

TITLE: Servant Leadership

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Book 8

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

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PREFACE

Welcome to the Project Discipleship series of materials. These courses were designed to give basic information concerning various topics about our Christian faith in Christ Jesus. People are called by Christ to become His disciple, but for one to become mature in Christ Jesus we need to study the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15) so that we can bear lasting fruit for His glory. We need to determine in our hearts to take time in the Word of God so that the Word of God can get into us.

The purpose of these materials is to stimulate thought and to foster a clearer understanding of how to be a true disciple and servant for our Lord Jesus Christ. These courses can be used as a discussion tool for personal study, family devotion, youth meetings or in cell groups or for the running a discipleship training school. Our hope is that this information will stir the students and encourage them to go deeper into personal research and study with the Word of God.

Our desire is that these courses will be a blessing to the student, as a tool and as a resource that could be shared with others fellow disciples of Jesus Christ.

Please feel free to mail or e-mail us concerning other subject or to just write to us with any feedback concerning the content of these studies. We pray that Christ will draw you into an ever deeper personal relationship with Himself as you study.

Your servants in Christ, Rev. Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

*"Not that we are **adequate** in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our **adequacy** is from God, who also made us **adequate as servants** of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life".*

II Corinthians 3:5-6

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INTRODUCTION

Servant leadership can be a very broad topic and much has been written on this subject. My focus is on some key principles from the Bible that might help people in their understanding of leadership.

We must make clear that we are servants of Christ Jesus, called by Him out of this world of sin and darkness, to become ambassadors of reconciliation to a lost world. Christ is our head and we belong to a body which is His church. The true body is one that is built and established on the full Gospel of Jesus Christ. He is the only way, truth and life that we follow (John 14:6).

In one form or another we are all leaders. We influence people around us each day by what we say and do. Christ has given us talents and gifts that can be used to either build up or destroy people. He has empowered us to lead as servants. He said that He did not come to be served but to serve.

There is a great need for **servant leaders** today, people who are trained and equipped to serve with their lives no matter the price or cost. The age of grace is coming to an end and the fields are ripe. We are told the labours are few and that we need to be praying to the “Lord of the harvest” to send out more labourers (Matthew 9:37-38). We need people to step out in faith and believe that God can use them. We should be encouraging all disciples to be equipped and trained to go out to serve our Lord.

Servant leadership is a learned skill and often it evolves from on-the-job training. We learn from our mistakes and make changes to things as we go along. The Bible is one of the best leadership manuals that we can have because we can glean firsthand from people’s testimonies and teaching. Their accounts have been kept for us in order to pass on the wisdom they also learned.

It is the purpose of this study to better equip the reader to

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become a more effective **servant leader** for Jesus Christ. He has sent the Holy Spirit to be our teacher and we are told that when we lack wisdom we can call upon His name (James 1:5). It is important not to be overcome by fear, but to stand in the power of Christ and to step out in faith. Continue to run for Jesus with all your heart.

If you are a disciple of Christ, you are automatically a **servant leader**. A leader is one who influences another. A disciple is to have a lifestyle that influences others to know more about Christ. The **servant leader** is one who has died to self and has surrendered his will to the will of Christ. We no longer live, but it is Christ living in us. We become a new creation with old things having passed away. We must remember that as we follow Christ; others will follow as we lead by example.

DEFINITIONS AND SYNONYMS

Servant: a person bound to do the bidding of a master or superior; one that must work for another and obey him. *Synonyms:* helper, worker, steward, slave, supporter, follower.

Leader: the person who leads or commands a group, organization, or country; a person followed by others. *Synonyms:* chief, head, principal, pioneer, front runner, innovator, trailblazer, pathfinder, ground-breaker, leading light, guiding light, torch-bearer, originator, initiator, developer, discoverer, founder, architect, influencer.

SCRIPTURE:

Colossians 3:12-24 (New Living Translation) *“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tender-hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowances for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Let the message about*

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*Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged. Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. **Serve** them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are **servicing** is Christ.*

The book of Colossians was written by Paul to the church in Colossae. Paul was most likely writing from Rome where he was under house arrest around 60 AD. It also came as a response to what a fellow labourer Epaphrus shared with Paul. Epaphrus was converted in the city of Ephesus and went to Colossae to bring the Gospel to the Colossians. Out of that came a church, he was instrumental in starting (Col 1:7-8 and Acts 19:10). The churches in this area were comprised mainly of Gentile people and the theme of the book of Colossians could be called, "the complete adequacy of Christ." Paul wanted to teach these believers some principles that dealt with things like, prayer, supremacy of Christ, the importance of the church, freedom that we have in Christ, the importance of holy living and how we should lead and teach each other. Colossians chapter three set a good foundation stone on what it means to be a **servant leader**.

