

Sierra Leadership Network Curriculum: Month 4, Year 2

Participation in the Sierra Leadership Network (SLN) is a process of adult learning. It is the responsibility of the participant to do their assignments and seek out the necessary accountability. It is the responsibility of the participant to schedule time with their mentor, not the other way around. Here is a checklist of this month's exercises and space for comments. All useful generated materials should be placed in your Sierra Leadership Network binder. The mentor will look over the exercises and be given opportunity to add their own comments. Be sure you take your binder to the quarterly meetings at Granite Springs Church to also be available to the SLN directors.

Month 3, Year 2

Date Completed

____/____/____ Promise and Fulfilment: [Estimated time: _____]
Mentor Comments:

____/____/____ Bible Study: [Estimated time: _____]
Mentor Comments

____/____/____ Social Justice: [Estimated time: _____]
Mentor Comments

Participant Signature

Mentor Signature

Promise and Fulfilment:

One of the obvious differences between Christianity and Judaism is our belief that many Old Testament promises were, are and will be fulfilled in Jesus Christ. This is, in fact, the centerpiece of our faith. The purpose of the Bible is to frame our understanding and assumptions of history and feed our sense of meaning, purpose and destiny. The Bible establishes broad historical themes that help us understand the nature of existence and our place in reality. These are large, worldview shaping themes that don't act so much like a "connect the dots" puzzle but rather a ray connecting two points and pointing us in a particular direction for the future. The purpose of this exercise will be for you to identify major Biblical themes, see how they are established in the Old Testament, show how they have been fulfilled in Christ, draw from them the theological implications for our lives today and set out what they teach us of the world to come.

1. Paradise Established, Paradise Lost, Paradise Regained:
 - a. Outline the major Biblical texts and their role in the development of this Biblical theme
 - b. Articulate the role Jesus plays in regaining paradise today
 - c. Articulate the role the church should play in this historical drama
 - d. Articulate the implications of this dramatic theme for Christian ethics today
 - e. Articulate the implications for our eternal state

2. Immanuel: God with us.
 - a. We were made to live in communion with God. We experienced this in the garden.
 - b. We were kicked out of the garden. Why?
 - c. How does God relate to the patriarchs? Why?
 - d. What is God trying to establish through the nation of Israel? How is God's purpose in this demonstrated through the communal structure of the people living in the desert? Settled in the land?
 - e. How is the major obstacle of human evil overcome in the old covenant?
 - f. Why does God's mission through Israel fail?
 - g. How do we understand Jesus' life in the context of this theme?
 - h. How do we understand Jesus' death in the context of this theme?
 - i. How do we understand Jesus' resurrection in the context of this theme?
 - j. How does the church fit into this theme? What are the major New Testament texts that articulate this? What word pictures are given? What is the role of the Holy Spirit in this?
 - k. How is ultimate fulfilment of this theme represented in the book of Revelation? What are the important texts for this?

3. God's Justice
 - a. How is God's just nature revealed in the story of Creation and the fall?
 - b. How was God's desire for justice expressed through Israel? How did Israel fail?
 - c. How did Jesus in his earthly ministry demonstrate God's justice?
 - d. How did Jesus in his death demonstrate God's justice?
 - e. How did Jesus in his resurrection demonstrate God's justice?
 - f. How is the church to demonstrate God's justice?

- g. What is the relationship of “justice” and “righteousness”?
- h. How does the last judgment fit into this theme of justice? What role does hell play in God’s justice?

Bible Study:

Write a series of Bible studies for either of the themes treated above and teach that series to either a small group or a youth group you are leading. There should be more than one lesson but it will be up to you how many lessons you need and how you will arrange your materials. Discuss your materials with your mentor and discuss with your mentor how the Bible study actually went.

Social Justice:

If you have completed parts one and two of his assignment, you should have had to wrestle with important implications for daily living established by these broad historical themes. Most of are quite aware of the fact that we will be judged as individuals for those things we are immediately responsible for. We will be held accountable for how we treated our friends, families, and brothers and sisters in the Lord. We don’t always take the same amount of time to ponder how we, in our churches, neighborhoods, cities and countries will be called to account by God for how we as communities have impacted other people and other things through responsible or irresponsible behavior. Promise and Fulfilment themes often call us to communal faithfulness as well as individual faithfulness. Discuss with your mentor some areas of concern in your communities that were pricked by the exercises above. What are some things that you, your youth group, or your church should advocate more forcefully for, healthy environmental habits to establish or bad habits to break? Pray this through and discuss it with your mentor.