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Leadership is a journey. It’s a journey for those of us who are called to lead and a journey for those we seek to lead. But where are we heading for on our journey?

With the shifts that our world is going through following a global pandemic and its ongoing consequences, leadership is in a difficult place. You have been stretched, drained and obstructed like never before, but your leadership is still urgently needed. There are new challenges to be navigated, new causes to take up and new opportunities to be seized.

**WHAT SHIFTS ARE NEEDED IN YOUR LEADERSHIP THIS YEAR?**

It is time for you to pull over for a moment - to pause, to reflect, to strategise and to pray. Before launching forward in the next phase of journey, here is a chance to take stock. Let this guide be an interactive tool to prepare you for the season ahead so you can be the leader your community needs.

Give yourself an hour of uninterrupted time. Perhaps prepare your favourite beverage, find a quiet spot, put your phone on flight mode and print out this guide on some good quality paper. All you then need is a pen. There is something significant about the deliberate action of making marks on a piece of paper that will help you crystallise your thoughts, develop your ideas and see how your dreams can take shape.

My prayer is that this guide will help you be kind to yourself, be wise with your time, be available to God and be influential to those around you in all the right ways.

—Dr Krish Kandiah

**DR. KRISH KANDIAH**

Dr. Krish Kandiah is a social entrepreneur with a vision to help solve some of society’s seemingly intractable problems. He is a government adviser for adoption in the United Kingdom and the founder of a global children in care centre. Krish has authored more than a dozen books, offering both creativity and academic reflection to bring strategic change, culture shift and innovation. Krish works closely with World Vision to help the Church play its part in helping the world’s most vulnerable children.

**WORLD VISION**

For over 70 years, World Vision has ministered alongside the Church to answer Jesus’ call in Matthew 25 to care for our brothers and sisters in need. The Church is the greatest God-ordained force for good, and through Jesus we can help heal broken relationships, bear the Good News and make God’s kingdom a visible reality on earth. We partner with church leaders to put the gospel in action by discipling and activating their congregations around God’s heart for the poor.

Learn how World Vision is working through our first-ever truly global response to support kids and families made more vulnerable as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. And please join us in prayer that all the children, families, and communities we serve will experience God’s love and enjoy fullness of life.
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Before looking at where you want to end up, you have to be honest about where you are starting from.

How will you know how far you can get if you don’t know how much fuel is in the tank? How will you know how far you have gone if you haven’t clearly marked the beginning point? We are called to worship God with all our heart, mind and strength so let’s use that as a holistic baseline tool to check what shape we are in right now.

**HEART**

When do you find yourself most closely connected to God?
What are the things that weigh most heavily on your heart?
Which relationships strengthen, challenge and motivate you?

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**HEAD**

How would you describe your state of mind?
What is your potential for learning new things and absorbing information?
Which highlights of your life continue to spark wonder, ambition and creativity in you?

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**HANDS**

Which parts of your leadership do you find most draining?
Which parts of your leadership do you find most satisfying?
Which parts of you leadership fit closest with God’s call on your life?
Taking Stock

*Before you step into the future… is there anything left unresolved that you need to put right?*
‘LEADERS HAVE POWER, BUT POWER IS SAFE ONLY IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO HUMBLE THEMSELVES TO SERVE.’

DR JOHN STOTT
We are only leaders to the extent that we understand and influence those we lead.

We need to be cognisant of the struggles and challenges that they are facing so that we can work out the direction and pace in which we can help them move forward. As we journey forward in our leadership we don’t want to drag behind those we lead nor do we want to disappear off into the distance.

**MAPPING CHANGES, OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES FACING YOUR TEAM**

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<th>WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE THE BIGGEST CHANGES YOUR TEAM IS FACING?</th>
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<th>WHICH OF THE ABOVE DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR TEAM’S GREATEST OPPORTUNITY? WHAT THREE WAYS CAN YOU PREPARE TO BUILD ON IT TOGETHER?</th>
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<th>WHICH OF THE ABOVE CONSTITUTES YOUR TEAM’S BIGGEST CHALLENGE? WHAT THREE WAYS CAN YOU PREPARE FOR IT TOGETHER?</th>
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**ACTION STEPS**

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**LEADING THROUGH CHANGE**

What are the practical steps you can take to help your team thrive during the changing times?

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**MILESTONES**

Open a calendar and look over the next 12 months. What are the key dates and events that are going to impact your team? How can you make sure you have a plan in place to maximise opportunities and mitigate challenges?

