



ABIDEROOTED

Leading Like Christ: Servant Leadership for Everyday Influence

A Six-Session Guide to Humble, Wise, and Faithful
Leadership



LEADERS · LEADERSHIP GUIDE · FREE RESOURCE

Using this guide

Read the full Scripture passage before the reflection. Choose one practical response, then pray in your own words. Work at a sustainable pace; days and sessions may be repeated. People may pass on a group question.

Find your next section

Begin Here

The Heart of a Servant Leader

Wisdom for the Journey

Integrity in the Small Things

Serving Through Suffering

Empowering Others to Lead

Leading with Eternal Perspective

Continue Abiding

Scripture quotations use the King James Version (KJV). Short quotations may be excerpts; read the cited passage in context. Prayer starters and reflections are devotional writing, not additional Scripture.

Reviewed edition | October 2026 | AbideRooted

Begin Here

A six-session leadership guide for Christian leaders and emerging leaders, focusing on developing a servant leadership character rooted in Christ. Each session includes Scripture, teaching, practical activities, reflection questions, and prayer, covering humility, wisdom, integrity, suffering, empowerment, and eternal perspective.

Leadership is not about position or power; it is about following Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve. This guide invites you to examine your leadership through the lens of Christ's example, so that your influence flows from a heart of humility and love. Over six sessions, you will explore the character, decisions, and practices of a servant leader, and be equipped to lead with eternal impact in your everyday spheres of influence.

TEACHING

The Heart of a Servant Leader

Philippians 2:3-5

“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:”

True leadership begins in the heart. Paul's exhortation to the Philippians cuts against the grain of worldly ambition: we are to do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than ourselves. This is not low self-esteem; it is the mindset of Christ, who, though equal with God, emptied Himself for our sake. As leaders, our default is often to protect our status, promote our vision, and prioritize our comfort. But servant leadership reorients us: we are to look not only to our own interests but also to the interests of others. This means actively seeking the good of those we lead, even at personal cost. Consider how you view your team, your colleagues, or your family. Do you see them as instruments for your goals, or as people for whom Christ died? The heart of a servant leader is marked by genuine humility that flows from a secure identity in Christ. When we know we are loved and accepted by God, we are free to lower ourselves and

lift others up. This session calls you to examine the motives behind your leadership. Are you seeking glory for yourself or for God? Are you willing to take the lowest place? Let the mind of Christ shape your heart today.

Put It Into Practice

This week, intentionally put the interests of someone you lead before your own. For example, listen without interrupting, offer help without being asked, or publicly praise their contribution. At the end of the day, reflect on how this posture affected your attitude and theirs.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. What are some areas where you tend to act out of selfish ambition or conceit?
2. How does knowing you are secure in Christ enable you to serve others humbly?
3. Who is one person you can intentionally esteem as better than yourself this week?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the perfect example of humility. Forgive me for the times I have led with pride and self-interest. Transform my heart to have Your mind, so that I may genuinely consider others as more important than myself. Help me to serve with joy, knowing that my identity is secure in You. Amen.

Wisdom for the Journey

James 3:17

“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.”

Leadership is filled with decisions, and the quality of those decisions depends on the source of your wisdom. James contrasts earthly wisdom - marked by envy and selfish ambition - with heavenly wisdom, which is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. As a leader, you may be tempted to rely on your own insight, popular opinion, or strategic calculation. But godly wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord and is received through prayer and the Word. It is not merely intellectual knowledge; it is practical skill for living that reflects God's character. When you lead with heavenly wisdom, you pursue purity in your motives, peace in your relationships, gentleness in your words, and mercy in your judgments. You are willing to listen and be reasoned with, not stubborn or defensive. You treat people without favoritism, and your actions match your words. This kind of wisdom builds trust and honors God. In your leadership, you will face complex problems and conflicting voices. Instead of rushing to a solution, pause and ask God for wisdom. Seek counsel from mature believers, and

test your plans against the character of Christ. Heavenly wisdom may not always be the fastest or most popular path, but it is the path that leads to life and blessing. Let your leadership be marked by wisdom from above, so that your influence is a channel of God's grace.

