



Get Your Head out of the Huddle

You know the scene: a camera angle from the ground looking up at the faces of a huddled team. Their eyes are intent on the urgency of the next play, except for one. In fact, you can't see that person's face because they're not looking at the ground -- they're head is out of the huddle. They're obviously a part of the huddle, but their attention and focus are on something else, something further down the field.

Now that might sound like a bad thing, like this person is distracted from the more important task. But when it comes to leadership, sometimes you've got to be the one with your head out of the huddle if you're going to effectively lead anyone anywhere. If you're not careful, you can find yourself staring at the ground alongside everyone else on your team instead of looking up to see other important elements or signs around you. Here are some examples from a Ministry Team Leader's perspective:

- Play the long game:
 - Look down field and see the whole game plan. Remember that this is Jesus' church and He has promised to provide.
 - Remember that Jesus is in all things, sustaining all things - even seasons of drought. Whatever the tide or culture, shepherd your heart to assume a posture of trusting that Jesus is using the circumstances in this moment in time for His glory. Somehow.

- Guard against inward focus:

Scenario	Inward focus	Outward focus
Volunteer cancelled again	<i>I'll just fill in. Again.</i>	<i>How to change this culture?</i>
Signage/Communication	<i>None or very limited signage</i>	<i>LOTS of signage!!</i>
Language	<i>Exclusive, internal.</i>	<i>Inclusive.</i>

- Observe signs & symptoms:
 - Become familiar with the phrase "emotional awareness." You know how old-time cowboys, pioneers, or sea captains are depicted in films as having something akin to a sixth sense of their surroundings/elements? Learn to observe the posture and responses of your volunteers. Become emotionally aware of them. How are they doing? Are they serving on fumes this week? Are they serving out of abundance?