

- ✓ **Learn**
- ✓ **Live**
- ✓ **Lead**

Leaders in the Making

Jesus: The World's Greatest Leader

Week 1

Key Idea: *The word "leadership" is a millennial buzz word. Countless self-help books, seminars, podcasts, and even high school and college classes teach about leadership. You've probably heard this question: "Are you going to be a leader or a follower?" No one wants to be just a follower. Maybe your parent has said, "Just because everyone is jumping off a cliff, does that mean you'll follow and jump off too?" Jesus wasn't a follower. Jesus was, and is, the greatest Leader the world has ever known.*

Leaders in the Making is a study that guides you to become the leader God designed you to be. You'll understand the importance of:

- 1) **Learning** what the Bible says about leadership,
- 2) **Living** out what the Bible teaches about leadership and
- 3) **Leading** others to become leaders.

Think About It:

God created you with a unique personality. He has equipped you with skills that define the type of leader He purposed you to be.

God gave an example of the "perfect leader" through the man, Jesus Christ, who is God in human form. God presented Himself in the flesh so that you could see Him experience the very same emotions, difficulties and temptations that you face. Jesus modeled, without sinning, ways for everyone to deal with each life circumstance! It only makes sense that His perfection would result in Him being referred to as a perfect leader.

Jesus was and is the greatest leader the world has ever known. He died a physical death more than 2,000 years ago. But Jesus wasn't just a person in history; *He lives* in the hearts of Christians who still follow Him today!

What made Jesus a great leader? Jesus sees into people's hearts, considers their talents, and then equips them to love God and people effectively. He understood what motivated people to serve and work together. Jesus modeled every positive leadership trait required to effectively lead others. He also recognized the differing leadership characteristics, personalities and skills in people that enabled them to serve and lead others.

Great leaders during Biblical times, as well as today, have unique leadership styles. For example, you may be a great leader because of your strong thinking and problem-solving skills. Someone else may be great at organizing a team of people to complete a project. Some leaders may be calculated risk-takers who can make quick, effective decisions. And, the strength of other leaders is their ability to relate to and interact well with people working toward a common goal.

Christians are called to be like Jesus. Therefore, if you are a Christ follower, you've been chosen for Christian leadership. **Leaders in the Making** will help you learn more about the unique personality and skills that God placed within you, as you become the Christian leader God created you to be.

Talk About It:

1. **Make a list** of adjectives (descriptive words) that come to mind when you read the words “leader” and “follower.”
2. Are people born as leaders or is leadership learned and developed? **Discuss** and **give** examples.
3. **Share** some characteristics or stories you know about Jesus that demonstrate His leadership ability.
4. The passages below describe some leadership qualities that Jesus possessed. **Read, analyze** and **discuss** how Jesus demonstrated leadership in each Scripture. (Note: Several passages include more than one leadership trait.)

Philippians 2:3-8 ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

John 13:12-15 ¹² When He had finished washing their [the Disciples’] feet, He put on His clothes and returned to His place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” He asked them. ¹³ “You call Me Teacher and Lord; and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Matthew 21:12 Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.

Matthew 4:19 (AMP) And He said to them, “Follow Me [as My disciples, accepting Me as your Master and Teacher and walking the same path of life that I walk], and I will make you fishers of men.”

Luke 2:52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Key Takeaway: *God has a perfect plan for your life. As a Christ-follower, your ultimate purpose should be to love God as you become more and more like Him. God uniquely created and designed you with a specific purpose and personality. He has even designed you with a unique leadership style so that you may lead others effectively. Unless you are truly following Christ, you can’t be a Christian leader.*

“Who or what are you following?”
Come back next week to find out.