



masterwork

FALL 2024

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

In your opinion, what does it take for a person to get to heaven and have eternal life?
The Bible answers this question in one word—**FAITH**.

F is for FORGIVENESS

- Everyone has sinned and needs God's forgiveness: *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).
- God's forgiveness is in Jesus only: *"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace"* (Ephesians 1:7).

A is for AVAILABLE

- God's forgiveness is available for all: *"God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).
- God's forgiveness is available but not automatic: *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the kingdom of heaven"* (Matthew 7:21).

I is for IMPOSSIBLE

- It is impossible to get to heaven on our own: *"You are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast"* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

T is for TURN

- Turn means repent. Turn away from sin and self and turn to Jesus alone as your Savior and Lord: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* (John 14:6); *"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation"* (Romans 10:9-10).

H is for HEAVEN

- Here . . . Eternal life begins now with Jesus: *"I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance"* (John 10:10).
- Hereafter . . . Heaven is a place where we will live with God forever: *"If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also"* (John 14:3).
- How . . . How can a person have God's forgiveness, eternal life, and heaven? By trusting Jesus as your Savior and Lord. You can do this right now by praying and asking Jesus to forgive you of your sins and inviting Jesus into your heart.

Accepting Christ is just the beginning of a wonderful adventure with God! Follow Christ's command in baptism. Join a church where you can worship God and grow in your faith. Get involved in Sunday School and Bible study. Begin a daily personal worship time in which you study the Bible and pray.

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MasterWork: Essential Messages from God's Servants

Fall, 2024

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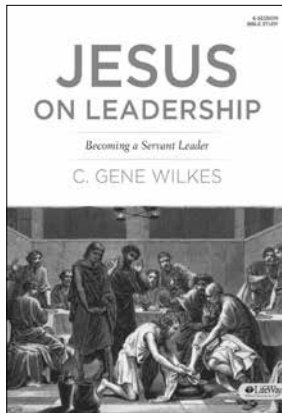
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**Jesus on Leadership:
Becoming a Servant Leader**

C. Gene Wilkes

Lifeway Press
ISBN: 978-1-4158-6512-5



God, Do You Hear Me?

Derwin Gray

B&H Publishing Group
ISBN: 978-1-5359-9573-3

How to Use

Here are a few suggestions to help you get the most out of this resource:

Group Members

1. Read Day One through Day Five prior to attending the group time. Complete the personal learning activities in bold type. Record your notes and questions.
2. Review your notes and questions a few moments prior to the group time as a means of preparing to be an active part of the group.
3. In the margins of this book, record insights gained during the group time.

Group Leader

1. Complete step 1 above.
2. Identify the one main idea and goal for the lesson. The main point of the lesson and the goal are printed on the leader guide pages at the end of each lesson. (See p. 17.) Focus on the session goal as you lead the session.

The main point of this lesson is: God begins to weave the seamless revelation of His plan from the opening of the Bible.

Focus on this goal: To help adults affirm the importance of the beginning in their walk with Christ

Key Bible Passages: Genesis 1–11

Leader Guide

- Read and study the key Bible passages listed at the top of the teaching plan.
- Develop a group time plan. Two options are offered in this book.

- One option is to follow the leader guide at the end of each lesson.
- A second option is to use the discussion questions in the margins of the lessons. Some group leaders use a combination of both group time plans.

written by forty authors over 1,600 years. Sixty-six books tell one seamless story about how God redeems us, and has a future for us. Let's explore the beautiful story of Scripture. How does this story fit so successfully in with Christians was

DISCUSS

When might a visit to a library be overwhelming? When might it be exciting?

Discussion Questions

- Customize the electronic versions of the suggested teaching plans, available on the Internet at masterwork.lifeway.com to fit your group.
- Review and refine your teaching notes as you move toward the group time.
- Arrive early, praying for the group time.

SECTION 1

LEADER GUIDE

The main point of this lesson is: God begins to weave the seamless narrative of His plan from the opening of the Bible.

Focus on this goal: To help adults affirm the importance of the beginning of their walk with Christ.

