

Timeless Leadership

Week One – The Servant Leader

BOTTOM LINE

Before we become leaders WITH authority, we must first become leaders UNDER authority.

GOAL OF THE GROUP

One of the greatest needs we have in our church (and THE church) is great leaders. It's one of our biggest gaping holes, and the church must challenge leaders to step up. In this series we are going to look at five Bible characters and their example of leadership. This week we're looking at the life of Joshua.

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 23:1-3 and 8-11; Joshua 5:13-15; Matthew 20:20-28

THINK ABOUT

When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and demanded, "Are you friend or foe?" "Neither one," he replied. "I am the commander of the lord's army." At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence. "I am at your command," Joshua said. "What do you want your servant to do?" Joshua 5:13-14 NLT God did not come to be a part of Joshua's story or the story of Israel... God came to discover if Joshua had come to play a role in HIS story.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who do you lead? Family, kids, employees, fellow volunteers, peers, coworkers? If you stop and think back over your life, who is following you that you didn't realize you were leading?
2. Joshua led the nation of Israel from the time Moses died until he himself died at the age of 110. Read together Joshua 23:1-3 and 8-11. Joshua is giving a farewell address to the nation of Israel here. What would it be like to have this kind of list of accomplishments to read to your followers before you die? What would you want those that followed you to say about you?
3. In Joshua Chapter 5, Joshua and the Israelites are in the promised land getting ready to fight their first big battle. Read together Joshua 5:13-15.
 - a. What do you think was going through Joshua's mind before this encounter? How do you think coming face to face with "the commander of the Lord's Army" changed his perspective?
 - b. How has God spoken to you in these kinds of moments in the past?
4. Before we become leaders WITH authority, we must first become leaders UNDER authority. Joshua was concerned about whether this "guy" was for or against him. The real question was who was Joshua FOR. Read Matthew 20:20-28 together as a group.
 - a. What is James and John's mother really asking here? How do leaders (we) do the same thing in our lives?
 - b. If Jesus came here to serve, if His Kingdom is one of servant leaders, how should we pursue "greatness" in the Kingdom of God?
5. Think back to the people we talked about at the beginning of this study. What might it look like to lead them from a position of servant? As you look around our church and your life, who could you be leading that you're not currently leading?

TRY THIS

What do you want your legacy to be? Write your farewell address to the people who have been (and will be) following you through your life. How did they see Jesus in you? How did you point them towards Jesus as they followed you? How did you serve them like Jesus served his followers? What do you need to change today in relationship to how you lead to leave the kind of legacy God is calling you to?