Put It Into Practice

Before making a significant decision this week, write down the options and evaluate them against the characteristics of James 3:17. Ask: Is this pure? Peaceable? Gentle? Merciful? Seek the counsel of a wise Christian friend and pray for wisdom before acting.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. In what areas of leadership do you tend to rely on your own wisdom rather than seeking God's?
2. Which characteristic of heavenly wisdom (purity, peace, gentleness, etc.) is most lacking in your current leadership?
3. How can you cultivate a habit of seeking wisdom from above in your daily decisions?

Prayer

Father, You are the source of all wisdom. I confess that I often lean on my own understanding. Grant me the wisdom that comes from above - pure, peaceable, gentle, and full of mercy. Help me to lead with discernment and humility, seeking Your will in all things. In Jesus' name, Amen.

TEACHING

Integrity in the Small Things

Luke 16:10

“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.”

Leadership is often tested in the small, unseen moments. Jesus taught that faithfulness in little things is the foundation for faithfulness in great responsibilities. The way you handle minor tasks, small sums of money, or routine interactions reveals your character. If you are dishonest or negligent when no one is watching, you will likely be so when the stakes are higher. Integrity means being the same person in private as in public, and aligning your actions with your values even when it costs you. As a leader, you may be tempted to cut corners, exaggerate results, or take credit for others' work. But God sees all, and He calls you to be blameless and pure in a crooked generation. Integrity builds a reputation that opens doors for greater influence and glorifies God. Consider the small things in your leadership: your punctuality, your preparation for meetings, your honesty in reporting, your respect for others' time. Are you faithful in these? Do you keep your promises, even when it is inconvenient? The discipline of integrity in small matters prepares you for larger responsibilities and demonstrates that you

can be trusted with God's resources. Moreover, integrity is not just about avoiding wrong; it is about actively doing what is right. It involves transparency, accountability, and a willingness to admit mistakes. As you lead, remember that your character is your most valuable asset. Guard it with vigilance, and let your faithfulness in the little things be a testimony to the faithfulness of God.

Put It Into Practice

Identify one 'small thing' in your leadership that you have been neglecting or compromising (e.g., expense reports, timekeeping, follow-through on emails). Commit to handling it with complete integrity this week, and ask a trusted colleague or friend to hold you accountable.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. What small areas of your leadership are you tempted to compromise?
2. How does your private life align with your public leadership?
3. What is one step you can take to be more faithful in a 'least' thing this week?

Prayer

Lord, You are faithful in all things. Forgive me for the times I have been careless or dishonest in small matters. Create in me a heart of integrity, so that I may be faithful in little and in much. Help me to live transparently before You and others, and to honor You in every detail. Amen.

TEACHING

Serving Through Suffering

1 Peter 2:21

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:”

Servant leadership is not immune to suffering. In fact, following Christ often leads to opposition, misunderstanding, and even persecution. Peter reminds us that Christ suffered for us, leaving an example that we should follow in His steps. As leaders, we may face criticism, betrayal, or unjust treatment. Our natural response is to defend ourselves, retaliate, or become bitter. But Christ responded with humility and trust, entrusting Himself to the Father who judges justly. Suffering in leadership can be a refining fire that purifies our motives and deepens our dependence on God. It can also be a powerful testimony to the grace of Christ. When we respond to mistreatment with grace, we demonstrate a supernatural love that points others to Jesus. Consider the trials you face in your leadership role. Perhaps you have been overlooked for a promotion, criticized for a decision, or misunderstood by those you serve. How do you respond? Do you become defensive and resentful, or do you entrust your cause to God and continue to serve with love? Suffering can also be a means of growth, teaching us perseverance and character. It reminds us that our

ultimate reward is not in this world but in the life to come. As you lead, embrace suffering as a participation in Christ's sufferings. Let it shape you into His likeness, and let your endurance be a witness to the power of the gospel. Remember that your leadership is not about your comfort but about His glory.

Put It Into Practice

Think of a recent situation where you felt mistreated or overlooked as a leader. Write down how you responded. Then, reflect on how Christ would have responded. This week, if a similar situation arises, practice responding with grace and entrusting the outcome to God.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. What kind of suffering or opposition have you faced in your leadership?
2. How does Christ's example of suffering shape your response to mistreatment?
3. What might God be teaching you through a current trial in your leadership?

Prayer

Jesus, You suffered for me, leaving an example of humility and trust. When I face trials in leadership, help me to follow Your steps. Give me grace to respond with love, to entrust my cause to You, and to find my strength in Your presence. Use my suffering to refine me and to testify of Your grace. Amen.

