

Lead Pastors Gathering Morning



0:05.00

1 Group Lead Pastor Gathering (1...

This slide features a dark blue background with a white border. The text "LEAD PASTOR GATHERING" is centered in large, bold, white capital letters. A small timer icon and "0:05.00" are in the bottom left corner. A small icon in the top left corner indicates a video player.



Scan to add your response



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This slide has a dark blue background with a white border. The text "Scan to add your response" is at the top. A large QR code is centered. A small icon in the top left corner indicates a video player.



3 Group LPG_Blank02_1536x960....

This slide has a dark blue background with a white border. The text "Top 3 Celebrations" is centered in white. A small icon in the top left corner indicates a video player.



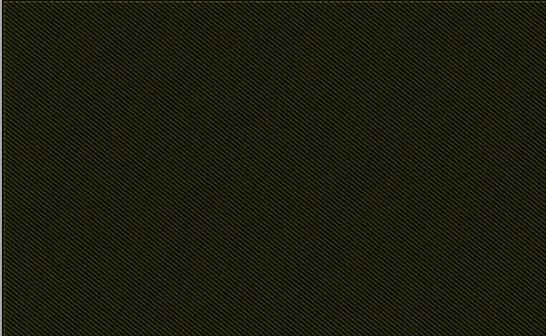
4 Mentimeter

This slide has a dark blue background with a white border. The text "Mentimeter" is centered in white. A small icon in the top left corner indicates a video player.



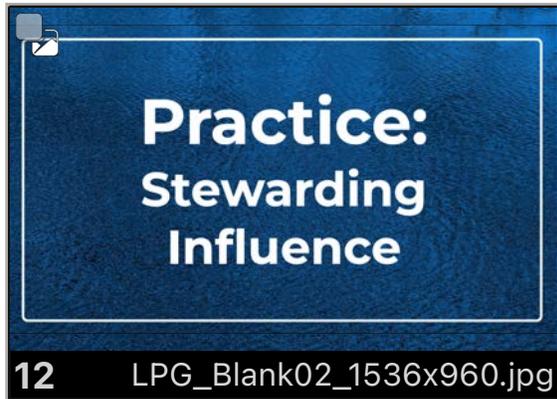
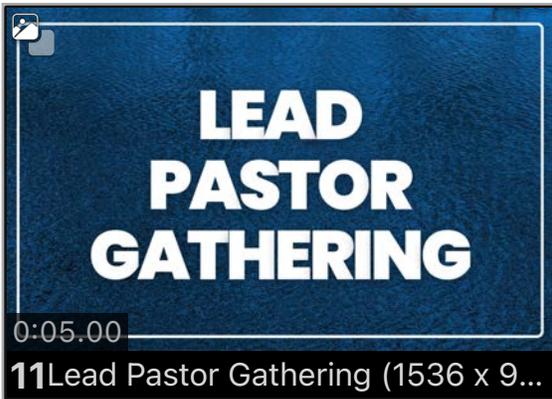
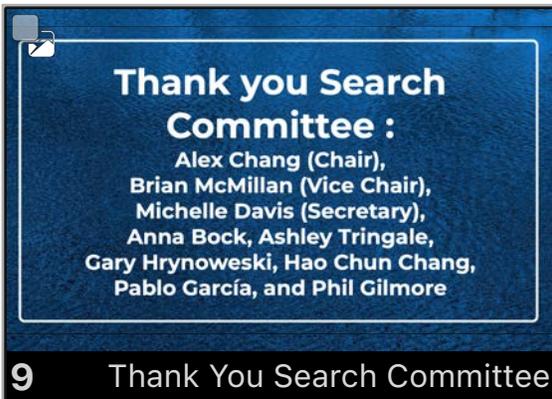
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6 Mentimeter

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Influence is

the capacity of our words and actions to shape the beliefs, behaviors, and environments of those around us—a capacity that often extends far beyond our awareness and carries weight proportionate to our position or role.

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Example 1

The pastor made an offhand comment that "sometimes God calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things in their own neighborhoods." Three years later he learned that that statement launched a young professional in that room into starting a community tutoring program that now serves 80 children weekly.

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Example 2

The pastor made it his practice to publicly acknowledge mistakes during staff meetings and ask for forgiveness when he'd been short-tempered or made poor decisions. He thought little of it—it simply seemed like basic Christian integrity.

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Example 2

Years later, when conducting exit interviews with departing staff members, he discovered this habit had fundamentally shaped the church's entire leadership culture.

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 "The powerful do not see when our exercise of power is cutting off life and possibility for others; we do not see the ways others are resisting or undermining our own power..."

(Playing God: Redeeming the gift of power, pg 123)

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 "We have a... kind of blindness: an absurdly low estimation of the power we have and how many opportunities we have to use it well. And curiously, this blindness afflicts the visibly powerful as often as the seemingly powerless."

(Playing God: Redeeming the gift of power, pg 123)

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Example 3

The pastor prided himself on being available 24/7 and rarely taking vacation. He saw it as sacrificial service and mentioned it occasionally as "the cost of ministry." What he didn't realize was that his associate pastors and key lay leaders interpreted this as the expected standard for spiritual maturity and ministry effectiveness.

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Example 3

Over five years, multiple staff burned out and their marriages and families were affected. The pastor was genuinely shocked when an exiting staff member finally told him, "We all thought if we weren't matching your schedule, we weren't faithful enough."

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Example 4

The pastor loved diving into nuanced theological debates during his sermon series, demonstrating intellectual rigor by pointing out errors in other theological traditions and popular Christian authors. He thought he was training his congregation in discernment and doctrinal accuracy.

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Example 4

Years later, when the church hemorrhaged members and gained a reputation in the community as harsh and unwelcoming, he couldn't understand why. What he'd failed to see was that his critical approach to other Christians had normalized a culture of theological superiority and judgment.

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Example 4

His emphasis on being "right" had unintentionally taught them that being gracious was secondary, and the church became known more for what it opposed than what it loved.

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Case Study

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For reflection

- What was I thinking? (False assumptions? Incorrect diagnosis? Poor data? Default reasoning?)
- What was I feeling about risk, loss, public response? (Anger? Fear? Hope? Optimism? Opportunity? Frustration?)

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For reflection

- How was I blinded? (My experience? Expectations? Values? Assessment of others?)
- What did I want/ need emotionally, spiritually? (Relief? Sympathy? Control? Assurance? Significance? Recognition?)

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For reflection

- How did I judge others and myself? (Rigid, incompetent, aggressive, undermining, ignorant?)
- What did I miss that might be helpful? (People, opportunities, values, allies?)

(Leadership in the Way of the Cross: Forging ministry from the crucible of crisis, pg 158)

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28 Group Lead Pastor Gathering (...)