

MissionNorthwest

Resourcing and developing churches that connect people with Jesus Christ

Leadership Learning Communities 2018 Reading List

EVERY MONTH

This is a book to travel with throughout 2018. Please read a few chapters each month. In order to keep the book before the group Mentor Pastors will assign two members of the LLC to pick a chapter each month and bring a report on the chapter they selected. This is to be done in addition to the monthly reading assignment. The chapters contain encouraging wisdom, but only 4 to 5 pages in length.

***Replenish: Leading from a Healthy Soul* by Lance Witt** (Kindle: \$2.99, Paperback: \$9.83)

Topic: Giving attention to maintaining a healthy soul in the midst of today's difficult ministry context.

Description (from Amazon): Every leader functions on two stages--the front stage or public world, and the back stage or private world. One cannot lead successfully front stage when one is completely depleted back stage. In a time when pastors are leaving the ministry in record numbers due to cynicism, disillusionment, weariness, and personal scandals, there is an urgent need for soul care in the private lives of leaders.

Replenish helps leaders focus on the back stage, the interior life, in order to remain spiritually healthy. In a caring, encouraging tone, it will show pastors how to:

- prioritize matters of the soul
- develop healthy spiritual practices
- address problems that lead to burnout
- create a healthy rhythm in their lives
- improve their people skills and the spiritual climate of their team
- develop better systems in their churches
- discover how to lead an unhurried life

For the many ministry leaders who feel alone, in over their heads, or simply worn out, this book will offer welcome relief and a healthy way forward.

JANUARY

Pick one of these three books to read and study as a LLC. These are short books; easy to read. The concept is basic and practical but under utilized. For more ambitious LLCs consider reading two of these books. Choose either Rusaw OR Pathak, and then combine with Fuder's book.

***The Neighboring Church: Getting Better at What Jesus Says Matters Most* by Rick Rusaw & Brian Mavis** [Kindle: \$6.99, Hardcover: \$16.18]

***The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door* by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon** [Kindle: \$8.01, Paperback: \$8.43... tons of cheap used copies on Amazon]

***Neighborhood Mapping: How to Make Your Church Invaluable to the Community* by Dr. John Fuder** [Kindle: \$9.59, Paperback: \$14.09]

Topic: Jesus taught His disciples to love their neighbors. These books urge churches to train their congregations to befriend their neighbors, to really love them. These caring relationships open doors for conversations about Christ. It's a simple concept, but an effective approach for helping the church move outside the walls to connect with everyday people.

Description (from Amazon) *The Neighboring Church*: The simple practice of loving our neighbors has more power than the best professionally produced Sunday "show" in town. After attending the "coolest" and fastest-growing church in town for a few months, Brian Mavis asked some of his neighbors if they would attend church with him. The neighbors said, "Thanks, but no thanks. We don't want to be part of an institutional church ... but we do want to know more about God, and we'd be happy to meet with you to learn more." So Brian began meeting with his neighbors in his home to share the love of God. *And there it is—the call for us as Christians to do what Jesus said matters most: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart ... and love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37–40).* But loving your neighbors is hard work, right? It's messy. It's unpredictable. It's time consuming. Jesus' two commands give rise to more angst, more wrestling, more failure, and more challenge than anything else you can try to do. And yet, following those two directions will bring more clarity, joy, and satisfaction to your life than anything you have ever experienced before. For the very first time, you will probably feel you are doing what God really called you to do as a Christian and as a church or ministry leader.

Neighbor Mapping: Whether you are a church planter, pastor, community activist, missionary, college ministry leader, or simply a Christ-follower looking to impact your community, this resource is for you. *Neighborhood Mapping* by Dr. John Fuder is an engaging, practical tool available to assist workers in the field to better understand the communities they are involved with. It awakens the neighborhood explorer with effective methodology for "exegeting" their neighborhood, offering surveys and samples to lead them in that process. Dr. Fuder calls believers to shift the focus from inside the church building to those who live in the community. He offers here an easy-to-use resource for those who care about ministry to "the least of these."

FEBRUARY

***From The Steeple to the Streets: Innovating Mission and Ministry Through Fresh Expressions of Church* by Travis Collins [Part One: Chapters 1-14; Kindle: \$8.74, Paperback \$19.95]**

Topic: Creative expansion of the church through “fresh expressions” of church, either through planting new churches tethered to an established church or through standalone experiments that result in new forms of church. The goal is to reach people who would never attend an established church. For more information about the Fresh Expressions movement visit www.freshexpressionsus.org

Description (from Amazon): In *From the Steeple to the Street*, Travis Collins addresses the cultural realities behind the Fresh Expressions movement, as well as the movement’s theological underpinnings. A missionary movement that began in England has come to North America. Long established congregations are finding ways to engage people not likely ever to walk through their doors, and fresh expressions of church are engaging people who are “without hope and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12, NIV). Missional leaders from a wide range of denominational traditions are learning from each other, and prayerfully cheering for each other, as we learn to take the church Jesus loves closer to where the people Jesus loves actually are. From practical experience, Collins offers insights to local church leaders on how this might unfold in and through your church.

