



COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP:

A READING AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

LEADING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

C. KAVIN ROWE

Our Christian communities desperately need a new generation of Christian leaders. Rowe addresses the aspects involved in the process of collaborative christian leadership. By basing our collaboration in prayer, scripture, and Christ, we can love our people as we are called.

Part 1 : The Pattern of Life in Thriving Communities

1. Scripture is active. Rather than sitting dormant, it's active in our lives. How has scripture influenced the way you thrive?

2. Which six features of the church stands out to you the most and why? How does that feature impact your church's relationship to the "other"?

Networking

"Community without communication is a contradiction. The book of Acts makes this plain."

1. How can you establish an ecclesial network of shared purpose beyond your immediate church family?

Visibility

1. Is your faith private or public? What areas of your life need to be seen by others?

2. Which aspects of Christian leadership reflect the Christian call to servant hood?

Formation of Scriptural Imagination

1. A life of reading Scripture well can directly impact self-imagination of our place in the world. How does scriptural imagination impact your view of leadership?

2. In what ways does "reading Scripture in community" enliven our hermeneutics?

Cultivating Resilience

1. List a few ways Christians can cultivate resilience in the face of modern obstacles.

Leadership and the Discipline of Silence

1. As leaders we need to choose our words carefully. After Jesus is denied by Peter, Peter and his friends go out on the lake to fish, and no one speaks throughout the entire night. What can we learn from the presence of Peter's friends in his darkest moment?

Christian Success

1. The practice of Christian discipline can lead to Christian success even for institutions. Can you identify any institutions that follow the leadership example of Christ?

Leading in the Age of the Image

1. How can both joyful and painful “images” of life expand our effectiveness as Christian leaders?

BELONGING - PRACTICE - ACTION

Each of our communities are unique. God is moving and working through our neighbors in new ways every day. Our call as leaders is to kindle this flame, allowing it to grow.

Belonging: What places or people in your community offer you a sense of purpose and belonging?

Practice: What practices might help you live into the invitation of Christian leadership?

Action: What specific actions have you discerned God calling you to take as you think about cultivating collaborative leadership in your unique context?

TOGETHER: THE HEALING POWER OF CONNECTION IN A SOMETIMES LONELY WORLD

VIVEK MURTHY

Vivek Murthy approaches the issue of loneliness from a medical perspective. Healthy relationships affect almost all aspects of our lives. There is no cure for loneliness except building a solid foundation with those around you. Through his personal experience, Murthy teaches us how to relate with others.

We are reading this book because the core of collaborative leadership is relationship.

Chapter 1

1. Relationships can make us rich. Which relationships are making your life rich? How are they doing so?

2. Loneliness cannot be fixed by medication. Our need for love and compassion is hardwired into us. In what ways can you show recurring love to those you care about? How can these acts erase loneliness?

Chapter 2

1. "What is wrong with me?" Have you ever asked yourself that question? If you asked a close friend or family member to tell you about the goodness they see in your soul, what would they say?

2. Our drive to connect with one another is rooted in desire for belonging. Togetherness is a part of our DNA. How do you see this reflected in the message of Scripture?

Chapter 3

1. Modern forms of connection often fail to address our loneliness. Would you prefer the traditional solution or the modern solution, and why?

2. Loneliness occurs when the social experience fails to meet our social expectations. What adjustments can you make to your expectations of others and yourself?

Chapter 4

1. How does online connection compare to offline connection?

2. Technological connection can also make us feel extremely connected. Describe a time when you felt connected to someone or a group through technological means.

3. Murthy talks about "moving together against gravity." Describe a time when you and a few others defied the norms to make change.

Chapter 5

1. Many of us have been taught to mask our emotions, including loneliness. What steps can you take to remove your mask?

2. Explain a time when you overcame adversity with the help of others.

Chapter 6

1. Like Serena, how have you kindled your connection with yourself?

2. Create a daily routine that allows you to pause and reflect. How does spending time with yourself make you feel?

Chapter 7

1. We are all in need of friends. Reflect on your most vibrant friendship. How does that friendship affect who you are today?

