

Praying for Emerging Teaching Elders in a Movement

If the apostolic gift is critical to seeing a movement start, the teaching gift is critical to see it grow and multiply. We cannot over-emphasize how critical the teaching gift is in the early-middle stages of a movement (even in a DMM framework where it may not manifest as traditional "teaching"). Below are some things to consider and ways to pray for emerging teachers \ teaching elders in a movement.

Commitment to God & His Word - Above all, teachers, and especially those acting as teaching elders, must be committed to God and His Word as the guide for all of life, and they must encourage commitment to God's Word as the foundation of their teaching ministry.

Father, Lord Almighty, please sear into the hearts of everyone called to be a teacher that they must remain faithful to Your Word. Instill them an holy fear of failing to stay true to what You have entrusted to them. Show them the dangers of veering off path, of adding to or diminishing Your Word in any way. Help them always to seek the help of the Counselor, who is able to lead them into all Truth. Draw them to fall deeply in love with Your Word, such that they could never conceive of departing from it.

Ongoing Training - Teachers must be continually sharpened by ongoing learning, regular connection with and coaching by the apostolic leader who started their network, and relationship with other teachers.

Lord, please train humility into every believer in this house church network, but especially those with teaching gifts who help to instruct, clarify, and train. Help them to become lifelong students of Your Word, to remain at all times open to input and counsel from other believers, and especially from the apostolic agent(s) who began their house church network. Teach them to trust in the greater strength that You have built into their network of believers and churches.

Awareness of False Teachers \ Teaching - Teachers must be aware of the prevalence of false teachers and false teaching, and be trained in how to combat these dangers. They will be certainly be faced with syncretism early on, and eventually will likely also face other false teaching from people within the movement or outside of it - and either way they must be able to teach and defend the truth from Scripture.

Lord, please continually remind the elders, and especially the teaching elders, in every network, that they must be continually on guard against false teachers - from without and from within. Help them not to waste too much time studying the counterfeits, but rather to be enraptured by the genuine article - out of their deep love and understanding of Scripture, help them to be able to easily identify and condemn false teaching before it can take root. Help them to lovingly, but firmly confront false teachers and to directly and firmly warn those who are being led astray of the danger of their current path.

Good Relationship with Apostolic Leaders - Just as apostolic leaders must guard and strengthen their relationships with the teachers in the networks they plant, teachers must value their relationships with these leaders, and ideally will seek them out for input, guidance, and coaching. A good relationship with the accepted apostolic founder of a network grants legitimacy to a teacher, and will also strengthen the teachers' authority when faced with problems.

Father, we are contending now for healthy, mutually-edifying relationships between apostolic agents and teaching elders in house church networks. Open the eyes of apostolic agents to see connections that network elders need - and help elders to be open to the connections that the apostolic leaders want to make for their benefit. Father, please lessen the natural fear and suspicion of "outsiders" and help teaching elders receive input not just from the apostolic agent, but from others who he may recommend. Thank you for the authority that You have entrusted to both the apostolic leader, and to the elders that he has appointed in conjunction with the local believers in each network.

Eagerness to Raise Up More Teachers and Release Power - Teachers must see the absolute and unwavering necessity to continually raise up more teachers, and to not just have more teachers, but to empower them and encourage them to grow and develop in the context of healthy mentoring groups with other teachers and leaders. The lead teachers in a network cannot be the sorts who seek to hold power for themselves, but rather must be the sorts who look to release power to later generations and realize that they are only successful if those they train are more fruitful than they are.

Father, we desperately need to see great humility in leaders. Help teaching elders to see clearly that they must be about raising up more leaders to train, pastor, encourage, and correct, and that they must willingly, happily, release power and authority to emerging leaders if they want their network to grow and be healthy. Help them to see this need as an ongoing imperative - that the need for leadership development will never lessen, but only increase. Father, please build into them an ever increasing capacity to seek out, raise up, train, and encourage new leaders of all kinds, for the expansion of Your Kingdom and the blessing of Your people.

Supernatural Wisdom, Understanding, and Discernment - Teachers need the guidance and revelation of the Holy Spirit more than anything else in their teaching ministry, so we need to pray (and teach them to pray) that they will often receive supernatural discernment, wisdom, and words of knowledge to cut to the heart of whatever issues they may face, and to empower their teaching with the life of the Spirit.

Father, even more than a keen mind, more than deep knowledge, these teachers need supernatural wisdom and discernment from Your Spirit. There is no substitute for what You can offer them, so help them to continually return to You, to the fountain that will never run dry. Father, train them to rely wholly on Your Spirit's leadership - teach them to wait on You, listen for Your voice, and move only when You so guide them. Help them to teach and lead and guide and mentor in the power of Your Spirit flowing through and enlivening their natural and supernatural giftings. Father, grant them words of knowledge and wisdom that cut to the heart of

the issues they face, and train them to give glory to You for every breakthrough You bring.

Good Relationships with Shepherds of Networks and Groups - In order to have any effect beyond their own immediate circle of relationships, teachers must have solid, trusting relationships with shepherds in their network, at an elder level down to the group level, as much and as widely as possible. Transfer trust from shepherds will enable teachers to accomplish much, but having a depth of trust from other key leaders in their networks (and other networks) will multiply both their opportunities to serve and the effectiveness of their teaching ministry.

Father, again we're asking for healthy relationships, relationships built on trust and hope in Your promise. Father, please grant abundant grace to these teaching elders to reach out beyond their natural sphere of relationships in the house church network - help them to be relationship builders, bridge builders, between different house churches, between networks, for the mutual benefit and strengthening of all. Please let them be seen as an asset by house church leaders, let them be welcomed in to every group, and help each leader see how they can grow by being in relationship with these teachers.

Healthy Connection with & Input from Other Teachers - Ideally, teachers need to be in coaching groups with other leaders, and need to be in relationship with other teachers who can challenge, encourage, and sharpen them.

Lastly, Lord, we ask that You would connect teachers with teachers. These men and women will no doubt experience many of the same things, and face many of the same struggles - would help them to see how they can be an encouragement to one another? Father, soften their hearts to recognize a similar calling in other teachers, and help them to be open to input, rebuke, encouragement, and correction from other teachers. Help

them to build in their network and beyond and web of mutually strengthening relationships that will cause the teaching and understanding of Your Word to go far deeper and wider than it could through the ministry of one teacher alone.