**GCCHM Leadership Certification**

**Level X, Course #5**

**LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES: THE ZACCHAEUS MODEL**

**Saustin Sampson Mfune**

**(Presenter’s Notes)**

God, in whose image we are made (Genesis 1:26, 27) and He Himself is not a failure, wants us to succeed. He says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD. “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” NIV

I would like to share some leadership principles as found in the story of Zacccheaus. LUKE 19:1-9. (NLT).

*“(1) Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. (2) there was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was one of the most influential Jews in the roman tax-collecting business “and he had become very rich. (3) he tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowds. (4) so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree beside the road, so he could watch from there.*

*5) when Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. ‘Zacchaeus!’ he said. ‘quick come down, For I must be a guest at your house today.’*

*Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. (7) but the crowds were displeased . . . (8) meanwhile Zacchaeus stood there and said, ‘i will give half of my wealth to the poor lord . . .*

*And if i have overcharged people . . . I will give them back four times as much. (9) Jesus responded, ‘salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a son of Abraham.”*

1. **GOAL**

Luke 19:3 Zacchaeus wanted to see who JESUS was.

Goal is a statement of what needs to be accomplished. Goal setting can be implemented as follows:

**S** specific

**M** measurable

**A** attainable

**R** relevant

**T** time-bound

Sports like basketball, cricket, soccer are not played without a basket ring, a focus point or goal posts. Otherwise any direction you shoot the ball to will be a score. Goal posts give players focus and direction.

What goals have you set for your ministry?

Without well-defined goals, you will achieve very little.

**Some goals you can set for yourself and ministry:**

* Reduce 1 inch (2 cm) of my waistline in 3 months by exercising 30 minutes 4 to 5 days a week and reducing intake of carbohydrates, etc.
* Read a book every 3 months (A book on leadership, nature, creativity, postmodernism, etc)
* Make a new friend in 12 months
* Spend one hour more every day with my family by coming home early from work, reduce my time of reading newspapers and watching soccer (etc) when I am home.
* Write a book, a new program, in 18 month’s time, etc (Don’t just be a reflector of other people’s thoughts).
* Conduct two zoom evangelistic meetings next year.(One for adults and one for children).

And remember this … A goal without a plan is just a wish.

1. **TIMING/URGENCY**

*Verse 1:
 JESUS ENTERED JERICHO AND MADE HIS WAY THROUGH THE TOWN.*
Jesus was not staying in Jericho. He was only passing through and if Zacchaeus was going to realize his goal, he must see Jesus while He was in Jericho.

Since Jesus was not staying in Jericho but only passing through, urgency was the watch word for Zacchaeus. Procrastination was not part of his vocabulary.

Victor Hugo is accredited for saying that “Nothing is greater than an idea whose hour has come.”

As a leader, don’t miss the timing of your opportunity. And your opportunity is children.

Time Management.

Since Jesus was only passing through Jericho, Zacchaeus had to manage his time well. Leaders who would have been great have remained good because of poor time management skills.

Even when everybody comes late, as for a leader, you should keep time. This gives you the morality to speak with authority to correct the wrong.

You don’t have eternity to lead the department.

Your time to do your work as a Children’s Ministries’ director will expire before you know it.

**3. ACTION PLACE**

*Verse 3:
HE TRIED TO GET A LOOK AT JESUS, BUT HE WAS TOO SHORT TO SEE OVER THE CROWDS.*Zacchaeus knew that if he was going to achieve his goal, he had to go where Jesus was. He could not achieve his goal by remote control. He had to leave his office.

You don’t achieve goals by folding your hands and remain in your comfort zone. If you are going to walk on water, do the Peter thing. Leave your “boat” and walk on water. Leaders, be where the children are. While book knowledge is important, the only sure way of learning how to work with children is to be with children themselves. You will learn a lot by hanging around with them. Our department’s age group is children from birth to age 14. Hang with this group.

**4. OBSTACLES/ LIMITATIONS**

*Verse 3:
HE TRIED TO GET A LOOK AT JESUS, BUT HE WAS TOO SHORT TO SEE OVER THE CROWDS.*

Zacchaeus met a major obstacle. He was short and the crowd blocked him. But for him to know his limitation and obstacle, he had to be at the action place. As a CHM leader, your action place is where the children are.

As a leader you should at least know two things.

 (a)

Preparation does not remove all your emergencies and problems. It only minimizes them. Therefore, always be ready and know how to manage your emergencies and sudden problems.

(b)

Some of the people in the crowd Zacchaeus knew them.

You should know that some of the people who will block your programs are the people you know.

If you are going to waste your time worrying and entertaining your obstacles, you will not go far.