Servant leadership is always a challenge and the more we advance in leadership the greater the responsibilities and challenges we will face. Leadership can be a very lonely place – there will always be struggles with people who are discontent with what we do.

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Our goal as a **servant leader** is to produce lasting fruit. We need to see more labourers and leaders produced for the Kingdom of God and for the work that Christ has entrusted to us. The harvest is ripe we are told the labours are very, very few (Matthew 9:37-38). Paul wants the church to rest our foundation on Christ and His teaching.

Servant leaders are not born, they are made. We need to understand that most leaders in the Bible were trained and equipped and worked together with each other under the headship of Christ.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

God uses different kinds of people to bring leadership to His people. Christ uses our strengths and weaknesses to lead others. When we work within a team, our effort and effectiveness are enhanced. Christ desires to use us as we are and move us through an equipping and training processes that will mature us into being good leaders. Some examples that we can see are in the people listed below:

Peter:	John 21:15-21 Fisherman Leader in the church in Jerusalem Wrote the Books of 1 and 2 Peter
Matthew:	Matthew 9:9-13 Tax collector Wrote the Book of Matthew
Luke:	Luke 1:1-4 & Acts 1:1-2 Doctor (He also was a Gentile) Wrote the Books of Luke and Acts
Philip:	Acts 8:4-8 Deacon Evangelist of the Gospel of Christ Minister to an Ethiopian eunuch

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- Barnabas:** Acts 4:36-37 and Acts 11:22-26
Levite
Missionary, teacher and mentored many other leaders
- Apollos:** Acts 18:24-28
Equipped and well-trained teacher of the Scriptures
Missionary and teacher
- Paul:** Acts 9:1-22
From Pharisee to an Apostle of Christ
From one who persecuted the church to missionary
One who planted churches
Wrote letters to the Romans, Corinthians Galatians, Philippians, Ephesians etc.
- John Mark:** Acts 15:37-41
Young man, somewhat a legalist, stubborn, rejected by Paul but later accepted him as a fellow missionary. Acts 15:38, Philemon 24, 2 Timothy 4:11
- Lydia:** Acts 16:13-15
Business lady
Homemaker
- Philemon:** Philemon 1:1-2
Slave owner
- Epaphras:** Colossian 1:7-8 and Acts 19:10
Church planter

This list could go on. Needless to say, God uses men and women to lead His church. They were ordinary people from a variety of

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backgrounds who allowed Christ to train them for the work that would fulfill His purposes.

Philemon 1:23-25 *Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.*

OBJECT LESSON

Yoke: Often when we think of the word "yoke"; we imagine a team of oxen, two individual steers being harnessed together to plough or to pull a wagon. The two individuals become one in purpose and goal – **servant leadership** can be pictured the same way. We become teamed with Christ and other disciples to fulfill the call that He has given to us. He trains us individually and often through others. We can build up each other as we all pull together and encourage those who are leaders over us. It takes time yet as we let Him mold us, we can become special vessels.

I Call

It is important that we clearly understand what the call of God is and how it will affect our lives. The call to leadership is not an easy road, but it can be very rewarding. Those who step out in faith and lead others will undergo pressure of all kinds. That is why the call of God must be clear. We must realize that when God calls us into leadership He will also equip, strengthen and guide us by His spirit.

DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

call: announce, proclaim, to summon, to invoke solemnly, to call God to witness, to summon to a specific work, to call someone to ministry, to arouse someone from sleep. **Synonyms:** announce, awaken, cry out,

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hail, proclaim, waken, assemble, invite, summon, name, declare, ordain, set apart, consider, think.

KEY SCRIPTURE

*Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the **calling** with which you have been **called**, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were **called** in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*

Ephesians 4:1-6

CONTEXT

- Paul wanted the Ephesians' church to understand that they were made alive in Christ.
- Paul wanted them to understand that they were to enter into a personal relationship with Christ.
- Paul explained his call of God and how it was to bring the message of grace to the Gentiles and that his ministry had an eternal purpose.
- Paul prayed that their eyes and minds would open so that they could understand clearly what Christ had done for them.
- They were told how the body of Christ should work together to function in unity and harmony.
- Paul shared that there were different kinds of calling when it came to ministry and leadership, but the purpose was to prepare others for service.

