PWOC LDP
Leadership Development Program

TOPIC: SELF-AWARENESS

The Bottom-Line Up Front: We have a limited view of ourselves. A wise leader will realize her limited scope and will consider the perspectives and input of those around her, while keeping her identity grounded in Christ.

Introduction (3 minutes): *Use your phone to take a selfie. Compare pics with the people sitting near you. If you have writing on your shirt, notice if it is reversed. What else is reversed?*

- When we look in the mirror, or view ourselves in "selfie mode," our image is reversed. Think about that—the clearest view I have of myself is opposite of how everyone else sees me—the irony is thick! I am the only one who cannot see myself correctly!!!
- We think we see ourselves so clearly, but the reality is that we have a limited view. I know myself in part. The people around me experience me in different ways; their perspective is invaluable as I endeavor to grow as a leader.

1. The Impact of Christ on Me (5 minutes):

- My identity cannot be based on how others perceive me—their perspectives *inform* me but do not *define* me. I need to be most interested in how God sees me. Who am I in Christ? *Look at the verses below. Which one stands out to you the most? Why? Share your thoughts with your selfie peeps.*
    - **Romans 5:1** (NLT) *Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.*
    - **2 Corinthians 5:17** *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*
    - **Colossians 2:9-10** *For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So, you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.*
    - **1 Peter 2:9** *But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.*
    - **1 John 3:1a** *See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!*

2. My Impact on Others (7 minutes):

- The next time you have a conversation with someone, pay attention to body language and facial expressions:
  - Are their arms crossed?
  - Are they taking steps back?
  - Are they putting up a "barrier" like a book or a bag?
  - Are they trying to end the conversation?
  - Are they having difficulty maintaining eye-contact?
  - If they smile, does the smile reach their eyes?
  - Do they seem comfortable or uncomfortable?
  - Is there a "next time?" Has that person sought you out since your last conversation? Were you "safe" for them?
  - *What else could be on this list? How can you tell if someone is having a hard time holding a conversation? Brainstorm as a whole Board.*

- **For further study:** *Emotional Intelligence* is a leadership topic that may offer some insight into this arena. You can find free assessments online—often called "EQ Tests."

3. The Impact of Others on Me (5 minutes):

- In leadership, no matter how self-aware we are, no matter how experienced, or how high of a position we may hold, we *must* rely on those around us to help us truly "see" ourselves. Our own view is both broadened and limited by our personality, experiences, abilities, successes, failures, wounds, insecurities, upbringing, culture, and so on. We must have people around us who will speak kindly, but honestly, and tell us what we need to hear—for our own good and for the good of those we lead.
- Who are your truth speakers, your "insight increasers?" Who is allowed to say what they see in you—positive and negative?
  - *It doesn't really matter how many people follow me, virtually or any other way, unless I have at least a few people nearby who are stout enough to tell me the truth, even when it stings a little—or a lot. These bold souls are my 'insight increasers.'* —Jodi Detrick, *The Jesus-Hearted Woman*
  - **Proverbs 27:17** *As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.*

Homework Challenge: Consider asking this daring question to a few people that you trust: ***How do you experience me?*** Be willing to take the posture of a student and to see yourself through the eyes of another for a season (e.g., a month, a PWOC semester/year). What could that look like? Who could you ask? Make a plan. *Pause for a few minutes to pray. Write down names if they come to mind.*

- Name(s) that comes to mind:
- When and how I will reach out: