**Cheat Sheet for Church Leaders** -

If I would have had a cheat sheet in school with all the answers, I would have probably done much better on my tests.

In a similar way, in this session I want to share with you many of the leadership lessons I’ve had to learn the hard way in ministry.

(My Dad, Jack Graham, Charles Stanley, Ed Young, David Landrith, etc).

\*My journey in ministry & the men I’ve been blessed to learn from.

**DAD**—

1. **We learn more in the valleys than we do on mountain tops.**

—[James 5:10-11] “Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the Lord’s name as an example of suffering and patience. See, we count as blessed those who have endured. You have heard of Job’s endurance and have seen the outcome that the Lord brought about — the Lord is compassionate and merciful.”

—Dad’s cancer story. (My greatest season in life & ministry)

—Victory Through the Valleys

—Embrace the valley.

—Look for what God is trying to teach you in the valley.

2. **Your priorities have to be God 1st, Family 2nd & Ministry   
3rd.**

—[Prov. 3:6] “In everything, put God first.”

—That hasn’t been true at every church I served.

—When we get this wrong, the result is destruction.

**3. Go above and beyond when it comes to personal accountability.**

—[Prov. 27:17] “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”

—An accountability partner isn’t enough anymore. You need accountability   
software on your computer, iPad, smart phone, etc. You need someone to ask   
tough questions weekly & you need to commit to be truthful if you’re really   
committed to your ministry & your family.  
 —Never be alone with a person of the opposite sex. Car, office, elevator…

—Make sure you have a witness. (People will to try and take you down)

**4. The greatest message you’ll ever preach is your lifestyle.**

—[John 15:27] And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

—Your lifestyle is evidence of your commitment to Christ or your lack of commitment to Him. Live in a way that inspires people to walk closer to Christ in their own lives.

—My Dad has been consistent on the stage and off the stage.

—Praying for waiter/waitresses.

5. **Practice Personal evangelism.**

—**Involve your kids in your ministry.** (I’m glad he did. Visitation)

—[Deut. 6:7]

—[Prov. 22:6] Train up a child in the way he should go...

—(Contagious. Taught/Caught)

—**Jack Graham**

6. **If you’re going to reach people, you need to go where they are.**

—[Matt. 28:19] GO, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...

—Student Ministry (campus ministry every day)

—I’ve taken that model in reaching adults as well. (We go where they are)

—TRANSITIONING TO NEW CHURCH—20 In-home prayer & listening events. (Local businesses as well)

—Don’t have a **come & see** mentality… Have a **go & tell** mentality.

7. **Pursue excellence in every area of ministry.**

—[Col. 3:23] “Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.”

—facilities, presentation, worship experiences, music, preaching…

—We should always bring our very best to the Lord.

8. **Don’t be afraid to preach God’s word in a way that challenges MEN.**

—[1 Cor. 16:13] Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

—Jack Graham is a man’s-man & preaches in a way that is captivating for men.

9. **The final point of every message ought to be a clear gospel presentation.**

—[Rom. 10:14] “...how will they hear without a preacher?”

—Presentation that leads to an opportunity to respond and be saved.

—Yesterday: I preached out of Malachi 1. Ended in a gospel presentation.

—How do you typically end a sermon? Invitation?

—If I’m lost and attend your church, what opportunities will I have to hear the gospel and be saved?

10. **Every big-event ought to point to something else**

—What big events do you have at your church? Why do we have big events?

—Front-door to your church. Evangelism focus. (Team Impact)

—Point people to salvation—Get people plugged in to the discipleship pipeline.

—**Charles Stanley**

11. **Obey God and leave all the consequences to God.**

—[Ex. 19:5]

—This takes all the pressure off as a leader in His church.

12. **Fight all your battles on your knees and you’ll win every time.**

—[1 Sam. 15:31]

—My first day at FBA. Dr. Stanley on his knees in my office.

—I’ve tried to model this in my ministry.

13. **Listening to God is essential in walking with God.**

—[Psalm 81:8] “Listen, my people, and I will admonish you. Israel, if you would only listen to me!”

—Dr. Stanley is extremely busy, but I’ve never met anyone more intentional on quiet time with the Lord.

14. **If God calls you into Ministry, nothing else can call you out of   
ministry.**

—Dr. Stanley’s story of when his wife left him.

You’ll be surprised how quickly Satan will give you a chance to   
leave the ministry once you get in it. Business opportunities, chances to make   
more money, etc., but don’t be fooled into leaving the path God called you to   
walk on.  
 —God calls. He equips. He gives you what you need to endure to the end.

**15. The Bible is enough.**

—[Heb. 4:12] “For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

—Many preachers think… I’ve got to have the right amount of charisma, the right wardrobe, the right look, and the right sound, if I’m going to be an effective preacher/leader. HOGWASH.

—The Bible is enough. Dr. Stanley sits on a stool and teaches the Bible for 45 minutes every week… very little flash, humor, charisma… but God has blessed it.

—**Ed Young**

16. **Every crisis is an opportunity for the Gospel.**

—Funerals, Hospital Visits…

—Hurricane Ike

—I saw a disaster. He saw an opportunity.

17. **People will serve/give/go if you ask them to.**

—[James 4:2] “You do not have because you do not ask.”

—Leaders are willing to ask.

—Need volunteers? Leaders? Camp Counselors? ASK.

—Fundraising Story

—Chest of Joash. “We have the money we need to pay for this, but it’s still in your pockets.”

18. **Ask God to give you HIS vision for HIS church.**

—[Prov. 29:18] “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

—Ed Young; greatest visionary leader I’ve ever met.

—Coined the term “satellite campus” nearly 30 years ago.

—“I wake up every day thinking about TODAY—10 years from now.”

19. **Please step away from the Refrigerator!**

—Ed Young used to remind us… Your body is a temple.

—[1 Cor. 6:19-20] “Don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.”

—As leaders, we need to lead by example in this area.

20. **The bigger your church gets, the more intentional you need to be in making it feel small.**

—[Heb. 10:24-25] “And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.”

—65,000 members on 5 campuses.

—Nobody can feel like they’re in ‘community‘ if they just attend services.

—Emphasis on small groups and serving.

—**David Landrith**

21. **Be yourself, and just see how God can use you.**

—Goofy, country, redneck… God used him in a great way.

—My generation has videos, podcasts, access to the best preachers in the world, and our tendency can be (if we aren’t careful) to try to imitate them. (Matt Chandler, Francis Chan)

—God wants you to be you.

2 Final Thoughts...

**Pursue Wisdom**… [Prov. 4:6-7] “Don’t abandon wisdom, and she will watch over you; love her, and she will guard you. Wisdom is supreme — so get wisdom. And whatever else you get, get understanding.”

**Share you wisdom**…