

LEAD LIKE JESUS

Small Group discussion guide

Week # 2 February 16 & 17, "The Heart of a Servant Leader"
Pastor Bruce Humphrey

Matthew 21:23-27 ²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

Proverbs 13:10 ¹⁰ Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Proverbs 16:5 The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 16:18 ¹⁸ Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 14:26 ²⁶ He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.

Proverbs 29:25 ²⁵ Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

Notes and Thoughts ...

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Facilitator Guide

Continued blessings to you and your small group. Hopefully this season of Lent will be a time of additional growth, stretching, and nourishment for you and your group.

As a reminder, the role of the facilitator is to pick the questions that you feel will lead the group into the best discussion and sharing. **The facilitator does not need to push through every question!** You are encouraged to *pick at least one question from each section*. Don't be tempted to rush through the conversation in order to get to all the questions. Instead, take time in each section to let people think, share, and respond to one another. Further, don't feel bound by these questions. **Use these as a springboard and trust the Holy Spirit to use your gifts in leadership.**

For groups just starting out, take more time to share stories and get to know one another. Learn about each other and make efforts to learn not just about everyone's past, but also about their dreams for the future.

For some existing groups, you may know each other well enough now to begin really challenging one another: towards greater intimacy with Jesus; in areas of perpetual struggle or sin; into greater love of one another and the world; into intentional mission sharing God's love; etc.

This week might be a great time to plan a gathering outside of your normal group time. Increasing frequency of the times you interact with the people in this group will increase the value, significance, and comfort of the relationships. Plan a dinner together, celebrate a birthday, or see a movie as a group.

Here are a few important things to remember for facilitators, especially if your group is just starting out:

- Pray for your group before others begin arriving and invite the Holy Spirit to be a part of the time you have together.
- Begin and end ON TIME as much as possible. When starting out, you may want to begin with something low key to allow everyone to arrive.
- Allow time for people in the group to get to know one another. Relationships are at the core of vital small groups.
- Work at cultivating trust, honesty, respect, and sincerity.
- Invite the group to share in leadership. You could share the opportunity of facilitating, plan some social time for the group on another night, have someone else be responsible to bring refreshments, or have another in the group lead prayer time.

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START IT:

- [New groups] What are some of your favorite things about Spring?
- Share a funny or embarrassing personal story that happened while you were in leadership (or just share any embarrassing moment).
- In what ways did you nurture trust in your workplace or at home last week?

STUDY IT:

- Read the Matthew passage aloud. What observations can be made about Jesus' response to being challenged in his leadership?
- What is the difference between "authority" and "influence"?
- The authors of *Lead Like Jesus* and the weekend message both made references to "pride" and "fear". Read the verses from Proverbs aloud. What can we learn about pride, fear, and servant leadership from these verses?

[Read aloud.] "The authors define Ego as Edging God Out. Instead of humbly serving and influencing, we can tend to let our egos get the best of us. Whenever our egos guide our actions, we get ourselves into trouble. Even when we start something with pure motives, ego can slip in and cause trouble."

Bruce Humphrey, February 16 & 17

- Describe a situation in which you started something with good intentions but your ego or fears took over. What was the result?
- Jesus was being criticized for his actions. How do you respond to criticism? Who do you find it the most difficult to hear criticism from? Who is the easiest to hear it from?

LIVE IT:

- How might you recognize false pride (or EGO) in your own life and leadership?
- In what ways do your fears impact your influence? How might you face those fears?
- What keeps you from moving forward as a servant leader? How might you remove this barrier?

PRAY IT:

- **Application:** Pray for God's help in applying what you have learned.
- **Personal requests:** Break into small groups (2's and 3's) to pray for one another.
- **Ministry (within the church):** Pray for those involved in Care, Visitation, and Healing Ministries.
- **Mission (in the world):** Pray for missionaries to Islamic people groups.