

Jim Robinson's Discussion Guide

For purposes of single session discussion, perhaps the offering of chapter topics, or the formational way the book is constructed might be an efficient way to guide a discussion. Here are some questions to ask:

- In your experience, does your community of faith reach the marks of a blessed church?
- Are we so used to our structures and processes that we miss being aware of God's spirit and power moving among us?
- Are we rational functionalists or relationalists?

It is often so hard to stay true to the course to which we are called. We want to make things happen, soon and in our way. This book spoke to me in the way that he emphasizes prayer and letting the power of the Spirit strengthen our ministries through spending that quiet and intentional time in prayer.

- What connected with you as you read through this book?

Leaders are expected to take time to develop and nurture their own spiritual lives which include: being faithful, hopeful, loving, discerning, prayerful, humble, and serving. This takes a lot of time and intentional attention and self reflection. On the other hand, leading a church to blessedness requires a certain set of leadership qualities: being trusting, encouraging, compassionate, visionary, able to articulate the vision, sacrificially selfless, and committed to outreach. These lead our focus away from ourselves and toward others.

- Is this paradox real in your experience, and how do we deal with it?

His thesis is that an integration of the two sets of qualities are what will make ministry possible and effective. Faith and trust become the foundation for blessedness in a healthy church.

- I wonder, is that what we seem to have lost in so many of our churches?