

Leadership_01

Script References

Introduction

Alexis: Hey guys! In this session, we're talking about leadership. If you have influence over one person, then you are a leader, and this session is for you.

Eli: *But before we can talk about leading, we have to talk about submitting. Let's chat about something that's crucial to our lives—God's authority.*

Alexis: Yeah, I know, authority can be a touchy subject these days. We question it, and we're suspicious of those who have it. But when it comes to God's authority, it's a whole different ball game. So, for today, I want us to remember this: God sets the standard for good leadership, and godly leaders submit themselves to his authority for the good of those they serve.

Eli: The truth is, we all submit to some kind of authority. Some folks submit to their own desires, while others surrender to certain causes or politics or peer pressure.

Alexis: The problem with submitting to any of these things is that they're prone to disappoint and fail because they're not set on solid ground.

God's Style of Authority

Eli: But God never fails. He's the creator of solid ground, and his word isn't just law – his word is reality.

When I submit to God's authority, he leads me where I should be. And unlike all the wannabe authorities in this world, God is not overbearing or manipulative or burdensome.

Alexis: Check out how David describes the Lord's way of leading him. In Psalm 23, he writes-

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures – he leads me beside quiet waters - he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk

through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me - your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil - my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23)

Eli: David describes God using the image of a shepherd. *Pause the video for a moment and reread Psalm 23 together with Matthew 11:28-30. What do these passages tell you about how the Lord leads his people? Reflect on the images of the rod and staff (Psalm 23:4) and the yoke (Matt 11:29). What do they tell you about what it means to submit to the Lord?*

Alexis: In these passages we see God's heart to nurture his people. He guides us with gentleness and follows behind us with love. He looks out for our best interests and empowers us with his Spirit.

Eli: So the Lord sets this amazing standard of leadership, and we are called to imitate it.

Three Keys to Godly Authority

Alexis: In Romans 12:1-8, Paul shows us what that looks like. We can see three key aspects of godly leadership here. The first one, which we've been talking about, is that godly leaders submit to God. He writes-

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2)

When we give our will over to God and submit to his authority in every aspect of our lives, he leads us so that we can lead others well.

Eli: Second, godly leaders act and serve with humility. Check this out:

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. (Romans 12:3)

This is so countercultural - godly leaders set their egos aside; they freely offer their strengths to serve others, and they don't try to hide their weaknesses to save face.

This humble confidence is possible because their identity is rooted in God. It's not tied to any performance or worldly status or turf wars, and instead of measuring themselves by those things, they measure themselves by their faithfulness to the Lord.

Alexis: That humility makes possible the final characteristic we see here. Godly leaders thrive in unity and cooperation. Verse 4 continues –

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. (Romans 12:4-6)

It's hard to think of a better picture of unity and cooperation than the body. Each part uniquely necessary, each part contributing to the health of the whole.

Eli: Godly leaders are able to recognize how God uniquely designed them and others, and then empower people to use their God-given strengths together.

Alexis: Instead of comparing themselves to others and feeling insecure, they celebrate the different talents they see around them because they know that diversity is a gift from God for the building up of the kingdom.

Eli: Now that we've highlighted these three points from the text, it's time to slow down. *Pause the video and spend time prayerfully reading Romans 12:1-8. As you read God's Word, speak it back to him. For example, in verse one you could say: "Lord, thank you for your mercy. Teach me to worship you truly and properly by offering my whole self to you as a living sacrifice. Let it be holy and pleasing to you." Journal your prayer to God.*

Humility

Alexis: In the next videos of this session, we're going to keep unpacking godly leadership. In the meantime, the spiritual discipline we're challenging you to practice is humility.

Eli: We've got two ways for you to start doing this: The first is reflective.

Start paying attention to how you speak and post about yourself. At the end of each day, review your day with God and ask him to reveal any pride or selfishness hidden in your actions.

Alexis: The second one is active. The best way to become a humble person is to do things that humble you. So figure out what those things are, and do them.

Maybe you owe someone an embarrassing apology. Apologize. Maybe you need to learn to ask more questions and talk less about yourself. Try it.

Eli: Growing in humility is vital to godly leadership. You've got to be humble to submit to God's authority - and when you learn to do that, you'll find God leading you deeper into his will.

Alexis: God created you to be a part of his mission on Earth. Let's embrace God's authority, follow his loving leadership, and practice humility in our lives. You've got this!