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**Taking Stock**

*Our teams need our compassion and courage.* How will you make sure that they receive both from you this year ahead?

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‘DO NOTHING OUT OF SELFISH AMBITION OR VAIN CONCEIT. RATHER, IN HUMILITY VALUE OTHERS ABOVE YOURSELVES…’

—PHILIPPIANS 2:3 (NIV)
So many of us drift from one year to the next with very little sense of purpose or direction. Is it any wonder then when we only see change on a small scale, if any at all. Where do you want to be as a leader?

What are your hopes and aspirations? What will be your legacy? In this section, to help us consider how we can flourish as leaders, we use a holistic tool based on the first chapters of the book of Genesis. Originally all human beings were created to thrive through four relationships: our relationship with God, with one another, with creation and with ourselves. These four areas are clear indicators of the fractures of the world we live in today, as well as the reconciliation God is bringing.

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<th>LOVING GOD</th>
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<td>How can you plan to strengthen your love for God in the year ahead? What practices or disciplines do you intend to adopt, and what goals do you hope to achieve?</td>
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<th>LOVING OTHERS</th>
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<td>Which relationships in your life need the most care and attention this year? What concrete things can you invest to improve them?</td>
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<th>LOVING GOD’S WORLD</th>
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<td>How are you called to love God through creative and compassionate engagement with God’s world? List three ways you intend to show faithful stewardship of the world around you.</td>
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LOVING OURSELVES

What investments can you make in your mental health and self care? What will you consider to be signs of success in this area?

Taking Stock

Which of the above commitments are you least likely to implement? Why do you struggle to prioritise it? What can you do about it?
‘MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE AS YOU TRUST IN HIM, SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW WITH HOPE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.’

—ROMANS 15:13 (NIV)
WHO WILL YOU TRAVEL WITH?

The leadership journey is a marathon not a sprint, a trek not a stroll, a long road trip not a short school run.

Good travel companions can make all the difference. They bring us encouragement, wisdom and pleasure on the journey - and we can offer the same to them. Whose voices will interact with your own over the year ahead? Who will help you travel far?

**PEOPLE**

Who are the companions you will most rely on in the year ahead?
Who are the people who will rely on you?
What do each of them bring to your life?

**LEADERSHIFT PODCAST**

In this brand new 10-part podcast series, Dr. Krish Kandiah speaks to significant, global leaders from an array of different fields - the creative industry, law, church, business and charities. Each leader Krish sits down with has a track record innovatively applying their faith to the specific challenges facing leaders today. Consider using this series as a resource to encourage your team. Listen to an episode each week and then use the first 10 minutes of your weekly team meetings to discuss ideas and challenges that arose from the podcast.
Taking Stock
What else will you do to make sure you are benefitting from the expertise and wisdom of wise and gifted leaders?

Episode 1: Nicky Gumbel
Episode 2: Danielle Strickland
Episode 3: David Kinnaman
Episode 4: Jo Saxton
Episode 5: Andrew Morley

Episode 6: Paula Faris
Episode 7: Kevin Olusola
Episode 8: Sheila Heen
Episode 9: NT Wright
Episode 10: Patrick Lencioni

READING DEEPLY
Pick one of the following books to deepen your leadership journey:

1. Canoeing the Mountains, Todd Bolsinger
2. Spiritual Leadership, J. Oswald Saunders
3. Thanks for the Feedback, Sheila Heen
4. Emotionally Healthy leader, Peter Sczaro
5. The Hole in our Gospel, Rich Stearns
6. Ready to Rise, Jo Saxton
7. Better Together, Danielle Strickland
8. The Pastor - A Memoir, Eugene Peterson
9. The Colour of Compromise, Jemar Tisby
10. Generous Justice, Tim Keller

Taking Stock
What else will you do to make sure you are benefitting from the expertise and wisdom of wise and gifted leaders?
We journey in hope knowing that the God who has called us forward will equip us for everything we will need every step of the way. We face the future filled with faith not fear.

We dare to lead not because of our own competence but because of our confidence in the one who has called us. We face the uncertainty of the future with the unshakeable certainty of the faithfulness of God. We pray for hope. Not just for enough hope to survive dark times, but an abundance of hope that will overflow to those we lead and change lives. We recognise that it is only in the power of the Holy Spirit that we can even dream of leading. We submit ourselves to God’s ways. We confess our dependency on the Spirit of God and we ask him to fill us up and send us out into His world.

Amen