



D: TRAINING FOR PARISH TEAMS

D/8 SERVING LIKE JESUS

TOPICS OF ASIPA TEXTS:

A : GOSPEL SHARING

B : SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

C : A PARTICIPATORY CHURCH

D : TRAINING FOR PARISH TEAMS

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D\8

SERVING LIKE JESUS

This text is designed for use in a workshop or retreat and not in a short meeting. Time is needed for prayer, in order that leaders can experience the presence of Christ, realize their behaviour and change their attitudes.

INTRODUCTION

Good Christian leaders are not formed in one or two workshops; it is a result of continuous training, critical evaluation of one's leadership style and reflection on the leadership style of Jesus.

The objective of this session is to help parish and/ or SCC leaders to reflect together on their own leadership style in order to make it more like Jesus' way of being a leader.

Begin with some prayer and silence or a simple hymn.

A. LEADER AS SERVANT OR BOSS.

Below are two stories. Read them in your small groups of 4-6 and discuss the question following:

Story 1

Joseph works in a car assembly plant. He is the foreman in charge of about fifty men who work on that floor. He always arrives on time and goes around to greet the workers, checking that they are well and have all they need to begin their work. He usually spends time talking to a worker who has been away from work to make sure that he is fit enough to work and that his family are well. One day, when one of the workers received news that his child had to be admitted to hospital, Joseph took the man in his car and helped him get his child to hospital.

Story 2

Nelly was the chief nurse of the medical ward. There were three other nurses and two assistant nurses. As soon as Nelly arrived in the ward she expected the medical reports to be given to her from the nurses of the previous shift, the patients to be fully ready and a nice hot cup of coffee sitting on her table. She was a most efficient nurse and all the doctors admired her clean and well-run ward but they were a bit nervous when doing their rounds. The patients in the ward also knew that it was Nelly on duty when they found that the nurses were no longer able to spend a moment to talk to them. Nelly herself would make her round and ask "How are you today?" but she never stopped to listen to the answer to her question.

Questions for reflection

Both Joseph and Nelly are leaders. Discuss the difference between a Boss and a servant leader? Which type of leader are Joseph and Nelly?

Summary (read in the whole group)

Boss	Servant leader
Boss is one who holds power;	Servant leader is not one who holds power, but looks for a chance to serve others.
Boss is one who is responsible – others help him fulfill his responsibility;	Servant leader helps the community fulfill its responsibility.
The Boss takes all the decisions by herself/himself;	The servant leader helps the community to take responsible decisions.
Boss is the first and most important person in the community;	The servant leader does not look for honour and is the last in the community.
The Boss is above the community;	The servant leader is one with the community.
Boss relates to people as superior-subject.	The servant leader relates as friend, brother/sister.

B. JESUS SHOWS US THE WAY

In small groups of 4-6:

- a. *Choose two of the following texts and reflect on the characteristics of Jesus that you find most appealing. Why do you think this quality of Jesus attracts you?*
- b. *Name one quality of Jesus that you find difficult to accept.*
- c. *What characteristics of Jesus are important for a Christian Leader?*

Jesus shows us the meaning of serving leadership.

Luke	24:13-27 (Jesus listens)
Mark	5:21-43 (Jesus responds to need)
Matthew	5:1-12 (Kingdom vision of Jesus)
Mark	14:34 (Jesus was himself)
Matthew	9:36 (Jesus was compassionate)
John	8:1-11 (Jesus was forgiving)
Mark	2:23-28 (Jesus was straightforward)
John	2:1-11 (Jesus' presence gave life)
Matthew	28: 19 (Jesus included everyone)
John	15:15-19 (Jesus was empowering)
John	19:11 (Jesus was a person of integrity)
Luke	10:1-7 (Jesus shares his mission)
Philippians	2:2-8 (Jesus emptied himself)

What Jesus and his Apostles said about leadership and authority

Matthew	23:8, 10 (You have only one teacher)
Matthew	20:20-28 (the first must be last)
1 Peter	5: 1-5 (clothe yourself in humility)
Mark	10:15 (be child-like)

C. GROWING IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP (PAINS AND GAINS)

Pains

Discuss in the whole group

Question for reflection

1. What are the pains (difficulties we have to face) in growing in servant leadership?

Supplement

- You must die to your self-importance.
- You have to be willing to accept where people are at and identify with them.
- People may reject your ideas, even when it is a better idea.
- It takes a lot of time and energy to build people up. “70 times 7”.
- You have to share information, power, name and status.
- People may not be so well organized initially and yet you are responsible.
- Your perceptions about people as ignorant, incapable, useless must change.
- You must trust the talents and abilities of people, however poor they are.

