: The Leader's Journey, continued

- The leader's calling. This session looks at the debate between Moses and the Lord: when Moses is finally called to lead the Hebrews (what he wanted to do 40 years previously), he has decided he'd rather stay in obscurity and leave the work to someone else: what excuses do leaders offer to avoid God's call?
- Leadership challenges. Moses' experience reminds us that strategic spiritual leadership is no easy task. In this session we explore some of the tough challenges that confront Moses and other leaders.
- Leadership opportunities. While the leader has to face challenges, spiritual leadership also brings great privileges: we will think about the importance of a leader being secure in the love of God.

Part Three: The Leader's Task (Nehemiah)

In sessions three and four, the focus is on the leader's task and we will be using the story of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of Jerusalem to structure our thinking as well as referring to more general leadership ideas.

- Introducing Nehemiah and his times. This session sets the scene and reflects on the important theme of living in exile. As Nehemiah prays for Jerusalem, we ask what it means for a leader to pray 'Your kingdom come'.
- The leader's vision. What was happening in Jerusalem was so wrong that Nehemiah knew it had to be put right. As he prayed, God put a plan in his heart. What does it mean for a leader to have a God-given vision?

Part Four: The Leader's Task, continued

- The leader's team. While the role of the leader is important, leaders' effectiveness is limited if they are not surrounded by a team who will join them in the vision and plan. Nehemiah's story is the story of a host of otherwise largely unknown people who rolled up their sleeves to rebuild Jerusalem.
- The leader's resilience. Nehemiah's leadership takes place against the backdrop of opponents who attempt to hinder the rebuilding task. What are some of the issues leaders face - both in terms of their work and personally - where perseverance and resilience are called for?

Part Five: The Leader's Model (Jesus)

In sessions five and six we reflect on the life and teaching of Jesus as they relate to our thinking on leadership. It's been pointed out that there is a lot more in the gospels about a call to follow than about a call to lead!

- Jesus, the Leader. Biblically, leadership starts with God and in this session we will explore how Jesus led, focussing on the concept (which has become popular in general leadership thinking) of servant leadership.
- The leader's testing. Again we turn to some of the challenges that leaders face. This time we reflect on what we might learn from Jesus' testing in the desert: what happens when leaders are tempted to go it alone relying on their abilities more than on God, or when they are tempted to take short cuts?

Part Six: The Leader's Model, continued

- The leader's life. In this session we will focus on Jesus' teaching in John 15 where he talks about the disciples' relationship to him ('abide in me'), their relationship with each other ('love one another'), and to the world (as witnesses).
- The leader's call to follow. For all the talk in this course about leadership, leaders need to remember that their primary calling is not to lead but to follow. We'll explore Jesus' conversation with Peter in John 21 and think about what it means for leaders to be faithful followers.

How much will the course cost?

£600 - £800, depending on the size of the group.

Contact

For more information, or to enquire about running the course, contact Alan:

jsalanwilson@gmail.com