Zacchaeus knew how to knock out the ‘t’ from can’t changing it to ‘can.’

**5. PATIENCE / PERSISTENCE**

*Abraham Lincoln*

While it is widely known that Abraham Lincoln was a president of the United States, most people have little idea of the road he walked before becoming president.

In 1831, Lincoln failed in business and filed for bankruptcy. He tried politics and was defeated for legislature in 1832. He then decided to go back to business, but unfortunately failed again in 1834. The next year his sweetheart fiancée died, and this resulted in a nervous breakdown in 1836. After recovering, he tried politics again but was defeated in an election in 1838. He pressed on with politics but was defeated for the U.S. Congress twice more, in 1843 and 1848. He decided to campaign for the U.S. Senate but no one was impressed with him. And when in 1854 the Americans went to the ballot box, Lincoln lost. In 1855 he was again defeated for U.S. Congress. In 1856 he was defeated for U.S. Vice-President.

Despite all of these setbacks, Lincoln would not give up. Finally, in 1860 – after a significant encounter with failure – he was elected President of the United States of America. And today, Abraham Lincoln is consistently ranked by scholars as one of the greatest U.S. presidents.

Looking at the life of Lincoln, we could define failure as *the inability to keep trying*. Lincoln proved the fact that in life you cannot fail if you keep trying; success is only one failure away.

The story is told of how Lincoln once received a letter with only one word on it: “Fool.” Turning to his secretary, Lincoln remarked that, although he had received many letters before in which the writer had forgotten to sign their name, this was the first letter he had received in which the writer had forgotten the message but signed his name! If you are going to succeed in whatever you intend to achieve, do not allow outside circumstances to determine your internal capabilities and value.

*HE TRIED TO GET A LOOK AT JESUS, BUT HE WAS TOO SHORT TO SEE OVER THE CROWDS. (4) SO HE RAN AHEAD AND CLIMBED A SYCAMORE TREE BESIDE THE ROAD, SO HE COULD WATCH FROM THERE.*

If Zacchaeus had been impatient, his goal would not have been realized. He could have grumbled and complained that he did not have what it took to achieve his goal. But Zacchaeus was patient. He resolved to remain calm and think strategically.

One thing which quickly destroys many of us is impatience. As soon as we meet a few obstacles, we quickly give up. We begin to complain and say, “I am not getting support.” When you are impatient and get angry quickly, children (especially early teens) will enjoy frustrating you so that they can see you get angry and lose your cool.

**6.FOCUSSED**

*4) SO HE RAN AHEAD AND CLIMBED A SYCAMORE TREE BESIDE THE ROAD, SO HE COULD WATCH FROM THERE.*

Zacchaeus was focused. He had a vision. He knew what he wanted to achieve, and he focussed on it. If you are not focussed, you will be derailed.

**7. DETERMINATION/ HARD WORK /SELF-MOTIVATED**

He did not have a wheelbarrow mentality. He was a self-starter. A CHM leader should NOT wait to be pushed like a wheelbarrow.

*4) SO HE RAN AHEAD AND CLIMBED A SYCAMORE TREE BESIDE THE ROAD, SO HE COULD WATCH FROM THERE.*

Zacchaeus was determined to realize his goal.

He knew that Success is not by chance. It is through hard work.

I remember a nursery poem I learned long time ago: ‘Tis a lesson you should heed, Try, try, try again. If at first you don’t succeed, ‘Try, try, try, again. Maximize your God-given potential. Remember that good is not good enough when better is expected of you. And better is not better enough when best is expected of you. And best is not best enough when excellency is expected of you. And excellent is not excellent enough when the sky is the limit. And who said the sky is limit? The sky ‘is the limit” is not limit enough when you have direct access through Jesus to the throne room heaven.

**8. STRATEGIC THINKING/ FOCUSED**

*(4) SO HE RAN AHEAD AND CLIMBED A SYCAMORE TREE BESIDE THE ROAD, SO HE COULD WATCH FROM THERE.*

Zacchaeus did not run ahead aimlessly. He had made strategic calculations. He knew the “a head” he was headed to. He had watched the trend of Jesus; that is - he observed which direction Jesus was headed to.

As a CHM Leader, you should be a strategic genius. Can you imagine if Zacchaeus had run ahead and climbed the Sycamore tree and yet Jesus was going the other direction? That would have been waste of time, energy and creativity. We need to read and know the trends of children. If we don’t we will be scratching where it is not itching.

Samson’s strategic thinking
Judges 16:26-31.
Asked a boy to lead him to the “Pillars that held the building.” Samson was a strategic genius.