INSIGHTS

The first step of the disciple and sets the person ministry is, to clearly understand what the call of God is in his life. We will go through many challenges and if the leader is not sure what God is calling him to

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do, he can face a lot of heartaches in the different stages of his life. Part of a disciple's call is service. The two cannot be separated and we must understand this key principle if we are to become a **servant leader**. True leadership must flow out of a great love for Christ and for what He has done in our lives (Gal. 5:13).

The call of Christ is one of following. We are the sheep and He is the shepherd; we are His and His only. We cannot have room for our own individual wants and desires. We are to be God-conscious, not self-conscious. Our daily walk as a leader will often be confronted by a battle of the "wills". The temptation to do "my will" can be strong, and at times overcomes us, yet that is when we need to surrender to the cross of Christ. He knows our needs and desires (Ephesians 6:7).

Paul would often remind the churches of his call by the Lord. His leadership and writing were in response to that call and demonstrate the love for God's people. A leader should lead out of care and concern for people and should want to see them grow and be blessed in what they do. King David and King Solomon each had a heart to lead God's people, coming from of a personal relationship they had with God (1 Samuel 3:10, 12:20-24, Psalm 2:11, 89:3).

Jesus reminded His disciples that they cannot serve two masters. If they try, they will be pulled apart inside, because they can never please them both (Luke 16:13). We are not to be of this world even though we live in it. We are to focus on the Kingdom of Heaven and remember we are pilgrims passing through.

Our key Scripture, Ephesians 4:1-6 challenges us to walk in a manner worthy of our calling. Our actions and calling must line up with each other and as disciples of Christ, we are to lead with humility and gentleness, being patient and tolerant. We are also to be diligent in preserving unity.

There is a great need to get people to work together, for them to see that they are all part of the same of body which Christ is the head.

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Paul reminds us that just as there is a oneness in the Godhead, we as leaders should be striving for oneness in the body and ministry which we are serving (1 Cor. 12:12).

RELEVANCE

It is essential to **servant leadership** to make sure our call is based on personally knowing Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord of our lives. This must be the foundation that everything else is built upon. Leadership is leading people to a call in Christ and helping them to be equipped so they can fulfill that call.

In our leadership journey, we must insure that our lives do not lead anyone astray (1 John 3:7). Our actions and conduct affect the people around us. Our call will affect other people's hearts. We need to humble ourselves before God and before others. When we do, He will lift us up and reward us for our faithfulness to His calling.

REFLECTION

As I lead who and what am I following? Is my leadership built firmly on the Lordship of Jesus Christ in my life? When He speaks to me am I faithful in doing that which I have been asked?

SCRIPTURES RELATING TO CALL

Matthew 4:18-22 Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was **called** Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "**Follow** Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and **followed** Him. Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He **called** them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and **followed** Him.

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1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were **called**, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2 Timothy 1:8-9 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and **called** us with a holy **calling**, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ from all eternity,

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen race, A royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has **called** you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

2 Peter 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who **called** us by His own glory and excellence.

RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON:

1. Research the call of God on people's lives.
2. Research the different kinds of calls.

II Character

They say that one's name is as precious as gold but in the Christian community what is more precious is one's **character**. Our character will determine our ability to lead and influence others. There are many people who were at one time great leaders, but their **character** traits undermined all that they had or would be. As leaders we must look

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in the mirror and examine who we are. Our words and actions must go hand-in-hand if we are to be worthy vessels that the Lord can use to bless and lead others. It does not mean that we are perfect but it does mean we have to be wise in how we deal with people and things.

DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

Character: the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual; a person's good reputation. *Synonyms:* personality, nature, disposition, temperament, mentality, constitution, make-up, attributes, features, qualities, traits, identity, distinctiveness, uniqueness, spirit, moral strength, uprightness, fortitude, strength, backbone, toughness, resolve, will power, firmness of purpose, reputation, name, good name, standing, stature, position, status, image, credibility, acceptability, prestige.

Personality: the combination of characteristics or qualities that form an individual's distinctive character. *Synonyms:* character, nature, disposition, temperament, temper, make-up, persona, identity, charisma, magnetism, strength of personality, force of personality, character, powers of attraction, charm, presence, individuality, attractiveness.

