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TRACK 2

UNDERSTANDING DOCTRINE

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PREFACE

‘THE THINGS YOU HAVE HEARD me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others’ (2 Timothy 2:2)

Developing leaders in the church is the purpose of *Learn2Lead*. Leadership of the body of Christ is important, and therefore taking time to develop the leaders of the future is a vital aspect of building up God’s church.

LEADERSHIP IS THE KEY

If you asked your Christian friends to sum up their feelings about contemporary church life, two of the words that would crop up most frequently might well be *frustration* and *disappointment*. How can that be? It’s not because there’s anything wrong with the gospel. That is still the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ. It may be something to do with the way we do church. God has given us all the resources we need to fulfil his plans for this generation, but there is a crying need to discover, nurture, train and liberate the ministries of people within the church. And that means competent and effective leadership.

CHANGING THE CULTURE

Many of us come from a background where everyone expected the Minister to do everything – except perhaps play the organ, teach Sunday School or make the tea. And more disturbingly, the Minister expected it to be that way too. The vision for *Learn2Lead* is to create a culture where everyone in the church – especially young people – see leadership as something they aspire to. When Paul wrote to Timothy, he obviously expected that there would be people in the church who wanted to be leaders. We want people in the church to see their leaders at work and say, ‘Under God, I’d love to be able to do that!’

WHAT IS LEARN2LEAD?

Learn2Lead is an introductory course for church members who are not in a position to take time off work for more preparation for their role as leaders. It draws on the experience of the team that already trains people through a residential and placement programme called *Prepared for Service*. When you have completed *Learn2Lead* you may consider further study under the *Prepared for Service* programme or alternatively, with the Open Bible Institute. Details of these organisations can be found at the end of this workbook.

WHO TEACHES LEARN2LEAD?

The Scriptures indicate that those who are already doing important work in the church have it as their responsibility to train others to carry forward the work. The apostle Paul told his son in the faith, Timothy, 'The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others' (2 Timothy 2:2).

Learn2Lead is a tool for experienced leaders to use to teach others. It is designed to help those 'at the helm' to assist a new generation of leaders as they learn how to lead others. Tutors will normally be church leaders and others whose ministry has earned the respect and confidence of those they lead.

WHO MARKS LEARN2LEAD?

Learn2Lead is a course designed for use within your congregation under the guidance of your church leader. Their feedback is going to be the most beneficial to you as they know you as a person and see your ministry in action. However, you may also like an independent person to look at your work, mark it and (if successful) issue you with a certificate that acknowledges your many hours of study. If this is the case then you are welcome to submit a folder of your work (containing answers to each of the exercises in this book) to the Open Bible Institute. For full details (including the current marking fee) please see the website:

www.open-bible-institute.org.

WHO IS LEARN2LEAD FOR?

It is for everyone in the local church who has the potential to be a leader. And the definition of leadership? That quality that makes other people want to follow you. You may be in leadership already as an elder or youth work co-ordinator. Perhaps people in the church have suggested that you have the leadership gifts that could be developed for the future. *Learn2Lead* is not just for potential church leaders, it is also hoped that it will assist any church member who is given responsibility in the church.

FIVE TRACKS

Learn2Lead consists of five tracks of training looking at the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to be developed by leaders in the church.

Understanding the Bible, Understanding Doctrine, Understanding Leadership, Leadership in Practice 1 and Leadership in Practice 2

THREE ELEMENTS TO THE COURSE

There are three elements to the course:

1. **Individual study** – this should be done before meeting with your tutor and the group.
2. **Group session** – this would normally include a review of individual study; discussion of some of the answers; review of any action points from the previous group session and preview of the next unit to be studied etc.
3. **Ministry opportunity** – there may be ways in which the study material from the unit can be implemented in your own ministry.

So *Learn2Lead* is not just about gathering information and getting the answers right but also applying that information so that you learn by experience in the church.

THE TOOLS YOU WILL NEED

- **Bible** – *Learn2Lead* uses the NIV Bible throughout.
- **Notebook** - You will need to make a record of your answers to questions and other notes and we suggest you have a notebook which you can use in conjunction with this student manual. At the end of these ten units, there is the option to submit the work you have done for marking by the Open Bible Institute. All students who submit work of an appropriate standard will be issued with a certificate. If you would like to work towards this certificate, please keep all your answers to the unit questions in your notebook. Once you have finished unit 10, neat versions of your answers can be submitted to the Open Bible Institute with the appropriate marking fee.
- **Bible Dictionary** – It would be useful for you to have access to a good Bible Dictionary. Student discounts are available through the Open Bible Institute office.

THE SYMBOLS



- The Bible passages by this symbol must be read. There are also a number of other references which should be looked at if you have time.



- These questions are designed to be worked through on your own and usually have factual answers.



- These questions are designed for discussion during your group meeting. Come prepared with some ideas.



- The six Old Testament units from Understanding the Bible have questions with this symbol. They are important as they show the 'big picture' of what God planned and did through Jesus Christ throughout history.



- These are points of application and further work which will help you to develop what you have learned in the unit.

The value of *Learn2Lead* is not only found in the quality of the material but particularly in its application. This is the secret of effective leadership in the body of Christ. The *Learn2Lead* team are interested in ensuring that the words contained within this book come alive in your role of leadership and in the church as a whole. If you can help us develop the material to ensure that this continues to happen please contact us, we would love to hear how you are progressing.

Remember leadership is action – never just a position!

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For further information please also see the FIEC website: www.fiec.org.uk