

SESSION 2: You Gotta Have Faith!

What is faith & why it's important for leaders to have it!

The two components of good leadership: operational & inspirational

Operational component draws on our *skills & talents*

Inspirational component on our *faith & values*

Skills & talents the *how*; faith & values the *why*

Together, they are the four foundations of effective leadership

We're interested in focusing on the inspirational side - our faith & values

The next three sessions will look at 'faith' in particular

Many teams can have great operational effectiveness but fail to perform

It's because they have a faith problem – the Wallabies, for example right now

Skills & talents are not enough: you gotta have faith!

How can we talk about this without it being divisive? How do we avoid religious overtones?

We need a common definition

Let's start with the dictionary definition: "*complete trust in someone or something*".

But should leaders be completely trusting? Or is that naïve?

They can't trust everything, but they need to trust in something!

A leader has to be trusting in order to be trustworthy!

If you can't trust in something, why should trust be given to you?

But trusting in anything these days seems to be rare – particularly in leadership

Think of Frank Underwood in House of Cards!

As a culture we've lost our naiveté

But do you want to live in a world where no-one trusts in anything anymore?

Having faith in things makes life sacred. Without faith life loses its meaning

And half the work of leadership is to bring the meaning! (inspiration)

Leadership is a sacred thing: to get something great we give people the power to hurt us

Like in a marriage

To get the benefits of working together we have to pool our power

And risk the leader using that power for their own ends

If that happens, we lose trust and become cynical

The work of leaders is to break this cycle of distrust and cynicism

To do so, you have to be inspiring! And to be inspiring, you've gotta be inspired!

A good definition for faith in a leadership context:

A confidence about the future in the midst of uncertainty.

If you don't have confidence about the future you have no business being a leader!

You gotta believe that, in spite of inevitable obstacles, you can make progress!

Where does such confidence come from?

To get that confidence we have to draw on inner resources, spiritual ones

Do you have those inner resources?

DISCUSSION:

To what degree, today, do I have the kind of faith necessary to be an inspiring leader?

Am I the kind of person who finds it easy to trust in something, or do I find it difficult?

Why?