Empowering Others to Lead

Ephesians 4:11-12

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”

A servant leader does not hoard power but empowers others. Paul explains that Christ gave leaders to the church to equip the saints for the work of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up. This principle applies to all leadership: your role is not to do everything yourself but to develop others to fulfill their God-given potential. When you empower others, you multiply your influence and create a culture of growth and collaboration. This requires humility, because it means letting go of control and trusting others with responsibilities. It also requires intentionality: you must invest time in mentoring, coaching, and providing resources. Consider the people you lead. Are you helping them discover their gifts and use them? Or are you micromanaging and stifling their initiative? Empowering others involves giving them meaningful tasks, providing clear expectations, and then trusting them to complete the work. It means celebrating their successes and walking with them through failures. As you empower others, you reflect the heart of Christ, who equipped

His disciples and sent them out to continue His work. He did not cling to His authority but shared it with ordinary men and women. In your leadership, look for opportunities to delegate, to teach, and to encourage. Ask yourself: Am I building a team of leaders or a team of followers? Am I investing in the next generation? The legacy of a servant leader is not in the monuments they build but in the people they develop. Empower others to lead, and you will extend your impact far beyond your own efforts.

Put It Into Practice

Identify one person you lead who has potential for growth. This week, meet with them, affirm their gifts, and give them a specific responsibility that stretches them. Offer your support and follow up to encourage them.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. Are you more inclined to control tasks or to empower others? Why?
2. Who is one person you can intentionally develop as a leader?
3. What is one task you can delegate this week to help someone else grow?

Prayer

Lord, You have given me gifts to serve others. Help me to be a leader who empowers and equips those around me. Give me humility to let go of control and wisdom to develop others. May I invest in people as You have invested in me, so that Your kingdom may be advanced. Amen.

TEACHING

Leading with Eternal Perspective

Colossians 3:23-24

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

The ultimate motivation for servant leadership is the eternal perspective. Paul urges us to work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that we will receive an inheritance from the Lord. This truth transforms how we lead. When we lead for an earthly audience, we are easily discouraged by criticism, driven by the desire for recognition, and tempted to compromise. But when we lead as unto the Lord, we are freed from the need for human approval and empowered to serve with wholehearted devotion. Every task, no matter how mundane, becomes an act of worship. Whether you are leading a team, serving a customer, or caring for your family, you are ultimately serving Christ. This perspective also gives us hope in the face of setbacks and disappointments. Our labor in the Lord is not in vain. He sees every act of service, every sacrifice, every quiet deed done in faith, and He promises to reward us with an inheritance that far surpasses any earthly accolade. As you lead, keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith. Remember that your citizenship is in

heaven, and your true reward is waiting there. This does not mean you neglect your responsibilities; rather, you fulfill them with excellence and joy, knowing that you are serving the King of Kings. Let the eternal perspective shape your priorities, your decisions, and your relationships. Invest your time and energy in what will last forever: the growth of God's kingdom and the transformation of lives. Lead with eternity in mind, and you will find purpose and fulfillment that transcends the temporary.

Put It Into Practice

At the end of each day this week, take a few minutes to review your leadership activities. Ask: Did I do this as unto the Lord? How can I shift my focus from human approval to pleasing God? Write down one change you will make to lead with an eternal perspective.

Reflect & Talk Together

1. In what ways are you tempted to lead for human approval rather than for the Lord?
2. How does knowing your reward is from Christ change your attitude toward difficult tasks?
3. What is one thing you can do today to invest in eternal impact?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are my ultimate Leader and Reward. Forgive me for the times I have sought glory from men rather than from You. Help me to do everything heartily, as unto You, and to keep my eyes on the eternal inheritance You have promised. May my leadership be an offering of worship to You. Amen.

Continue Abiding

As you have journeyed through these six sessions, you have been challenged to lead like Christ - with humility, wisdom, integrity, endurance, empowerment, and eternal perspective. This is not a path of perfection but of grace. When you stumble, remember that Christ is your righteousness and your strength. Abide in Him, for apart from Him you can do nothing. As you go forth, may the mind of Christ be in you, and may your leadership be a fragrant offering that draws others to the Savior. Lead on, servant of the King.