

# SESSION 2: WHAT IS SERVANT LEADERSHIP?

Welcome & Review Last Week's Homework/LIFE Starters: 15 minutes

Session #2 Teaching: What is servant leadership?: 10 minutes

Many of us were raised with a picture of leadership that looked a lot like a dictatorship! The foundational pillar of this study and our culture at PBC is to understand that good leadership does at least two things... First it accomplishes worthwhile goals. Secondly, good leadership develops and transforms those who are being lead. Leadership is needed to transform vision into reality. The Bible tells us to be servant leaders and there are two components of servant-leadership; first is that of being a servant and the second is being a leader. "Servant" defines the timeless, changeless style and attitude that must be present in our lives. "Leadership" defines the responsibility. Servant-leaders who serve but do not lead may be wonderful servants but they are not servant-leaders. Romans 12:8 calls us to "lead with diligence." I believe we are ALL leaders since we have influence over others, which forces us to learn how to be responsible and accountable to lead, for the lack of leadership causes chaos. The lack of leadership is spelled out in Matthew 9:36, as the Bible tells us it produces followers who are "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." In God's kingdom, leaders serve us best by leading us and lead best by serving us. The essence, style and attitude of servant leadership is found in Philippians 2:3-5. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in the very nature God, ...made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant." The focus of servant leadership is on the **growth, success and welfare of the followers**. The primary focus of a servant-leader is on his or her followers rather than on self. It is this singular characteristic which defines servant-leadership. If you simply open your eyes, YOU will see the many people that are watching you. Those are the people you have influence over and you are leading them toward Jesus or NOT.

The ownership of that fact is critical and your acceptance of the leadership position God has entrusted you with **means everything**. If servanthood is merely a technique to advance yourself, you will fail. It's like trying to fake authenticity. Although many Christian leaders like to be seen as servant-leaders, few want to be treated as servants. For this reason, **servanthood must come from the heart** and I will devote the entire NEXT session to this truth. In later sessions we will also look at all the practical arenas where we are called to serve as leaders – in our homes, on our jobs, in our ministries and even here at PBC. If you can grasp the one common theme from this study and make sure that servant-leadership is genuine, you will be able to apply servant leadership in every arena where leading and serving are required. Leadership will allow you to find God's purpose and direction. Everything Jesus did from his baptism to the cross was laden with purpose. In being a servant-leader, his vision was clear. As a servant-leader he said to his potential followers, "I know where I'm going. I want you to go with me and I'll serve you by giving you what you need along the way." As a servant-leader he understood each disciple's giftedness, gave them work in line with their giftedness, held them accountable and helped them with their weaknesses.

He took time to explain, time and again, where he was going. To Jesus, servant-leadership was not a program but a response. He equipped his disciples to solve problems and make decisions in view of the stated mission. In fact, Jesus, **the most powerful human to ever walk this earth**, came to serve and not be served. When faced with His last 24 hours walking this earth He didn't go do exhilarating, self-serving things, instead He strapped on a towel and washed feet.

***If you want to live and lead like Jesus as much as I do, this is the RIGHT study for you!***

### ***Small Group Discussion: 20 minutes***

- Would your family and children (if you have any) tag you as a servant-leader? Why or why not? Discuss as a group.
- Are you serving your followers or trying to impress your superiors or protect your position?
- Are more followers becoming servant-leaders as a result of your servant-leadership? Are you developing those under you?
- Are the followers reaching their potential? Are they learning? Serving? Growing? Are you building leaders or followers? Who could replace you tomorrow?
- Are you and your followers accomplishing organizational goals?
- Are you sharing the credit and regularly saying "thanks"?

### ***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 embracing spiritual growth!

- Pray about how to become the servant leader at work and in your family and grow spiritually.

# SESSION #2

## WK. 2 DEVO 1

### **Read Romans 12**

*Journal about being called to “lead with diligence.”*

**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.

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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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**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?

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**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?

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# SESSION #2

## WK. 2 DEVO 2

### **Read Matthew 9:35-38**

*The workers are FEW. Are you willing to step up your leadership responsibilities?*

**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.

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# SESSION #2

## WK. 2 DEVO 3

### **Read Philippians 2**

*The essence, style and attitude of servant leadership is found in Philippians 2.*

*Journal about what you read.*

**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.

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# SESSION #2

## WK. 2 DEVO 4

### **Read James 1:19-27**

*Journal about “acting” on the word of God as a leader.*

**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.

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