

MENTOR GUIDE

MODULE 1: VINEYARD DISTINCTIVES

INTRODUCTION

In this module, you will watch **Eleanor Mumford's** teaching on some elements that make Vineyard churches distinctive. These videos are excerpted from a longer teaching Eleanor and her husband John gave at the Vineyard Global Family Conference, which was held in Columbus, Ohio, in 2015.

You can see the entire session and many additional resources at vineyarddigital.org



Eleanor's teaching will help you answer two central questions:

1. What is distinctive about the Vineyard?
2. How does this influence how I lead?

SESSION 1: VINEYARD DISTINCTIVES PART 1

Video Notes

- 1. The Main and the Plain.** We keep the main thing, the gospel of Jesus Christ, central and not deviating from it (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
- 2. People of the Scriptures.** We need men and women across the Vineyard who are passionate about the Bible (Romans 4:3, Deuteronomy 32:47).
- 3. People of the Kingdom.** The Vineyard is, first and foremost, a Kingdom of God movement. The theology of the Kingdom of God is consistent with our experience of the Holy Spirit and provides a vehicle for the meaningful expression of His gifts.
- 4. People of the Spirit.** We invite the Holy Spirit to come; after that, it is not for us to tame or control. It is for Him to do as He will.

SESSION 1: VINEYARD DISTINCTIVES PART 1

Participant Reflection Questions

After watching the video, participants will answer or journal the following questions for reflection. Feel free to utilize these questions for discussion at your next Coaching Session.

- 1.** How have you seen your church focus on the main and the plain? What, if anything, makes it difficult to keep “the main and the plain” central in your life or your ministry?
- 2.** Do you know someone who has a passion for the Bible, as Eleanor describes? What stands out to you about that person? How has the Bible shaped your life and your ministry?
- 3.** Take a moment to reflect. Can you describe a time when you experienced the Kingdom of God in your life or ministry? What was that like for you and your faith? Was there a time when you experienced “the not yet” of the Kingdom of God through suffering or unanswered prayer? What was that experience like for you and your faith?
- 4.** Eleanor shared a story of John Wimber comparing the movement of the Holy Spirit in a church to welcoming an elephant into your home. How does this description of the Holy Spirit align with your church experience? What do you think of it?

SESSION 2: VINEYARD DISTINCTIVES PART 2

Video Notes

- 1. Worshippers of God.** “The people aren’t just singing about Jesus. They are in love.” We must always be distinctive for something but never in comparison to something. We are not “cutting edge”. We are just humbly who we are.
- 2. Rescuers of Men and Women.** The Vineyard is a healing movement, going to the lost, sick, outcast, and poor with the love and compassion of Christ (Luke 4:16-21).
- 3. Everyone gets to play.** We are a priesthood of believers; we do not have an elite.

SESSION 2: VINEYARD DISTINCTIVES PART 2

Reflection Questions

1. “The song has gone out, and we’ve learned to sing it.” How has your faith been impacted by the times of worship with your church? How would you say worship impacts your leadership?
2. Do you have a story similar to that of the bed sheets or the woman who prayed for the baby? How could living more like this, “loving Jesus and obeying his commands,” impact your leadership?
3. How does the Vineyard Distinctive “Everyone gets to play” influence your involvement in your church? How does it affect how you involve others?

ACTIVATION ASSIGNMENT

Put This Into Practice

Participants will answer the following questions on a digital form and will be asked to send their responses to you as well.

Have you ever told your story of joining the Vineyard? There is a reason you are here, leading in a Vineyard church.

God led you here.

Before you meet with your mentor and others in your church, take some time to write or record your story.

How did you first arrive in your church?

How did you know this was the church for you?

What particular of the Vineyard Distinctives Eleanor describes drew you in?

Then, be prepared to share your story with others in your church in the coming weeks.

MENTOR SESSION GUIDE

While the content we've provided will be impactful for participants, as a VLE mentor, the time you spend helping participants process will be transformative. Please use this time to make thoughtful observations and be prepared to speak into their lives. This time together will provide many opportunities to have an "ICNU (I See In You) Conversation", which will be catalytic in their growth and development! Here is a sample agenda you might consider using for your time together:

Connection (5-10 minutes). This is a great opportunity for small talk, to warm up the conversation. You can ask how their week has been, or if they have anything exciting coming up.

Celebration (5-10 minutes). Ask them if they have seen God do something in their lives or ministry in the past two weeks that they'd like to share. This is an opportunity for you to affirm and reinforce the good growth that is happening.

Coaching Conversation (40 minutes). See Coaching Conversation Section on the next page. This portion will be specific to each module.

Care & Prayer (10-20 minutes). As you wrap up your time together, make space for the work of the Holy Spirit. This could look different every time, especially if you are meeting with an individual versus a group. If you are with an individual, you could ask if the Holy Spirit has brought anything to the surface for them, and then pray into that. If you are with a group, this might be an opportunity for a hot seat, or for participants to break off into pairs and pray for each other.

Closing Communication (5 minutes). This is the time to highlight the next module, important church events, or announcements, etc.

MODULE 1: COACHING CONVERSATION

Module 1: Vineyard Distinctives introduces participants to the core DNA of the Vineyard movement, which Eleanor Mumford thoughtfully illustrates in her teaching. Because these distinctives shape the identity and leadership ethos of the Vineyard, it's important to help participants reflect on how they've experienced and embraced them.

- 1. Begin the conversation by telling your Vineyard Story.** Share how the Vineyard and its distinctives have impacted your life, your leadership, and your ministry.
- 2. Drawing from the Activation Assignment, encourage participants to reflect on their own Vineyard journey by asking:**
 - Have you ever told your story of joining a Vineyard church?
 - What distinctive drew you in or made you feel like, “this is home”?
 - How did God lead you here?

If you are coaching one-on-one, allow them to share their story and experience with you. If you are with a group, ask participants to share in groups of 2–3 or with the whole group.

- 3. Walk through a few key distinctives from Eleanor's teaching.** We recommend focusing on 2–3 that resonated most with your group. Here are some prompts to help guide that conversation:
 - **The Main and the Plain:** How have you seen our church keep the gospel central? What makes it hard to stay focused on this?
 - **People of the Kingdom and Spirit:** What has it looked like for you to experience the power and presence of the Spirit personally or in our church?

- **Everyone Gets to Play:** How has this value shaped the way you serve or lead? Who gave you permission to ‘play,’ and how are you extending that to others?

Encourage honesty about places where these values are inspiring, but also where they've been confusing or challenging.

4. Invite participants to reflect on how Vineyard distinctives inform their leadership by asking:

- What did you learn about leadership or discover about yourself through this module?
- What would you do differently in your ministry because of what you’ve learned?
- Where do you need encouragement to live out these values more fully?
- What does it mean to be a worshiper or someone who obeys Jesus’ commands in daily life?

5. As you move into prayer and ministry time, pray into whatever has surfaced from your conversation. Use the hot seat, prayer partners, or listening prayer.

- Thank God for the unique ways He’s led each person into the Vineyard family.
- Ask for boldness and clarity to live out these distinctives.