

LEAN, DON'T LEAD!

Scripture used: [Matthew 11:28-30 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Sue Warnke, the Senior Director of Engineering Content at Salesforce, blessed NBCC with a guest sermon. She shared her incredible story of committing her life to Jesus. From a small Utah town where her lack of faith was a source of isolation, Sue devoted herself to the “religion of accomplishment.” It wasn’t until her mother died suddenly when Sue was 24 that she was forced to grapple with bigger questions. Switching into a career in tech, Sue spent the next 15 years establishing herself as a rising star while also raising a family. Then she had another crisis (when she had to ask herself, “Is this all there is?”) and quit her job to become a leadership consultant, hoping to make a direct impact in the lives of others. Finally, a year and a half later, Sue realized that she couldn’t manufacture meaning and purpose for herself. In her words, she “needed God to be the CEO of my life.” Through several people, including the timely call from an aunt that she had never spoken to about faith, she became fully convinced that God was real and was pursuing her. She took the brave step of trusting God and surrendering her life to Him. Shortly afterwards, she was recruited back to Salesforce. On her first day of work, she posted an internal staff message - “Does anybody want to pray with me?”. At first only one other person showed up, but now its grown into an internal community of over 400 people! Sue also reached out to build an inter-faith community to broadly support faith within Salesforce, starting a program called FaithForce which is now 1,600 around the world!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Stress is a sign that you’re trying to control your life.** No one except GOD can control the world. It’s too complicated and crazy for a person. So what happens? All the time you spend attempting to control things around only leads to stress. This is especially true in the Bay Area, where many people are scrambling to make their mark in the tech world.
- 2) **You can know peace by leaning more on Jesus.** Everyone’s life is different, but Sue outlined common steps that can work for anyone. Use them to stop leading on your own and instead start leaning on God!
 - a. **Give up.** Actually say to yourself out loud “I give up.” This is what Sue had to do by herself in a Virginia hotel room when she realized she needed to turn to God. Every change in her career had not solved the deeper problem of eternal life and purpose. She couldn’t do it by herself!
 - b. **Believe.** Make the decision to embrace faith. Sue did not try to answer every single question before taking a leap. Her own understanding was always going to be flawed and limited. She asked for signs from God - such as her aunt calling out of the blue to share her testimony - and trusted those signs as evidence that the story of Jesus was true.
 - c. **Apologize.** Turn to God and ask for His forgiveness. Focus on the sins you commit when trying to direct your own life instead of turning it over to Him.
 - d. **See.** Try to expand your perspective. Remember that God is focused on eternity, not this month or this year. There is no such thing as a good life that doesn’t lead to eternal life with God.
 - e. **Follow.** Commit to leaning on God each day, and ignore everything else. As it says in [Matthew 6:34 \(NIV\)](#), “do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.” Focus on the daily bread God has given you, and make the most of it!

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - How much do you lead yourself versus leaning on God? Grade yourself (0-100%) that honestly captures your decision-making every day. What percentage of your life is guided by God?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Sue Warnke talked a lot of stress. Before she turned over her life to God, almost any topic was a source of stress. This came from her attempts to control everything about her life. Which areas of your life do you try to control? How much stress does it cause? Why can’t you rely instead on God? Reflect on the image of being yoked to Jesus from [Matthew 11:28-30 \(NIV\)](#).
- 3) **DO** - We’re approaching Easter Sunday, which is the perfect opportunity to share the story of Jesus. Everyone deserves to hear the good news, and about 80% of people say they would enjoy attending a service if asked. Invite at least 3 people to one of [the Easter celebration services](#) (8:30 AM, 10:15 AM, and 12:00 PM) on Sunday April 21st.