

In Jesus Steps

Disciples for Life

ANSWERS: Unit 3: Christian Leadership

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ

Lesson One A Leadership Model

Day One *Leadership Defined*

Bible reference in lesson:

...and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. Acts 11:26

1. Read Philippians 2:5–8. How is being overly concerned with ourselves (self-absorption) contrary (different; opposed) to being a follower of Christ (Christian)?

Jesus taught the opposite of being self-absorbed. We should have the same mindset as Jesus. We should be more interested in serving others than serving ourselves. Jesus is our example who made Himself nothing by taking on the very nature of a servant. He even died on the cross so others could have their sins forgiven.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Philippians 2:5–8

2. Have you been overly concerned with yourself (self-absorbed)? Yes No Maybe (Underline One)

Personal answer, but for most of us, this is an ongoing battle. We need to die to self daily and constantly rely on the Holy Spirit for love and compassion for others.

3. How was Rachel Saint God-centered and not self-centered?

Rachel was interested in serving God and following His plan for her life. She gave up an opportunity to have plenty of money and live a self-indulgent life.

4. Read 2 Corinthians 10:4–5. What can *you* do to become more God-centered?

Personal answer but the Bible assures us that we have God's power to demolish our egotism (self-importance) and pride. In Christ, we can triumph over our fleshly self-centeredness and become God-centered. We need to pray, obey God's word and trust Him to help us.

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
2 Corinthians 10:4–5

5. Read 1 Peter 4:16, 19. Why do you think Peter says that if you suffer as a Christian, praise God?

However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 1 Peter 4:16

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. 1 Peter 4:19

Suffering as a Christian means we are suffering because we are following Jesus. Even though we are walking as Jesus did and helping others, we may go through painful trials and persecutions (oppression). We praise God because our identity is in Christ, and we have been found worthy to uphold His holy name by suffering in obedience to God's plan and purposes.

Bible references in lesson:

Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 3:8–11

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

6. Review the seven ways Jesus leads from the above paragraphs. Write the one that is most meaningful to you and why.

Personal answer—the seven ways Jesus leads per the word “lead” follows:

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answer to # 6 with your discipleship team.

In a real sense all the meanings of the word lead apply to Jesus, the preeminent (most excellent) Leader. *First*, He showed the way by going in advance; He was born of a woman and lived on earth. He is the firstborn among many brothers. *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.* Romans 8:29 *Second*, He guides and directs Christians in the right course. *I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—*John 10:14 *Third*, He is the path of life. He is the way or channel to God. *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* John 14:6 *Fourth*, He guides us in all truth that affects our behavior and opinions. *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* John 1:17 *Fifth*, He directs our works and activities (John 10:16). He inspires us to be pure and holy. . . .*you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.* 1 Peter 2:5 *Sixth*, He is the head and at the head of everything. *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.* ¹⁶*For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.* ¹⁷*He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* ¹⁸*And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.* Colossians 1:15–18 *Seventh*, He is foremost in and among all men, women and all angels. . . .*that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,* ¹¹*and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* Philippians 2:10–11; *To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.* Revelation 3:14

Action Step: Pray the following leadership prayer in sincerity:

Lord Jesus, You are an excellent Leader. Everything You do is good. Your ways are far superior to my ways and I long to follow You completely. I pray that You lead me in *every* area of my life. Make me a leader totally identified with You, my Lord. May I lead with a pure heart giving all the glory to our triune God. Amen.

7. I have prayed the leadership prayer. Yes No (Underline One)

Personal Answer

—End Day One—

Day Two
The Model

8. Read John 13:15-16. Who is the model or example for building a Christian leader?

Jesus

I [Jesus] have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.
John 13:15–16

9. Read 2 Timothy 3:16–17. Where do you find the instructions for following the *Model*?

The Bible, Scripture or the Word.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16–17

Read John 14:26 and 2 Corinthians 3:18 and answer question 10:

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
2 Corinthians 3:18 (Contemplate means to think about carefully or to meditate.)

10. How can *you* follow Jesus and be a leader of excellence?

Personal answer, but the Holy Spirit helps us to follow Jesus and become a leader like Him. We are being transformed or changed into His likeness throughout our life. It is a long building process; therefore, we keep our eyes on the glorious face of Jesus. This is the face that we will resemble in the end.