Key Bible Passages: Genesis 1-11

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Intell adults to indicate if they've ever read books or watched movies that were part of a series. **Ask** to be possible to read the books or watch the movies out of order and still enjoy them? What's the value of reading or watching them in order?

Note reading or watching serial stories in order gives us a better grasp of the overall story and a deeper understanding of the characters and it helps us see how all the stories fit together. **State:** That's how Scripture is as well. We can know and love individual Bible stories but understanding how they fit together into one seamless narrative can bring the Bible's truth into much clearer focus.

STEP 2 - Getting Started

Intell a volunteer to read the first two sentences of Day One (p. 7).

Relate the author's experience of not understanding what Christians were talking about and how she gained a clearer grasp of the Bible (p. 7).

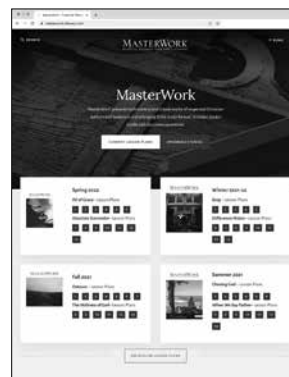
Intell a volunteer to share what has helped them understand the Bible better.

Relate the author's desire for readers to see Scripture's overarching story and its characters and themes to come to life. **Relay** the author's challenge by reading the Day One paragraph (p. 10) beginning with, "Below we start..."

Discuss: Day One, activity 2 (p. 8).

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Leader Guide



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Study Series: Seamless
Author: Angie Smith

Lesson Title: "The Beginning" (pp. 6-13)
Session 1
September 4, 2022

The main point of this lesson is: God begins to weave the seamless narrative of His plan from the opening of the Bible.

Focus on this goal: To help adults affirm the importance of the beginning of their walk with Christ.

Key Bible Passages: Genesis 1-11

Before the Session

1. Prayers 780 (Step 2)
2. Karaoke 780 (Step 2)

During the Session

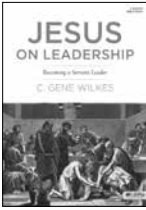
Step 1: Title

Intell adults to indicate if they've ever read books or watched movies that were part of a series. **Ask** to be possible to read the books or watch the movies out of order and still enjoy them? What's the value of reading or watching them in order?

Note reading or watching serial stories in order gives us a better grasp of the overall story and a deeper understanding of the characters and it helps us see how all the stories fit together. **State:** That's how Scripture is as well. We can know and love individual Bible

8

Customizable Teaching Plan



JESUS ON LEADERSHIP: BECOMING A SERVANT LEADER

ABOUT THE WRITERS

C. Gene Wilkes has served as president and professor of New Testament and Leadership at B. H. Carroll Theological Seminary in Irving, Texas since 2013. Prior to that, Wilkes pastored Legacy Church in Plano, Texas. He has authored numerous books, including *Jesus on Leadership: Timeless Truths on Servant Leadership* and *A New Way of Living: Practicing the Beatitudes Every Day*.

Leslie Hudson wrote the personal activities, interactive questions, and leader guide teaching suggestions for this study. A member of First Baptist, Dickson, Tennessee, Hudson strives to help others find “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” within God’s Word.

Jesus on Leadership: Becoming a Servant Leader originated in a local church setting. This Bible study attempts to develop leaders by following the pattern of Jesus’s ministry of training people to do Kingdom work. Although the study is neither the first nor the last word in leadership discovery and development in the church, developing servant leaders is what the church has been about since Jesus affirmed Peter’s confession of faith and established His church on that rock. Training servant leaders will be a task of the church until Christ returns.

Interest and materials about servant leadership have grown in both secular and ministry contexts. More needs to be written and modeled to provide service-first leadership among God’s people. Too many works start with characteristics of a leader and then, if at all, move to Jesus’s life and teachings to support those ideas.

This study starts with the ways Jesus modeled and taught leadership, then brings principles gleaned from His ministry into church life. The challenge is to make Jesus’s example the guide and focus of leadership among God’s people. As long as church members revere a worldly model of leadership more than Jesus’s examples and teaching, misunderstanding and conflict will result. In contrast, when a church follows a biblical model of servant leadership for all its leaders, God works in amazing ways. That’s my prayer for your church.

