

SENT



BE A PERSON OF INFLUENCE AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS
FACILITATOR'S GUIDE



ABOUT THE COURSE

SENT covers four central elements of public leadership:

1. Understanding worldview (how do Christians view the world differently to others?);
2. Distinctive Christian leadership (what distinguishes a Christian leader?);
3. Building leadership competency (what are the key skills, gifts and talents for Christian leaders?);
4. Transforming your context (how can 'ordinary' people make a difference?).

Groups will meet regularly for four sessions to watch a filmed talk from an expert, discuss their response, and pray for each other. Between each meeting, participants will complete two exercises relating to their individual leadership calling, ranging from practical application to reading to gift and strength assessments.

The role of the group facilitator

As group facilitator, it is your responsibility to lead the group throughout the course. As part of your pack, you have two facilitator guides. You may find it helpful to have two facilitators, one in church leadership and one in public leadership. This step-by-step guide is intended to make your role as easy as possible. It will help you to recruit people for the course, facilitate group meetings, and develop plans for after the course is over. We are here to help you – if you have any questions, suggestions or feedback you can contact us at publicleadership@eauk.org.

Remember, although you are the group facilitator, you are also a course participant. While you should avoid dominating discussions, you should contribute your own ideas as well. And we encourage you to be flexible and adapt the suggested format and content to suit your group.

Resources

This guide will help you to lead the group through the course. Each participant has their own workbook, which includes essential materials for the meetings (such as discussion questions), space for notes and information on activities. You may want to take a look at one of the workbooks before the first meeting.

The workbooks are supplemented by an exclusive website for those on the course. Here you will find the videos for each meeting, links to online material, and further learning resources. Additional materials may be added at a later date and we may email you on occasion to let you know about new online resources relating to the course. We welcome the submission of suggested topics or articles to add to this site.

To access the exclusive online content, go to eauk.org/sent and use the password **sent2019**.

Recruitment

The course can be undertaken by an existing group (such as a small group or within a business network), a new group recruited in a church (or several local churches) or workplace, or by a few friends. Leaders are not expected to have important titles – they can be anyone who has, or wants to develop, influence in their workplace or community. And they can be any age. If you are not using this resource with an existing group or network, you will need to recruit your group members. There are two main potential audiences: established leaders who will be affirmed and validated by the church's recognition of their leadership, and emerging leaders who will benefit from the training and exploration of their future leadership.

We encourage you to include participants from a variety of sectors, as they will have different approaches and experiences – even fundamentally different ways of thinking – which will benefit the group. Although the end of the course encourages you to think about continuing to meet together, recruit people on the basis of four sessions only, so that they know what to expect.

Here are a few tips to help with recruitment:

- If you are not a church leader, ask your church leadership for recommendations. They might know people in the church who you don't and can speak to leaders in other local churches who might know potential participants. This would be particularly helpful if you are at a small church.
- Advertise the group in notices, magazines, websites, emails lists, etc. Sometimes people struggle with the word 'leader', thinking it doesn't apply to them. It may help to use language such as 'people of influence', 'salt and light', 'discipleship' or 'living out your faith in the workplace / local community'.
- Be active – if you know someone who would be perfect for the course, have a chat with them, explain why you thought of them and let them know you value their leadership potential / experience. This can be a great confidence boost to someone who may not see themselves as a leader.
- There is no maximum / minimum size to a group. You can do the course with one or two friends or with 200 people. However, if you have more than ten people, you will need to split into smaller groups for the discussions and prayer, each of which will require a facilitator.

Meetings

Below is a suggested format for your meetings. We suggest meeting monthly, to allow time to complete the activities, but your group may prefer to meet weekly. We encourage you to be flexible to meet your group's preferred learning styles, experience and availability. If you undertake all the activities and start by eating together, a meeting will take about three hours. The timings we provide in each session are only suggestions – some groups have completed everything in two hours.

