

Choosing the Sessions to Study

One key decision you'll need to make is to determine which sessions you want your leadership team to go through. If you have time, then study them all, but most churches will choose the 8-10 sessions that best fit their priorities. The fourteen video sessions are divided into three sections:

Core Sessions (recommended for all leaders)

SESSION 1: True Leaders Must Be Peacemakers

Learning to Prevent and Fight the Fires of Conflict

Church leaders regularly face conflict, but most are not equipped to handle it well. This session explains how the gospel provides a biblical paradigm for preventing destructive conflicts and responding as *peacemaking leaders*.

SESSIONS 2 & 3: The Shepherd Leader (Parts 1 & 2)

Understanding Peacemaking through Scripture's Central Image of Leadership

The Bible's dominant image for leadership is the shepherd, and yet this image remains unfamiliar, misunderstood, and even unpopular among many believers. These sessions help recapture the relevance, beauty, and application of this powerful metaphor, particularly in the area of peacemaking.

SESSION 4: Building a Culture of Peace in Your Church

A Vision and Practical Strategy

All leaders want the peace of Christ—the true culture of “shalom”—to reign in their churches. This session describes what this culture looks like and gives a practical strategy of how it can be built.

Application Sessions (optional—choose based on your priorities)

SESSION 5: Building a Unified Church Leadership Team

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

Scripture clearly calls leaders not to “go it alone” but to lean on the wisdom and support of a godly team. Yet at many churches, leadership teams are relationally weak and ineffective. This session explores why a unified leadership team is critical to ministry and how to build one in your church.

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

Part 1: A Biblical Alternative to Secular Thinking

Change has a well-earned reputation for being notoriously difficult to manage. This session explores why change is so hard, how to know if change is really needed, and the dangers of “borrowing” change management thinking from the secular world.

Part 2: Biblical Theology and Practical Guidance

Most change management resources, whether secular or Christian, are based on a pragmatic “re-sults over relationships” approach. This session lays out a solid biblical theology of change, followed by a set of biblically-informed practical implementation guidelines.

SESSION 8: Always a Peacemaker (Part 1)

Practical Skills for the Peacemaking Leader – Conflict Coaching

Church leaders are often called upon to give guidance to an individual on one side of a conflict. This is called “conflict coaching.” With the help of a video case study, this session drills down into one key skill needed in conflict coaching—the ability to ask questions that draw out heart issues.

SESSION 9: Always a Peacemaker (Part 2)

Practical Skills for the Peacemaking Leader – Mediation

When a leader works with people on *both* sides of a conflict to help bring about reconciliation, this is called “mediation.” Continuing the video case study, this second session on peacemaking skills explains a key aspect of mediation: helping a person make a meaningful confession.

SESSION 10: Always a Peacemaker (Part 3)

Practical Skills for the Peacemaking Leader – Negotiation

Negotiation skills are useful when leaders have to resolve a material issue (e.g., budget, curriculum, staffing, or ministry priorities) or when addressing any difficult issue. This final session on skills explains the PAUSE Principle of negotiation as exemplified in the life of Daniel, and then applies it to common situations encountered by church leaders.

SESSION 11: Mutual Accountability in the Body of Christ (Part 1)

Seeing Redemptive Discipline as God's Gift and Blessing to the Church

Church discipline is often misconstrued by those both outside and inside the church. This session unpacks Matthew 18 and gives a different perspective of accountability—a perspective that sees discipline as a redemptive process and one of God's greatest gifts and blessings to the church.

SESSION 12: Mutual Accountability in the Body of Christ (Part 2)

Using Membership Commitments to Enable Faithful Ministry

This session identifies three key steps to prepare your church to exercise redemptive and loving discipline, particularly through the use of explicit membership commitments.

Appendices

APPENDIX A: An Overview of Biblical Peacemaking

A Practical Theology for Resolving Conflict

This session reviews the key biblical concepts that help us live as peacemakers, including the Slippery Slope, The Four G's, the Seven A's of Confession, and the Four Promises of Forgiveness. This session is intended as a review for those leaders who have not recently read *The Peacemaker* or been through the Peacemaker Ministries *Small Group Study*.

Appendix B: An Introduction to Risk Management

Protecting Your Church without Losing Sight of Ministry

This session provides an introduction to some of the most common legal risk management issues associated with church life: counseling, confidentiality, and the prevention of child sexual abuse. It raises several issues that your leadership team will need to consider regarding your church's current policies and practices. While it isn't necessary for your entire leadership team to go through this session, at least one leader (or subcommittee) should do so.