

LEADERSHIP

AT THE RIDGE

Ministry Lead Module 4 – Leverage Collaboration and Innovation From Your Team to Create Plans That Reach Goals

Core Competency

Leverage collaboration and innovation from your team to create plans that reach goals.

Objective

Learn how to maximize internal assets to plan and problem solve creatively and effectively.

NOTE: If you are planning and problem solving to fix issues that team members are facing, then you are thinking like a team leader. If you are planning and problem solving to empower team leaders to fix problems for their teams, then you are thinking like a Coach. If you are reallocating resources (i.e. budget, man power) or creating policies, processes and procedures to make new wins possible for your area, now you are thinking like a Ministry Lead. Keep Ministry Lead-Level thinking in mind as you complete the following assignments.

Assignments Overview

Assignment 1 | Read Chapter 1, *Analyze Issues*, from the *Successful Manager's Handbook*.

Assignment 2 | Watch the TED Talk Got a Wicked Problem? First, Tell Me How You Make Toast (Link below).

Assignment 3 | Watch the TED Talk *Creative Problem-Solving in the Face of Extreme Limits* (Link below).

Assignment 4 | Read Chapter 4, *Leverage Innovation*, from *The Successful Manager's Handbook* (Link below).

Assignment 1

Read Chapter 1, *Analyze Issues*, from the *Successful Manager's Handbook*.

- [Analyze Issues \(Chapter 1\)](#)

Questions

1. What is the 5 Whys Technique? Explain its value when analyzing issues.

2. Based on this text and using an A - F scale, how would you grade yourself at analyzing issues? Why do you give yourself that rating?
3. What are some common mistakes made by leaders whose responsibilities include analyzing and solving issues?
4. What are some of the dangers of allowing your personal assumptions to drive your analysis?
5. How might learning how to best analyze issues help you to best leverage existing resources, infrastructures, and systems in order to create plans to reach ministry goals?

Assignment 2

Watch the TED Talk *Creative problem-solving in the face of extreme limits* by Navi Radjou
https://www.ted.com/talks/navi_radjou_creative_problem_solving_in_the_face_of_extreme_limits

Questions

1. What are the three principles of frugal innovation?
2. What are the benefits of using fewer resources to create solutions?
3. How have you seen a leader or peer use “frugal innovation” to solve a problem?
4. What role does collaboration (both internal & external) play in frugal innovation?

Assignment 3

Watch the TED Talk *Got a wicked problem? First, tell me how you make toast* by Tom Wujec https://www.ted.com/talks/tom_wujec_got_a_wicked_problem_first_tell_me_how_you_make_toast

TOOL: Use <http://www.drawtoast.com> to get some ideas on how you can use collaborative visualization with your teams in the future.

Questions

1. Where do you see collaborative visualization, like the “how to make toast” example, to be useful in your workplace, at home, or in your community?
2. Identify if you are someone who thinks of the world in nodes (tangible objects) and links (connections between the nodes). If so, how has this played a role in your ability to bring solutions to problems presented in the workplace, home, or in your community? If not, what is the way that you currently problem solve? And do you see this other way as something that you can utilize?
3. Think of a ministry, workplace or personal goal. What resources, infrastructure or systems could be leveraged to reach that goal if you visualized them as links and nodes?
4. Collaborative visualization is something that requires working with others on your team to flush out a plan. As a director, could you describe leading a meeting with coach-level leaders where collaborative visualization creates breakthroughs in reaching a current goal? What would the agenda be? What would the energy in the room feel like? See Drawtoast.com for an example.

Assignment 4

Read Chapter 4, *Leverage Innovation*, from *The Successful Manager's Handbook*.

- [Leverage Innovation \(Chapter 4\)](#)
1. Which of the logical or intuitive approaches do you feel matches the way you currently problem-solve? Which of them would you be interested in trying and why?
 2. Why is creativity so important when working to solve problems? Give a real-life example of when you were needing to problem-solve. State how leveraging innovation and creativity could have helped in that case.
 3. How would you rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 on your ability to leverage innovation in any of your current roles? Explain.
 4. If you were to make real progress in this area, what would be one step you could take?

Leadership Takeaways

What are at least two LEADERSHIP TAKEAWAYS from this module? Be prepared to discuss with your group.

1.

2.