

Sanctus Paths to Leadership

Course Description



Sanctus Paths to Leadership (SPTL) is designed to identify and develop emerging kingdom focused leaders; including bi-vocational marketplace pastors who desire to lead and pastor while remaining in their current career, those who share the same desire but sense a pull toward full-time vocational ministry, and those who wish to serve the community of Christ in a variety of other ways. Simply stated, SPTL is First Assembly's leadership school; a sending school for missional based leaders. Based upon the ministry philosophy and values of First Assembly Church, SPTL will prepare participants by not only focusing on character and leadership development but also by allowing you to discover the path of ministry that God has called you to. SPTL is a journey of self-discovery into the call of God on your life.

The Sanctus philosophy of training is based on the conviction that the Church is integral in the redemptive activity of God. Therefore, new church leaders and planters need to be identified, trained, equipped and released, conventional methods of establishing new faith communities, which often are slow and costly, need to be re-evaluated, new churches need to be planted, and the development of future church leaders, pastoral or otherwise, needs to be an integral part of the community church.

The SPTL learning environment will combine elements of participatory classroom activities and discussions, interactive dialogue, formal lecture, assigned reading and written assignments. In addition, segments of the required curriculum may be delivered via video teachings and occasional online discussions.

SPTL participants will learn character and leadership development principles, and receive theological instruction, from a blend of pastors, teachers, visiting communicators, and market place missionaries, who will bring a broad range of insight into the power of servant-focused leadership.

Sanctus Paths to Leadership

Course Objectives



- 1) To identify, inspire, train, and motivate aspiring church leaders to specifically target the emerging generation.
- 2) To facilitate an environment of self-discovery where participants will discover the call of God on their life and then develop the tools necessary for fulfilling that call.
- 3) Character Cultivation
 - a. We affirm that character can be formed, imparted and cultivated by God
 - b. We affirm that the worth of a person's character transcends personal giftedness, ability, or level of understanding.
 - c. We affirm that character is the proof of God at work in a person's life.
 - d. We affirm that character is the restorative force in neighbourhoods and nations.
- 4) Leadership Development
 - a. We believe that leaders are both born and developed.
 - b. We believe that leadership stereotypes must be broken.
 - c. We believe that Jesus Christ is the greatest leader in history.
 - d. We believe His Church must rise to influence in every sphere and in every nation.
 - e. We believe that servant hood is the action of true leadership.
- 5) Bible and Theology
 - a. We teach biblical scripture and principle as the basis for everything we believe and do.
 - b. We teach because we are informed, prepared, sustained and inspired by the relationship between God and man.
 - c. We teach to emphasize that the God of the Bible has empowered the Church, to be a prevailing force that is changing the world.

The Five Paths Of Sanctus



How we will meet our stated objectives and how we will facilitate your journey of self-discovery.

Luke 10:25-37 (NLT) One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "
"Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"

Sanctus Paths to Leadership is designed so that the participants further develop their relationship with God and come to a deeper understanding of His heart for the lost. We categorize all of our session topics along a pathway system of total devotion. These “Sanctus Paths” are not mutually exclusive categories; even as these components mesh in the life of each believer, they will overlap during the course of the semester. Below is a description of each of the SPTL Paths as well as a description of each of the topics that will be covered.

Path 1: PATH of the HEART

Proverbs 4:23
Above all else, guard your heart,
for everything you do flows from it.

At the outset of SPTL, we will deal with the heart. Personal issues left unchecked can make it difficult for us to find the peace that Jesus offers. Those issues will also stunt our spiritual growth, hindering us from sharing His love with others. When we become alive in Christ, we become available to others. As believers, we desire to spread the life of Christ everywhere; therefore we need to prioritize our personal emotional and relational health.

The Path of the Heart will focus on the following topics:

- The Heart of the Disciple
We will start off by looking at what the heart of a disciple looks like. What does it mean to have the heart of a disciple? Why is it important

to have the heart of a disciple? How does one with the heart of a disciple act when around other people?

- The Heart of a Leader

There are many books written about leadership and a variety of different theories that exist as to what constitutes good leadership practice. We will explore what kingdom focused leadership looks like and what the heart of a kingdom leader looks like. We will then merge these two ideas, heart of a disciple and heart of a leader, and discuss how one demonstrates leadership through discipleship.

- Healthy Heart: God's Character—Your Identity

By understanding that we are the workmanship of a flawless God, and that everything he intends for us is good, we are better able to process hurts and events from our past that may be affecting the healthiness of our heart. We will affirm God's concern and care for your unique identity. A healthy heart is essential to kingdom-focused leadership.

- Heart of Compassion

Over and over again we see in scripture that Jesus had a heart of compassion. Since we believe that Jesus is our ultimate example of leadership, we will take a closer look at the ways in which Jesus demonstrated compassion to those around him and how we, as the hands and feet of Christ, can and must continue to do the same.

- Heart of Encouragement

Not only was Jesus compassionate to people around Him but He was also a constant encourager. We will again look at Jesus as our example of how to encourage those we lead and how the ability to be an encourager is determined by the healthiness of our hearts.

- Heart of Worship

We will conclude our Path of the Heart with a focus weekend on what it means to have a heart of worship.

Path 2: PATH of the SOUL

Mark 8:34 – 38

34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their

cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

It is fascinating what material can be examined by looking into the immaterial part of a person—the soul. Participants will consider matters such as personal calling, vision, and dreams for the future. Have you ever wondered, “How do I hear from God”? We will explore topics like, a leader’s relationship with God and divine guidance, with a view to helping you understand your destiny.

