

Leadership_03

Script References

Introduction

Alexis: Hey, everyone, it's Alexis. Let's close this session on leadership by talking about our character. The main point to remember from today is that God calls us to lead through our character, not our position.

Not everyone in a position of authority is a good leader, and being a good leader doesn't require a position of authority. Instead, godly leadership just takes influence, and the type of influence you have on people depends on your character.

Like physical fitness, character formation doesn't just happen. You have to pursue it. If that sounds exhausting, then hear this encouragement:

It's God who began the good work in you, and it's God who will continue it until it's finished. As you focus on following Jesus, the Holy Spirit will do the work of making you more like him.

Leading By Example

And in John 13, we see that Jesus set a very clear example for us to follow.

There we see Jesus humbling himself to wash the feet of his disciples. Think about that for a moment... Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, washing his servants' feet. Then, just in case they missed the point, he explains it to them...

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. (John 13:15-17)

Pause the video for a moment and read John 13:1-17 and Philippians 2:1-11. Journal about the example Jesus set for his followers. Write down five practical ways you could imitate Jesus' humility and service in your daily interactions with people in your sphere of influence.

Jesus didn't just command his followers to be humble and to serve others. Instead, he led them there by the example of his own character.

Like I said before, God is calling you to lead through your character, not your position. It's by your character that you will influence people, either for good or for bad.

So how do you know if you are influencing with the right character?

Self-Examination

The spiritual discipline of self-examination will help with that. Self-examination is about asking the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to what's true about ourselves.

In the safety of God's love, we reflect on the good, the bad, and the ugly within us, so we can cooperate with the Spirit's work of transformation in our lives.

Read Psalm 139:23-24. Have you ever prayed this kind of prayer to God and meant it? If so, how did God respond? If not, what has kept you from practicing honest and intentional self-examination before God? Write down your thoughts.

If you want to get serious about this, I recommend trying what's called the "**Prayer of Examen**". This prayer is usually prayed at night. Here's how you do it:

1. First, enter God's presence with thanksgiving. Remember how he blessed you today and give thanks for his love.
2. Second, ask for the Holy Spirit to speak to you during your time of prayer.
3. Third, review your day. From beginning to end, go through specific moments. Ask the Spirit to show you how God was at work. Also ask the Spirit to show you the ways you failed to be like Jesus.
4. Fourth, ask God to forgive you for where you fell short and receive his gift of forgiveness in Christ.
5. Finally, think through your tomorrow with God. Give it to him and ask the Spirit to guide you to be more like Jesus.

If you get into the habit of self-examination with God, you might be surprised at the things you learn about yourself.

Remember that God is calling you to lead through your character. You don't need some fancy position to serve God's mission. You just need a heart that's humble and willing to follow Jesus' example of serving others.