

Introduction:

How do you know when it's time for you to transition out of your ministry and move in a different direction and how to do you know the way to do that most effectively if you feel the Lord is moving you in a different direction?

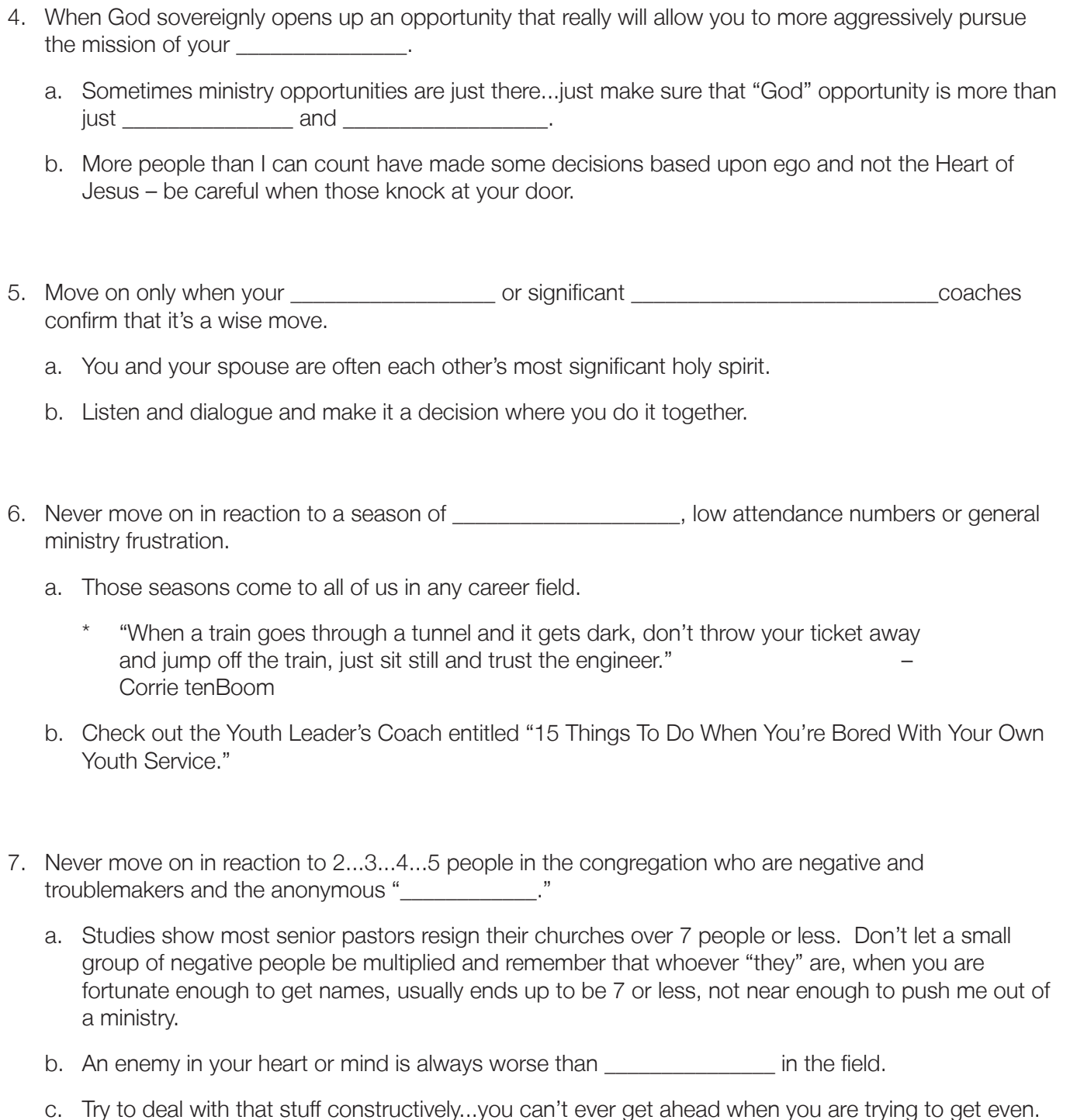
- This generation is almost geared to be _____ people...we don't endure or do the long distance thing well in our marriages, in our vocation to Christ, not even in our ministries.
 - * "The grass always looks greener on the other side of the fence until you get on the other side of the fence and have to mow it too." – Sam Mayo
- In the middle of a negative situation anything feels better than going on, and any change, even if we're not sure it's the right one, will feel _____ gratifying.
- Be bigger than ministry's "_____."
- *The 4:8 Principle* by Tommy Newberry; Be a person who really controls your thought life...take charge of the thoughts going through your head and you be the boss of those thoughts by bringing them into _____ not the reverse.
- If we play with an option of walking out the door long enough, that option is going to be energized _____ and _____.
- Don't promise what you can't deliver...but understand you can never change the youth culture if you keep pulling the _____ every two years.
- Jesus had a million _____ reasons why He could have come down from Calvary. He just chose for the sake of lives to go through and to endure.
- Joshua served another man's vision for _____ years before the Lord gave him the green light to go after his own vision. Sometimes it's too easy for us to say... "I'm out of here, I want to do my own thing."
 - * "If you remain faithful to do the known will of God today, God will be faithful to reveal His unknown will for you tomorrow." - Corrie tenBoom
 - * "Lord callous my knees, not my heart."

