

**Integrating Faith and
The Leader in Me
At Prince of Peace
Lutheran School**

August 2010

The fear of the Lord
is the beginning of WISDOM

Wisdom

Be strong and COURAGEOUS. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged,
for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Courage

Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant...
just as the Son of Man did not
come to be served,
but to SERVE.

+

Service

LEADERSHIP

Implementing the
7 Habits of Highly Effective People &
Leader in Me
at Prince of Peace Lutheran School
Connections to our Christian Identity

Opening Context

1. Our definition of leadership: ***Leadership is having the WISDOM to know what is true and right, having the COURAGE to stand on the truth and do what is right, even when it is difficult or unpopular, and using my unique, God-given gifts to help and SERVE others.***
2. The first thing to remember is that we are placing this leadership program on top of our Biblical foundation. We are not making the 7 Habits (Covey) our foundation, and building our faith on top of it. The Christian foundation is epitomized in Ephesians 2:8-10:

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Important concepts drawn from this passage:

- a. The price has been paid by Christ for everyone to be saved, which implies we all were in need of saving. All of us have been born into sin and are helpless to save ourselves. All of us need a Saviour.
 - b. Our salvation and innate value flows from what God has done for us... created us and saved us through Jesus. Our salvation and innate value does not flow from what we do. It is completely God’s work.
 - c. God created us and saved us for a purpose: to do good works. He has a plan for us and has even prepared the way for us in this plan. He is working in our lives so that we become more like Him. He is the master artist making us into His workmanship, His works of art, His masterpieces. It is here, in this context, that we build leadership skills and enact habits of effectiveness. These habits are some of the good works that God has prepared in advance for us to do.
3. The reality is that Jesus is the first “Leader in Me”. We have a loving God who created us, leads us into paths of righteousness, and actually lives in us! When we recognize that Christ is the Leader in all of us, we then can follow Him to become leaders ourselves, being His hands and feet to the world.

*Psalm 23:1-3 “The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name’s sake.”*

1 John 4:15 “If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

Foundations

1. In highlighting the contrast between personality and character with outward appearances, we have the opportunity to concentrate on God's concern for what's inside, and not what others see.

Matthew 6:1-4 "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Matthew 6:16-18 "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

You can also concentrate on the connection between what's in our hearts and outward behaviour (a good tree bears healthy fruit).

Matthew 6:15-20 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them."

Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

2. This section also raises questions about how solid the foundation of your life is, whether it is built on ageless principles or fleeting gimmicks. We build our lives on the most solid of foundations: God's Word and Christ. God's truth is unchanging, absolute and trustworthy.

Matthew 7:24-27 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

3. Dependence to Independence to Interdependence: As we discuss the maturity continuum, we recognize that as we grow more mature in our faith, we gain an understanding and appreciation of our complete dependence on God our Father, not on other people. That dependence on God does not decrease as we mature. In fact, the irony is that it increases.

Psalms 145:15 "The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time."

4. Paradigms: This concept is powerful. In the discussion, we recognize that we all have “imperfect vision” or “flawed paradigms”. The only perfect paradigm is God’s and we will help our students see the world, ourselves, others, and situations with His eyes. It is our job to help students critically examine their world views and paradigms.

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

We also recognize that apart from faith in Christ, which is a gift from the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for students to really see things God’s way. In fact, God’s plans will seem foolish for them. We cannot badger or bully them into a Christian worldview or paradigm. That only will come through faith in Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;

the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."^[c]

Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength."

