



Peak *NEW* Pastors

Preparation for those beginning
their ministry journey.

by Tom Pelt

www.covenantchurchcoaching.com



Introduction

From the Pit to the Peak

A Pastor's Journey

Joseph's story is a good example of the journey most of us (and our families) take as pastors. (See Genesis 37-50) We travel spiritually, relationally, emotionally, mentally and physically from the pit to the palace, to the prison, back to the palace and just about every place in between. Like Joseph, we sense the power and presence of God in profound ways one day, and feel very much alone and rejected the next. Our calling is sure, our gaze is fixed and, "I can't believe I get paid for this!" Still, we would give just about anything to do almost anything else on some Monday mornings. Our every move can feel scrutinized as our motives are judged and our thoughts, words and deeds (and sermons) are live-streamed, Facebooked, Tweeted, Instagrammed, Snapchatted and are otherwise on display for all the world to see via our church websites. These images are either far better or worse than the reality, but not often a measured, balanced view of the pastor's heart.

Most pastors lead, not from a position of authority, but of influence, inspiration and a grounded sense of gratitude for all those taking the journey with us. What an amazing privilege to be called, "Pastor!" We seek to give God all the glory and His people all the credit when things are going well, while often taking more than our share of the blame when momentum stalls or plans simply fail. We are shepherds who guide and guard the flock we love while often only provided a portion of the needed "staff" and resources to do so. Still, pastors lead on, following the lead of the Good Shepherd that goes before us all.

Why Peak Pastors? Because our wayward world has never needed the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the local church more than today. Because the health and influence of our local churches and collective movements are directly linked to our well-being and ability to lead with equal parts vision, integrity, wisdom and humility. We will scarcely speak up for ourselves and secretly long to share the realities we face without fear. This is why I share Peak Pastors with you... to share in a glimpse of your world as a pastor and to come away with a renewed commitment to help lead and live well.

"To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock."

- Peter (1 Peter 5:1-3, NI)



Peak NEW Pastors

Session One: “Am I ready for this?”

You are preparing for a life of leadership in ministry. The question you may already be asking yourself is, “**Am I ready?**”

Consider these 10 lessons that may not have been covered in your classes...

Lesson #1: Pastor your home church first, best and always.

God has not called you to sacrifice your family on the altar of the church.

Peak Advice: Never stop dating your spouse. Never stop playing with your kids.

Quantity time is quality time. Remember... “Fried chicken & potato salad.”

Lesson #2: No, you aren't prepared.

Learning will be a way of life.

If you are the smartest leader in the room, you aren't doing it right.

Peak Advice: Seek out and partner with people more gifted than you.

Lesson #3: You aren't the next _____!

"If comparison is the thief of joy, then our culture is being robbed blind." - Jon Foreman

God has a unique calling for you and your family.

Peak Advice: Be the best you with purposed passion and excellence.



Lesson #4: You can't go it alone.

You need your spouse. You need your kids. You need a great team. You need great friends. You need trusted accountability partners.

Peak Advice: Partner with seasoned coaches and Christian counselors.

Lesson #5: You will be tempted.

To sin privately. Isolation is the devil's home court.

To quite prematurely.

To overstep, overdo, overstate & do too much too soon.

Peak Advice: See Lesson #4

Lesson #6: There's not enough gold in Fort Knox.

You will be underpaid. Invest in sound stewardship principles and people.

Peak Advice: Stay out of debt and live generously.

Lesson #7: You aren't as bad as your critics claim.

Peak Advice: Ask, "How much truth is there to their claim?" "How can I grow from it?"

Lesson #8: You aren't as good as your supporters say.

Peak Advice: Ask, "Who can I give the glory to and share the credit with?"

Lesson #9: Health and growth aren't automatic.

Make your personal relationship with Jesus priority #1.

Peak Advice: Get away to retreat, recharge, review, refocus, relaunch.

Bonus: You will reinvent or become irrelevant.



Peak Calling

Session Two: Are you “called?”

The call to ministry leadership isn't necessarily higher than other callings. However, it is necessarily unique in its kingdom role and responsibility.

“Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.” - James (James 3:1, NIV)

What can we learn from Joseph's unique call into and dream about servant leadership? (See Genesis 37 & 39)

You must be two things in order to answer God's call to ministry...

1) You have to be called.

“Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them together stronger than God? O be not weary of well doing!”

- John Wesley, Letter to William Wilberforce, February 24, 1791

Find a partner and briefly describe your calling to ministry.

2) You have to be a little crazy. Honestly, if you can do something else, do it.

Find a partner and ask the following question...

“Honestly, why are you pursuing a call to ministry?”
