

Seminar 4 - Servant Leadership for Today – Part 1

This Leadership Seminar is offered in two parts and will be studied over several months. Designed for those in Christian ministry, the sessions will help you identify and unwrap the character and competence qualities needed to become a godly leader. Because leaders face a wide variety of challenges and opportunities, a servant's heart and a keen appreciation for the priorities of God's kingdom are necessary. As you work through both parts of the Seminar, ask the Lord to enlarge your vision for how you can keep in step with Christ as you follow him each day. Part 1 focuses on the following themes:

- 1. Godly leaders are identified and grow through a God-ordained process.**
- 2. Godly leaders understand the strength and impact of Christ-like character.**
- 3. Godly leaders are called to serve in places and situations that demand faithfulness.**
- 4. Godly leaders are committed to pursuing a life of servant leadership.**

Contents of Seminar 4 – Part 1

1. The Character of a Leader
2. Growing as a Leader – Developing a Long-term Commitment
3. Leadership Lessons and Traits Learned from Bible Characters
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 - B. Abraham
 - C. Joseph
 - D. Moses
 - E. Gideon
 - F. David
 - G. Daniel
 - H. John the Baptist
 - I. The Apostle Peter
 - J. The Apostle Paul
4. Pursuing a Life of Servant Leadership



Session 1 – The Character of a Leader

Leadership is part of God's design for his church. Without proper leaders, God's people are stymied and lose their way. With them, God's people flourish. By his design, God calls individuals to serve as leaders in building his Kingdom and in pursuit of the Lord's majestic purposes for this world.

An effective Christian leader recognizes who they are serving and to whom they will ultimately give an account. Humility, obedience, and a heart for the things of God replace the seeking of position, power, or prestige. In Part 1 of Seminar 4, we will consider the essential attitudes of and God's design for the growth of biblical leaders.

Introduction: Let's Think About Leaders and Leadership

Assignment- Watch Seminar 4 – Part 1 Session 1 - “The Character of a Leader” on YouTube link <https://youtu.be/rBJbtppg1Vw>

To begin our consideration of leaders and the role leadership plays in the church, team up with another person and answer the following questions. Be ready to report your definition of a leader to the larger group when you are finished.

Who are the leaders in your life?

Which leaders inspire you and why?

How does one become a leader?

What is it that you look for in a leader?

Why do people follow leaders?

Why don't people follow leaders?

What skills must people have to succeed in Christian ministry?

What Leadership characteristics are necessary for one to be a good leader?

What types of leaders are found in African settings?

What is your definition of a leadership?

- **“Leadership is first of all not something one does but something one is.”** (Leighton Ford, *Transforming Leadership*, IVP, p.38)
- **“A leader is a person with God-given capacity and God-given responsibility to influence a specific group of God’s people towards God’s purposes for the group.”** (Robert Clinton, *The Making of a Leaders*, NavPress, p.197)

What character qualities do we learn from the incarnation of Jesus? Though there can be many answers to this question, let’s look at two New Testament incarnation passages that offer clear guidance. *The Prologue of John’s Gospel (1:1-18)* describes Christ as a light in a world that fails to comprehend God and his ways. Jesus’ incarnation reveals life as it is meant to be lived (see *John 1:14*). In *Philippians 2:5-11*, the Apostle Paul used an early church hymn to describe how Jesus humbly served this world. **Assignment: circle the leadership qualities found in the following passages and discuss your discoveries in the large group.**

John 1:14 – The Word became flesh and lived for a while among you. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Philippians 2:5-11- *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus*

Who being in very nature God,

*did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.*

*And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself
and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!*

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

What does good Leadership require? Leadership is the ability to motivate a group of people to act toward achieving a common goal. “A position or office is no guarantee of leadership but it helps in the sense that a leadership position usually commands a listening ear from its people and is a good starting point for anyone who desires to be a leader.”



