

Finding Their Center

October 2022

Business students at the University of Tulsa (*above*) heard guest lectures last month by David Ridley, founder of Invesco Real Estate, one of the world's largest real estate funds. He is working with us and using his retirement years to talk with students about "Resilient Leadership."

"The business world is constantly changing and there are many pressures," Ridley explains. "Without a securely focused center to your life, you run the risk of living by whatever seems popular at the time. I found that my relationship with Jesus Christ provided that center; what will be at your center?"

Ridley let students know that having a life that has something lasting at the center allows them to focus on the success of others on their team and to listen and care about clients. "We never lost a client in all our years; because we had this center in our lives there was a humility to consider others more important than ourselves," he explained. His talk opened doors for more conversation. One such conversation:

What Kyle Asked

Kyle is a graduate student at Tulsa. After hearing Ridley speak, Kyle went to the office of business professor Dr. Toby Joplin, who had arranged the presentation in his classes. Kyle asked Dr. Joplin:

*What it is about David and you that is different?
You both seem so intentional about helping other people."*

Dr. Joplin emailed this story and said, "When Kyle asked me this I was reminded that the apostle Peter said to 'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have, but do this with gentleness and respect.' (1 Peter 3:15 NIV) I am thankful for those opportunities to be open about this when students ask me about my faith."

On university campuses across America there are thousands of Christian professors who see their offices not only as a place for research and class preparation ---- but also as a place to care for students and to show them the love of Christ and how to know Him on a personal basis.



Thanks for allowing us the privilege of representing you on so many campuses. There are many students like Kyle who are searching for meaning – who won't turn to a pastor or a campus minister for an answer but who will seek out a professor who, they hope, just might have some answers.