DOWN FROM THE HEAD TABLE

Day 1

The Head Table

One day I found myself at the head table at a typical denominational event. As the leader of the church-growth team, I was responsible for introducing the speaker. Others sitting at the head table included the director of missions, the moderator, the person singing the special music and her spouse, and the speaker. After I'd introduced the speaker, everyone at the head table stood and moved to sit in the audience—everyone but me! The speaker, noticing that the others were leaving the head table, said, "If you're at the head table and would like to move, you may at this time." Alone, I stood and said, "I'd love to!" We all laughed, and I walked red-faced to sit at a table with those who served in the kitchen.

As the blood gradually returned to the rest of my body, Jesus's story about where to sit at big meals came to mind. Read in Luke 14:8-10 what He taught the people at the home of a prominent Pharisee.

As I reflected on my social blunder, I realized I'd done what was typical of many leaders. When given a position, we happily accept the status that goes with it, often overlooking the fact that the true place of Christ-like leadership is out in the crowd rather than at the head table. Leaders who follow Christ's model of leadership work with those who serve in the kitchen and serve alongside them until they complete the job. Head tables are optional. Service, not status, is the goal of leaders who have Christ as their master.

Many churches and ministries struggle because they lack servant leaders. Head tables have replaced the towel and washbasin as symbols of

DISCUSS

When have you held a position of leadership or influence that felt elevated or out of touch?

leadership among God's people. Churches and ministries, however, need leaders who know how God has made and gifted them for service and who serve Christ's mission of reconciliation. Churches need leaders who have the skills to equip others to team with them in ministry. Churches need leaders who will step down from the head table and be willing to serve in the kitchen. Churches today need men and women who will stop following the world's concepts of leadership and adopt Jesus's teachings and example of servant leadership.

NOTE

Churches today need men and women who will stop following the world's concepts of leadership and adopt Jesus's teachings and example of servant leadership.

The term *servant leadership* isn't an oxymoron! Neither is the word *servant* a soft-shell cover for what leadership really is. *Servant* and *leader* stand together as a model for people called to influence others to work toward the mission of God. Leadership through service is the way Jesus modeled and taught discipleship among His followers. True servant leadership begins by submitting to Jesus and obediently following His teachings and lifestyle. You can lead like Jesus only when you obey His teachings about leading as a servant.

1. When have you worked for a leader who was light in "servant" capabilities? How did that style of leadership affect his or her ability to lead?

DISCUSS

Whom do you know who exemplifies servant leadership? What is it about him or her that stands out?

Jesus was a servant leader. He was a servant to the Father's mission, and He was a servant to those on mission with Him. His model provides the basis for our working definition of *servant leader*: "A servant leader serves the mission and leads by serving those on mission with Him."¹

This study will help churches discover, equip, and place servant leaders in all areas of ministry. Jesus's teachings and model of servant leadership are the foundation for this study. Participants will discover their roles as servant leaders and will be equipped for team ministry. Our purpose as individual members, as a church, or as a ministry is to develop servant leaders in team ministry who carry out the mission of God. My prayer is that churches and ministries will honor and train leaders who follow Jesus's teachings and model of servant leadership. My personal goal is to

serve you and your church through this Bible study and to help restore a biblical model of servant leadership in your church.

2. Consider God's plan for you in this study on servant-based leadership. Are you leading as He's called you? Are you serving as you lead? Compose a prayer revealing your heart and willingness to yield to His leading.

Day 2

Jesus's Teachings on Leadership, Part 1

Today we examine different ideas about leadership. We'll look at biblical models of leadership and ways Jesus taught and modeled leadership for His followers. People know what they want in a leader. Some prefer their leader be decisive or visionary. Others want one charming and kind to people. Some desire not to have a leader! This study highlights the trait of service in leaders. Such leaders serve the mission and meet the needs of the group that relate to the group's goals. This kind of leader leads by example rather than by memo.

