



LEVERAGE

Training Program

Executive Summary

LEVERAGE is a ministry training program for church lay-leaders. It is offered by The Orchard Network, a separate 501c3 organization started by The Orchard Evangelical Free Church to **Grow Gospel Leaders for Churches**.

Purpose

- To equip next generation lay leaders by helping you to grow in your walk with the Lord, strengthen your grasp of doctrine and sharpen your ministry skills.
- To inspire next generation lay leaders to leverage your influence for the glory of Christ and the advance of the Gospel in all spheres of life.

Description

LEVERAGE is a training experience for current and future church lay-leaders. The focus of the training is a) cultivating a rich spiritual LIFE, b) refining and sharpening ministry SKILLS and c) deepening and applying Christ-centered DOCTRINE. These are three values that The Orchard Network leadership believes are central for a person to have a long-term, fruitful ministry for Jesus.

The training sessions are primarily led by Pastor Colin Smith and leaders of The Orchard Evangelical Free Church. Occasionally guest speakers are invited on subjects in which they have considerable expertise. The format includes presentations on specific topics, group discussions, and sometimes guided group exercises. The goal is to equip and inspire lay-leaders to leverage all they are for the sake of Christ, especially within the context of the local church.

Curriculum and Schedule

LEVERAGE meets at a campus of The Orchard one evening a week for 16 weeks: Eight weeks in September and October (Fall Term) and eight weeks in January and February (Winter Term). Each week features two teaching sessions. Each evening goes from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Each session is related to Spiritual Life (L), Doctrine (D) or Ministry Skills (S).

Sample Fall Term

#	<i>Pre-Session Work</i>	<i>Session Topics</i>	<i>Post-Session Work</i>
1	READ: <i>How Good is Good Enough?</i> (Bridges)	What is the Gospel? (D) LEVERAGE Your Life (L)	WRITE: A response to <i>What is the Gospel?</i> (1 page)
2	WRITE: Your 3-minute Testimony (1 page)	Walking with God in Word and Prayer (L) Group Exercise: Telling Your Story (S)	WRITE: A plan to grow in your walk with God (1 page)
3	READ: <i>The Sinner – Unwilling and Unable</i> (MacArthur)	Ruin Through the Fall (D) Prayer and Mission (L)	WRITE: A prayer “Inquiring of the Lord” regarding His call on your life (1 page)
4	READ: <i>Is Every Christian a Vine Worker?</i> (Marshall and Payne)	The Cross of Christ (D) Personal Discipleship (S)	WRITE: A plan to engage in more discipleship (1 page)
5	READ: <i>Spiritual Leadership</i> (Piper)	Justification by Faith (D) Stewardship (S)	READ: <i>The Power of Giving</i> (Smith)
6	READ: <i>Sanctification</i> (Ryle)	The Church Part 1 (D) Regeneration by the Spirit (D)	WRITE: Your answer to the question – “What is the Church?” (1 page)
7	READ: <i>The Design of Work</i> (Keller)	Work Matters (L) The Church Part 2 (D)	WRITE: A Response to <i>Your Work Matters</i> (1 page)
8	READ: <i>Finding God’s Will</i> (Packer)	Testing and Discerning God’s Will (L) Testimonies and Prayer	WRITE: A Response to <i>Testing and Discerning God’s Will</i> (1-2 pages)

Sample Winter Term

#	<i>Pre-Session Work</i>	<i>Session Topics</i>	<i>Post-Session Work</i>
1	READ: The One “Must-Read” This Year (Piper)	God Speaks (D) Ministering at Home (L)	READ: Chapters from <i>A Neglected Grace</i> (Helopoulos)
2	READ: Community (Bonhoeffer)	Starting and Sustaining LIFE Groups (S) Ministry Affinity Groups (L)	READ: Assignments according to Affinity Group
3	READ: Why Go to Church? (Whitney)	Church-Based Discipleship (D) Ministry Affinity Groups (L)	WRITE: Ministry Reflections and Possibilities (1 page)
4	READ: Overcoming Sin and Temptation (Owens)	Battling Temptation (S) LEVERAGE Who You Are (L)	Read: Turning Laypeople into Lay Ministers (Keller)
5	READ: 9 Marks of a Healthy Church (Dever)	Growing through Suffering (L) God Gathers (D)	WRITE: How would you answer the question ‘Why Does God Allow Suffering’? (1 page)

6	READ: The Gospel Reduced (Metzgar)	Starting a New Thing (S) Redeeming Our Time (S)	READ: The Disciple's Prayer Life (Sanders)
7	READ: Church Planting (Keller)	Church Planting (S) Pastoral Care/Visiting Others (S)	READ: An Elder and His Work (Dixon)
8	READ: The Gospel (Ortland)	Weakness and Strength (L) Graduation and Testimonies	WRITE: 3 Lessons from <i>LEVERAGE</i> (1 page)

Note: The above schedule is an example only. The actual schedule is slightly different every year due to adjustments in topics and order.

A typical *LEVERAGE* evening looks like this:

- 7:00 – 7:30 p.m., Welcome, Announcements, Prayer, Devotions
- 7:30 – 8:15 p.m., Teaching Session #1
- 8:15 – 8:30 p.m., Table Time (time of discussion around the tables)
- 8:30 – 8:45 p.m. Break
- 8:45 – 9:30 p.m., Teaching Session #2
- End at 9:30 p.m.

Who can participate?

- Current church lay-leaders
- Those who desire to equip themselves for future church leadership

Cost

Members of The Orchard Evangelical Free Church, or those who will pursue membership at the next opportunity, can participate in *LEVERAGE* for free. For all others, the base cost for *LEVERAGE* is \$200 (or \$100 per term).

Expectations

We want this to be a high-value, high commitment, high energy experience for everyone who comes so please:

- Mark each of the 16 evenings of *LEVERAGE* on your calendar as high priority
- Come prepared (advanced readings of 20-30 pages each week)
- Look for the Lord to show you new ways to leverage your gifts and influence for His glory

Details for *LEVERAGE* 2017-2018

- Thursdays, September 7 – October 26, 2017 and January 4 – February 22, 2018
- 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- The Orchard Evangelical Free Church, Arlington Heights Campus; 1330 N. Douglas Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.

Interested? Please fill out an application or contact us with questions.

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