KEY SCRIPTURE

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven **character**; and proven **character**, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

Romans 5:1-5

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CONTEXT

- Paul wanted the Roman church to reflect the righteousness of Christ.
- God was faithful in sending His Son to redeem us and help in our everyday walk.
- Christ was the first born, the one to set the example of character that we are to follow.
- Abraham had faith in God and trusted that God cared about all the details of life.
- Adam's life brought death to all mankind but Christ came to give us life.

INSIGHTS

Character is what others see in you. The value of honesty and trust is so important. Often we need to remember that what we think greatly influences our actions. Jesus warned that it was not the things which went into the mouth, that were the problem, but what came out of the mouth often showed what was in the heart (Matt 15:11-18). He also shared that salt and fresh water cannot come from the same well. You might on some occasion be able to hide who you are, yet somewhere in life it will come out for all to see.

Jesus taught about people's attitude and used the religious people as an example. He taught the disciples that **character** would be used to build the Body of Christ. We need to remember that we are not all the same. We are all made up differently and our uniqueness difference is what makes the church of Christ strong. Still, our morals are standards that we value as true, things that we would die for. These are the foundation stones that we have built our lives on. They are truths that the Bible proclaims as God's way of living and common to all.

As unique people, we have different **character** traits. Some we have inherited, some we learned as we grew and some are the culture and traditions we lived by. Finally, some have come through things like

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reading or watching TV, or interacting with different kinds of people. Some trials can express themselves in good or bad habits. They can be very difficult to change and often we cannot do it in our own strength or ability. This is why we need Christ – when He comes into our lives, the old life is put away and we become a new creation. We are like a clean blackboard with nothing written on it. Christ begins to pour into us a new way of living, a new truth, a new way of thinking. It is though we acquired His DNA.

John 15 talks about the Father as the vinedresser, the one who prunes those branches that do not produce fruit. Our **character** patterns can either produce fruit or stop fruit from growing in our lives. The way that **character** is produced in our lives is through the challenges that we face, for when we go through hardship our true nature comes forth. Paul was trying to teach this to the Roman church. All things that we face are there to polish our **character**. We all have a sinful nature and if we are not submitted to Christ daily, it will show its ugly face to others.

RELEVANCE

Character traits are something we all have and they express themselves in a variety of ways. Sometime the best way to find out what our positive and negative traits are is by asking a close friend. Negative traits can be changed but will take prayer and determination to reprogram your heart and thinking. We must give our struggles over to Christ and ask Him to renew us. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to remind and teach us each day how we can change. We must also study the Word of God and learn how others have overcome the same **character** problems. Confession before God and others is another way to bring about positive **character** change.

REFLECTION

What are we doing in our lives to help build new **character** traits that will bring honour and glory to our Lord? What areas do we need to change?

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SCRIPTURES RELATED TO CHARACTER

Matthew 12:33-37 Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Hebrews 13:5-6 Make sure that your **character** is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?"

RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON:

1. Study the different kinds of character traits that can make up a good life.
2. Look at how character has affected leaders around you.
3. List some people whose character destroyed their ministry or leadership role.

III Relationship

Relationship with others is one of the hardest things to build because it takes time and openness in communication. Communication is important if we hope to build strong **relationships**. The more we communicate the more we can understand the heart of the other person.

Servant leadership is working with a team of people. They are

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made up of different characters and abilities and the only way to succeed as leaders is to get to know them as individuals. This takes time and effort and mistakes will be made along the way. Some of our best friends end up being those we have faced challenges with. A leader must build a solid team of people in order to be able to move forward.

DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

Relationship: the state of being connected. *Synonyms:* relation, association, link, alliance, bond, interconnection.

Fellowship: friendly association, especially with people who share one's interests; a group of people meeting to pursue a shared interest or aim. *Synonyms:* companionship, companionability, sociability, comradeship, friendship, mutual support, mutual respect, mutual liking, intimacy, association, closeness, togetherness, solidarity.

Team: come together as a team to achieve a common goal: harness together to pull. *Synonyms:* join forces, collaborate, get together, come together, band together, work together, unite, combine, cooperate, merge, link, ally, associate, amalgamate.

Body: the main part of something; the trunk or main mass of an organism. *Synonyms:* figure, form, shape, association, collection, company, corporation.

Together: *Synonyms:* in conjunction, jointly, conjointly, in cooperation, cooperatively, in collaboration, in partnership, in combination, as one, in unison, in concert, concertedly, with one accord, in league, in alliance, in collusion, side by side, hand in hand, hand in glove, shoulder to shoulder.

KEY SCRIPTURE

What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I

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planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

CONTEXT

- Paul challenges the people for being on milk and not on mature food. They were living like babies.
- The Corinthians were walking in worldly ways.
- They did not understand the One who they were to be following.
- They needed the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.
- There were many divisions in the church.
-

INSIGHTS

Working together as a team is easier said than done. People have to overcome their individualism and focus on doing things that are best for the team. We must realize and maintain the corporate vision for which we are working. We must maintain that together we win or together we lose. **Servant leadership** is pulling a group of individuals together to work for a common goal. The deeper the **relationship** to each other the greater the harmony and unity will be.

There is an acronym that one can get from the word "team".

T	Together
E	Everyone
A	Accomplishes
M	More

This can be illustrated by having one person sit on a chair. Ask

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another individual to come and pick up the person with the chair. They cannot do it. But if you ask six people to come and pick up the person with the chair, they can do it with ease because they have a common goal and are all working together.

A leader must work at building up the team so they can all pull in the same direction to get the job done. Following are five principles that a leader should focus on for effective team building.

Team oneness: 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Paul told the Corinthian church that different people needed to be involved to help them grow in Christ. There was not just one person, but a team of people that God raised up at different times to minister to them in specific ways. So Paul planted, Appollos watered, but it was God who gave the increase. We must see that we are God's fellow workers. We are all on the same team and we are to be one with each other and with God. It is most important to remember to see ourselves as servants of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Team mind and spirit: Philippians 1:27-28

Paul told the Philippian church to conduct themselves in a manner that is worthy of the Gospel. They were to stand firm in one spirit, working as one in mind and heart for the Gospel. He told them to be as one walking in faith, not to be afraid of their enemies. Our walk should be a shining light of the Gospel to a lost world. We as leaders must tap into the oneness of the Spirit. The Spirit of God dwells in us and He connects us together. When people see how there is oneness in the church it bears testimony to a living God for whom we serve.

Team character: 1 Thessalonians 5:10-15

Paul said we should live together with Christ. Just like individuals have different character traits, a team can also exemplify a certain type of character also. If one member is doing something wrong

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or sinful it reflects on the whole team or body. For example, if one member is not a representative of Christ, this impacts the team and reflects into the community a certain type of image that can become very negative and even disastrous to the whole.

Paul taught the Thessalonian believers about the one another principle. They are to:

- encourage one another
- build up one another
- be kind one to another
- love one another
- respect one another
- live at peace with one another
- be patient with one another

These are all character traits that the team should have and that the team leaders should be working toward. We need to pray and ask wisdom on how to lead and build God's team which has a "one-another" spirit about them.

Team function: 1 Corinthians 12:12-24, Romans 12:4-8

In this area the leaders need to discern the talents and gifting of each team member. Paul explains to the Corinthian church that there are many members but one body. Different people have different functions. Their gifts need to work with the other team members. We are not to be all the same type of people, these differences are what make the team strong. As team leaders we need to help people understand who they are in Christ so they will have the ability to help others. At times when you cannot do the job and you need to get someone else who can. While Barnabas was in Antioch a church had birthed. He knew he could not oversee them, so he traveled to Paul and brought him back to do the work of the ministry. This is a demonstration of body ministry and **servant leadership**.

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Team purpose and goal: 2 Corinthians 6:1

Paul called us as to be workers with Christ. The **servant leader** must set the direction for the team. It is his job to keep the team focused on that purpose and goal. Leaders must have clear in their minds and hearts what God is calling them to do in the harvest fields where they live. We are all missionaries. Some leaders will lead people in other countries, some will work in their local neighbourhood. Again Paul reminds the church that we are all fellow works, sinners saved by God's grace and have been called by Christ to be ambassadors of reconciliation. The road map of ministry is given to us throughout the Scripture and the leader is responsible to study it and convey those instructions to others on the team.

RELEVANCE

You may struggle to be a team leader, but take heart! The body of Christ works to support each of its members. You lead, but are also being lead. Allow the work of the Holy Spirit to flow through you. Servant leadership is important because it looks out for the welfare of the whole. God uses people on your team, to help you to grow as a leader. Some of your team members may seem like a thorn in your flesh, but in the long run you will be a better leader for it. We need to keep committed and not grow weary in serving in this kind of ministry. As a leader, you are responsible to stay on track, serving with all your heart, not to glorify yourself but to glorify Christ Jesus.

REFLECTION

What changes do I need to make in the way that I lead others? What am I doing to help me to become a better leader? What am I doing to build strong relationship within the team that God has put around me?

RELATED SCRIPTURES FOR THE LESSON

1 Corinthians 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many.

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Romans 12:4-8 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Ephesians 4:11-13 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Philippians 1:27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

1 Thessalonians 5:9-18 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labour among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

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RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON:

1. Analyze a local sports team and see what their strengths and weakness is:
2. What is the purpose of having different positions on a team.

IV Ministry of Equipping

We are all called to be ministers. A minister is one who serves others. If we are leaders we have the responsibility to help others do the work of the ministry with the best tools possible. The goal of a minister is to be constantly **equipping** himself in the best way possible, for the work of service. As we take in we can give out. Freely we have received so freely we can give (Matthew 10:8).

DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

Ministry: with or in proximity to another person or people, in combination, the performance of any service or function for another, a person or thing through which something is accomplished. *Synonyms:* with each other, in conjunction, jointly, conjointly, in cooperation, cooperatively, in collaboration, in partnership, in combination, as one, in unison, in concert, concertedly, with one accord, in league, in alliance, in collusion, side by side, hand in hand, hand in glove, shoulder to shoulder

Equip: to supply with resources, fit out, to provide for. To provide with what is necessary, useful or appropriate. *Synonyms:* provide, furnish, supply, issue, arm, endow.

KEY SCRIPTURE

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man

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*of God may be adequate, **equipped** for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

*But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your **ministry**.*

2 Timothy 4:5

CONTEXT:

- Paul encourages Timothy to remain faithful in Christ Jesus.
- Timothy was to remember how he was called by God for service.
- Timothy was encouraged to stick to the pattern that Paul had laid out for him.
- Timothy was encouraged to train and equip others.
- Timothy was reminded of the importance of the Gospel and confessing Christ as Lord.
- Timothy was warned about what will happen in the last days.
- Timothy needed to keep firm and faithful to the word of God.

INSIGHTS

We must see that there is a great need for ministers; Christ called them labours. Things cannot get accomplished if people do not get involved. We need to **equip** ourselves and take that which we have learned to **equip** others also. There are at least seven different areas that leader's must be **equipped** in. We get **equipped** through prayer, study, service, observation, action, response and evaluation.

Prayer

Communication with God is fundamental to shaping **ministry**. We become connected to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit who are the great teachers of all things. Jesus told the disciples that they have not because they ask not. James teaches that if we lack wisdom we are to ask of the Father and He will give it to us generously. Solomon asked from God wisdom and God gave much more. We are to seek God first and the

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rest will fall into place. A leader must be a person of prayer and lead others into change, for when we pray things do change. Jesus exemplified this in a powerful way, the importance of prayer in the disciple's life. Prayer **equips** and prepares us for the ministry that lies ahead.

Study

A leader must also be a person who studies God's Word. As David said in Psalm 1, we must be people who meditate on God's Word. The Scriptures are there to give us knowledge and understanding. They bear testimony of a living God who desires to live and work through people. They also are a sword to be used in a spiritual warfare.

We must continually grow and that means making time for study. If we do not have time to study, we cannot lead people. The Word is our sure foundation – we must know and understand it if we are to use it to **equip** others in the body of Christ.

A leader is a reader!

Serving

To understand what it means to be a leader we must be willing to serve first under other leaders, people who are seasoned in the **ministry of servant leadership**. We become **equipped** more quickly and we learn from other people's mistakes. It is like getting on-the-job training. People will help you to learn if you are willing to first serve. This is why many schools have internship programs – people can be mentored by others before they begin their own ministry.

Observation

We can also be **equipped** by going to other places of ministry to watch how it is being done. God works through a variety of people and various ministries can show us new things. We get fresh ideas for the

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work we are leading. God wants us to depend on others, asking questions and seeking advice.

Action

Another way of developing is by stepping out and doing. It is said that practice makes perfect! We need to be active in doing so we can learn from our own mistakes. We can read and study and even pray but the best things are learned through on the job training. Ask others where you can get involved and start off by doing little things. Some of the best leaders have been those who have worked their way from the bottom up.