In 1977 Robert Greenleaf, then an executive in the communications industry and best known for making popular the concept of servant leadership, announced that in the future "the only truly viable institutions will be those that are predominately servant-led."² Observing that people respond best to leaders who are servants to the group or institution, Greenleaf called for servant-led organizations. He understood that people had lost an appetite for bosses who lord it over them. People prefer to follow those who help them, not intimidate them.

1. Think of those leaders you've served in the workforce, in your family, in church, in the community, and so forth. Record the names of those who were servant leaders.

DISCUSS

What type of leader do you prefer? What type of leader are you?

J. Oswald Sanders wrote: “True greatness, true leadership, is achieved not by reducing men to one’s service but in giving oneself in selfless service to them. And this is never done without cost. . . . The true spiritual leader is concerned infinitely more with the service he can render God and his fellowmen than with the benefits and pleasures he can extract from life. He aims to put more into life than he takes out of it.”³

Sanders and Greenleaf call for the same quality in a leader: a servant’s heart. This isn’t a new discovery. It’s an affirmation of Jesus’s teachings on leadership. Sanders’s source for his description of leadership is Jesus’s teachings. He found true leadership in Jesus’s examples of and teaching about being a servant.

Leadership in the kingdom of God is different from leadership in the world. It’s still leadership, an individual influencing others toward a shared goal, but those who lead in the kingdom of God look very different from those who lead by the world’s standards. Life under the lordship of Christ has different values from life under the lordship of self. Therefore, kingdom leaders are people who lead like Jesus. They act differently from leaders trained by the world. Kingdom leaders are servant leaders because they follow Jesus, who “did not come to be served, but to serve” (Mark 10:45).

2. Identify a few areas in which you serve currently. Beside each area, give yourself a grade (A-F) on your servant’s heart.

Jesus taught His disciples a valuable lesson about head tables and a humble spirit in Luke 14:1,7-11. Jesus told this story to His followers while they attended a meal at the house of a prominent religious leader. Noticing that the guests picked places of honor at the head table near the host, Jesus chose this situation to teach His disciples how they should behave toward places of honor (vv. 8-11). Jesus said those who follow Him must first humble themselves. Any head-table recognition should come from others. Final recognition will come from God. The world says, “Take a seat at the head table.” Jesus says, “Take a seat at the back. I’ll choose who sits up front.”

DISCUSS

Why might believers be tentative about living out Jesus’s servant leadership model?

Day 3

Jesus's Teachings on Leadership, Part 2

The word *humble* in Luke 14:11 means to make low, humiliate, assign to a lower place. Jesus called His disciples to lower themselves rather than exalt themselves. He made it clear that His followers weren't to seek places of honor. Jesus's disciples wait for their Host to invite them to the head table. They don't seek high places on their own. The Bible says, "Humility comes before honor" (Prov. 15:33). Moses was more humble "than anyone on the face of the earth" (Num. 12:3). His life demonstrated that humility is the confidence you lead by God's choosing rather than by your efforts, and with this certainty you can even take up for those who are trying to take your place (see the rest of the story in Num. 12).

Servant Leadership Principle 1: Servant leaders humble themselves and wait for God to exalt them.

1. Are you an humble person? How do you know? What steps are you taking to be or become humble?

Those Jesus calls to lead willingly humble themselves to God's mission call on their lives and patiently wait for Him to direct them to positions of leadership in His timing. Humility, not pride, is the hallmark of a servant leader's character. Patience, not aggressiveness, illustrates a servant leader's dependence on God rather than himself.

You can't apply this first principle of a servant leader to your life unless you commit yourself to follow Jesus's teachings. You must decide whether you'll pattern your life after the model of Jesus or around the thinking and experience of the world. Before we go any further, you must settle this issue: Who's the Master of my life? Here's why your answer to that question is basic to this study: no one can be a servant without a master. You can't be a servant leader as modeled by Jesus without having Him as your Master (Matt. 6:24). Leaders without Jesus as their Master can serve only themselves, not others.

DISCUSS

What are some real-life steps we might take to humble ourselves?

DISCUSS

According to the paragraph to the left, what is the connection between humility and patience?