Examples of times in Scripture where people experienced paradigm shifts:

- *Abraham: "I am too old to have kids and will be heirless... better take matters into my own hands" to "God has given me a child of my own and I will be father of a nation." Genesis 18 and 21*
- *Prodigal Son: "I'm better off on my own without my dad" to "I'm better off at home, even if I'm a servant instead of a son." Luke 15:11-32*
- *Good Samaritan: "I'm only a neighbour to those close to me" to "Everyone is my neighbour." Luke 10:25-37*
- *Widow's Offering: "Those who give the most are best" to "Even the smallest offering given out of sacrifice and love is valued most." Mark 12:41-43*

**Connection: Theotreads:
– True Word**

Habit 1: Be Proactive

1. As we look at the Paradigm for Habit 1, we add to the Effective Paradigm: I am a product of who God has made me and of my choices.
2. Habit 1 talks a lot about our choices. Here is what the Bible teaches us about choice.
 - a. When God created us, He created us with the ability to choose. The first choice in history was the choice of Eve: To whom should I listen, God or the serpent? Adam then had the same choice, whether to listen to God or not. We can also help our students see that they have the same choice to make today. To whom will you listen?

Genesis 3:1-7 "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves."

- b. Because of our sin, we are unable to choose to believe in God (just as a blind person cannot choose to see or a dead person cannot choose to live or a slave can choose to be free). The power to believe in God (faith) is a gift, and it comes only through the Holy Spirit's work in our hearts. The Holy Spirit works through the Word and the Sacraments (baptism and holy communion). Although we cannot choose God, we can resist His call to believe.

Galatians 4:8 "Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods."

Colossians 2:13-14 "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross."

Romans 9:16 "It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy."

John 15:16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."

1 Corinthians 12:3 "Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit."

Romans 10:13-15 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

- c. Those who do not yet believe in Jesus can make godly choices... can live lives of character and kindness, but outside of faith, these good choices do not please God. No matter how good of a life we live, only perfection pleases God, and no one is perfect. With that said, we have students who do not have faith in Jesus, and it is still a good thing to teach them how to make good, godly choices in their lives.

Romans 14:23 "Everything that does not come from faith is sin."

Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Matthew 5:48 "Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect."

- d. Finally, those who have faith in Jesus, have the opportunity daily to make good choices, and it is in those choices that we become more like Christ (the good deeds he has prepared in advance for us to do). It is through these choices that we testify to the life within us (validate our faith) and show others the reality of Christ in our lives. For Christian kids, we can help them see how living the habits is part of our response to what God is doing in our lives. When we fail to make good choices, we fall back on the promises of love and forgiveness that Jesus offers freely.

Joshua 24:14-15 "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

1 John 1:8-9 "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1 Peter 2:12 "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

James 2:14-17 "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

3. Proactive vs. Reactive Choices: It is good to point out that often when we are reactive, our natural reactions are sinful. It is dangerous to live reactive lives. Being proactive really is about exercising self-control.

1 Peter 1:13 "Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed."

4. We can remember that God himself was very proactive in dealing with us and our sinful condition. He does react in quick anger, but instead took the initiative to set in place a salvation plan, through Jesus.

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,[a] that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Psalms 103:8 "The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love."

5. When talking about using proactive language, we can focus on the power of Words, to tear down and destroy or to build up and encourage. God's Word is creative and redemptive. Christ, himself, is the Word!

James 3:3-6 "When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell."

John 1:1-5...14 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

6. Circle of Influence vs. Circle of Concern: When discussing this, we can remind students that things we cannot control but are concerned about, we can leave in the hands of our God who is in control over all. This helps alleviate worry. We then can focus on what we are called to do, influence others and control ourselves.

Luke 12:22-32 "Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life[b]? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

"Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."

For an example of how God blesses us when we take care of and focus on what we can control/influence, use the Parable of the Talents: Matthew 25:14-30

7. Becoming a Transition Person: This is a perfect example to show how Christ is the ultimate "Transition Person", helping us go from death to life, from slavery to sin to freedom in Jesus, from outcasts to the family of God, from sin-infected (imperfect) paradigms to God-like paradigms. We too can be transition people as others come to know about Jesus through us.

1 Timothy 2:1-7 "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles."

Connection: Theothreads:

- **Disobedience has Consequences**
- **Forgiving Saviour Seeking Us**
- **Spreading the Message**
- **Family of God**

Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind

1. God began with an end in mind. When He created, everything was good, and He had full relationship with His creation. After the fall, He put in place a plan immediately (Genesis 3) to restore that end. His desire – mission- remains that every person might come back into his family and live with him forever. The only way this happens is through faith in Jesus.