Action Step: Ask God to speak to you personally through the following verses:

Whoever serves me [Jesus] must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. John 12:26

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 1 Peter 2:21

11. What did God say or impress upon you through reading John 12:26 and 1 Peter 2:21?

Personal answer. Discipleship team, encourage other's personal communication with God.

—End Day Two—

Day Three

The Chief Cornerstone

12. What happens if you begin your project with faulty or defective materials?

Your finished product or project will also be faulty and defective. It will be inferior.

13. If you have a real-life story of a project that you built with defective materials, share what happened:

Personal Answer

14. What would you do if you discovered your building materials were of inferior quality?

Personal answer, but hopefully start over with the proper materials.

Read Luke 6:47–49 and answer questions 15–20:

“As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.” Luke 6:47–49

15. Jesus gives an example of a person who hears His words and puts them into ___ **practice** ___ (v. 47a) and a person who hears His words and does ___ **not** ___ (v.49a) put them into ___ **practice** ___ (v.49a)?

16. The person who puts Jesus' words into practice is like a man building a house and laid the foundation on ___ **rock** ___ (v. 48a).

17. The person who does not put Jesus' words into practice is like a man building a house on the ground without a ___ **foundation** ___ (v. 49b).

18. When the flood came, what happened to the house built on rock (v. 48c)?

It was not shaken. It stood firm and did not collapse.

19. When the flood came, what happened to the house built without a foundation (v. 49c)?

It collapsed and its destruction was complete.

20. What is the moral or point of Jesus' story?

Jesus is making the point that we must listen and obey Him. If we only listen to Him and do not do what He says, we run the risk of falling apart during trials (Luke 6:47-49) or facing judgment (Matthew 7:26-27). The metaphor of the houses, either standing or falling, also vividly pictures Jesus' authority and the power of His teaching.

Bible references in lesson:

Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him. Mark 4:20

He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice." Luke 8:21

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22

Read Ephesians 2:19–22 and answer questions 21–22:

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:19–22

21. Who is the chief cornerstone and our strong leader (v. 20b)?

Jesus, Christ, Son of God, Messiah.

22. Believers are joined together in Christ as their leader to become a dwelling (home,

abode, residence) in which God lives by His _____ **Spirit** _____ (v. 22).

23. If there is anything keeping *you* from glorifying God by your total obedience to Jesus Christ, our Cornerstone and Lord, please share with your team.

Discipleship team, please prayerfully respond to each other's personal answer.

Action Step: Read 1 Corinthians 3:11–14 and respond to number 24:

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹²*If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,*

¹³*their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.* 1 Corinthians 3:11–14

24. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to recall any wrong foundation or building block in your own life. Confess (agree with God that you sinned) and repent (turn away) from your wrong actions. Ask God to help you build your life on Jesus Christ and nothing else. Pray that all you build on from this day forward will survive for His glory. I have prayed. Yes No (Underline One)

Personal answer. The disobedient will not want to turn from sins and prideful person will think they do not sin.

Accountability: Share your answer #23 with your discipleship team. Optional: share #24 as the Lord leads. Sharing should be an atmosphere of encouragement, prayer, and without judgment.

—End Day Three—

Day Four

Fully God and Fully Human (Part 1)

25. Why do you think Rachel Saint still wanted to reach the Auca Indians after they had killed her younger brother?

Personal answer, but something to this effect: Rachel laid her foundation on Christ, her chief cornerstone. Jesus' main ministry was about forgiveness. He died on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven, and we could be reconciled with God. Rachel was following her *Leader* in seeking those who needed to repent and be forgiven.

Read John 1:1–2 and answer questions 26–27:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. John 1:1–2

26. Is the Word God (v.1c)? Yes No (Underline One)

27. Who was with God the Father in the beginning (vs. 1–2)?

The Word. Jesus.

Read John 1:14 and answer questions 28-29:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

28. Who is the Word that became flesh?

Any of the following answers: The Son, God's Son, Jesus, Christ, Messiah.

29. Who made His dwelling (lived) with people as a human for a time?

Any of the following answers: The Son, God's Son, Jesus, Christ, Messiah.

Bible references in lesson:

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Genesis 1:3

30. Read Hebrews 1:3. Who is the exact representation of God's being?

Any of the following answers: The Son, God's Son, Jesus, Christ, Messiah.

