



FOUNDATIONS

Summer Institute Pre-Assignments 2026



To Prepare:

Please complete the following assignments **prior to the training event and be prepared to share from** the completed assignments at SI. You do not need to hand these in, but they will place you in a position to contribute well and gain the most benefit from your SI experience! Upon registration for SI, you will be sent an invitation to join the SI 2026 Google Classroom. These assignments can also be found there.

1. Prayer Partners

SI involves long days. Your learning experience and the well-being of your community during this time are important to us, and we would like to ensure that people who know and care about you are praying effectively.

Accordingly, we ask two things of you:

- a. Ask at least two people to pray for you (and if it applies, your family) while you participate in SI...prayer for your health, your energy level as the days are intense, and for a rich learning experience.
- b. Please use the following link: **SI Prayer Partners 2026** <http://eepurl.com/ghdB9T> to subscribe your prayer partners to our email list. You can use the link as many times as you need for each of your prayer partners. This is so that we can prepare your prayer partners before the event with prayer items and so that we can send them regular updates during SI.

Please complete by May 1st.

2. Small Group Prep

Read the book *Survival Guide for the Soul* by Ken Shigematsu (Zondervan, 2018). We will be discussing this book during our small group times, so that we are well-equipped for health and vitality in ministry.

Note that ebooks and audiobooks are available as well, should you prefer those mediums.

- a. This book needs to be read with thoughtful reflection, so please don't leave it until the last minute.
- b. Find a journal or notebook to answer the questions at the end of each chapter.
- c. Read each chapter thoroughly, taking time to digest the material.
- d. Come to SI prepared to listen, share, and encourage one another in small groups.

3. Cultural Intelligence

Watch the TedTalk by novelist Chimamanda Adichie.

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story

There are some reflection prompts below to help you process what you heard and saw in the video.

- a. What did you learn, have reaffirmed, or how were you surprised by this video?
- b. Which ideas or quotes from Adichie did you find particularly interesting or helpful? Which ones were difficult to hear?
- c. In what ways do you think we (as a ministry) may be guilty of flattening the stories of "the lost" or the youth we work with? Do you think our ministry partners hear a single story about the youth we work with, and if so, what is it?
- d. Where in your life do you notice yourself carrying a single story of another person or people group? What would help you embrace the complexities present in those people?
- e. How will you apply what you heard from Adichie to your ministry circumstance? To your life?

4. Discipleship

Read the book **Parallel Faith: Walking Alongside Others on Their Journey to Christ** by Dave Boden.

Everyone takes little steps toward Jesus before they can take big steps with and for him. This is a process that starts long before people ever enter a church building, especially as the gap between the church and culture grows ever wider. This book will help equip you to handle the early stages of discipling others with care, address the stumbling blocks that hold them back, as well as redefine how you see your own identity as an ambassador of Christ. **Take some time to journal your thoughts and answer the questions at the end of each chapter.** We will be discussing this book during our teaching on Discipleship, so that we are well equipped for conversation around faith in Jesus.

Note that ebook and audiobooks are available as well should you prefer those mediums.

5. Emotionally Healthy Leadership

Watch The Power of the Genogram in Building Healthy Teams

Pete Scazzero and Rich Villodas share how understanding genograms has served as a powerful tool to create a healthy, transformational team culture at New Life over the last twenty years.

- a. Go to <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=gQsJc2HAF38>
- b. After watching the video, spend a few minutes thinking about how your family of origin operated. How did your family operate when it came to conflict? Communication? Success? Money? Racism and the poor? Sexuality? Marriage? Journal or jot down a few of your reflections and have them with you to help frame our discussion regarding resilient spirituality in leadership. Please notice what comes up for you as you lightly examine your family of origin knowing that at times we may be troubled by the information or sensations that come up. We will offer a lot of support when it comes to this discussion at SI. If you are concerned about the reactions that this assignment brings up or you anticipate bringing up, please contact your trainer.

6. Leadership Self-Assessment

You will find attached an overview of **The Ideal Team Player**. Please read the descriptions and then complete the Self-Assessment on the following page. We will be going into more detail at SI. Please have your self-assessment with you.

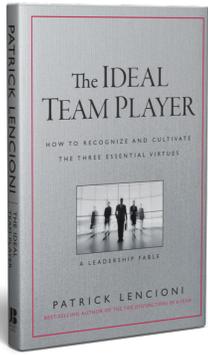
**WE EAGERLY ANTICIPATE YOUR PARTICIPATION AT SI!
BLESSINGS ON YOU AS YOU PREPARE**

Regional Training Coordinators:

