



ABIDEROOTED

7 Days to Lead Like Christ

A Journey from Earthly Power to Servant Leadership



LEADERS · 7-DAY JOURNEY · FREE RESOURCE

Begin Here

A 7-day devotional journey for Christian leaders to embrace servant leadership, cultivate humility, character, wisdom, and influence, and learn to abide in Christ as the source of true leadership.

Leadership is a sacred trust, yet it is often pursued with the world's tools of power, position, and prestige. Jesus turned this upside down. In Mark 10, He calls His disciples—and us—to a radically different way: leadership through servanthood. This 7-day journey will guide you to examine your heart, embrace humility, build character, seek wisdom, serve sacrificially, and influence others with Christ-like love. Each day includes Scripture, teaching, a practice, reflection questions, and a prayer to help you lead like Christ.

TEACHING

The Call to Servant Leadership

Mark 10:42-45

“But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

In the world, leadership is often measured by the number of people who serve you, the size of your platform, or the strength of your authority. But Jesus calls His followers to a different standard. When James and John asked for positions of honor, Jesus used the moment to redefine greatness. He contrasted the oppressive rule of Gentile leaders with the kingdom's way: true greatness is found in being a servant. Jesus didn't just teach this; He lived it. He, the Son of God, came not to be served but to serve, and ultimately gave His life as a ransom for many. As a Christian leader, your calling is not to climb the ladder of worldly success but to descend into the posture of a servant. This means putting the needs of those you lead before your own comfort, reputation, and ambition. It means washing feet, even when no one is watching. Reflect on your leadership: Are you seeking to be served or to serve? Are you using your position to benefit yourself or to bless others? Let this day mark the beginning of a transformation in your

leadership—a shift from seeking power to embracing servanthood.

Put It Into Practice

Identify one concrete way you can serve someone on your team or in your organization this week without seeking recognition. Do it as unto the Lord.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. In what areas of your leadership do you find yourself seeking power or recognition rather than serving?
2. How does Jesus' example of giving His life as a ransom change the way you view sacrifice in leadership?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the ultimate example of servant leadership. Forgive me for the times I have sought my own glory. Transform my heart to truly serve others as You served. Help me to lead with humility and love. Amen.

TEACHING

Humility: The Foundation of Christlike Leadership

Philippians 2:3-8

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. It is the foundation upon which Christlike leadership is built. Paul urges us to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus, who, though He was God, did not cling to His divine privileges but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant. He humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross. This is the pattern for our leadership. Humility begins with how we view others: we are to consider others as more important than ourselves. This does not mean we have low self-worth, but that we recognize the value and needs of those around us. In practical terms, humility in leadership means being open to feedback, admitting when you are wrong, celebrating the successes of others, and being willing to do the tasks that are beneath your position. It means not being threatened by the gifts of others but rejoicing

in them. When we lead with humility, we create an environment where others can flourish. We also reflect the character of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. Today, examine your heart: Are there areas where pride has crept in? Are you more concerned with your reputation than with the well-being of those you lead? Ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate in you the mind of Christ.

Put It Into Practice

Write down three ways you can intentionally esteem others better than yourself in your leadership role this week. Choose one and put it into practice today.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. What does it mean for you to 'empty yourself' in your leadership context?
2. How can you practically demonstrate that you value the people you lead more than your own position?

Prayer

Father, I confess my pride and self-centeredness. Give me the humility of Christ, who made Himself nothing for our sake. Help me to consider others as more important than myself and to serve them with joy. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Character: The Heart of a Leader

