

Revival Group Pastor Panel

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In this session, four BSSM revival group pastors, Paul Kummer, Carrie Lloyd, Libby Gordon, and Leslie Crandall, answer questions and give insight about leading a school of supernatural ministry.

Questions and Answers

What is one thing you've learned that has been really significant in leading in this environment or pastoring our students?

- If you make space for God, He will show up.
- If we continually live under the voice of God, we have the ability to answer any question with the God who has every solution and provides for every need.
- Pastors are not saviors. Send them to Jesus, and He'll give the students the answer.

What is the difference between leading as a son or daughter and leading as a father and mother? How do we lead as fathers and mothers?

- You know you have transitioned into a mother or a father when the people around you are not any type of competition.
- Steward a culture that creates an atmosphere where your children (students) will succeed.

Someone will give us feedback about a student's unhealthy behavior and we've confronted them by asking clarifying questions, but the student denies something is going on. How would you further confront this? What are some ways to build trust with students so that they are willingly vulnerable and accountable?

- It's about the heart. If your heart for them is not based in unconditional love, then you will place law, performance, and perfection on them.
- "If your students know their leaders are looking for gold, they will allow them to dig through their dirt." - Steve Backlund
- Don't control or manipulate our students to freedom, we want to lead and empower
- If a student is confessing, have them tell you exactly what happened, the whole way through. Their transparency and vulnerability brings more freedom.
- Lead them through repentance so repentance and redemption can have its full work.
- Be careful to not disengage Holy Spirit and fall into a formula.

How do you how to balance when you know God wants you to partner with Him in doing something and the other moments when He's saying He wants you to take your hands off and He's going to go after it Himself?

- The more you do it, the more you know what it feels like.
- Sometimes with students, you may know the answer, but you can't give them the answer because they need to go to the Lord themselves and figure it out.
- Deal with the root of the problem, then go after the actual behavior. Ask them their thought process so you can begin to understand the cycles they are in.
- Begin all your meetings by inviting Holy Spirit and getting the students to pray with you. He is the best counselor.
- You may not need to address issues right away. Do not let it off your radar, but be listening to Holy Spirit about when it is time to go after the issue.

What are effective ways you help students break out of shame? How do you bring vulnerability into the environment?

- Ask a lot of questions to understand their motivations.
- Living a shame-free life has to be a non-negotiable for you. You cannot lead someone into a place you have not been first.
- Create a culture where vulnerability is no longer a threat but a weapon.
- Build family within your team and go after vulnerability together. From there, go after individual things.

How do you handle all the demands of the role? How do you guard your own time with Jesus and your own time to recharge?

- If you don't hear His whisper in the morning, you will hear too many shouts during the day.
- If you are not leading out of the overflow, you are either going to rely on formulas or performance.
- You are feeding your people with whatever you are eating.
- It is okay to say you have a meeting with the Lord or a date with your spouse. It is powerful for your students to see you choose your family.
- Whatever is your most core value is what you will give time to. If your core values are family and then ministry, it will all work.

Have you experienced men in your group who were dishonoring and had an un-submitted heart to you because of your gender, and how did you handle that?

- Offense operates in many ways, it likes to separate. There is a spirit behind offense, and operating in the opposite spirit dismantles the offense right away.
- If you can dismantle offense, you will have no enemies but the enemy.

How do you pastor students who are struggling meeting expectations (homework, attendance) in school?

- At BSSM, the fathers of the school set expectations in the very beginning of the year so that we can hold the students accountable.
- Have different expectations for different students. Pastor them to their full potential.
- Start confronting them early.

What are your guidelines for dating in the school? Do students abide by a certain consecration time period?

- Remove the lid and fear of dating from the beginning and allow your students to explore.
- At BSSM, we don't put rules around dating so we can find out what is in our students' hearts.
- With smaller schools, be careful how you navigate dating because it can impact your school more than it affects larger schools.
- Invite them to bounce their feelings off of you and teach your students to break up well.
- Encourage your young men to not be intimidated by strong women. Encourage them to go after the strong women.

What are some activations you use to help your students love themselves well?

- Have your students discover what their needs are by having them write down ten needs that are absolutely practical. What do you need in terms of sleep, food, etc.? Then, write ten needs from community, ten needs to function well in the call and gift of God in your life. Every week go after one of those needs. Have them share their lists and progress in their small groups.
- Have students identify one thing you love about themselves. If you can get them to love a part of them, that part of them will begin to open up.

What is one final piece of wisdom you want to share with school leaders?

- Love your students past any violation of love they've experienced in their life. Accept them as they are but take them higher.
- Recognize self-criticism on any format. There is a connection between self-criticism and hopelessness.
- If something goes wrong, it's an opportunity to celebrate and see a new side of His face.
- Let the Father continually invite you into a culture of celebration. Celebrate what you want students to do and they will want to do them themselves.
- Do not forget to have fun. Do not take yourself too serious.

- The more you fully own who you are and live out of that expression, it creates room for others to be who they are.
- Be convinced that there is no other place God wants your students but right in front of you right at that moment.