2. How can you better approach a relationship with a stranger by using kindness?

Chapter 8

1. What are your thoughts on children having access to technology? What are the pros and cons?

2. Teaching emotional fitness involves making sure that we are aware of our feelings. How can you better help others understand their emotions?

BELONGING - PRACTICE - ACTION

We all know someone who has experienced loneliness. The remedy to loneliness is fruitful relationships. As humans we are created to be with each other.

Belonging: Among what tribe do you find your belonging?

Practice: What practices draw you closer to these people?

Action: Who is God calling you to bring into your tribe?

ADAPTIVE CHURCH: COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY IN A CHANGING WORLD

DR. DUSTIN BENAC

Selected sections from *Adaptive Church* by Dustin Benac explore the relationship between our communities and the values that emerge from them. How is our purpose rooted in our unique places? How do we lead those communities through a changing church landscape?

1. We all have “deep roots” in unique communities across the globe. How do your deep roots influence your collaborative work and shared sense of purpose?

2. How does your collaborative work address your community’s “deepest values”?

3. Uncontrollable events, like the COVID-19 pandemic, can reveal things about us. What have you learned about your ability to relate with others during a difficult time in your life?

4. Let’s examine the power of questions. What powerful questions are you asking your friends, community, and God?

5. Is your purpose centered on a specific place? If so, what is the story of that place?

6. In the Gospels, Jesus talks about making new wineskins and throwing out the old. To make new wine, what old wineskins need to get thrown out?

BELONGING - PRACTICE - ACTION

The Church is changing more every day. As leaders, we must change with it. However, what will we hold on to and what will we leave behind? What sort of new future awaits Christianity and Christian leadership?

Belonging: What places or people in your church community have a sense of hunger to see more people belong?

Practice: What practices might help them turn that hunger into action?

Action: What actions is God calling you to take with your ministry?

THE COLLABORATIVE HABIT: LIFE LESSONS FOR WORKING TOGETHER

TWYLA THARP

Creativity is multidimensional. It can be collaborative or isolating. In her book *The Collaborative Habit*, Twyla Tharp shares her personal stories about choreography, dance, and creativity, with astounding vulnerability. She gives readers a peek into her life to show them the mountains and valleys of the creative processes. We have a choice to let our ideas lead us into collaboration or isolation. Collaborative leadership always invites the “other” in; Tharp’s story proves that.

Chapter 1

“Collaboration is how most of our ancestors used to work and live, before machines came along and fragmented society.”

1. If collaborative creativity can accomplish more than individual talent, what does that say about the importance of diversifying the voices at the table?

2. People are people. How do our problems create future opportunities for others?

Chapter 2

“The first requirement of collaboration is commitment.”

1. Where do you find safety in numbers? Who are the people that make up your tribe? Do you have a shared purpose?

2. What new ways can you inspire commitment from others?

Chapter 3

"A great partnership is a lab where change happens every day."

1. Are you comfortable having your ideas challenged by others? If not, why?

2. How does humility enrich collaborative thought?

Chapter 4

1. Protecting yourself is important. How can protection and vulnerability co-exist in a collaborative relationship?

2. In what ways can we keep sight of the people we serve in the creation of our projects?

Chapter 5

1. Our relationships with institutions are complicated. What challenges have you experienced trying to fit your ideas into an institutional mold?

1. Institutions have resources. How can we avoid compromising ideas while also accepting this reality?

Chapter 6

1. Working with a community requires some of our creative energy. Do you think sacrifice strengthens or weakens collaborative leadership? Why?

Chapter 7

1. Does your “no” do more harm than good? Reflect on an experience you have had receiving a “no” from a colleague.

2. Scripture tells us our words are powerful. In what ways can you weigh the power of your words more often?

Chapter 8

“What do you do when the world doesn’t validate your vision?”

1. What is the purpose behind your ideas for future collaboration?

2. What is your essence? What is it in the midst of other people?

BELONGING - PRACTICE - ACTION

Creation is fostered by our relationship to belonging, good or bad. As we go about our lives, let us keep both eyes open for inspiration. New ideas can come from the small moments; let us cherish those moments

Belonging: Does your work reflect your sense of belonging?

Practice: What practices might help you foster a creative mindset?

Action: What specific actions will you take to creatively reinvent what it means to lead collaboratively?



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