MARCH

***From The Steeple to the Streets: Innovating Mission and Ministry Through Fresh Expressions of Church* by Travis Collins [Part Two: Chapters 15-26]**

APRIL

***The Necessary Nine: Things Effective Pastors Do Differently* by Bob Farr and Kay Katan [Kindle: 6.99; Hardcover \$9.95; Paperback \$14.97]**

Topic: This is another excellent leadership manual for pastors who are continuously learning how to develop into a better shepherd. David Blackwell says it is the ONE book on leadership he wished every pastor would read.

Description (from Amazon): Conventional wisdom is that leaders are born, not made. In reality, that is one small piece of the leadership puzzle. The fact is, approximately 10% of church leaders are naturally-gifted leaders who actually don’t need any help. Another 10% of church leaders do not have the capacity to lead nor learn to lead with the skill set needed for the 21st century church. This means approximately 80% of church leaders have the possibility of becoming a more effective church leader. This book is for them. The Necessary Nine contains nine simple axioms for effective pastoral and lay leadership for the church. These axioms have the greatest potential for fruitful ministry. These strategies are straightforward and easy to use. The reader

will have “that’s true” moments and learn to put those insights into regular practice. It will help the reader with the simple leadership strategies that, if practiced over and over and over, will change the effectiveness of their leadership, impacting the church and the world.

MAY

A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today’s World by John Stonestreet, Brett Kunkle [Part One, Chapters 1-9; Kindle: \$4.99; Paperback \$15.15]

Topic: Today’s culture is shaping the next generation in distorted ways contrary to historic Christian ethics and morality. This book challenges the unbiblical assumptions of today’s culture with wisdom, grace and biblical/theological insight.

Description (from Amazon): We don’t have to lose the next generation to culture. In this practical guide, John Stonestreet and Brett Kunkle explore questions including:

- What unseen undercurrents are shaping twenty-first-century youth culture?
- Why do so many kids struggle with identity?
- How do we talk to kids about same-sex marriage and transgenderism?
- How can leaders steer kids away from substance abuse and other addictions?
- How can we ground students in the biblical story and empower them to change the world?

With biblical clarity, this is the practical go-to manual to equip kids to rise above the culture.

SEPTEMBER

A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today’s World by John Stonestreet, Brett Kunkle [Part Two: Chapters 10-19]

OCTOBER

Lasting Impact: Seven Powerful Conversations That Will Help Your Church Grow by Carey Nieuwhof [Kindle: \$9.99; Paperback \$12.33]

Topic: Church health, growth and transformation insights from a leading pastor who coaches and writes extensively on the shifts churches need to make in today’s world.

Description (from Amazon): There's no doubt the church is in a moment in history for which few church leaders are prepared. You can look for answers, but the right response depends on having the right conversation. In *Lasting Impact*, Carey Nieuwhof leads you and your team through seven conversations that will help your church grow and have a lasting impact. What if:

- Having the right conversations could change your trajectory?
- There was more hope than you realized?
- The potential to grow was greater than the potential to decline?
- Your community was waiting for a church to offer the hope they're looking for?
- Your best days as a church were ahead of you?

Maybe the future belongs to the churches that are willing to have the most honest conversations at a critical time. That's what Lasting Impact is designed to facilitate.

NOVEMBER

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance by Angela Duckworth [Part One: Chapters 1-8; Kindle: \$14.99; Hardcover \$16.89; Paperback \$12.19]

Topic: This book brings welcome news to the conversations about talent, IQ, personality and all the various ideas about what qualities in a person lead to success. Duckworth demonstrates that character and perseverance win at the end of the day. Intriguing stories and practical guidance mark this helpful read.

Description (from Amazon): Drawing on her own powerful story as the daughter of a scientist who frequently noted her lack of “genius,” Duckworth, now a celebrated researcher and professor, describes her early eye-opening stints in teaching, business consulting, and neuroscience, which led to the hypothesis that what really drives success is not “genius” but a unique combination of passion and long-term perseverance. In *Grit*, she takes readers into the field to visit cadets struggling through their first days at West Point, teachers working in some of the toughest schools, and young finalists in the National Spelling Bee. She also mines fascinating insights from history and shows what can be gleaned from modern experiments in peak performance. Finally, she shares what she’s learned from interviewing dozens of high achievers—from JP Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon to New Yorker cartoon editor Bob Mankoff to Seattle Seahawks Coach Pete Carroll. Among *Grit*’s most valuable insights:

- Why any effort you make ultimately counts twice toward your goal
- How grit can be learned, regardless of I.Q. or circumstances
- How lifelong interest is triggered
- How much of optimal practice is suffering and how much ecstasy
- Which is better for your child—a warm embrace or high standards
- The magic of the Hard Thing Rule

Winningly personal, insightful, and even life-changing, *Grit* is a book about what goes through your head when you fall down, and how that—not talent or luck—makes all the difference.

DECEMBER

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance by Angela Duckworth [Part Two: Chapters 9-13]