



Living Leadership

GROWING DISCIPLE-MAKING LEADERS

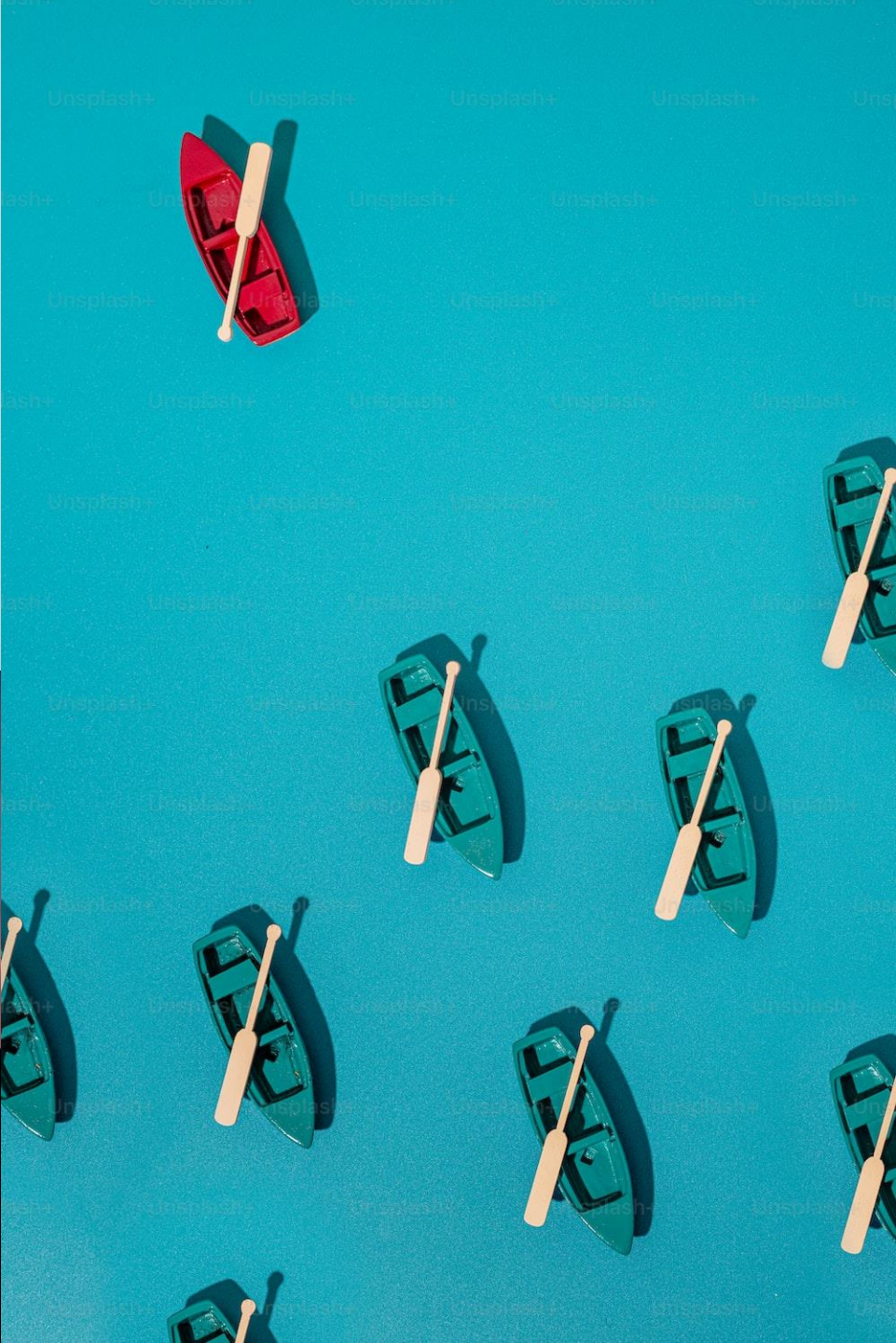
Among You

Spiritual Parenting for People's Growth

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Christ's position

A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But **I am among you as the one who serves.** Luke 22 verses 24-27

Among you ...

You know what kind of men we proved to be **among you** for your sake **1 Thessalonians 1 verse 5b**

And you became **imitators** (*mimētai*) of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an **example** (*tupon*) to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. **verses 6-7**

Character & Competencies

Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

1 Timothy 3 verses 2 to 7

Managing a family

He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

1 Timothy 3 verses 4 to 5

Parenting language

PROS

Church = Loving family
(see 1 Tim. 5:1-2)

We are not professionals
(aim for sustainable sacrifice)

Expects development
(“your progress” Phil. 1:25)

CONS

Pride & Position
(“Call no man father” Matt. 23:9)

Paternalism?
(But, also with ‘shepherding’)

Control not Equipping?
(“equip the saints” Eph. 4:12)



1 Thessalonians 2

verses 3 to 12

Spiritual Parenting

1. **Sincere** motives and words (verse 3)
2. **Servants** of God not seekers of glory (verses 4,6)
3. **Selfless** not greedy flatterers (verses 5)
4. **Sacrificial** working long and hard (verse 9)
5. **Spotless** in holy, righteous conduct (verse 10)

Like mothers & fathers

we were gentle among you, **like a nursing mother** taking care of her own children. [...]

like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2 verses 7, 11-12

comfort
AND
challenge

Good Parenting

RELATING	High support	Low support
Clear boundaries	Nurture	Oppressive
Unclear boundaries	Permissive	Neglect

EQUIPPING	Doing lots	Doing little
Saying lots	Disciplining	Directing
Saying little	Demonstrating	Dependency

Adapted from Balswick, J.O. and Balswick, J.K. (2014) *The Family: A Christian Perspective on the Contemporary Home*, fourth edn. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic.

5 parenting priorities

- **Equipping** – saying and showing
- **Envisioning** – motivating with grace
- **Enabling** – opening opportunities
- **Encouraging** – supporting in service
- **Evaluating** – honest feedback