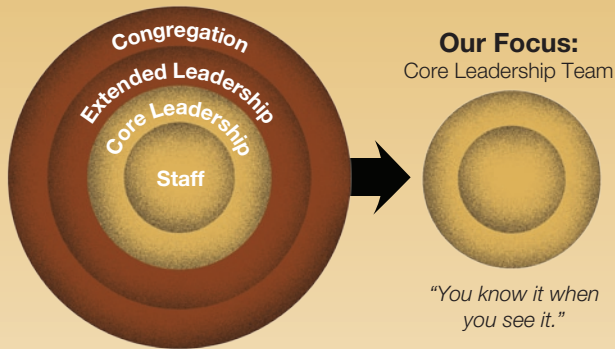


Who this is for ...

This resource is aimed at the *core leadership team* of a church. While this looks different for different churches, you will know exactly who that means for your church setting. It most definitely means pastoral staff and governing leaders, but you may also want to include small group leaders and other ministry leaders as well.



... and how to use it

The study centers on fourteen DVD-based lessons (most churches will choose 8-10 to study) along with a detailed study guide. Each lesson takes about an hour (depending on discussion), so there are several study format options:

- A weekend leadership retreat
- 2-3 Saturday mornings
- One lesson at a time, either weekly or at your regular leadership meeting

As a pastor, I'm always looking for materials that **build my leadership team**.

I understand firsthand how destructive conflict can be in a church if not handled correctly, so this resource is an **extremely beneficial** and timely tool for us.

Steve Strutz
Sr. Pastor, Faith Evangelical Church

Build the Leaders. Build the Church. Build the Kingdom.

Hard questions this study answers:

Why is applying the *gospel* the key to leadership and conflict?

How do leadership styles create conflict?

Why is the Bible's image of "shepherds after my own heart" so critical to understanding biblical leadership and peacemaking?

Why is a unified leadership team so important, and how do you build one?

How do you lead your church through difficult changes?

How do you handle those difficult situations and meetings where conflict is flaring up right in front of you?

What are the key skills needed to help church members who are in a conflict?

How do you encourage church membership and follow a redemptive approach to church discipline?

What risk management practices should all churches implement?



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THE PEACEMAKING
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The Leadership Opportunity

A DVD-BASED GROUP STUDY
FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Living Out the Gospel
Where Conflict and
Leadership Intersect



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Why This Study on Leadership?

Leadership and Conflict: Interwoven Threads

In every sphere of life—home, work, family, and especially the church—*leadership really matters*.

As we all know, leadership is hard, but it is perhaps most challenging in those moments where leadership and *conflict* intersect. If you're a leader, you often sit at the center of conflict—those times when tension surfaces in a leaders' meeting, when you are managing a difficult change, or when the angry couple is sitting in your office.

And leaders don't just see other people's conflicts—at some time or other, every leader has inadvertently *caused* a conflict through an unpopular decision, poor communication, or even one careless word. *Even in the healthiest churches, conflict and leadership are interwoven threads.*

The Leader's Response

When conflict threatens to shake the foundations of your church, wise leadership can hold your church together, creating a solid structure that can withstand the forces of damaging conflict. However, all too often, leaders default to worldly

solutions by avoiding or attacking, and they end up standing by as the building crumbles. Compounding this problem is the recent unhealthy infiltration of corporate thinking into church leadership—the “results over relationships” approach may sound good, but it actually adds to the damage.

Conflict provides an opportunity for the church leader to respond in a way that is markedly different—living out the gospel of Jesus Christ in those critical moments when conflict and leadership intersect.

A Biblical Alternative

While many worthwhile resources on leadership exist, *The Leadership Opportunity* stands alone in addressing this distinct area of conflict and leadership. Based on over 25 years of work with churches and church leaders and as part of a larger family of resources for churches, *The Leadership Opportunity* is a **solidly biblical** resource, providing **highly practical** help for the common conflicts that all leaders face. It was created by church leaders for church leaders, and it will help any church lay the solid foundation of leadership needed in order to build a culture of peace. So seize the opportunity!



If you're a leader, **you often sit at the center of conflict**—those times when tension surfaces in a leaders' meeting, when you are managing a difficult change, or when the angry couple is sitting in your office.

The Leadership Opportunity includes **four core sessions** unpacking the heart and role of a peacemaking leader and **eight application sessions** designed to address real life situations where leadership and conflict seem to intersect.

Core Sessions (recommended for all leaders)

SESSION 1: True Leaders Must Be Peacemakers

Learning to Prevent and Fight the Fires of Conflict

SESSIONS 2 & 3: The Shepherd Leader

Understanding Peacemaking through Scripture's Central Image of Leadership

SESSION 4: Building a Culture of Peace in Your Church

A Vision and Practical Strategy

Application Sessions

(choose which of these to study)

SESSION 5: Building a Unified Church Leadership Team

The “Why” and “How” of United Church Leadership Teams

SESSIONS 6 & 7: Leading Through Change without Dividing the Flock

Part 1 - A Biblical Alternative to Secular Thinking

Part 2 - Biblical Theology and Practical Guidance

SESSIONS 8-10: Always a Peacemaker

Practical Skills for the Peacemaking Leader

Part 1 - Coaching (guiding an individual through conflict)

Part 2 - Mediation (helping two or more to be reconciled)

Part 3 - Negotiation of difficult issues

SESSIONS 11 & 12: Mutual Accountability in the Body of Christ

Part 1 - A Vision for Redemptive Discipline as God's Gift and Blessing to the Church

Part 2 - Using Membership Commitments to Enable Faithful Ministry

Bonus Sessions

An Overview of Biblical Peacemaking

An Introduction to Risk Management (including a valuable set of model forms and other documents to help your church implement biblical policies in the areas of membership, discipline, and legal risk management)