1 Timothy 3:1-7

“This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

Leadership is not primarily about skills, strategies, or charisma; it is about character. Paul's qualifications for overseers are largely about moral and ethical integrity. A leader must be blameless, self-controlled, hospitable, gentle, not quarrelsome, and free from the love of money. He must manage his own household well, for if he cannot lead his family, how can he care for the church? These qualities are not optional extras; they are essential for anyone who desires to lead in God's kingdom. Character is forged in the quiet moments of private obedience, in the choices we make when no one is watching. It is built through prayer, study of Scripture, and reliance on the Holy Spirit. As a leader, your character is your most valuable asset. It earns you the trust of those you lead and gives

credibility to your message. Without character, even the most gifted leader will eventually fall. Today, take an honest look at your life. Are there areas of inconsistency or hidden sin? Are you cultivating the fruit of the Spirit in your daily walk? Remember, God is more concerned with who you are than with what you do. Allow Him to shape your character so that your leadership flows from a heart that is fully devoted to Him.

Put It Into Practice

Spend time in self-examination, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal any area of your character that does not align with the qualifications in 1 Timothy 3. Confess and repent, and take one step toward growth in that area.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. Which of the character qualities listed in 1 Timothy 3 do you find most challenging, and why?
2. How does your private life (your 'household') reflect your readiness for public leadership?

Prayer

Lord, I desire to be a leader of good character. Search me and know my heart; reveal any wicked way in me. By Your Spirit, cultivate in me the qualities that honor You and build trust with those I lead. In Jesus' name, Amen.

TEACHING

Wisdom: Leading with God's Perspective

James 3:13-18

“Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.”

Every leader faces decisions that require wisdom. But where do we turn for wisdom? James distinguishes between two kinds of wisdom: earthly wisdom, which is marked by envy, selfish ambition, and disorder, and heavenly wisdom, which is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Earthly wisdom may achieve short-term success, but it leads to confusion and evil. Heavenly wisdom comes from God and produces righteousness. As Christian leaders, we must seek wisdom from above. This wisdom is not merely intellectual knowledge; it is a way of living that reflects God's character. It begins with the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 9:10) and is cultivated through prayer, meditation on Scripture, and the counsel of godly mentors. In

practical terms, heavenly wisdom helps us navigate complex situations with grace and truth. It enables us to be peacemakers, to show mercy, and to act without favoritism or hypocrisy. When you face a difficult decision, do you rely on your own understanding or do you seek God's perspective? Are your motives pure, or are they tainted by selfish ambition? Ask God for wisdom, and He promises to give it generously (James 1:5). Let your leadership be marked by the wisdom that comes from above.

Put It Into Practice

Identify a current leadership decision you need to make. Spend time in prayer, asking God for wisdom, and write down any Scripture or principles that come to mind. Seek counsel from a godly mentor if possible.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. In what situations are you tempted to rely on earthly wisdom (selfish ambition, manipulation) rather than God's wisdom?
2. How can you cultivate a heart that is open to the wisdom from above?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, You are the source of all wisdom. I confess that I often rely on my own understanding. Grant me the wisdom that is pure, peaceable, gentle, and full of mercy. Guide my decisions and help me to lead with Your perspective. In Jesus' name, Amen.

TEACHING

Service: Leading by Washing Feet

John 13:12-17

“So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”

In the upper room, Jesus performed an act that shocked His disciples: He, their Lord and Teacher, took off His outer clothing, wrapped a towel around His waist, and washed their dusty feet. This was a task reserved for the lowest servant, yet Jesus did it willingly. Afterward, He explained that He had given them an example: they were to serve one another in the same way. This is the essence of Christian leadership—leading by serving. Jesus did not just talk about servanthood; He demonstrated it in the most humiliating way possible. He calls us to do the same. Washing feet is not about the literal act but about a posture of heart. It means being willing to do the lowliest tasks, to meet the needs of others, and to serve without expecting anything in return. It means laying down our pride and our rights for the sake of others. As leaders, we may be tempted to think that certain tasks are beneath us. But Jesus, the King of Kings, washed feet. If He did, who are we to

refuse any act of service? When we serve, we not only bless others but also experience the joy that comes from obedience. Jesus said, 'If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.' True happiness in leadership is found not in being served but in serving.

