



## Thinking about Leadership

“Leadership – contrary to our usual assumptions – is not a possession that leaders pass around like a baton or a hand grenade. It is not a piece of property that leaders own. It is not a state of being or a condition. It is instead an active relationship in which leaders participate.”

— Thomas R. Hawkins in *Faithful Leadership: Learning to Lead With Power*  
Discipleship Resources, 1999

“Leaders of congregations today need to develop the calmness of spirit and the skills and tools that address the needs of the congregation in the midst of change.”

— Gilbert R. Rendle in *Leading Change in the Congregation:  
Spiritual and Organizational Tools for Leaders*  
Alban Institute, 1998

“... the Christian leader of the future is called to be completely irrelevant and to stand in this world with nothing to offer but his or her own vulnerable self.”

— Henri Nouwen in *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*  
Crossroad, 1989

There are many books, magazines, classes, videos, and speakers on leadership today. Members of the **FaithQuest** team have probably already thought a great deal about leadership. The quality and concepts of leadership are critical for a thriving, healthy congregation.

Session 4 is just the beginning of thinking about leadership for the **FaithQuest** team. Other sessions in this study introduce concepts for thinking about the team leadership of a **FaithQuest** congregation and for thinking about the characteristics and skills of individual leaders. Some specific instances are:

- Session 6 focuses on continuous improvement for personal excellence.
- Session 7 focuses on the key leadership skill of “listening.”
- Session 9 introduces information about leadership styles and the benefit of team leadership.