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LEADERSHIP THAT NAVIGATES UNCHARTED WATERS

How do you lead when you don't know what's coming next?

Hosted by:

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Guest:

Dallas Friesen

Director of Church Life and Leadership

For the November CBOQ Now webinar, Dallas Friesen shared some of the leadership challenges and opportunities that he has heard pastors and churches navigate during COVID. Below are some of the highlights he identified.

You can [watch the recording here](#) and use this summary as a resource for next steps.

To start our time together, Cid shared a picture of a bridge that used to span the Choluteca River in Honduras. During Hurricane Mitch in 1998, there was so much rain that it re-routed the river and wiped out the road, making the bridge obsolete. Sometimes things change so drastically that what worked previously is no longer effective. This kind of disruption will require us to re-evaluate, adapt and make some adjustments in the way we lead. As you look at this picture, think about your leadership—what shifts do you need to make so that you can adapt to the change taking place all around you?



What does leadership look like during this pandemic?

- Leaders bring clarity to the chaos and complexity
- Leaders convene the right people to talk about the right things
- Leaders disciple their people

What are you hearing are the challenges that leaders are struggling with these days?

- Many leaders are expressing that they are overwhelmed by all that is before them
- Old systems and approaches that might have worked before COVID are no longer working
- Some have shared that they missed their primary call to build disciples and now they are struggling to share the burden at a time when others are needed to step up

Crisis can be an invitation from God to both adapt and get back to the basics. Can you tell us more about that?

- Before COVID, there were reports that thousands of churches will likely close in Canada over the next few years. People often describe the church as irrelevant or even a farce. The question before us is this: will people express that at their time of greatest need it was the Baptist church that was there for them?
- We have such a great opportunity to get back to the basics of who we are called to be and what we are called to do.

GROUP REFLECTION

During our time, participants broke into small groups and read from Mark 4:35-41. People responded to the following reflection questions:

1. Drawing from this Scripture, what might leadership look like in turbulent times?
2. As you reflect on this Scripture, what might God be saying to us?

FINAL CHALLENGE

Dallas offered three resources as his final challenge:

- **Scripture**
Ask God to give you a passage of Scripture or biblical character for this season. Meditate on it.
- **Journal**
Take time to journal. Your people do not need the answer man or woman during the pandemic, they need a guide that can walk alongside them. They need someone that can put fresh words and metaphors on their experiences. You can't do that if you are only regurgitating what you heard on CBC. It happens as you carefully describe your experience and the collective experience people are going through.
- **Get in a group**
If you do not currently have a group of two to five leaders with whom you meet regularly to debrief, pray and unpack life, do so now. Pray that God would lay these people on your heart. Invite them and meet regularly—maybe once a week or every other week. (Once a month likely is not enough.) You need others to do deep life with—people that will look at you and say, “Stop. Time out. I don't buy it.” People who can encourage you through this but can also call you out to walk in the way of Jesus.

UPCOMING SESSIONS

SELF CARE ESSENTIALS

December 10, 10:00 am

How do pastors and leaders practice self-care when there are so many demands?

REDEFINING THE CHURCH

January 12, 10:00 am

Why does this moment call for a reshaping of the church and how can we embrace the opportunities before us?

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

CONTACT

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