



Peak Pastors

Lay-leader's Guide

Positioning pastors for healthy life
and leadership.

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Introduction

From the Pit to the Peak

A Pastor's Journey

Joseph's story is a good example of the journey most pastors (and their families) take. (See Genesis 37-50) They 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, they sense the power and presence of God in profound ways one day, and feel very much alone and rejected the next. Their calling is sure, their gaze is fixed and, "...can't believe I get paid for this!" Still, they would give just about anything to do almost anything else on some Monday mornings. Their every move can feel scrutinized as motives are judged and their thoughts, words and actions (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!" They 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. They are shepherds who guide and guard the flock they 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 pastor's well-being and ability to lead with equal parts vision, integrity, wisdom and humility. They will scarcely speak up for themselves and secretly long to share the realities they face without fear.

This is why I share Peak Pastors with you... to capture a glimpse of the world of your pastor and to come away with a renewed commitment to help them 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, NIV)



Session One: Why it matters

We all play **follow the leader.**

*“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”
1 Corinthians 11:1, NIV*

John Maxwell reminds us that, “As go the leaders, so goes the church.”

There is a leadership **crisis.** Some sobering stats:

_____ leave the ministry each month

_____ suffer from depression

_____ feel the ministry negatively affects family

_____ will end their careers in ministry

God loves His servants **fiercely.**

*“Do not touch my anointed ones; and do my prophets no harm.”
1 Chronicles 16:22, NIV*

God holds His servants **accountable.**

*“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them
—not because you must, but because you are willing...”
1 Peter 5:2a, NIV*

Leadership **health** determines ministry **depth.**

Ministry **depth** determines sustainable influence.

You don’t have to **invest** if you don’t want an **increase.**

Churches maximize **influence** as leaders realize their potential.



PEAK Pause:

Consider these questions as you seek to create a peak ministry environment and position your pastoral staff to lead healthy...

How long do pastors historically serve your ministry?

What might this say about how well they are positioned for life and leadership?



How would you describe the health of your present pastor?

What do you specifically provide to invest in the health of your pastors & their families?

Commit to having a candid conversation with your pastor and staff concerning their overall health and how you can partner to increase it. Develop a plan to inform and engage your entire ministry in this process.

Begin by listing 3 things you can provide this month to start the process:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____



Session Two: What is a “Peak” Pastor?

A peak pastor is one who experiences life and leadership in 5 healthy ways...

Spiritually

Peak Thinking: “When pastors don't have rich spiritual lives with Christ, they become victimized by other models of success - models conveyed to them by their training, by their experience in the church, or just by our culture.”

- Dallas Willard

Pastors are **Christians**, too.

Growing closer to Jesus must be **priority** #1.

*“What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him...” - Paul
(Philippians 3:8-9, NIV)*

Peak Pause: In what area or discipline do you hope to grow in the coming year?

Relationally

Peak Thinking: “We don't forget that we are Christians. We forget that we are human, and that one oversight alone can debilitate the potential of our future.”

— Wayne Cordeiro, *Leading on Empty*

Pastors are **people**, too.

5 Relationships must be purposed...

With **God** - How are you growing as a Christ follower?