- **Meal and intro** – this could be a weekday evening meal or a Saturday morning breakfast. Use this time to build relationships between the group, talking about your lives since the last meeting and the activities you've been doing between meetings. If you decide not to eat together, you should still set aside time at the beginning of the meeting to build trust and friendship within the group before diving into the video and discussion.
- **Watch and discuss** – each session includes a talk from an expert in their field recorded in front of a small live audience. Lively discussions following the talks are critical, as this is where people can apply the theory to their own leadership roles and share ideas. We have provided some questions to be discussed following the talk, which we suggest you watch in two parts (timings for pauses are provided). You may not wish to use all the questions, so make sure you review them before the meeting. Participants may wish to make notes on some of these questions as they watch. This guide provides some possible 'answers' to some of the questions, but you should also be open to exploring other things that stand out to the participants. At least one question each session relates to scripture, and one incorporates a short clip from an interview with a public leader. All interviews were conducted by Abi Jarvis, Public Leadership coordinator at the Evangelical Alliance. All videos can be viewed or downloaded from eauk.org/sent
- **Pray** – keeping God at the heart of your leadership and giving spiritual support to each other is an essential part of the meeting.
- **Look ahead** – preview the activities and confirm details for the next meeting. It might seem easy to skip this bit, but it will encourage everyone to complete the activities and return for the next meeting.

The activities

The content of the meetings engages participants on both a theoretical and practical level. The activities between each session are designed to bring personal reflection and learning relevant to the particular role of each participant. They are not an optional extra; they are critical to each leader's development. We advise spending around an hour on most of the exercises. Participants should hold each other accountable to completing these exercises – WhatsApp or another group chat can be very helpful for this.

At the back of the facilitator's guide and participant workbook, there is space to pray and journal between meetings, as well as suggested further resources for each topic.

As the group facilitator, it is important that you set an example by completing all the activities yourself and keeping the other participants in your prayers.

Confidentiality

As the group gets to know each other more, they may share stories that include details personal to them or to people they have interreacted with. For this reason, all information mentioned in meetings should be, in principle, considered confidential and should not be shared outside of the group. You may wish to speak to your church leadership about any existing safeguarding and confidentiality policies. If you are meeting in a home with other people present (such as family members or flatmates), think about how you can ensure privacy for the group.

We encourage group members to agree on a preferred contact method, such as email, WhatsApp or Facebook, to communicate between meetings. However, you must receive permission from each participant before using or sharing their information.

PRE-COURSE PREPARATION

There are a number of things you will need to consider before the first meeting. You may want to discuss some of these things with group members before you meet. As you complete each task, tick it off the list.

1-2 MONTHS BEFORE

- If you're not a church leader, ask them to support you by praying and suggesting potential participants.
- Recruit your members. Talk to each person and explain the purpose of the course (see recruitment notes on page 7).
- Decide the location, date and time of the first meeting, and tell participants once it is confirmed.
- You may want to give out the workbooks in advance of the first meeting and encourage participants to read the introduction and the content for the first session.

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Remind the group of the details (date, time, location, if anyone is bringing food, etc.).
- Take a look through the participant's workbook. This will help you to understand what they do / do not have compared to the materials in the facilitator's guide.
- Organise any necessary equipment for the first meeting (such as a computer or speakers) and download the talk and videos from eauk.org/sent
- Watch the main talk and interview clip before the meeting and review the discussion questions and prompts we have provided. Note the moment in the talk when you need to pause for the first half of the discussion.
- If you think your group may struggle with the worldview topic, take a look at the additional resources on eauk.org/sent
- Pray daily for those who are part of the group.

1 DAY BEFORE

- Make sure you have the workbooks ready to give out at the meeting if you have not already done so.
- Send a final 'looking forward to tomorrow' message to the participants.
- If you are hosting the meeting and you live with other people who are not taking part in the course, ask them for privacy and confidentiality.