

SESSION 1: WHY BE A GREAT LEADER?

Prayer, Welcome and Ice Breaker Question: 20 minutes

Introduce yourself and talk about why you are doing this study and what you hope to get out of it

Session #1 Teaching: What does God say about leadership?: 5 minutes

Christian leadership is not rooted in worldly notions of success, such as the love of money or power. Jesus Himself spoke against this when expressing the importance of serving others in Matthew 20:25-28, where...Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Leading entails influencing people to think, say and behave in ways that take them from one place to another. Leading can be formal (you hold a position of authority in a group) or informal (you influence people but don't hold a position of authority). It is all too easy for a leader to get wrapped up in the "what, when and how" of leadership and miss what is even more important than the tangible results of completed tasks and goals met.

I want to start this study by challenging you to consider these Christian leadership principles that we will cover in more detail in each session:

1. Be Passionate for True Biblical Leadership: True Biblical leadership starts in the heart, NOT the head. Many of us have been trained to lead like dictators instead of loving servants. You can lead from any position by showing the heart of Jesus. In fact, instead of misleading or exploiting people, good leaders motivate others as seen in Nehemiah 2:17 as, "Nehemiah fearlessly motivated the people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem!" Nehemiah laid out a vision, and shared a plan and he reassured God's people that God was with them. When we are moving people for our benefit, we manipulate and exploit them. But when we call people to a higher purpose, ***we motivate them.***

2. Love & Modesty: God is love (1 John 4:8) and "the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Romans 5:5). Expressing the power and influence of the love of God is difficult to overemphasize. Love is central to Christianity and every Christian. Any Christian leader should be driven in his or her life by the love of God in anything that he or she does. In this light, may other people recognize the heart and motives of that leader. Proverbs 16:5 says the proud of heart are "an abomination" to God. Being arrogant does not help model or demonstrate Christ's interests. Rather, it is in direct conflict with Christian leadership. Proverbs 16:18-19 reminded us that...Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud.

3. Willingness to Grow in Integrity: Jesus modeled self-development, and one of the most striking examples of this is when He prayed in the garden at Gethsemane just before His arrest. Jesus knew “all things that would come upon Him” (John 18:4), including the painful flogging and crucifixion. Christian leaders can follow Jesus’ example of seeking God for insight into His will and for strength. Becoming more righteous is a lifelong process for all Christians, and leaders need to make time to grow spiritually. Good leaders practice and value integrity. Integrity involves actions as well as words. Integrity involves practicing what we preach, being consistent and dependable, doing what we say we will do and living in such a way that others will trust us.

4. Calm, Courage and Consistency: When leading, reacting with calming-the-storm words in tense situations is paramount! Servant leaders recognize the power of words and speak with words that people can understand, words that build self-esteem, words that calm the storm, and they do it in as few and simple words as possible. Leaders also need courage. Staying on mission takes courage. Making tough decisions no one will understand at the time takes courage. Doing what is right, every time, when those around you are trying to find an easy way out takes courage. Living your values on a moment-to-moment basis takes courage. Not allowing anyone or anything to change who you are even in those pressure moments takes courage. Lastly, when it comes to leadership of any kind, consistency is a vital component of success. People are drawn to consistency, but it takes time to demonstrate real and effective consistency in leadership

5. Following of God’s Will: There is NOTHING more important in a leader than seeking God’s direction! A good leader seeks the Lord, commits his way to the Lord and the Lord establishes the next steps

So, this study will be all about **developing Christian leadership**. In session #2, we will review what it means to be a “**servant leader**” in more detail, then we will review **5-pillars of servant leadership**, being passionate, using your heart and not just your head, being loving and modest, always willing to grow and not get stuck in your comfort zones, learning to be calm, courageous and consistent and finally, **ALWAYS following of God’s will!** We will wrap up this study with how to apply leadership in your personal life, professional life and what will God’s leadership plan for your future look like.

So, buckle up and get ready to go on a great ride toward being the Biblical leader God called you to be!

Small Group Discussion: 20 minutes

Reread Matthew 20:25–28 and discuss...

- What is your current style of leadership?
- How do you want to improve?

Review the 7 Christian leadership principles and discuss...

- Of the leadership principles, what are you doing well and where do you need the most improvement?
- Talk about and make some goals and commitments for yourself to your group!
- Pray as a group and ask the Holy Spirit to make your goals a reality.

Small Group Wrap-Up: 10 minutes

- What were the biggest take-aways and personal commitment from your small group time?

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

Focus on the ***LIFE Journaling Method*** and it will give you more insight to become a spiritual leader!

- Pray about your commitment to this study and rethink what you want to get out of it.

SESSION #1

WK. 1 DEVO 1

Re-Read Matthew 20:20-28

Journal about the importance of serving others.

L=Listen in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

F=Focus to the text to make it applicable for your own life. What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?

SESSION #1

WK. 1 DEVO 2

Read Nehemiah 2:11-20

Journal about how Nehemiah motivated others.

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SESSION #1

WK. 1 DEVO 3

Read Romans 5:1-11

Journal about how God's LOVE should be our driving force as leaders.

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SESSION #1

WK. 1 DEVO 4

Read John 18:1-14

Jesus modeled self-development, and one of the most striking examples of this is when He prayed in the garden at Gethsemane just before His arrest. How are YOU modeling?

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I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

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