Gains

Question for reflection

2. *What are the gains (benefits to us) in growing in servant leadership?*

Supplement

- The community grows in confidence and becomes more responsible.
- People feel accepted, wanted, important: grow in commitment.
- People learn to take decisions and implement them.
- People feel supported and grow in maturity gradually.
- People feel encouraged and grow in responsibility.
- People can only grow if they are allowed to make mistakes and learn from them.
- People feel respected, important, and capable of doing things.
- People feel trusted, increase their faith in themselves, and grow in involvement.
- Leaders are transformed into true disciples of Christ.
- Leaders experience the presence of God in the community and in themselves.

D. LET US GROW IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

Growing as a leader entails pains and gains. Let us allow the words and actions of Jesus to inspire us.

- a. *Read John 13:4-6, 11-16.*
- b. *In small groups of 4-6 discuss:*

Questions for reflection

1. *What is Jesus telling us about leadership through this example?*
 2. *How can we change our attitudes and behaviour to become more like Jesus? For example, what can we do to become better listeners, more compassionate, more trusting...*
- c. *Write your answers to question two on newsprint and report to the whole group after 15 minutes.*
After all have reported, read the following supplement.

Supplement

- Be faithful to Gospel sharing in our meetings.
- Always work as a team not making decisions alone.
- Be ready to allow others to take over after a set time.
- Encourage participation in a sincere way.
- Have a healthy regard for the opinions of others.
- Be ready to receive correction and criticism even when it hurts.

- Conduct regular evaluation of work done and leadership style.
 - Have regular training sessions so that all can share in skills and knowledge.
 - Pray and try to be Christ-centred at all times.
- a. *Share with the person beside you, which of these attitudes you will find most difficult to change. Pray for each other.*
- b. *As a whole group decide on three actions from your reports and from the supplement that will help us grow towards the servant leadership of the Gospels.*

CONCLUSION

Let us place ourselves in God's hands through Christ and ask for the strength and courage to change. Let us pray.

METHOD OF ASIPA TEXTS

ASIPA TEXTS are compiled for Christian men and women at grass root level of the parish. They can be conducted most fruitfully in Small Christian Communities, Neighbourhood Communities, Parish Pastoral Councils or any other small groups in the parish.

ASIPA TEXTS can also be used with larger groups, e.g. in the parish hall - provided the “participatory method” is maintained in smaller working groups.

Features of the “ASIPA approach”

1. ASIPA TEXTS adopt a “**participatory approach**” in which all participants of a group search and discover for themselves as far as they are able to.
2. The texts are compiled in such a way that the facilitator can use them with a **minimum of preparation**.
3. The facilitator is requested to **follow the text** as closely as possible and allow the participants to contribute when indicated in the text.
4. The facilitator is not content with one answer to a question but he/she encourages as many participants as possible to search for an answer. “**Buzz groups**” of 2/3 are helpful to achieve maximum participation.
5. The **SUPPLEMENT** can help add to the findings of the participants and summarize them.
6. The **SUMMARY** is meant to be used as ‘input’.

ASIPA:

As-ian -I-ntegral -P-astoral -A-pproach

The Asian Bishops declared in the Final Statement of their Fifth Plenary Session in Bandung: The Church of 1990s has to be a "Participatory Church", a "Communion of Communities", a Church that "witnesses to the Risen Lord" (*FABC5,#8*).

The question was, how to promote this "new way of being Church". Therefore, late in 1993, jointly sponsored by the FABC Offices of Human Development and of Laity, a consultation meeting was held in Malaysia. It was during this consultation that the pastoral process for promoting a "Participatory Church" in Asia was termed ASIPA: Asian Integral Pastoral Approach.

ASIPA TEXTS (training programmes) follow this directive:

ASIAN

They want to implement the vision of the Asian Bishops and help Asian Christians face Asian life in the light of the gospel.

INTEGRAL

They aim at achieving a balance between the "spiritual" and the "social", between the individual and the community, between hierarchical leadership and the co-responsibility of the laity.

PASTORAL

They train the laity in their pastoral mission in Church and world.

APPROACH

The process of ASIPA TEXTS can be described as a pastoral approach which is "Christ- and Community centred". It involves the participants of workshops to search for themselves and allows them to experience a "New Way of Being Church."