When to move on:

1. Your Biblical authorities have helped you move on i.e. you get _____.
 - a. _____ in God's economy becomes _____ if and when you choose to walk this season with Christ-honoring attitudes and heart.
 - b. You should never confuse man's decisions with God's _____.
 - c. Remember God is the God of your future – your security is in Him.
 - d. _____ will come in your life from the failure to see suffering from God's point-of-view.
 - * “Resentment is like allowing somebody who’s hurt you to live rent-free in your mind.”
 - e. Like with Jonah, the belly of the whale, can become my finest _____.
 - f. How you _____ one season of your life greatly determines how you _____ the next.
 - * John 12:24, “I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” - Lord, help me to die well.

2. When you can no longer trust the _____ and _____ of your senior pastor.
 - a. Remember, someday your staff will judge you with the same level of mercy that you're judging your boss right now.
 - b. This is a different issue than disagreeing with leadership decisions...nobody's perfect.
 - c. More and more people are saying, “I'm out of here because my senior pastor has no _____.” Often times it remains yours to reach inside yourself and to create vision for your youth ministry and pour yourself in a submissive attitude to him into that vision.
 - d. It's a lot easier to point the finger at senior pastors than to point it back at ourselves and say how am I doing as a leader of my leadership team now?

3. You move on only when you are out of the _____.
 - a. “Peak to Peak Principle” – you don't make major decisions when you are in the valley because you have to be on a high peak to make a decision with clear vision and perspective.
 - b. Tears are sometimes good because “leaky heads don't _____.”

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4. When God sovereignly opens up an opportunity that really will allow you to more aggressively pursue the mission of your _____.
 - a. Sometimes ministry opportunities are just there...just make sure that “God” opportunity is more than just _____ and _____.
 - b. More people than I can count have made some decisions based upon ego and not the Heart of Jesus – be careful when those knock at your door.

 5. Move on only when your _____ or significant _____ coaches confirm that it’s a wise move.
 - a. You and your spouse are often each other’s most significant holy spirit.
 - b. Listen and dialogue and make it a decision where you do it together.

 6. Never move on in reaction to a season of _____, low attendance numbers or general ministry frustration.
 - a. Those seasons come to all of us in any career field.
 - * “When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, don’t throw your ticket away and jump off the train, just sit still and trust the engineer.” – Corrie tenBoom
 - b. Check out the Youth Leader’s Coach entitled “15 Things To Do When You’re Bored With Your Own Youth Service.”

 7. Never move on in reaction to 2...3...4...5 people in the congregation who are negative and troublemakers and the anonymous “_____.”
 - a. Studies show most senior pastors resign their churches over 7 people or less. Don’t let a small group of negative people be multiplied and remember that whoever “they” are, when you are fortunate enough to get names, usually ends up to be 7 or less, not near enough to push me out of a ministry.
 - b. An enemy in your heart or mind is always worse than _____ in the field.
 - c. Try to deal with that stuff constructively...you can’t ever get ahead when you are trying to get even.

