

LEAD LIKE JESUS

Small Group discussion guide

Week # 1, February 9 & 10, "Leadership is Influence"
Pastor Bruce Humphrey

1 Timothy 3:1-7 (NIV) Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. ⁵ (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. ⁷ He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Matthew 20:20-28 (NRSV) ²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. ²¹ And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." ²² But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." ²³ He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." ²⁴ When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ²⁶ It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; ²⁸ just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Notes and Thoughts ...

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Facilitator Guide

Small Group facilitators and leaders- please read this guide before your group meets!

First, **thank you** for participating in this sermon-based small group study. Many people have been praying for this series and hoping the experience of your small group interaction will help reinforce the teaching, life, and example of Jesus.

Second, **here is how the Discussion Guide is designed.** Group size is assumed to be between five and fifteen people. The content is designed to last about one hour. But it is also designed recognizing that all groups are unique, and each time you gather is a fresh encounter with God. Therefore, your size, time, and experience as a group will always vary. In the Discussion Guide there are four sections (Start It, Study It, Live It, Pray It). *The guide is not designed for a group to answer all the questions.* In fact, it is designed for the facilitator to pick only a few from each section that your unique group would find the most interesting, challenging, or thought provoking.

Third, **invite everyone who shows up to participate** in the conversation. The weekend message from RBCPC, a chapter from the book *Lead Like Jesus*, and the Discussion Guide all fit together and reinforce one another, but the Discussion Guide is built on the Scripture texts from the message. It is worth the time to read the Scripture together each time. If there is a specific question from the book or the weekend message, the text will be included in the Guide.

Fourth, **be creative and flexible.** Don't be afraid to do things with your group that will stretch them. Most of our growth comes when we are stretching, not when we are in our comfort zones. But be responsible and responsive to the individuals in your group. Don't assume they know what you think they ought to know, but take time to learn about one another and grow together as you grow to be more like Jesus and learn to lead like Jesus.

Here is a sample of how one group structures its time together:

6:00 pm	Arrive and refreshments, fellowship time
6:20	Bring the group together and open in prayer
6:25	START IT (10 minutes)
6:35	STUDY IT (20 minutes)
6:55	LIVE IT (20 minutes)
7:15	PRAY IT (10 minutes)
7:25	Group growth time – Further discussion, additional prayer, life stories, breakout prayer/ discussion groups (2-4 people), men/ women breakout conversation, event or mission planning, etc.
7:45	Wrap up and fellowship, people done by 8 pm.

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START IT:

- [New groups] Have you ever been in a small group before? What was that experience like?
- Who are three or four of the most influential people in your life right now?
- In what ways are you a leader?

STUDY IT:

- Read the Scripture passages aloud. What observations can be made about leadership from these two passages?
- What is the difference between "the noble task of desiring leadership" (I Tim. passage) and "the desire for authority in Jesus' Kingdom" (Matt. passage)?

[Read aloud.] This call by Jesus to servant leadership is clear and unequivocal; His words leave no room for plan B. He placed no restrictions or limitations on time, place, or situation that would allow us to exempt ourselves from His command. For followers of Jesus, servant leadership isn't an option; it's a mandate. Servant leadership is to be a living statement of who we are in Christ, how we treat one another, and how we demonstrate the love of Christ to the whole world. If this sounds like serious business with profound implications- it is!

***Lead Like Jesus*, Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges, pg. 12.**

- What are some of the implications of Jesus' call to servant leadership?
- Where else is the Bible is servant leadership modeled or taught? [For further study- John 13:1-20; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:5-11.]

LIVE IT:

- Is the servant leadership Jesus expected from his followers any more or less radical today than it was in the first century? Why?
- In what situations is it hardest for you to think of being a servant leader? Do you have any insight on how you might begin to change the way you approach those situations?
- Name two or three ways you nurture trust in your workplace or at home. When the group next meets, be prepared to share an experience about building trust.

PRAY IT:

- **Application:** Pray for God's wisdom to remind you of servant leadership this week.
- **Personal requests:** Write requests on paper, pass to others, and pray for one another.
- **Ministry (within the church):** Pray for leaders involved with planning and preparing all that happens at RBCPC during this time leading up to Easter.
- **Mission (in the world):** Pray for our Home Building Trip to Mexico with Amor Ministries at the end of March. (Begin considering if your small group wants to participate.)