Genesis 1:31 "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day."

*Genesis 3:14-15 "So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,
"Cursed are you above all the livestock
and all the wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.
And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel."*

1 Timothy 2:3-4 "This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

2. Our personal missions, when we are Christians, flow from God's mission. We get focus when we look at our interests and giftedness, our uniqueness as creations of our God. It is God we find our mission/purpose.

Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4 (the Spiritual Gift Chapters)

1 Corinthians 14:12 "So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church."

Connection: Theotreads:
- **God Gives Purpose**

Connection: Understanding by Design
- **Big Ideas**

Habit 3: Put First Things First

1. What are God's "First Things"?

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

2. Important versus Not Important: When talking about quadrants, it's a good conversation about God's priorities: what is truly important in His eyes. For a good contrast between what is important to God and what is important for sinful people, see Christ's words to the Pharisees, where he shows that people and their relationship with God is more important than appearances, conformance to man-made rules and selfish pride:

Matthew 23:13-27 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.

"Woe to you, blind guides! You say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred? You also say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gift on it, he is bound by his oath.' You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? Therefore, he who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. And he who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. And he who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by the one who sits on it.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of the sin of your forefathers!

"You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? Therefore I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town. And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. I tell you the truth, all this will come upon this generation.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing."

Private Victory to Public Victory

1. Good discussions could surround what it means to be a victor (conqueror). Refer to the verse below, and ask what it means to be "more than a conqueror."

Romans 8:37 "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

2. As we talk about the connection between living our private lives in ways that allow us to interact positively with others, we can point to:

1 Peter 3:15 "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect"

3. Emotional Bank Account: As we talk about emotional bank accounts, deposits are directly related to how God wants us to treat each other, building others up, and how we deal with conflict. Because we are forgiven, we can forgive. Because we are reconciled, we can reconcile. When we sin against others, we tear them down.

Matthew 18:21-22 "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Matthew 5:23-24 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

Connection: Love Languages

Connection: Theothreads:

- **Disobedience has Consequences**
- **Forgiving Saviour Seeks Us**
- **Caring Community**

Connection: Peacemakers

Habit 4: Think Win-Win

1. Thinking Win-Win does not come naturally, because it means I have to be very aware of someone else, valuing their desires and interests just as I value my own. As Christians, we even put others first, without taking on the role of victim.

Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

2. Challenge Question: How do the following words of Christ fit with Win-Win? Is this Lose-Win, or not?

Luke 6:29-31 "If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Connection: Theothreads:

- **Caring Community**

Connection: Peacemakers

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

1. This habit is also all about putting others first and really listening to understand other people's perspectives and interests, without losing our own.

Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

2. As we make this point with our students, we can emphasize the need to first listen to God in His Word and seek to understand His will, then to align our understanding to His.

See 1 Samuel 3 and God calling Samuel, and Samuel listening.

Connection: Theotreads:

- God Hears Prayer
- True Word
- Caring Community

Connection: Peacemakers

Habit 6: Synergize

1. This habit is all about valuing differences. God has made us all unique and our differences enhance our community. The clearest picture of this is the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

2. The value we place on each other and the love we show each other will be a witness to Christ.

John 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

3. God Himself recognizes that when people work together, amazing things can happen!

Genesis 11:6 (God speaking about the people building the Tower of Babel) "The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them."

Connection: Theothreads
- **Caring Community**
- **God Gives Purpose**

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw

1. Sharpening the Saw is about renewal: physical, relational, intellectual and spiritual. It is about health. God, too, wants us to be healthy.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

Romans 12:2 "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Exodus 31:12-17 "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy. " 'Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you...For six days, work is to be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD... The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant. It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he abstained from work and rested.' "

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Isaiah 40:30-31 "Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Connection: Theothreads
- **Caring Creator**