2. Some people have come to Jesus as Savior, but they have yet to yield to Him as Lord of their lives. “Master” (Matt. 6:24) is the right emphasis, for Jesus is Lord. Take a moment to yield your mind, heart, ministry, and service to Jesus your Lord and to express that to Him.

The rest of this study will be only an exercise in self-will if Christ isn't in control of every aspect of your life. If you want to settle this issue in your life right now, pause and ask Christ to be the Savior and Lord of your life. Then call your group's leader or your pastor and ask this person to join you in prayer. Be prepared to share your decision at the next group session.

An Attitude like Jesus

The apostle Paul asked the Christians in Philippi to serve one another the way Jesus would serve them. Paul reminded his friends of their source of strength, fellowship, and unity in Christ. He wrote, “Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). Paul then described Jesus's humble service of taking on the form of a man and dying on the cross for others (vv. 5-11).

The key phrase in the first half of this passage is “He humbled Himself” (v. 8). Paul's term for *humble* is the same word Jesus used in His story to the disciples in Luke 14:7-11. Jesus taught humility because it was at the core of who He was. It was God's plan for His Son's life. The key phrase in the second half of Philippians 2:5-11 is “God highly exalted Him” (v. 9). Paul's word for *exalt* is also the same word Jesus used in His story in Luke. God exalted His Son after Jesus humbled Himself in obedience to death on the cross. Peter, who was present when Jesus taught this lesson about humility, later told the early Christians to “humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time” (1 Pet. 5:6).

Servant leaders in the church humble themselves in obedience to Christ. Exaltation is God's choice, not ours. Leaders must have the humble spirit of Christ and must be willing to take the seats at the back. God will choose those who will sit up front.

Day 4

Jesus's Teachings on Leadership, Part 3

I entered the office of one of our church's volunteers to join him for a lunch meeting. The highly successful salesman was on the phone when I entered his office, so I had time to look around. I checked out his desk to see what mementos or expressions of himself he'd chosen to put there. My eyes immediately went to a message on his desk. It read, "If the meek inherit the earth, what do we tigers get?" I smiled. Later, I realized the sign misrepresented Jesus's teaching on meekness, and it illustrated how many people in our society regard what appears to be weakness in leading others. Jesus redefined greatness and being first when He declared: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be a slave to all" (Mark 10:43-44).

You're great when you serve. You're first when you willingly become a slave to the needs of others. Jesus taught this paradox to His closest disciples. These men had accepted Jesus's call to follow Him. They would lead others in His work after Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father. Their understanding of leadership among God's people was crucial to the way kingdom people would live together in generations to come.

Jesus taught about greatness and being first after James and John had asked Him a favor. Let's look at what led Jesus to teach His disciples about servant leadership. Read Mark 10:32-40.

James and John sensed something important would happen in Jerusalem. They thought Jesus was getting close to taking His throne, and they selfishly wanted to lead from positions of power beside Him. James and John thought kingdom leadership meant a position or title. They betrayed their ambitious hearts by being the first among the disciples to make their request of Jesus.

Before you judge the sons of Zebedee, remember we're very much like them. We too want places up front when Jesus defeats His enemies. We forget, however, that suffering like Jesus comes before reigning with Jesus. Jesus wanted James and John to know that following Him would cost them their lives, not gain them places at the head table. Only the Host knows who sits there.

DISCUSS

How would James and John's request fit into what we have studied so far about servant leadership?

NOTE

Before you judge the sons of Zebedee, remember we're very much like them. . . . We forget, however, that suffering like Jesus comes before reigning with Jesus.

1. Put yourself in James and John's shoes: when have you sought a higher position for yourself?

How did that impact your faith?

Servant Leadership Principle 2: Servant leaders follow Jesus rather than seek a position.

Following Jesus means setting our personal agendas aside to follow Jesus in obedience. Servant leadership isn't about position and power. Leaders among Christ's disciples follow Jesus as He serves others and suffers on their behalf. Servant leadership requires drinking the cup and being baptized with the baptism of Christ's suffering (see vv. 38-39). Jesus said the way the world practices leadership mustn't be the pattern among His true disciples.

