

SESSION 8: BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL LIFE

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

Session #8 Teaching: How do I apply leadership in my professional life?: 15 minutes

You can do it! You CAN bring Jesus to work!

In John 10:11, the Bible says, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Good **leaders** must never forget they are servants who understand Jesus gave His life for His flock. You, too, must serve **at work** and never forget you are there to look out for your "flock" and serve others. Jesus submitted his own life to sacrificial service (Luke 22:42), and He sacrificed His life freely out of service for others (John 10:30). He came to serve (Matthew 20:28), although He was God's Son and was more powerful than any other leader in the world. He healed the sick (Mark 7:31-37), drove out demons (Mark 5:1-20), was recognized as Teacher and Lord (John 13:13), and had power over the wind and the sea and even over death (Mark 4:35-41; Matthew 9:18-26). As His followers and Christian leaders, **WE have the same calling on our life**. As a Christian business leader, you may read the info about and struggle with how to be an effective leader like Jesus, holding true to Christian values. Regardless if you supervise a few in your family or hundreds in your company, it is possible to be an effective leader and perform your job in a way that would make Christ proud, without being overly critical, condescending or authoritarian. Christian leadership qualities can be exhibited at work, at home, at church, at play and in your community. By following Christ's teachings in the workplace, you will accomplish the responsibilities and goals of your job while, at the same time, serving as a role model to other Christians who you lead.

You may be under a microscope at work and feel there is **NO way you can share your Christian values** as a corporate leader, but there IS a way! **Be a GREAT MODEL for Christ!** 1 Peter 5:1-3 tells us, "To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock." Be a role model to those you lead, so they will behave and work as your example has shown. Do not lead for dishonest gain or to promote your status over your underlings. As we have taught over and over again in this study, serve others because you want to not because you have to and be an example to your staff.

Treat your work as a calling, NOT just a job! Many people discuss job or career in terms of "calling" — it's prevalent in much of the writing and conversations surrounding the topic of leadership. Particularly among Christians, one's occupation is often talked about in relation to God's "calling." And yet, only about one-third of Christians (34%) feel called to the work they currently do.

It's illuminating to learn how few Christians believe they're called to do what they do. This data presents a challenge to the popular Christian understanding of career as calling since most Christians in the U.S. don't seem to be thinking about their jobs in terms of calling. Most of the data suggests the concept of calling is not on their radar. If people don't feel as if they're being called to their job, does that really matter to the quality of the work they do or the lives they maintain?

Let's follow the trend of the younger generation of leaders who desire to see their careers as a calling—and **stop the disconnect between career and calling**. Let's be intentional to spend more time with God to understand HIS purpose for our lives, so we can connect our faith more holistically with our life!

Stop compartmentalizing faith, life and work and be a true LEADER for LIFE!

Small Group Discussion: 15 minutes

- Do you struggle being overly critical, condescending or act as an authoritarian leader?
- Reread Peter 5:1-3 and talk about how you can improve your "modeling" of the leadership qualities we've covered in this study, both at HOME AND WORK!
- Do YOU treat your work as a calling , or just a job? Why or why not?
- Do you compartmentalize faith, life and work ? Are YOU willing to connect your faith more holistically with your life?

Small Group Wrap-Up: 10 minutes

- What were the biggest take-aways and action items from your small group time?

Discuss This Week's Homework: 5 minutes

SESSION #8

WK. 8 DEVO 1

Read Colossians 3:1-17

Are YOU doing EVERYTHING in the name of Jesus Christ?

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 #8

WK. 8 DEVO 2

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-10

Your gifts are God-given. Are you using them for Him?

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SESSION #8

WK. 8 DEVO 3

Read Colossians 3:18-25

God's gifts are given for use in all areas of YOUR life, including in the workplace. These gifts and skills provide an element of guidance for discerning God's guidance.

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SESSION #8

WK. 8 DEVO 4

Read 1 Peter 5

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