



basic training
for pastoral ministry
MASTERCLASS



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*This **Basic Training for Pastoral Ministry** MASTERCLASS is a Sozo Equip series designed for individuals and small groups desiring to develop a pastoral paradigm in leading others. Whether you are wanting to be a pastoral influence with your family, neighbors, friends or co-workers or your desiring to increase your skill set in leading a small group or ministry this Masterclass will be helpful in equipping you to love others well and help them move forward in their life. Over this 11 session series you will gain both a basic pastoral paradigm and some tools to help others walk in freedom and health. It's our prayer that through this series you'll not only grow in a pastoral skillset but receive an upgrade in pastoral anointing.*

-Joel Lowry
Lead Pastor, Sozo Church

And their calling is to nurture and prepare all the holy believers to do their own works of ministry, and as they do this they will enlarge and build up the body of Christ.

-Ephesians 4:12 TPT

Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.

-Jeremiah 3:15 NIV

Session 1: Hi Pastor

There’s been a major misconception in the church about what it means to be a pastor and who is called to pastor. In this session we talk about the function of a pastor and why it’s Biblical for the entire church to be equipped as pastors.

Questions

- What stood out to you from this session?
- How many times is the word “pastor” used in the New Testament?
- What is the purpose of the fivefold gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11? Which of these five come naturally to you?
- What is the role of a pastor?
- What misconceptions have you had about “pastoral ministry”?
- Who has had the greatest “pastoral” impact on your life?

Activation

- In your own journey who has God given you pastoral influence with?
- Take time to daily pray for those God has given you pastoral influence with.

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Session 2: Mining the Gold

Effective pastors don't focus on the junk in people's lives; they focus on who God had called and created them to be. In this session we talk about the focus and function of effective pastoral ministry.

Questions

What stood out to you from this session?

What is the focus of effective pastors?

What is the difference between pastoring past-present and future-present?

Why is belief more important than knowledge and behavior in the life of the disciple?

What is at the heart of all dysfunction?

The heart of pastoral care is to help people _____ rightly and to _____ healthily.

Activation

In your own journey who has seen the gold in you?

Consider the people in you have pastoral influence with. What is the gold in their life? If it doesn't come to mind easily take some time to ask God what it is.

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Session 3: Building Trust

Trust is the currency of influence and the key to pastoring people into transformation. In this session we talk about 5 keys to building trust in pastoral ministry.

Questions

What stood out to you from this session?

Why is trust so valuable in pastoral care?

Why is relational and spiritual authority more vital in pastoral care than positional authority?

What are the 5 keys to building trust?

What should you do when you don't have the answers?

Activation

In your own journey how important has trusting others been in your own growth?

Where are you in building trust with the people who you have pastoral influence with?
What can you intentional do to grow trust with them?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Session 4: Who Cares?

Don't let pastoral ministry drown you. In this session we talk about how to avoid co-dependent pastoral relationships and help people learn to take responsibility for their own life.

Questions

What stood out to you from this session?

Why is it dangerous to care more for someone else than they care for themselves?

What role does brokenness play in people's journey toward health?

Why do you think it is dangerous to try to force people into change who aren't ready for it?

What is the difference between a load and a burden? How do we respond differently to each?

Activation

In your own journey whose care has had an important role in shaping your life? What was significant about the way they cared for you?

Have you ever felt manipulated or smothered by someone's care? If so, how did you respond?

How are you doing at healthily caring for people in your life? Are there some course corrections you need to make?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Session 5: Jesus Wept

Ever struggle with how to respond to people in crisis? In this session we talk about the role comfort and presence play bringing healing to the pain and trauma in people's lives.

Questions

What stood out to you from this session?

What role does comfort play in the healing of hearts?

If embracing pain is not negating faith, then what role might faith play in responding to people's pain?

Why is comfort more valuable than logic and solutions when dealing trauma?

If joy and pain are related then what role does comfort play in unlocking joy in people's lives?

Why is processing your own pain and trauma essential in being able to pastor other people well?

