

REVITALIZATION OF THE CHRISTIAN LEADER: A MODEL FOR BUILDING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS CONDUCTIVE TO PERSONAL CHANGE

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The busyness of a vibrant church gives little time for Christian leaders to focus on self-improvement. While thriving in their pastoral duties, ministry leaders can easily ignore the deficient areas of their lives. These Christian leaders need an opportunity to reflect on life and ministry, clarifying hopes and dreams, as well as personal issues holding them back.

This project sought to create an environment where the Lead Pastor and pastoral staff at Evangel Temple Christian Center in Springfield, Missouri, could reflect on life and ministry, establish a holistic approach to personal change, and create a specific plan for change. The goal was to put into the hands of these leaders a value-based system for organizing the details they will use to establish a personal plan for change.

Using the personage and the writings of Moses, as well as current personal change literature, the participants were shown the flaws of a single-focused system (a central focus on the welfare of the church), and encouraged to consider the value of a multi-focused system based on eight life values (spirituality, health and wellness, relationships, personal growth, activities and interests, service to others, work, and possessions). The writings of Moses on the Sabbath and the *Shema* encouraged the participant to practice self-care as a biblical precedent.

Through a seminar format, the participants entered a reflective environment. They began self-discovery (gathering information for gaining self-awareness, establishing personal priorities and goal setting, and following a transformational process). And they learned the skills that make personal change possible (gaining perspective holistically, taking ownership of the personal change process, increasing commitment, and finding inspiration).

This project successfully achieved its purpose in providing a learning environment for Christian leaders seeking personal change.