

What is Ministry?

Elder Wives
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Phoenix

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Theme Verse

“Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not...” 2 Cor. 4:1

Impact of Ministry Questions

What are 2-3 ways you have seen the eldership/ministry affect you:

- Personally?
- In your marriage?
- As a family?

What is the Impact of Ministry?

Impact of Ministry

- Emotionally –
 - How does ministry affect you emotionally?
 - Importance of being honest with your emotions
 - Is it easier to rejoice or weep with others?
 - Discipline of Rejoicing
 - Discipline of Weeping
 - Power of Lament in difficult times

“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”
Rom. 12:15

The Importance of Lament

- “Lament is a prayer in pain that leads to trust.”
- 1/3 of the Psalms are laments.

Four Parts:

1. An address to God (Turn)
2. A complaint (Complain)
3. A request (Ask)
4. An expression of trust and/or praise. (Trust)

The example of *Psalm 13*

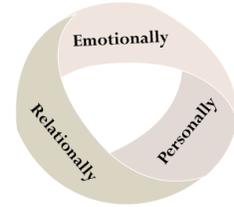
From *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy* by Mark Vroegop

Learning How to Lament Using Psalm 13

1. Turn to God in your pain
- 1 How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?
 - 2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?
 - 3 Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;
 - 4 Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved.
 - 5 But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.
 - 6 I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.
2. Complain
3. Ask
4. Trust

Impact of Ministry

- Personally –
 - How has ministry changed the rhythm of your life?
 - Devotion time
 - Sabbath
 - Healthy sleep/diet
 - Relationship time
 - Intentional Learning
 - Recreation
 - Physical Exercise
 - Where have you seen your priorities shift?
 - Energy-giving vs Energy-taking activities
 - Guarding against burnout

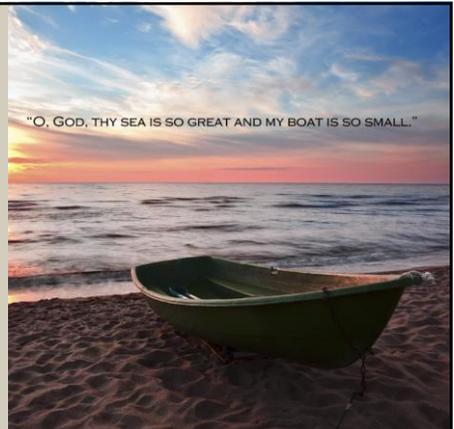


Impact of Ministry

- Relationally:
 - Inner Relationships (family)
 - Protect and model "Godly jealousy" over them.
 - Advocate for their spiritual growth.
 - Be present and listen well.
 - Outer Relationships
 - Friendships
 - Church Family
 - Community
- Relationships will ebb and flow.
 - Reframe as opportunities



**"O God,
Thy sea
is so
great
and my
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"O, GOD, THY SEA IS SO GREAT AND MY BOAT IS SO SMALL."

Further Table Discussion: Impact of Ministry

1. Where have you seen the ministry affect you emotionally? How do you remain honest about your emotions?
2. Choose 1-2 "rhythms" in your life (positive or negative) that have changed since ministry. Describe what you've learned through this.
3. What ways have you found:
 - To advocate for your marriage and family in the ministry?
 - To balance marriage and family when ministry encroaches?

Take home reflection:

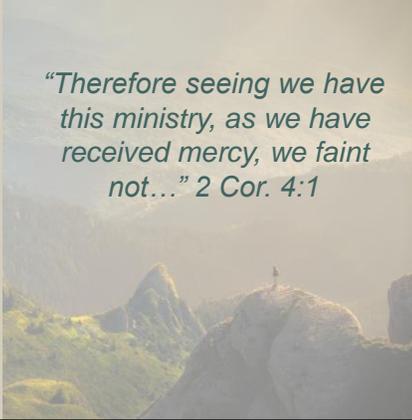
1. List out your inner and outer relationships.
 - What would be ideal? What is real?
2. List out your energy-giving & energy-taking activities.

Lunch Questions

1. If you could start a charity what would it be for?
2. Describe the craziest or most unusual event you have found yourself in.

Theme Verse

"Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not..." 2 Cor. 4:1



Navigating Ministry Questions

- What are 2-3 blessings of the eldership/ministry?
- What are 2-3 challenges you face in the eldership/ministry?
- What are 2-3 key scriptures that ground you in the midst of difficult times?

Navigating Ministry with a Resiliency Mindset



Resiliency in Ministry is a "tension to be managed" vs. a "problem to be solved."

Seeing Clearly

"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed" 2 Cor. 4:8-9



- Satan's tactic is to shift our focus off reality and onto perception.
- Fear of our reality is an opponent to resiliency.
 - Avoid the extremes of minimizing and catastrophizing.
 - Avoid the trap of comparison.
- Allow the Gospel to be the answer to our fears.
 - Remember the truths of the Word.

Remembering Clearly

- How has God shaped you? How has He not?
 - Remember God is the Potter; we are the clay.
 - Identity and Purpose
- We are shaped by our:
 - Personality and Gifting
 - Experiences we go through.
 - Passions we are given by the Lord
- Understanding "who we are" enables us to properly engage the opportunities of ministry.
 - Describe what growing in the role God has called us to looks like.
 - Describe what resting in who God has molded us to be looks like.



"Take heed therefore unto yourselves..." Acts 20:28

Remembering Clearly

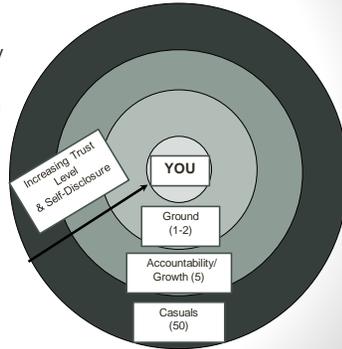


- Engage ministry as a marathon, not a sprint.
- Examine the health of your spiritual disciplines.
 - It becomes easy for our personal devotion and worship time to be consumed with church concerns.
 - Leadership can sometimes keep us from the opportunity to learn.
 - How can we let God shepherd us to greater levels of growth?

"Before you were called to be a shepherd, you were called to be a lamb."
Diane Langberg, Ph.D.

Engaging Clearly

- Think through your relationships.
 - The nature of ministry can lead to isolation.
 - Purpose to engage in relationships.
 - We need help to see the “forest from the trees” sometimes.



Further Table Discussion: Navigating Ministry

1. Share as a table your ministry blessings and challenges. Share daily disciplines you have developed to keep you grounded clearly in reality.
2. What helps you to remember clearly your identity and purpose in Christ?
3. Share scriptures that help ground you in difficult times.

Take home reflection:

- What is one praise you can share with God tonight?
- What are 1-2 things you can do to help reinforce your resiliency?