

Essentials to Leadership: Passion and Perseverance

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

Course description: Passion and Perseverance – part 5

This course continues the discussion of passion and perseverance. The ideas from this lesson, and future lessons, assist students to learn about what passion means, how passion factors into our daily lives, and why it is needed in the church.

Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:

- A. Defined perseverance and the role of perseverance in leadership.
- B. Discussed the relationship of perseverance and resilience.
- C. Listed a minimum of ten reasons why people do not persevere and categorized the reasons into four main areas.

Outline of the class:

- A. Divide the class in groups of four and ask each group to develop their own definition of perseverance.
 - 1. Give them 10 minutes to complete the task.
 - 2. After they finish, ask each group to share their definition and write it out on a whiteboard.
- B. Share with the class the following thoughts about perseverance.
 - 1. “Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising up every time we fail.” Confucius
 - 2. “If at first you don’t succeed...” (ask the class to finish the thought).
 - 3. “Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did.” Newt Gingrich
- C. Ask the class as a whole to describe the difference between perseverance and resilience.
 - 1. Perseverance and resilience have similar characteristics.
 - 2. Resilience involves bouncing back after adversity, the idea of rising up when we fail.
 - a. We all experience failure at different times in life, but how does it impact us as leaders? (Ask the class to describe their thoughts on the question)
 - b. We will discuss more about failure in the future, but when we rise up in times of failure, we find strength to use failure as a stepping stone to much greater success.

3. Share the story of Jake Olson. You can find the story at the following link: <https://growingleaders.com/blog/enables-student-resilient/> and consider the following ideas and how they connect the significance of both perseverance and resilience.
 - a. Relationships (support system)
 - b. Resourcefulness (ingenuity)
 - c. Responsiveness (flexibility)
- D. Ask the class to list out reasons why people do not persevere. Work to summarize the list into four categories (listed below), once everyone has given their answers.
1. Discouragement
 2. Unwilling to pay the price
 3. Lose sight of the goal
 4. Unrealistic expectations

Conclusion:

- A. We all understand the essential nature of perseverance. We must have perseverance in order to achieve the vision and goals of the church.
- B. We also know how perseverance and resilience go hand in hand in order to bounce back from adversity, or failure. Failure is part of life, but how we deal with it makes the difference in our leadership.
- C. Next week, we will take another step consider the biblical relationship of perseverance as it relates to the role of leadership in the church today.

Recommended Reading:

Duckworth, Angela. *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*

Elmore, Tim. <https://growingleaders.com/blog/enables-student-resilient/>