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. Hebrew 1:3

31. Read John 8:58. Explain in your own words what Jesus was saying:

Jesus was telling the Jews that before Abraham, the father of the Jewish people was born, He existed. Abraham lived about 2,000 years before Jesus was born. In addition, Jesus could have said, "Before Abraham was born, I was." But He wanted to be crystal clear that He was claiming to be God. Therefore, Jesus said He is Yahweh (I AM).

"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" John 8:58

32. Read Colossians 2:9. How much of God lives in Jesus Christ?

All the fullness of God lives in Jesus.

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form . . . Colossians 2:9 (The word deity in Christianity refers to our Creator God and Supreme Being.)

33. Read Matthew 8:27. Who did the winds and waves obey?

Any of the following answers: The Son, God's Son, Jesus, Christ, Messiah.

The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!” Matthew 8:27 (Disciples’ reaction when Jesus calmed the storm.)

Bible references in lesson:

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Matthew 28:18

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." John 11:43–44

Action Step

34. Using Scripture, write in your own words why Jesus Christ is God. Let the Holy Spirit lead you to share this truth with someone. What happened?

Personal answer for sharing the truth with someone. The answer for the evidence for the divinity can include any of the Scripture used in the above lesson. According to the Bible, Jesus is the Word, and the Word is God. Jesus was with God in the beginning and is the exact representation of God’s being. (John 1:1–2, 8:58, John 14:6–7; Colossians 2:9)

Accountability: Be prepared to share your action step #34 within the next couple of weeks.

—End Day Four—

Day Five

Fully God and Fully Human (Part 2)

35. If there is anyone or any group of people that you believe are too wicked and sinful and, therefore, you do not want to be bothered with them, explain your answer:

Personal answer. Even if they answer yes, encourage them to seek God’s love and concern for everyone. We do not want to be critical when someone is being transparent and needs help in becoming more Christlike.

Accountability: Be prepared to share your answer with your team.

36. Read Luke 1:35. The angel told the Virgin Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.” Luke 1:35

Bible references in lesson:

After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. Matthew 4:2

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” John 19:28

Jesus wept. John 11:35

Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. John 4:6

The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” Matthew 4:3–4

Read Hebrews 4:15 and answer questions 37–38:

37. The high priest in Hebrews 4:15 is Jesus. Was He tempted? Yes No (Underline One)

38. If Jesus was tempted, did He sin? Yes No (Underline One)

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Hebrews 4:15

Read James 1:13–14 and answer questions 39–40:

39. Read James 1:13-14. Can God be tempted by evil? Yes No (Underline One)

40. Can God tempt anyone to sin or to do wrong? Yes No (Underline One)

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. James 1:13–14

Scripture states that Jesus is God and man. It also states that Jesus was tempted and yet, God cannot be tempted. How can both statements be true? Both are statements are true because Jesus has two natures.

Bible references in lesson:

... and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah. ¹⁷Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Matthew 1:16–17

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him . . . Colossians 1:19

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" John 20:28

41. Read Mark 13:32. Which of Jesus' natures did not know the date of His second coming?

Jesus in His human nature did not know when He would return.

But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Mark 13:32 (Jesus is talking about end times, when He will return to the earth.)

42. Read Luke 24:50–51. Jesus entered the world with a human body. Is Jesus returning to the Father with a human body (Also see Luke 24:39; Philippians 3:21)? Yes No (Underline One)

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.

⁵¹*While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Luke 24:50–51*

Bible references in lesson:

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus . . . 1 Timothy 2:5

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet he did not sin. Hebrews 4:15
God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21*

Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Hebrews 7:26

Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have. Luke 24:39

"Look, he is coming with the clouds," and "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him." So shall it be! Amen. ⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:7–8

43. Read John 14:23 below. Which of Jesus' natures lives within believers (see 1 John 3:24)?

Divine nature or God nature.

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." John 14:23

The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us. 1 John 3:24

Bible references in lesson:

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20*

. . . so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love . . . Ephesians 3:17

Action Step

44. Pray and ask God who you should tell about Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in planting seeds or sharing the full gospel of Jesus, born, died and raised for our sins. Write on your experience:

Discipleship teams, support each other in your personal answers. Also encourage each other in sharing the gospel and relying on the Holy Spirit.

Accountability: Be prepared to share your action step #43 with your team when completed.

Bible references in lesson:

. . . if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Romans 12:8

But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:5

—End Day Five Answers and Lesson 1—

Next—Unit 3: Christian Leadership, Lesson 2: Triple Love Poured Out

Rev 4/10/2023