

DISCUSSION GUIDE

How Should Christians Lead?

The Gospel of Mark - Week 48

ICEBREAKER: What's the most important thing about you?

OVERVIEW: You might not think of yourself as a leader, but just about everyone will find themselves in a leadership position at some point. A leader is someone with decision-making power over others. This includes husbands, parents, ministry leaders, teachers, coaches, managers, owners, police officers, etc. This is why everyone should be a student of effective leadership. But leadership is not easy. With leadership comes power, and our natural inclination is to use power for selfish reasons. Fortunately Jesus, the most effective leader of all time, taught how to lead in way that is both godly and effective. Jesus taught that the purpose of leadership is to serve the people you lead. In this discussion we will learn more about how to apply the principles of servant-leadership to our lives.

1. **Read Mark 10:35-45.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Other than Jesus Christ, in your opinion who is the greatest leader in the Bible? Explain.
3. A servant-leader puts people first. What are some ways that a leader can put people first in marriage, in parenting, in the classroom, at work, or at church (pick one)?
4. The best way to put people first in leadership is to follow the Golden Rule (Luke 6:31): Treat people the way you want to be treated. How is this the opposite of the way people typically lead others?
5. Consider your current context. If you are in a leadership position, what changes do you need to make to better apply the Golden Rule?
6. A servant-leader meets people's needs so they can succeed. Another way to think about it is that a leader's job is to remove the obstacles so people can succeed. Many leaders, however, believe that their job is merely to make decisions and bark out orders. Which type of leadership approach do you think would be the most effective? Explain.
7. In your context, what are some of the needs of your people, and how can you better meet those needs?
8. What is the difference between power and influence, and why is it important for a leader to develop influence with the people under their care?
9. What can you do in your context to develop more influence with the people you lead?
10. A servant-leader uses power to benefit the people they lead. What are some ways that leaders are tempted to abuse power? How can the concept of servant-leadership help you to avoid the abuse of power?

The Last Word: The purpose of leadership is to serve the people you lead.