



## Men & Leadership

- 1: What leadership requires
- 2: Submitting to God
- 3: Leading in our homes
- 4: Leading in the church
- 5: Leading in our workplace
- 6: Leading in our community



## 6. communicating Acts 6:1-6

- Describe the apostles' communication before and after the final decision of setting these seven men over that business.

- What are the problems that arise when too little information is sought or shared?

- What are the problems that arise when too much information is sought or shared?

- What are the results of a proper degree of communication between leaders and those they lead?

- What Bible verses counsel leaders in deciding how much information to seek and share in their work?

## 7. faith throughout the results of our decision

- Joshua 1-9 shows that Joshua made some right and wrong decisions. Find one example of each.

- Choose one of the above points (1-6) and comment on its importance when leaders' decisions bring favorable results.

- Choose one of the above points (1-6) and comment on its importance when leaders' decisions bring unfavorable results.

## 8. What other things are necessary for all leaders?

**Conclusion** The principles of leadership apply in all areas of life, as we will see throughout these lessons. In each study, we will return to the points in this lesson (including the things you added under point 8) to more specifically apply them.

## ***Submitting to God (2)***

As men, we are often focused on leading and growing as leaders, making it is easy to neglect the principles and lessons involving submission. But before we are ready to lead, we must understand submission, beginning with submission to God.

Read Exodus 2-3

1. What were some barriers Moses put up against submitting to God?
2. What might explain, though not justify, Moses' hesitation? Discuss how those factors affect you or other leaders today.
3. Other comments from this text related to submission or leadership.

More on this subject

1. Leaders must know who they serve. What keeps leaders mindful of this?
2. Leaders need reminders that they too must submit. What keeps leaders mindful of this?
3. What have you witnessed (whether positive or negative) that emphasizes the importance of leaders being willing to submit to God?
4. Choose one of the points from Lesson 1, and explain how it aids us in submitting to God.

Conclusion God shapes the best leaders from the mold of submission.

## *Leading in our homes (3)*

One of the challenges men face in leading the home is that they are the sole, visible leader (whether unmarried or married). They may benefit from the godly examples of leadership or seek advice, but at the end of the day, each leader must make his own decision. Some men struggle with selfishness while others battle indecisiveness and a lack of confidence. Sometimes their wives struggle in similar ways, increasing the challenge of leadership. Regardless of the personalities, strengths, or weaknesses, husbands and fathers must accept the responsibility that comes as the primary leader of the home. Part of that responsibility includes ongoing learning about leadership from Scripture. A study of the earthly life of Jesus will provide a model for how to lead. For our study together, consider Jesus' leadership in John 13.

Read John 13:1-17

1. What decision did Jesus make that involved everyone present?
  
2. How did Jesus respond when Peter objected to His decision?
  
3. Jesus did not wait until Judas left to wash their feet. Why did Jesus wash his feet?
  
4. How would the lesson have been different if Jesus had only taught them a parable about serving?
  
5. In what other ways did Jesus teach the same lesson which He taught them by washing their feet?
  
6. Your comments from this text that can be applied to leadership in the home:

More on this subject

1. Motives in our decisions
  - What Scriptures define the motives God expects of us in decision-making?
  
2. Types of decisions
  - Each day we are faced with choosing between what is right or wrong, wise or unwise, good or good, good or better, etc. Describe a memorable or recent decision you faced. How would you describe what you were choosing between (good v bad, wise v unwise, etc.)?
  
3. Making decisions
  - What ought husbands/fathers do in the process of making decisions?

#### 4. Explaining our decisions

- Why did Jesus explain His decision to wash the disciples feet instead of just doing it?
  
- How do we decide when we should explain our decisions?

5. How those we lead respond to our decisions As Peter objected to Jesus, so we can expect that sometimes our decisions will be misunderstood or displeasing to our family. On these occasions we can “rule with an iron fist,” immediately cave to their preferences, or persist in godly leadership.

- Why should we care how those we lead respond to our decisions?

- **Choose one** of these verses and explain what it teaches us about responding to objections: Genesis 18:23-33; Exodus 3:1-4:17; Joshua 24:14-15; John 6:65-67; Acts 16:3 with Galatians 2:3

6. While the focus of this lesson has been on decision-making, leadership involves *much more* than decision-making. Choose one of the points from Lesson 1, and comment on its importance in leading your home.

**Conclusion** The family is the most ancient organization, and the role of husband is the most ancient leadership role on earth. Search the life of Jesus for more examples of leadership that you can apply to your home.

For further learning (we will not cover these in class):

1. read and analyze Ps. 23 and the leadership of the Shepherd.
2. Mordecai and his cousin Esther could be another study in how God uses our family relationships to accomplish His purposes.

## ***Leading in the church (4)***

Read 1 Peter 5:1-11

1. Who in this text could be described as a leader? Who do they lead?
  
2. What words identify or emphasize the need for leadership?
  
3. For what reasons are sheep/flock a fitting illustration of a saint/church?
  
4. In contrast to man's leadership in the home, leadership among the church always involves several men working together. What challenges does this present? What in this text guides that cooperation?
  
5. Review the admonitions in verses 2-3. Which is Jesus an example of (whether during His earthly life or current reign)? Explain your answer.

More on this subject

1. Every part must do its share (Eph. 4:16) As we develop ourselves as leaders, we are developing traits and abilities that are useable by God and needed by God's people.
  - What "parts" are needed in every congregation? (list as many as you can think of)
  
  - What "parts" are we missing?
  