The Path of the Soul will focus on the following topics:

- Understanding God’s Calling and Determining your Vision
Do you believe you were born with a purpose? Do you believe God actually calls people to accomplish things for him? Do you have a dream? We will investigate what the Bible says about these matters, and apply it to your personal journey.
- Divine Guidance
Is there a more pressing and constant question than, “How can I know God’s will?” It is not difficult to hear God’s voice when your desire is to serve Him. We will examine the secret to guidance—coming to God with clean hands and a pure heart.
- Spiritual Authority
What could God do with individuals who confidently exercise the authority, rights and privileges that He has granted to his children? We will un-wrap promises related to spiritual authority, helping you to realize the full authority of Jesus Christ living in you.
- Communication of the Soul
How do we communicate with God on a soul level? David in Psalms often talked about his soul crying out. What does this mean? Why is the cry of our soul so important in kingdom-focused leadership? Why is it important to communicate with God on a soul level?

- The Leader's Relationship with God
Our reason for leading must be found in the nature and being of God Himself; if we don't know Him well, we will never lead well. This is a study in the attributes of Godly authority.
- Communication with God and A Leaders Dependency on God
Our Path of the Soul focus will conclude with a focus weekend on why communication with God is so important and why kingdom-focused leaders are dependent upon God. We will also focus on how leaders can better communicate with God and how leaders can teach others to do the same.

Path 3: PATH of the MIND

Romans 12: 1 – 21

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

God has given us an incredible instrument to assess life as we face it each day. The brain provides us with a remarkably complex compass so that we do not need to rely on another person to point the way, or drift through life aimlessly. We will provide tools to help participants make decisions, plan effectively, build consensus, and solve problems within life's truly important issues.

The Path of the Mind will focus on the following topics:

- Decision Making and Effective Planning
Great risk can bring great reward, but how and when should we move on life's most important issues? We will analyze matters such as assessing appropriate risk, breaking out of our comfort zones, reaching important personal breakthroughs, and counting the cost going forward.
- Team Building
Team has become a "buzzword", in today's corporate world, but the church has always known that the advancement of the Kingdom is dependent upon Christian unity. We'll discuss how "team" can become the ethos of a church leadership core, and how that spirit can spill over into the whole community.

- Communication
The written and spoken word remain our two most powerful and effective mediums to express truth. God's Word, when communicated, never returns empty, and we will provide you with some simple tips in relaying the message effectively.
- Biblical Counseling
During the course of life we all get hurt and confused. In ministry you will encounter people who will need your listening ear and well placed words. We will give you strategies which will help you understand people, and direct their issues to the Wonderful Counselor.
- Personal Strengths and Gifting
How would God describe you? He may well start by listing the gifts that have been placed in your life—after all; His fingerprints are all over them. Together we will assess your gifts, style and passion, and help you find your niche so that you are fulfilled in God's purposes for your life. Understanding how and when to utilize our personal strengths and gifts is an important part of leadership and so we will end our focus on Path of the Mind with a focus weekend on understanding our strengths and gifts.

Path 4: PATH of STRENGTH

Ephesians 6: 10 – 18

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Each of us has gifts and abilities that God has generously placed in our lives. We will explore ministry and motivational gifts, as well as personal aptitudes and abilities. The church must strategically influence all spheres of society and we will discuss innovative ways to dispense salt and light by using the tools that we have been supernaturally invested in us.

The Path of Strength will focus on the following topics

- Life Coaching Basics
This two-tiered topic is first of all designed to help you mold your life and ministry philosophy, while emphasizing the maintenance of a balance between work and the rest of your life. Secondly, we will provide some tips on how you can instruct and encourage others to do the same.
- Knowing the Father's Business will Maximize You
We need to come to an understanding that we are part of a God's family and thus we have been entrusted with the family business. As such, we need to come to an understanding of how the gifts God has placed in us can and should be used to further the family business.
- Maximize the Fathers Business: Faith, Finances, and Partner Development
The Bible mentions money hundreds of times. Jesus himself talked about money. As Christian leaders and church planters we all realize the necessity of funds to our lives and the ministry. We will examine the Biblical principles and practices of interdependence.
- Make a Disciple
You are uniquely you because God wants to use the uniqueness of you to lead others to Him. In this topic we will look at how you can use the uniqueness of you to help to lead others to be disciples.
- Culture Change
The family business of God is about a culture change. The Kingdom of God is an upside down kingdom and we will explore how the upside down Kingdom of God can bring change to our worldly culture and ultimately help to bring heaven to earth.

Path 5: PATH of ABANDON

Luke 14: 25 – 35

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. 27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

31 “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

34 “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? 35 It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

This is your chance to express the great commission. Followers of Jesus are instructed to not only hear the word, but to do something with it (James 1:22)—we’re instructed to love our neighbors as ourselves. This is a pathway of assignment where you will directly learn about planting Christian communities. The material covered in this segment will form a natural interlock with your hands on experience in SPTL.

The Path of Abandon will focus on the following topics:

- Measuring the Cost

Jesus talked to his disciples about measuring the cost. Now that we have explored heart, soul, mind and strength, what does measuring the cost mean to you as you begin to move forward in a leadership role?

- What Now

This will be our final focus weekend and will focus on what now. What lies ahead for you as an aspiring kingdom focused leader? What do you need to do to make your dream and call a reality?