We get our English prefix *mega* from the Greek word for *great*. Our English word *deacon* comes from the Greek word for *servant*. A servant in the ancient world waited on tables. We get our English prefix *proto* from the Greek word for *first*. It means *first in a series or line*. No single English word adequately describes the Greek word for *slave* (*doulos*) in this passage. Such a slave was on the lowest rung of the social ladder. The owner bought and sold slaves like household goods. The *doulos* was a bond slave who served the master without will or question. A slave had no rights or privileges, no wants or desires, only the commands of the master.

2. Have you ever gone through a situation when you honestly gave up your rights and ideas and let God lead you? What happened?

What did you learn about God in that situation?

Servant Leadership Principle 3: Servant leaders give up personal rights to find greatness in service to others.

Jesus redefined greatness and being first. He specified the posture required to be a great leader in the mission of God. When you make Jesus Master of your life, you become a servant to others. To lead in the kingdom of God is to serve others and to follow the King.

Day 5

Jesus's Teachings on Leadership, Part 4

Jesus, the Servant Leader

Jesus defined greatness as the life of a servant. What does this picture of leadership look like in real life today? How can servants and slaves really lead? The answer poses a real dilemma for a disciple of Jesus. Servants and slaves don't define *leadership* in the world's dictionary. Many people understand the idea of being a servant and forfeiting personal rights as portraying a negative self-image. Jesus came to show what life in the kingdom of God looks like, not to modify the way the world does things. The ways of God work only in the hallways of humanity when Jesus reigns in our hearts. Any follower of Christ who seeks to lead like Jesus must be willing to be treated like Jesus. Some will follow. Others will throw stones.

1. When have you had someone "throw stones" at your leadership?

Have you ever been the one doing the throwing? Explain.

DISCUSS

How does giving up our personal rights go against human nature, the American dream, and our survival instincts?

NOTE

The ways of God work only in the hallways of humanity when Jesus reigns in our hearts. Any follower of Christ who seeks to lead like Jesus must be willing to be treated like Jesus. Some will follow. Others will throw stones.

DISCUSS

In what ways do church members "throw stones" at leaders they do not want to follow?

By example Jesus answered the question of how to lead like a servant. He concluded His lesson on leadership: “Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Jesus wasn’t a teacher who merely defined His terms. He also modeled what He called others to do. James, John, and the other ten disciples experienced what Jesus taught as they followed Him to His death. They soon learned that servant leadership ultimately means giving up oneself so others can have the life God desires for them.

1. Who has sacrificed so you could have Christ in your life? How so?

How are you living sacrificially so someone else can see Him clearly?

Jesus deserves service from those He created. However, He came to serve us. He came to give His life as a ransom so that we could be set free from sin. A ransom in the ancient world was a payment to free a slave or prisoner. As the Son of Man, Jesus saw His life as one of sacrifice so others could benefit.

Jesus is our only true model of servant leadership. He served others by giving His life for them. His entire mission was to free others, not to gain a position for Himself. This is a mystery to the world, but it’s the heart of kingdom leadership. Anyone who seeks to lead in the body of Christ must submit himself or herself to the lordship of Jesus. Only then can we begin to understand why servants are great and slaves are first.

1. C. Gene Wilkes, *Jesus on Leadership: Discovering the Secrets of Servant Leadership from the Life of Christ* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1998), 18.
2. Robert K. Greenleaf, *Servant Leadership* (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1977), 10.
3. J. Oswald Sanders, *Spiritual Leadership* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1967), 13.

LEADER GUIDE

The main point of this lesson is: Jesus redefined leadership.