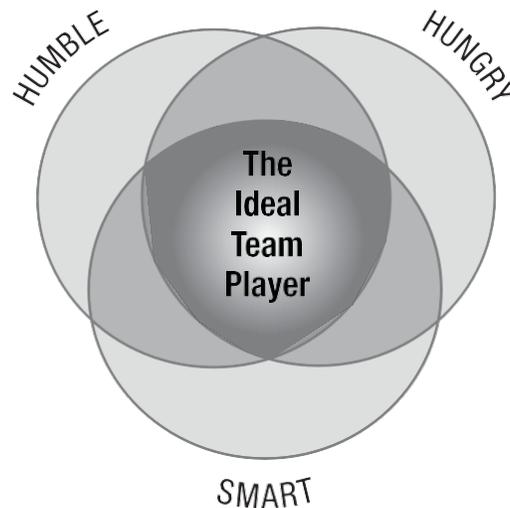
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THE IDEAL TEAM PLAYER



Humble

Ideal team players are humble. They lack excessive ego or concerns about status. Humble people are quick to point out the contributions of others and slow to seek attention for their own. They share credit, emphasize team over self and define success collectively rather than individually.

Hungry

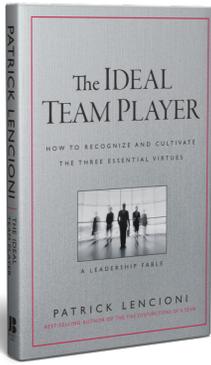
Ideal team players are hungry. They are always looking for more. More things to do. More to learn. More responsibility to take on. Hungry people almost never have to be pushed by a manager to work harder because they are self-motivated and diligent. They are constantly thinking about the next step and the next opportunity.

Smart

Ideal team players are smart. They have common sense about people. Smart people tend to know what is happening in a group situation and how to deal with others in the most effective way. They have good judgment and intuition around the subtleties of group dynamics and the impact of their words and actions.

Humble, Hungry and Smart – The Three Virtues Combined

What makes humble, hungry and smart powerful and unique is not the individual attributes themselves, but rather the required combination of all three. If even one is missing in a team member, teamwork becomes significantly more difficult, and sometimes not possible.

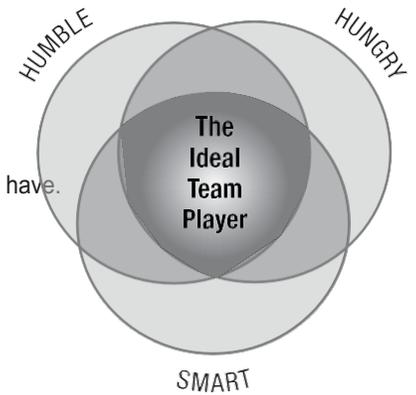


SELF-ASSESSMENT

Instructions: Take this assessment to evaluate yourself relative to the three virtues of an ideal team player. Respond as honestly as possible, as this will allow you to most accurately identify any areas of development that you may have.

Use the scale below to indicate how each statement applies to how you think your teammates may see you and your actions on the team. Choose the rating response number that best applies to each statement and record it in the box to the right of the statement. Then total your scores for each of the three virtues.

Rating Scale: 3 = Usually 2 = Sometimes 1 = Rarely



Name/Company _____		Score
HUMBLE MY TEAMMATES WOULD SAY:	1. I compliment or praise them without hesitation.	
	2. I easily admit to my mistakes.	
	3. I am willing to take on lower-level work for the good of the team.	
	4. I gladly share credit for team accomplishments.	
	5. I readily acknowledge my weaknesses.	
	6. I offer and accept apologies graciously.	
	TOTAL HUMILITY SCORE	
HUNGRY MY TEAMMATES WOULD SAY:	7. I do more than what is required in my own job.	
	8. I have passion for the "mission" of the team.	
	9. I feel a sense of personal responsibility for the overall success of the team.	
	10. I am willing to contribute to and think about work outside of office hours.	
	11. I am willing to take on tedious or challenging tasks whenever necessary.	
	12. I look for opportunities to contribute outside of my area of responsibility.	
TOTAL HUNGER SCORE		
SMART MY TEAMMATES WOULD SAY:	13. I generally understand what others are feeling during meetings and conversations.	
	14. I show empathy to others on the team.	
	15. I demonstrate an interest in the lives of my teammates.	
	16. I am an attentive listener.	
	17. I am aware of how my words and actions impact others on the team.	
	18. I adjust my behavior and style to fit the nature of a conversation or relationship.	
TOTAL SMART SCORE		

SCORING

Remember, the purpose of this tool is to help you explore and assess how you embody the three virtues of an ideal team player. The standards for "ideal" are high. An ideal team player will have few of these statements answered with anything lower than a '3' (usually) response.

A total score of 18 or 17 (in any virtue) is an indication that the virtue is a potential strength

A total score of 16 to 14 (in any virtue) is an indication that you most likely have some work to do around that virtue to become an ideal team player.

A total score of 13 or lower (in any virtue) is an indication that you need improvement around that virtue to become an ideal team player.

Finally, keep in mind that while this tool is quantitative, the real value will be found in the qualitative, developmental conversations among team members and their managers. Don't focus on the numbers, but rather the concepts and the individual statements where you may have scored low.