Activation

In your own journey who has been a source of healing comfort? Are there some areas of your life where you might still need to experience comfort?

How can you grow in the way that you offer comfort?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Session 6: Keep Your Hope On

Hope is one of your most powerful superpowers when you are pastoring people. In this session we talk about the role of hope in pastoring people into their destiny.

Questions

What stood out to you from this session?

What do you think about this statement - “When we surrender hope we surrender our authority to speak life into a situation”?

Why does my lack of hope reveal a stronghold that I’m believing?

Why is it important that you pull yourself out of a situation that you don’t have hope for?

Activation

In your own journey, who has had hope for you when you didn’t have it for yourself? What impact did that make in your life?

Does hope come easily for you?

Hope is a muscle. What can you do to work it out in your own life?

Who in your life do you need an upgrade of hope for? You may want to ask God regularly for His perspective on that person and/or situation.

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Session 7: What's the Real Problem

It's impossible to fix a problem that you cannot identify. In this session we talk about how we help people deal with the root issue behind their struggles and walk in real repentance.

Questions

What stood out to you from this session?

Why is transparency valuable pastoral ministry?

What is the danger of treating symptoms verses treating the real problem?

What is the difference between confession and repentance?

How do we help people take the journey down the road of repentance?

What is the heart of repentance?

Why are questions so valuable in helping people find the real problem?

Activation

In your own journey how well have you done at getting to the heart of the problem? Consider taking time to reflect on a growth area or sin patten and ask God to show you what the real problem is.

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Session 8: Breaking Free

Jesus came to provide freedom for captives and release for prisoners but many never walk in all that He purchased. In this session Joel helps us learn how to discern between captives and prisoners and how to lead both into freedom. What is the difference between a captive and a prisoner?

Questions

- What is a stronghold?
- Why don't we need to ask God for forgiveness?
- Our rebellion against God is often rooted in a lie that we have believed about God, ourselves and others.
- What role does truth play in freedom?
- What is forgiveness and what is it not?
- What is the difference between feelings and choice when it comes to forgiveness?
- What is a stronghold?

Activation

Use this chart to process an area of struggle in your own life.

Emotion/Pain/Pattern	Lie about God, Yourself, Others or Circumstances	Truth About God, Yourself, Others or Circumstances

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Session 9: Walking Free

Getting free is simple, but walking free requires a new way of living. In this session we talk about how to help people walk in freedom.

Questions

What is the key to walking free?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in our walk of freedom?

What are some key practices that you can help others cultivate to walk out their freedom?

Activation

Have you ever experienced temporary freedom only to eventually go back into a previous stronghold? What role did your walk with God play in that pattern?

How can you help someone who has experienced freedom learn to walk in that freedom over the long haul?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Session 10: Clean Up Your Mess

Our poor decisions often have an impact on people around us. In this session we discuss how to work through the relational ramifications of the choices we make.

Questions

Why is “cleaning up your mess” important to walking in freedom?

What are the steps to confrontation in Matthew 18?

Why is important to understand that Matthew 18 isn’t simply talking about those who have sinned *against you* but those who have sinned?

Why did Jesus say to go directly to the person who has sinned?

What is triangulation?

Why do you think gossip is so destructive?

Why is it important in pastoral ministry to stay out of the role of rescuer? Why is this role so tempting?

Activation

Is there an area of your own life where you have healed and matured but still need to clean up your mess?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Session 11: Fear of Man

It's dangerous to care more about what people think about us than we care for them. In this session we talk about the fear of man and how to be assertive in pastoral ministry.

Questions

Why do you think the fear of man often attacks a tender, compassionate heart?

Why is assertive leadership key in pastoral ministry and helping people heal and grow?

Why is the phrase “love gives is a choice and gives a choice” an important in pastoral ministry?

What does it mean to “care more about a person than what they think about you”?

Activation

How has the fear of man negatively impacted your pastoral influence in the lives others?

What steps can you take to grown in caring, assertive pastoral leadership? Are there any tools that you have learned that you might need to apply?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS
