

- ☑ Learn
- ☑ Live
- ☑ Lead

Re - Born to Lead

LIVE WHAT YOU SAY YOU BELIEVE

Week 7

Leaders **learn** about and believe in the idea(s) they want others to follow. But, leadership requires more than just learning and believing. Authentic, positive leadership also requires integrity. Simply put, integrity means you **“live what you say you believe.”** You don’t just *say* the right thing, you *do* the right thing! Leaders with integrity both influence and lead others well. To positively influence people so that they want to follow you, live a transparent life!

Key Idea:

Choose to do the right thing is key to becoming a strong Christian leader who is a positive influence on others.

Good News

Throughout history, leaders have risen to power because they’re influencers who bring hope and help to people. Generally, these leaders are strong and selfless individuals who influence their followers through the leadership style of Jesus. This type of leadership is *“servant leadership.”* Servant leaders know they must first earn the right to lead by personally making wise life-choices. Servant leaders also put a high priority on meeting the needs of their followers as they genuinely live out the motto *“talk is cheap, but actions speak!”*

Bad News

Beware! Many influential leaders do great harm to their followers and others. These harmful leaders are self-promoting, selfishly motivated, and primarily want to benefit themselves. You’ll find them in business, politics, sports, religion, and family life! Even leaders in your school may have self-centered reasons for wanting people to follow them. Their goal isn’t to *“serve others,”* but, rather to be *served by* others.

Philippians 2:3-4 says, *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but, in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also to the interests of the others.”*

No leader is perfect. But, you should ask yourself these questions:

- 1) *“Have I earned the right to lead because of the way I live?”*
- 2) *“Do people follow me because I’m a positive influence in their lives?”*
- 3) *“Is my leadership motivated by concern for others?”*

Servant Leadership

Servant leadership begins with a selfless leader who brings integrity and loyalty to his or her followers. This leadership style is quite different from the leadership approach that controls followers through *demands* and *commands*. Don’t claim the title of “leader” just because you hold the position. Choose a lifestyle of personal sacrifice and *service* toward people you lead. This will result in your team members wanting to rally behind your ideas and objectives and do their best to meet the common goal.

Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. *1 Timothy 4:12*

— Talk About It —

1. **Read** Hebrews 13:7. Whether leaders are Christians or not, they attract more followers if they *live what they say they believe*. **Give** examples of leaders at your school who have a positive influence on others because of the way they live.
2. **Read** Mark 10:44-45. Ask yourself, “Does the way I live demonstrate a life that serves others?” **Give** specific examples of how you can apply *servant leadership* in:
a) team sports, b) a team project for class, and c) your family life.
3. **Read** Exodus 23:2. Negative peer pressure is everywhere. Earning the right to lead often requires taking a brave and strong stance against what your “friends” want you to do! In **what** areas do you feel pressured to do the wrong thing?
4. Doing the right thing may *cost* you something. **Read** 1 Peter 3:14, 17. From your own life experience, **share** if you have lost a friend, popularity, a good test grade or something else because of “living the right way and doing the right thing.”
5. Often students have a spiritual experience at a Christian camp or a great Christian concert. They make an emotional commitment to follow the ways of Christ at school, at home, and in their social lives. But, in a few weeks, their commitment to *live what they say they believe* is gone. They find they are serving themselves instead of serving God and others.
a) **When** has this happened to you?
b) **Read** Galatians 1:10 and **discuss** how the verse explains *why* this happens.
6. All students, especially those wanting to live out their faith, can feel hopeless if they keep making sinful lifestyle choices that are destructive to themselves and others (such as underage drinking, drugs, sex before marriage, cheating, etc.). **Discuss** why struggling to overcome the “same old sin,” brings a sense of hopelessness that can lead to depression, low self-esteem and even suicide.

Anchor your Hope in God’s Love

In Jeremiah 31:3, the LORD says, “*I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.*” The good news is that God’s love for you is *never* based on your performance. You don’t earn His love. You don’t lose His love. You have His love *always*. His love never changes or wavers. The only thing that changes is how you respond to that love.

— Read It —

Hebrews 13:7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Mark 10:44-45 (NLT) (*Jesus speaking*) ⁴⁴Whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve others, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Exodus 23:2a (NirV) Do not follow the crowd when they do what is wrong.

1 Peter 3:14, 17 (ISV) ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Never be afraid of their threats, and never get upset. ¹⁷After all, if it is the will of God, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Galatians 1:10 (NIV) Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Key Takeaway:
Don't follow the crowd into sin. Live what you say you believe!

Next Week:
Great leaders motivate their followers.
Learn the value of teamwork!