Let God be in your strategic thinking. And once God is in your equation, He will see you through.

And for you to think strategically, you must remain calm under negative mitigating circumstances. Panic and frustration is what makes people fail to think strategically. Paul says in Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Jesus who gives me strength.”

But get this right. Don’t think that life is as simple as:-
God first + hard work = Success. It is as complex as:-

God first + hard work = God’s will for your life

As you plan programs for children, pray that God’s will be done in your life. Do what God wants you to do and not what makes you popular.

**9. GOOD HEALTH**

*(4)
SO HE RAN AHEAD AND CLIMBED . . .*If Zacchaeus did not have good health, he was not going to manage to run ahead and climb a tree. As a CHM leader, follow health principles so that your work is not hampered unnecessarily.

**10. INTEGRITY**

*(4) SO HE RAN AHEAD AND CLIMBED A SYCAMORE TREE BESIDE THE ROAD, SO HE COULD WATCH FROM THERE.*

For years Zacchaeus lived a dishonest life. He was a crooked custom’s officer. But for once He wanted to be a man of integrity. Do things the right way.

I have used the word integrity and not honest because these two words are very different.
Honest:-
Integrity:-

Difference between honest and integrity: A man and his “wife” as they checked out of a hotel picked up a bundle of money in the parking lot. They walked back to the reception and reported their find. The hotel manager was so impressed and wanted to call the local TV station to come and cover the story. The man begged the manager not to do it because the woman he had was not his wife. Though this man was honest, was not a man of integrity.

**11. IDENTIFYING PARTNERS**

*4) SO HE RAN AHEAD AND CLIMBED A SYCAMORE TREE BESIDE THE ROAD, SO HE COULD WATCH FROM THERE.*

Great leaders are the ones who know how to NETWORK. They know how to delegate. They know the ‘Sycamore’ trees to use to help them realize their goals. Be a great leader. Learn to get the best from the other.

**12. CREATIVITY**

*4) SO HE RAN AHEAD AND CLIMBED A SYCAMORE TREE BESIDE THE ROAD, SO HE COULD WATCH FROM THERE.*

Creativity is very important for you to make an impact and succeed. And creativity, usually, does not require anything un “usual.”

The Sycamore tree had always been there, but Zacchaeus used it creatively. If you are going to enjoy your work as a Children Ministries’ leader, you need to develop the skill of creativity. Use ‘Sycamore trees’ to help sharpen your creativity skills

**13. HUMILITY**

*(2) THERE WAS A MAN NAMED ZACCHAEUS. HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL JEWS IN THE ROMAN TAX-COLLECTING BUSINESS AND HE HAD BECOME VERY RICH.
(4) SO HE RAN AHEAD AND CLIMBED A SYCAMORE TREE BESIDE THE ROAD, SO HE COULD WATCH FROM THERE.*

Zacchaeus, a Chief Custom’s Officer, extremely rich and very influential, humbled himself and climbed a Sycamore tree so that he could realize his goal. If you are going to enjoy your work with children, you need to be humble**.**

**14. GOAL ACHIEVED**

*(5) WHEN JESUS CAME BY, HE LOOKED UP AT ZACCHAEUS AND CALLED HIM BY NAME. ‘ZACCHEAUS!’ HE SAID. ‘QUICK COME DOWN, FOR I MUST BE A GUEST AT YOUR HOUSE TODAY.’*

Finally, Zacchaeus’ hard work was rewarded. He realized his goal. He saw Jesus.

Remember, between a goal and the realization of the goal lies a continuum of duty.

**15. HANDLING JEALOUSY**

*VERSE 7:
BUT THE CROWDS WERE DISPLEASED*

In this world there is a thing called envy and jealousy. People are graduating with various degrees from the Jealousy Envy University..

Be prepared for it. When Zacchaeus achieved his goal, the crowds were angry. As far as the crowds were concerned, Zacchaeus did not qualify to be accorded the position Jesus accorded him.

Rise above whatever is useless and unproductive talk.But when criticism is constructive, be humble and accept it. If you ignore constructive criticism, you will perish sooner than later.

Learn from how David handled his oldest brother Eliab as recorded in 1Samuel 17:28-31. David ignored Eliab and went on to meet Saul and eventually defeated Goliath.

**CONCLUSION**

As a leader, let the Zacchaeus model engrave these maxims in your life: -

(a) Do not pray to God for an easy life. Instead pray to God to endure a difficult one. (Bruce Lee)
(b) If your goal does not scare you then it is not big enough. (Unknown)
(c) While people believe that thinking outside the box is creativity at its best, learn to think without the box because that’s the pinnacle of creativity. (Unknown)