  - What is your "part" among us currently?
  
  - What might be your "part" in the future (5 years, 10 years, 20 years)?

For personal application Which of the traits from Lesson 1 are a strength for you? a weakness for you? In the areas you perceive as a weakness, by seeking help from others you will see Ephesians 4:16 in action!

2. The body edifies itself in love (Eph. 4:16)
  - Select 1-2 of the points we studied in Lesson 1, and describe how it will help this congregation to grow and edify itself.
  
  - Describe how our work will be hindered in the absence of 1-2 of those points.

**Conclusion** God raises up leaders, but if His people refuse to lead, there will be unnecessary problems and complications. Are you willing to do your share of this work?

### ***Leading in our workplace (5)***

God has not appointed man to lead in every area of his life. There is a time to lead, and there is a time to follow. In our jobs, we may or may not be recognized as a leader. Yet, every leader has someone over them-- every CEO must submit to the government! But with Christ in us, we can be lights that *lead* the lost out of darkness and into His marvelous light (in this sense, women must lead also).

Read Daniel 3; Matthew 5:13-16

1. In what ways had Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego's faith been tested previous to Daniel 3?
  
2. As Daniel 3 begins, why had Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego already been promoted within Babylon?
  
3. Review the points of Lesson 1. Which of those points did these men display in these circumstances:
  - A. Their promotion (2:49)
  
  - B. When they heard the music play (v7)
  
  - C. When they were questioned by Nebuchadnezzar (v13-15)
  
  - D. When they were sentenced and being taken to the furnace (v19-20)
  
  - E. When they were called from the fire by Nebuchadnezzar (v26-27)

\* their conduct did not change during prosperity, adversity, ease, stress, their choices, others' choices, etc.
  
4. Summarize Nebuchadnezzar's leadership in the following circumstances:
  - A. After the dream and Daniel's interpretation (Dan. 2), building an image for all people to worship (v1ff)
  
  - B. In response to the news that some were not worshipping the image (v13)
  
  - C. In response to Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego's reply to him (v19)
  
  - D. In response to God saving Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego (v28-30)
  
5. These people show that whether we feel we are like "exiles" (low wages, hard work), working our way up, stuck at a "dead end," or standing at the "top of the ladder," God can use us.
  - A. What opportunities may "exiles, poor" have to lead/shine?
  
  - B. What opportunities may "the middle class" in America have to lead/shine?
  
  - C. What opportunities do the rich have in American to lead/shine?

**Conclusion** If America is becoming more like Babylon or rebellious Judah, then we must arm ourselves with the same faith as Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. God has work to do for saints leading in their workplace.



## *Leading in our community (6)*

While there will be some overlap between this and Lesson 5, the primary difference is our relationships with others. Our interaction with co-workers may be different once we “clock out.” Daily errands and regular routines place us into the lives of other people. Culture may also influence that interaction significantly, so that the relationship men have with others is quite different than it is for women. As men, what can we specifically do in the community? Maybe the life of Cornelius will help.

Read Acts 10:1-2, 7-8, 22, 24

1. What do these verses tell us about Cornelius’:  
     leadership-  
  
     conduct-  
  
     reputation-
2. Review the points of Lesson 1. Which ones are evident in Cornelius?
3. Who are the people outside of his family who obviously know Cornelius well?
4. What things said about Cornelius show that his influence in Caesarea was not primarily based on his work as a centurion?
5. Discuss Cornelius’ hospitality in this text (whose idea, shown to whom, what it required, what it produced).

More on this subject:

1. Friendliness (Pr. 18:24a) Someone who doesn’t bother or harm other people isn’t considered friendly. Friendliness is expressed by a genuine interest in others that is obvious. While we all have different personalities, the second greatest commandment directs us to show an interest in others, including those outside our family or close friends (Matt. 22:39).
  - What occasions or conversations did Jesus have which show He must have had a friendly demeanor along with His sober work and teaching?
  - Think back through this past week, and identify two opportunities you had to show friendliness in your community (not including Christians, family, close friends).

2. Hospitality (Heb. 13:2; 1 Tim. 3:2) “Southern hospitality” is a reputation forged in rural, southern America, but its been shown in every part of the country. More important than meeting the standard of “southern hospitality” is God’s reminder not to forget to entertain strangers. While hospitality is not limited to strangers (1 Pet. 4:9), it obviously includes them. In Acts 2:46-47, some saints would have been strangers to each other prior to their conversion to Christ. During this time, some saints must have had unconverted family who observed the *house to house* hospitality of the saints. Might some of them have also been invited on these occasions? What opportunities or impression might that have provided?

Hospitality toward strangers doesn’t mean making your house a hostel. In fact, friendliness often helps us to identify which strangers we could further invite into our lives and homes. In your observation, is this a growing, shrinking, or consistent practice of Christians? More importantly, is this a growing, shrinking, or consistent practice in your life?

Conclusion We ought to be looking for opportunities to know others better and to be known by others better. When faith prompts our friendliness, it can shine even through the shyest introvert. When faith prompts hospitality, even poverty-stricken families are highly blessed. If you are serious about being used by God to find the lost, learn how God molds men through friendliness and hospitality. We see these things, to some degree in Cornelius. God fully saw them in him. What does God see in you?