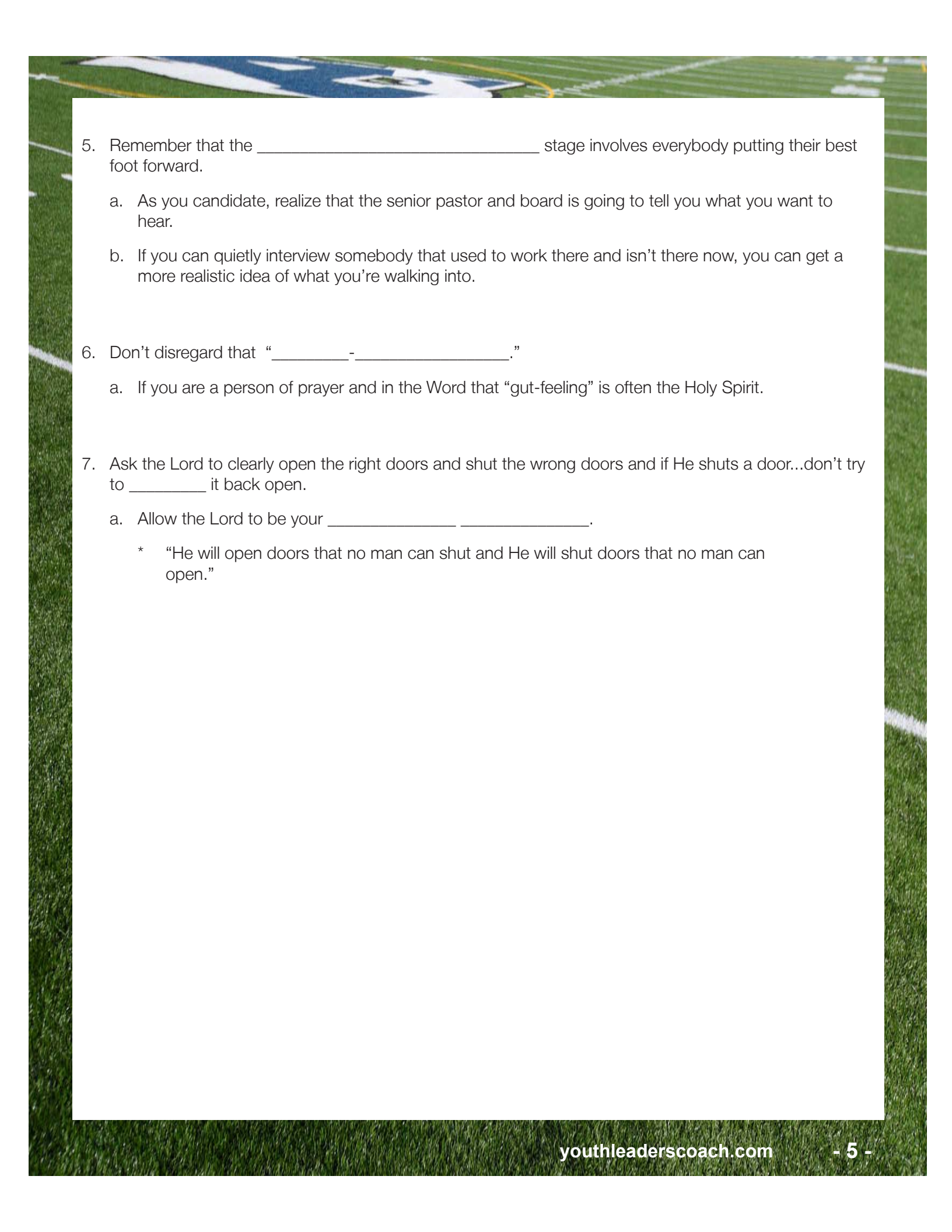
A few simple thoughts on how to move on if you feel like it really is the Lord's time:

1. Howard Hendricks says the number one thing that he believes costs talented young adults their fullest success in ministry is their choice to _____ too soon.
 - a. Your giftings often take you to a place that your _____ can't keep you. Be careful that you are not moving yourself into a realm that you kind of coast into without making equal or far greater choices to build your character as you're building a ministry.
 - b. Carefully guard your thoughts and talk about perhaps moving on so it doesn't _____ begin to leak out to others.
 - c. Make sure Jesus is creating that move and not you because you have spent so much time thinking about it.
 - d. If you want to move on, make sure it's not on the "vine" – most people consider a secret something they've told one person at a time.

2. Fight fiercely to keep a _____ - _____ attitude throughout the whole process.
 - a. The only thing that's more _____ than a good attitude is a bad one. It's your responsibility to control your attitude...nobody can own your attitude but you.
 - b. When you leave, leave with your mouth shut in Christ-honoring integrity.

3. Don't start looking for the _____ set-up and the _____ senior pastor because those things only appear to exist until you've unpacked your bags.
 - a. Everybody wants a senior pastor that will be a mentor and a spiritual dad, those are really rare. Someday, if you're a senior pastor be that to your staff...perfect doesn't exist.
 - b. You'll have a new set of problems wherever you go. One of the advantages of staying where you are is at least you know what the problems are.

4. _____ make your decision about when you talk to your senior pastor and when you submit your resignation.
 - a. Sometimes your _____ will make you submit a resignation or talk resignation before you have any sense of where you're going. It often takes time to find the next right next step...you want to be able make that decision when you feel it's right, not because you were forced out.
 - b. It is not a lack of faith to say I don't want to terminate a check and a job without having, with the Lord's help, another opportunity.

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5. Remember that the _____ stage involves everybody putting their best foot forward.
 - a. As you candidate, realize that the senior pastor and board is going to tell you what you want to hear.
 - b. If you can quietly interview somebody that used to work there and isn't there now, you can get a more realistic idea of what you're walking into.

 6. Don't disregard that "_____ - _____."
 - a. If you are a person of prayer and in the Word that "gut-feeling" is often the Holy Spirit.

 7. Ask the Lord to clearly open the right doors and shut the wrong doors and if He shuts a door...don't try to _____ it back open.
 - a. Allow the Lord to be your _____ .
 - * "He will open doors that no man can shut and He will shut doors that no man can open."



Answers:

microwave; emotionally; fainting fits; captivity; emotionally; demonically;
ripcord; justifiable; 39; fired; Plan B; Plan A; directives; Bitterness; prayer
closet; leave; enter; integrity; character; vision; valley; swell; heart; bucks;
bodies; spouse; spiritual; boredom; they; 10,000; peak; character;
prematurely; Christ-honoring; contagious; perfect; perfect; Carefully;
restlessness; candidating; gut-feeling; pry; press agent