

LEAD LIKE JESUS

Small Group discussion guide

Week # 5, March 8 & 9, "The Habit of Submission"

Pastor Bruce Humphrey

2 Kings 5:1-14 Now Naaman, captain of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man with his master, and highly respected, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man was also a valiant warrior, *but he was* a leper. ² Now the Arameans had gone out in bands and had taken captive a little girl from the land of Israel; and she waited on Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "I wish that my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴ Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus spoke the girl who is from the land of Israel." ⁵ Then the king of Aram said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." He departed and took with him ten talents of silver and six thousand *shekels* of gold and ten changes of clothes. ⁶ He brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, "And now as this letter comes to you, behold, I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man is sending *word* to me to cure a man of his leprosy? But consider now, and see how he is seeking a quarrel against me." ⁸ It happened when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent *word* to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Now let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and *you will* be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman was furious and went away and said, "Behold, I thought, 'He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.' ¹² 'Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?'" So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, "My father, had the prophet told you *to do some* great thing, would you not have done *it*? How much more *then*, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean '?" ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped *himself* seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean.

Mark 14:32-36 ³² They came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed." ³³ And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. ³⁴ And He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch." ³⁵ And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell to the ground and *began* to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. ³⁶ And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."

Notes and Thoughts ...

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Facilitator Guide

Leave time this week to talk about a few important details of your group.

- 1. Your group will need to decide if you are going to meet during Holy Week.**
This current series will extend one week beyond Easter. However, there will not be study guide for the week immediately after Easter. So, you could: a) meet at your regular time after week 6 and not meet the week after Easter; b) break for one week before Easter and then talk about week 6 after Easter; or c) meet both weeks and do something other than a sermon based conversation on one of those two weeks. If you decide to meet both weeks, you could use one of them for a time of prayer, time for a meal together, time for worship, or something else creative.
- 2. Begin some conversation about serving together.** On April 27th, RBCPC is having a “service day,” called Faith In Action. We are joining dozens (potentially hundreds!) of other San Diego churches in a weekend of service *outside* the church. Instead of worship services, the church body will be doing community services. We are encouraging small groups to participate in this activity together. Your group is encouraged to “self-select” a project, organization, or mission that motivates your particular group members. The project does not need to be managed or approved by RBCPC – we are trusting that all groups will approach this prayerfully and with great consideration for the recipients. Whether revisiting a past Kingdom Assignment or taking on a new venture, the chance for your group to participate together in this public act of worship and service will be a great chance for bonding, spiritual growth, and sharing the love of Christ.
- 3. Continue to encourage prayer and thought about what your group might want to do after Lead Like Jesus.** Here are a few options:
 - A Lead Like Jesus workbook is available for groups or individuals who want to go deeper with the material. The workbook has six weeks of content. It will be available for free to pick up after Easter. There will also be a one-day Leadership Encounter on June 7 (details to come soon).
 - You could contact Joe or Rochelle at RBCPC to find out what DVD series are available, or what books other groups have enjoyed studying.
 - You could consider an EquipU To Go for your group. A teacher would come to your group for a one, two, or three week series.
 - You could break until the next sermon-based small group series- *the next series will be in June/July.*

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START IT:

- [New groups] What traditions did/does your family have for Easter weekend?
- Do you have any habits you want to get rid of? Any habits you would like to cultivate?
- Where is your favorite place to pray?

STUDY IT:

- Silently read the Kings passage. Write down observations you make about submission, leadership, and listening. Share those with the group.
- Read the Mark passage aloud. What observations can you make about submission and leadership from this account of Jesus' life?

[Read aloud.] "If solitude is the most elusive of the habits for us to develop, prayer is the one that requires the most unlearning and revision of old habits and patterns. The one thing that is most instructive about how and where leaders might take their followers is found in their prayer life. Prayer is an essential act of the will that demonstrates whether we are really serious about living and leading like Jesus. Without it, we will never be able to open the way for connecting our plans and efforts with God's plan..."

Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges, pg. 159-160.

- How do you discover God's plan?
- Bob Dylan wrote a song titled, "Gotta Serve Somebody." How do you know who you are serving? To whom are you submitting?

LIVE IT:

- How do you practice prayer in your daily life? Do you leave time for listening?
- What do you think would change in your leadership and relationships if you were able to cast off fears and pride, replacing them with God-grounded confidence and submission to His will?
- What might you do this week to jump start, stimulate, or cultivate your prayer life? Take on a challenge of something new and report back next week!

PRAY IT:

- **Application:** Pray for God's help in applying what you have learned.
- **Personal requests:** Pray the ACTS (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication) as a group.
- **Ministry (within the church):** Pray for the Deacons who are involved and leading many of our care and serving ministries.
- **Mission (in the world):** Pray for missionaries your group knows or supports financially.