Put It Into Practice

Perform a 'foot-washing' act of service for someone you lead—something that is below your pay grade or that you would normally delegate. Do it with a joyful heart.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. What 'dusty feet' situations are you avoiding in your leadership because they seem beneath you?
2. How does Jesus' example of washing feet challenge your definition of success as a leader?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing us the way of servanthood. Forgive me for the pride that makes me avoid humble tasks. Give me a servant's heart, willing to wash the feet of those I lead. Help me to find joy in serving others as You have served me. Amen.

Influence: Leading by Example

1 Peter 5:1-4

“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

Peter, a fellow elder, exhorts leaders to shepherd the flock of God willingly, eagerly, and as examples. He warns against two common pitfalls: leading out of obligation or for financial gain, and lording it over those entrusted to us. Instead, we are to lead by example. Influence in God's kingdom is not exerted through coercion or authority but through the power of a transformed life. People are more likely to follow what we do than what we say. Our lives are open books, and those we lead are reading them. This is a sobering thought. It means that our character, our integrity, our devotion to Christ, and our love for others are on display. We cannot lead others where we have not been ourselves. Peter points to the ultimate reward: when the Chief Shepherd appears, we will receive a crown of glory that never fades. This eternal perspective frees us from the need for immediate recognition or applause. We lead for an audience of One. As you consider your influence, ask yourself: Am I leading by example? Do my actions align with my words?

Am I shepherding with a willing heart, not out of duty or greed?
Are there areas of my life that would cause others to stumble?
Commit to being an example that points others to Christ.

Put It Into Practice

Identify one area of your life where your example may not align with your words. Take a concrete step to align them, and share your struggle with a trusted accountability partner.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. In what ways are you tempted to 'lord it over' those you lead rather than being an example?
2. How does the promise of the 'crown of glory' change your motivation for leadership?

Prayer

Chief Shepherd, I want to lead as an example, not as a lord. Forgive me for the times I have misused my authority. Help me to shepherd the flock You have entrusted to me with a willing heart, eager to serve, and looking forward to Your appearing. Amen.

TEACHING

Abiding: The Source of Christlike Leadership

John 15:4-5

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

All true leadership flows from abiding in Christ. Jesus used the metaphor of the vine and branches to teach us that we can do nothing apart from Him. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit by its own effort but must remain connected to the vine, so we cannot lead effectively unless we remain in Christ. Abiding means maintaining a vital, intimate connection with Jesus through prayer, Scripture, and obedience. It is not about striving or performing but about resting in His presence and drawing life from Him. When we abide, the Holy Spirit produces fruit in us—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). These are the qualities that make our leadership Christlike. Without abiding, our efforts are in vain; we may achieve worldly success, but we will not bear eternal fruit. As we conclude this journey, we are reminded that leadership is not about our own abilities but about Christ working through us. We are called to be channels of His grace, not sources of our own. The key to leading like Christ is to stay connected to Him. Make abiding your top priority. Spend time with Him daily, listen

to His voice, and obey His commands. Then, your leadership will naturally overflow with His life and love.

Put It Into Practice

Set aside a specific time each day this week to abide in Christ—reading Scripture, praying, and simply being in His presence. Let this be the foundation of your leadership.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. What does 'abiding in Christ' look like practically in your daily leadership routine?
2. In what areas are you trying to bear fruit in your own strength instead of relying on Christ?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the vine, and I am a branch. I confess that I often try to lead in my own strength. Teach me to abide in You daily. Draw me close to Your heart, and let Your life flow through me so that I may bear much fruit for Your glory. Amen.

Continue Abiding

As you step back into your leadership role, remember that Christ has called you to a different kind of leadership—one marked by humility, character, wisdom, service, and influence that flows from abiding in Him. You are not alone; the Holy Spirit empowers you to lead like Christ. May you be a faithful steward of the people God has entrusted to you, always pointing them to the Chief Shepherd. Go in grace, serve in love, and lead for His glory.



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