Jesus Teaches His Disciples About Leadership

Mark's Gospel illustrates how Jesus' disciples misunderstood the nature of leadership as they were constantly challenging Jesus, while accepting their culture's view of leadership. *Mark 8:27-30* serves as the turning point in Mark's Gospel when Jesus asks two questions of his disciples; "*Who do people say I am?*" and "*What about you?*" After the disciples revealed the crowd's perspective of Jesus as a religious figure, Jesus wanted their personal response to the question. Following Peter's response "*You are the Christ*" Jesus warned them not to tell anyone. He then began his strategic emphasis on leadership development. The disciples needed to understand that his role as LORD is radically different from any earthly ruler. So do we! *Mark 8:31-10:52* describes how Jesus prepares his disciples for their future leadership role in the church. **Assignment:** **In your small group, study the assigned Mark passages by using the questions provided. Identify the issues behind the contrasting views of Jesus and his disciples and apply the truths of Jesus teaching to your lives. Be ready to share your ideas with the larger group.**

TEXT

DISCIPLES' VIEW

JESUS' VIEW

Mark 8:31-9:1

Opposed a suffering Messiah

Speaks of denial and sacrifice

- Imagine and describe all the interpersonal dynamics found in this event.
- What was behind Peter's response to Jesus' teaching?
- How did Jesus correct the disciples lack of understanding?
- What truths do you need to apply to your life as a servant leader?

Mark 9:2-13

Stay on glorious mountain

Return to engage evil

- Imagine and describe all the interpersonal dynamics found in this event.
- What was behind Peter's response to what happened on the mountain?
- How was the disciples' lack of understanding corrected?
- What truth can you apply to your life as a servant leader?

Mark 9:14-29

Wondering about lack of power

Understand the power of prayer

- Imagine and describe all the interpersonal dynamics found in this event.
- How was the disciples' lack of understanding corrected by Jesus?
- What truth can you apply to your life as a servant leader?

TEXT

DISCIPLES' VIEW

JESUS' VIEW

Mark 9:30-37

Arguing who is the greatest

Need for child-like faith

- Imagine and describe all the interpersonal dynamics found in this event.
- What was behind the disciples' desire for positions of power?
- How does Jesus correction of his disciples apply to your life as a servant leader?

Mark 9:38-50

Jealousy about other workers

Affirming Kingdom work

- Imagine and describe all the interpersonal dynamics found in this event.
- What causes jealousy in ministry?
- How was the disciples' lack of understanding corrected?
- What truth can you apply to your life as a servant leader?

Mark 10:1-12

Interpretation of Religious leaders Interpret Scripture correctly

- Imagine and describe all the interpersonal dynamics found in this event.
- How does Jesus affirm foundational truths in Scripture?
- Why might the disciples not understand the Lord's answer to the Pharisee's question?
- What do you need to affirm as a servant leader?

Mark 10:13-16

Define who is important

Children matter to God

- Imagine and describe all the interpersonal dynamics found in this event.
- How did Jesus correct the disciples' lack of understanding?
- What truth can you apply to your life as a servant leader?

Mark 10:17-31

Rich people have more status

Riches in following Jesus

- Imagine and describe all the interpersonal dynamics found in this event.
- What was at the heart of the young man's question regarding eternal life?
- How did Jesus teach the disciples and correct their lack of understanding?
- What does this passage teach you as a servant leader?

Mark 10:32-34

Astonished and afraid

Understand Christ's purpose

- Imagine and describe all the interpersonal dynamics found in this event.
- How was the disciples' fear addressed by Jesus?
- What truth can you apply to your life as a servant leader?

TEXT

DISCIPLES' VIEW

JESUS' VIEW

Mark 10:35-45

Power and position

Greatness of serving

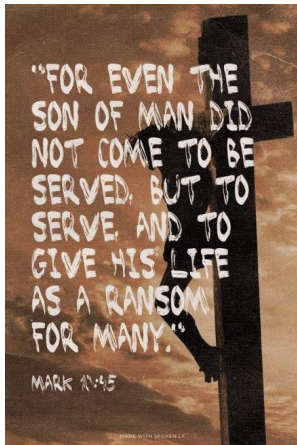
- Imagine and describe all the interpersonal dynamics found in this event.
- Identify some reasons people seek to have a powerful position over others?
- How was the disciples' lack of understanding corrected by Jesus?
- What actions must you identify and truths you should apply as a servant leader?

Mark 10:46-52

Agenda interrupted

All people are important

- Imagine and describe all the interpersonal dynamics found in this event.
- What did the disciples need to learn from this event?
- What truth can you apply to your life as a servant leader?



After sharing what you learned with the large group, end the session by answering these questions in a large group discussion.

- What are some reasons a person wants a position of honor and recognition?
- What is Jesus' view of position, power, and prestige?
- What was Jesus' biggest concern about the disciples in these chapters?
- What do these passages teach us about the leadership of Jesus?
- What principles will you apply in your leadership role this month?

Before Session 2 begins, gather back in your small groups, and pray together by asking the Lord to shape your character and keep your focus on pursuing Kingdom priorities in order to lead like Jesus.