Focus on this goal: To help adults view leadership as service, not title, position, or role

Key Bible Passage: Luke 14:7-11

Before the Session

1. Collect a few photos of famous leaders (military, political, business, etc.) your group would know and have them available for viewing. (Step 1)
2. Hang a large piece of paper and label it, *Jesus on Leadership*. Use it throughout this study for any leadership characteristic you encounter, including definitions, principles, and Scriptures. (Step 7)

During the Session

STEP 1 - Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Clarify that the new study focuses on leadership. **Assess** your class's acumen for famous leaders with a quick test. **Explain** that you've gathered photos of people you consider to be notable or famous leaders. **Show** the photos you gathered and let the class identify each person. You may **conduct** the quiz privately (letting learners write their answers) or by letting learners answer aloud. After the quiz, **ask:** *What other famous leaders didn't I account for? Who would you have put on your list?*

STEP 2 - The Head Table

If you have a story of a social blunder in which you felt awkward in or placed in a spotlight you weren't seeking, **share** that now. If not, **read** the author's own story in the opening few paragraphs of Day One (p. 7).

Read Luke 14:8-11, **pointing out** that we don't need to wonder how Jesus felt about what leaders should think about their positions or service to others.

Lead your group through the author's definition of servant leadership (Day One, p. 8), considering carefully the terms "serves," "mission," "leads" and "with Him."

STEP 3 - Jesus's Teachings on Leadership, Part 1

Briefly **relate** two contrasting leadership styles you've experienced: one that reveals a leader with a servant's heart, and the other revealing a leader without a servant's heart. **Share** how each individual affected you.

Read or **call on** volunteers to read the quotes by Robert Greenleaf (p. 9) and J. Oswald Sanders (p. 10), **pointing out** that they really are restating Jesus's teachings on being a servant leader.

Remind learners of the Luke 14:8-11 passage, read earlier. **Explain:** *There was a reason Jesus shared this instruction.* **Read** Luke 14:1,7, **stressing** that Jesus saw the hearts of those at the home of the Pharisee, and He realized they were not seeking to serve others.

STEP 4 - Jesus's Teachings on Leadership, Part 2

Use the opening paragraph of Day Three (p. 11) to **consider** the word *humble* in Luke 14:11. **Invite** a volunteer to read Philippians 2:5-11. **Point out** that the word *humble* in Philippians 2:8 is the same word found in Luke 14:11.

Emphasize that Jesus didn't ask His followers to do anything He Himself didn't do; He had every accolade and glory, yet He humbled Himself and came to earth for our salvation.

Ask: *What does God do when we humble ourselves?* **Direct attention** back to Philippians 2:9 and **read** 1 Peter 5:6. **Help** learners see that God exalted Jesus, and He will exalt us when we humble ourselves.

Lead adults to read to themselves the last paragraph of Day Three (p. 12). **Engage** learners in discussing these points.

STEP 5 - Jesus's Teachings on Leadership, Part 3

Invite learners to turn in their Bibles to Mark 10:32-45. **Point out** that James and John didn't even respond to Jesus's words about what would happen in Jerusalem (vv. 33-34), so focused were they on themselves. **Ask:** *How might our seeking a better place make us miss the voice of the Lord?*

Use the Day Four content (pp. 13-14) to **consider** that some of Jesus's closest friends missed the main tenet of His kingdom: the first shall be last. **Stress** that we, likewise, often miss or forget His emphasis.

From the information in the last few paragraphs of Day Four (pp. 14-15), **explore** what it means to live as a servant—or slave—of Jesus.

STEP 6 - Jesus's Teachings on Leadership, Part 4

Draw from the opening paragraph of the Day Five (p. 15) to **contrast** Jesus's teachings on leadership with the world's understanding. As time allows, **read** and **discuss** the sentence (p. 15), "Servants and slaves don't define *leadership* in the world's dictionary" and the last four sentences of the paragraph.

Remind learners that Jesus was rejected and killed by those who witnessed His perfect ministry of leadership. **Affirm** that we, too, may know that rejection. But **emphasize** that as Christians, Christ-followers, we choose the path that demonstrates who He is, even to a world that does not follow.

STEP 7 - Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Review today's study, **writing** on the large piece of paper the definition of a servant leader (p. 8), as well as the three Servant Leadership Principles (pp. 11, 14, and 15).

Share your own fears or concerns with the concept of servant leadership, but also **state** your faith that this is a clear teaching from the Lord.

Lead learners in a prayer of yielded willingness to follow Christ's example and instruction in serving others for His glory.