

# Life Group/Personal Study

Anticipatory Leadership • Week of July 12

Craig Groeschel spoke at the Global Leadership Summit 2018 about ‘Anticipatory Leadership’ –he asks: “taking everything that we have learned... how do we look forward and anticipate what could be coming in the future so that we could make the appropriate decisions today to lead toward the desired outcome in the future?” Leaders who will make a difference in our world read the culture, understand the times we are in, and are poised to effectively communicate by *anticipating* what is ahead instead of reacting. Do you anticipate or react?

1. Groeschel says, “The difference between a good leader and a great leader is one who learns to anticipate rather than react.” Think about individuals or businesses you know who have led effectively through changing times. How did they train their organization to anticipate *what could be* instead of react? How did they guard against the ‘curse of confidence’ (unwilling to admit they still need to ask questions, learn, and grow)?

What businesses (restaurants, organizations) did you once patronize that is now no longer in business? In what ways did this business fail to anticipate the future?

We are all capable of some level of leadership. Leaders train themselves to see opportunities instead of problems. The apostle Paul is an incredible example of utilizing every opportunity to share his story and the Message of Christ (from the least to the greatest). Paul appears before Governor Felix in Acts 24 and two years later speaks before Governor Festus and King Agrippa.

## Read Acts 26:1-32

After hearing Paul’s testimony, the officials make this statement: “This man hasn’t done anything to deserve death or imprisonment... He could have been set free if he hadn’t appealed to Caesar” (Acts 27:31-32). Paul had appealed to the emperor in Acts 25:11, because the Lord had encouraged him to press on. Paul had a goal to take the Gospel to Rome –

“Be encouraged, Paul. Just as you have been a witness to me here in Jerusalem, you must preach to Good News in Rome as well” (Acts 23:11).

2. Paul understood that Christ came not only to save us *from* sin, but Christ saves us *for* a divine purpose. His mission was to preach to the Gentiles. What is your mission? Is there something that disturbs or stirs you at a soul-level, a burden, or passion? Perhaps the Lord is calling you to anticipate what is ahead. Share your passion with your group.

As the world gets darker, the light of Christ (and His Church) shines brighter. Christ calls each of us to be a light to those around us. Think of one way you can be more ‘anticipatory’ (alert, ready) in your leadership. Your sphere of influence may include coworkers, your family, your neighbors, fellow Life Group participants. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to an opportunity *this week* to share with someone your faith story or an invitation to church. Name ways we can prepare ourselves to extend expressions of Christ’s love with people who need hope. Pray.

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