

Flood Gates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church

Sue Nilson Kibbey

Flood Gate #3: Logjam Release

“Every day is the day that everything can change.”

Initial Reflection Questions:

Are there any areas or ministry of your congregation that feels stuck?

If so, what do you identify as the reason for the stagnation? If not, what do you identify as the key to your forward progression?

What do you think needs to happen to create forward momentum?

Before diving into Flood Gate #3, complete the Primary Leadership Components Assessment handed out during our previous session. It will only take 15 minutes or less. You can also find this assessment on our website and also at floodgates.info.

How did you rank? Where does your natural proclivity lie as you approach your ministry role? Write down your Primary Components in order by highest rank.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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The Three Primary Leadership Components

Spiritual Shepherd: *Why* is this God's call for us? – The **Heart of a Ministry or Group**

- One's heart grows tender in exploring the "why" of life's deepest questions
- Recognizes God's presence within their community of the faithful.
- Energized by pastorally accompanying individuals, families, or groups through their life transitions, questions, challenges, decisions, crossroads, and emotions.
- Generally viewed as friendly and easy to trust and enjoy sharing or hearing stories of God's work and witness.

Vision Crier: *Where* are we going? – The **Zest of a Ministry or Group**

- Represents the perennial question that either energizes or terrifies a congregation or various of its members: *Where* are we going?
- Invigorated by sharing ideas and possibilities to answer "*Where* are we going?"
- Most comfortable when in a role or setting that brings opportunity to talk about untapped potential that they see or dream about.
- Often infectious with their enthusiasm as they describe new possibilities or a different, better direction – capable of infusing listeners with inspiration.
- May threaten longstanding church leaders and the status quo.

Systems/Task Organizer: *How* will we get there? – The **Grit that makes things happen in a Ministry or Group**

- Believe that helping the practicalities of God's work materialize is a sign of true leadership, since God dreams may never get mobilized without planning, organizing, and attention to detail.
- Prefer to get work done rather than just sit and talk – may become impatient in meetings overfilled with conversation.
- Reluctant to delegate, worried that others will not follow through or simply prefer to do the work themselves.
- Get frustrated when decisions aren't made so that plans can be formed.
- Often top choices for work teams or committees because of their ability to be counted on to get it done.

After reading the descriptions of the three primary leadership components, do you say that the description of your top natural proclivity matches your leadership style?

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Jesus Sends Out the Twelve – Matthew 10:1-14 NIV

10 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: **“Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.**

⁹ **“Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts—¹⁰ no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. ¹² As you enter the home, give it your greeting. ¹³ If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet.**

1. Are all three of the primary leadership components at play in this scenario?

2. Where do you recognize each of them?
 - a. Spiritual Shepherd:

 - b. Vision Crier:

 - c. Systems/Task Organizer:

3. What role did each contribute in Jesus’s deployment of ministry here?

4. Had you been present, which assignment(s) would you have preferred and why?

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Four Truths about Primary Leadership Components

PLC Truth #1: *You are likely to automatically view the value of what your church or team does through the lens, or filter, of your own predominant primary leadership component.*

Take a mental look at the other leaders or team members that you frequently gather with. Do they seem to have the same primary leadership component as you?

Do you unconsciously dodge being placed into positions of influence with those with strong versions of primary leadership components other than yours? If so, why?

If so, what do you think would happen if you started to work with those people more and more often?

PLC Truth #2: *Whenever a crisis, a challenge, a project, a pocket of resistance, a pending difficult conversation, or the negotiation of a tricky meeting comes along, you will instinctively attempt to lead or facilitate resolution using your most energizing and comfortable component.*

Have you ever had to prepare to resolve a tricky situation? If so, how did you prepare?

When time came to attempt to resolve the situation, how did you approach or lead the group or conversation?

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PLC Truth #3: *In the face of resistance to forward movement of any type, you may reflexively continue to press your leadership via the component to which you have the greatest proclivity.*

If you have ever you have encountered resistance in a discussion, how did you proceed?

Have you pressed harder and harder on your view point or have you stepped back and considered other points of view?

Which do you think is the most effective in clearing the logjam and reaching a solution?

PLC Truth #4: *At all times, effective leaders attempt to keep a small measure of objectivity between themselves and whatever resistance arises. This allows them to asses which of the primary leadership components is needed at a critical juncture or difficult moment to help people move forward, and to shift into leading with that one – instead of continuing to press even more forcefully with what is your most comfortable component.*

When have you ever had to “switch gears” and approach a ministry situation from a different primary leadership component?

What was the result?

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Summary of Logjam Diagnostic Truths (Pg. 66 – 67)

- *If your church or ministry is stagnated or in decline, one or more of the primary leadership components is missing – or dominating.*

Do you notice any of the primary leadership components missing or dominating in your church or ministry? If so, which ones?

- *All three of these components must be operational and active in the church's leadership in order for your church to move forward.*

Are all three of the components operational and active in your church's leadership?

If not, work on identifying who could fill the roles!

- *Creating a culture of awareness and value of the primary leadership component(s) represented in every member and leader is a game changer for any congregation, staff, or leadership team if you desire a new kind of future.*

How can you bring awareness and value of these primary leadership component(s) in your church or ministry?

Do any of these shed light on the reality of your church or ministry's current environment?

Where in the life of your church or ministry do any of these truths need to be applied?

What specific steps might you consider taking next?

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Final Questions

1. Do you think that this flood gate is closed at your church(es)?
2. If so, why? What is keeping the gate closed?
3. What steps can we make today to open or keep open this flood gate?