

In my years of pastoral ministry (36), there are some things I've learned or continue to learn. Hopefully, these are ideas that any local church pastor can identify with in life and ministry.

1. Focus on God, not your critics.
Criticism is inevitable but if you focus on your critics, you will start trying to please them and it will derail your ministry. You'll never make everyone happy!
2. Renew your belief in the power of God.
God can do anything, anytime, anywhere with anyone.
Look for where God is working and join Him (Blackaby).
3. Stand upon the Word of God courageously.
Our biblical Christian worldview is in constant conflict with our culture.
Do not cower down to our culture or cuddle with it (Ronnie Floyd).
4. Always be a learner and be authentic with your people.
When you quit learning, you quit leading.
Don't be someone you're not but be someone worthy to follow.
5. The church can never love your family as much as you do.
Your family needs you more than the church does, so learn how to balance and prioritize your time.
6. Learn the stories of your people.
Everybody has a story, so show genuine interest in the people God has placed in your care.
7. Choose your friends wisely – but choose friends.
Don't attempt to lead alone. Seek out friends you can trust and be real with – both from inside and outside your church family.
8. Choose which battles are worth fighting.
Not every hill is worth dying on and not every challenge to your authority is worthy of a fight. Remember, the church is not your church!
9. Above all else, guard your heart (Proverbs 4:23).
Keep your heart saturated with God's Word and spend ample time in prayer.
Look for any warning signs that your heart might be drifting.



-Pastor David Johnson
Storden Baptist Church, Storden, MN