Response

Equipping must include strength and courage to step out in faith and to take a risk sometimes into the unknown. There are times where we cannot lead others until we have moved beyond our comfort zone. Willingness helps us to overcome fear and builds confidence in how He can work through us. God will go before you with the Holy Spirit's guidance. This means trusting that God is able to lead you and keep you from all harm.

Going forth broadens your horizons and helps you experience things that God can use to help others down the road. No experience is a waste of time. It can be a training ground that can produce a great harvest.

Evaluation

After Jesus had sent out the seventy, they came back and shared all that happened. Paul and Peter bore a testimony of what God had done through their lives. They answered questions on the things that they had done and taught others. Every leader needs accountability and a covering because we do not function alone. We are not an island unto ourselves. Leadership reporting can be very healthy and is a great tool in becoming **equipped** for service.

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The key is to be faithful with what God has entrusted to us. If we are not faithful and obedient He will not give us more to do, but may even take away even that which we were given. The parable of the talents teaches this truth Matthew 25:14-30. Three leaders had worked with the master. The master left, but on return he evaluated and found out that two had been faithful and one who was not willing to use what he had been given. God is more interested in your trying and even failing than in you do nothing at all.

We need to make sure that we are becoming **equipped** according to God's will and purpose for our lives. Many people receive training and never use it. We need to help people to take the next step. If they do not use what they have been given, often they lose it. God entrusts us with ministry so that we will be faithful to go out and use it for His glory.

RELEVANCE

Paul told Timothy to **equip** others who can be faithful to go out and teach others. Leaders need to work with people who desire to get involved, become trained and **equipped** and use that which has been planted in their hearts. We are to be **leader/ministers** of the Gospel of Christ. Our lives will always be a time of learning, growing and maturing. God wants our lives to always be producing fruit. A **servant leader** has work to do until he goes home to be with Jesus.

REFLECTION

What are you doing in your leadership role to help **equip** others? Do you have an **equipping / training** program in your church? How are you personally involved in **equipping** others?

SCRIPTURES RELATED TO MINISTRY

Acts 6:4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the **ministry** of the word.

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1 Corinthians 12:4-11 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of **ministries**, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the **ministry** of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, **equip** you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON:

1. Research and study other ministry plans for equipping.
2. Develop a program that can equip other servant leaders for ministry.

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V FRUIT

LEAD-IN: To be filled with the Spirit means that the believer will demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in his or her life. The New Testament pattern for living is set in Matthew 7:16: “You will know them by their fruit.” The first evidence of being filled with the Spirit is godly living. God wants mature Christians, who manifest the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23: “*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*” (Christian Worker’s Handbook. Billy Graham. P158.). We are challenged by God not only to be fruit inspectors, but more than anything else, to be producers of fruit.

DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS:

Root: the portion of the plant that grows below ground and functions as an organ of absorption; a basic cause, source or origin (social, ethnic or cultural); rooted - fixed or firmly established. Synonyms: source, origin, beginning, genesis, foundation, heart, essence, ancestors, heritage, birthplace.

Vine: any climbing or trailing woody-stemmed plant, sometimes bearing fruit, as coiled about a support (such as grapes).

Branch: a stem growing from the trunk or a limb of a tree; to spring off or out from. Synonyms: limb, arm, offshoot.

Fruit: represents the mature edible product of a plant; “offspring,” or the “fruit of a womb,” of any creature; the “product” or “result” of an action. Synonyms: product; result; reward; earnings.

Sap: fluid that carries nourishment; active strength of the body. Synonyms: life blood, life source.

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Graft: to insert a shoot from one plant into another so that they join and grow together; the point of union. Synonyms: implant, splice, affix, insert, join, transplant.

Abide: bear, endure, dwell, remain, last. Synonyms: remain constant, continue, endure; remain fast, firm or permanent; persist, be steadfast, survive.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

CONTEXT: Galatians 5:1-21

- Paul's focus in chapter 5 was to get the Galatians to walk by the Spirit.
- He explained Christ's desire to set believers free from sin.
- They were not to be focused on physical circumcision but circumcision of the heart.
- Everything they did was to be seasoned with love.
- Paul exhorts them to use their freedom from sin to serve others.
- They needed to walk by the Spirit, be led by the Spirit and produce fruit from the Spirit working in their lives.

INSIGHTS:

To be able to produce fruit you have to be a complete plant made up from a seed which has germinated into roots, then into a plant, and in due time when the plant is mature, it will then produce fruit.

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So we can see that producing fruit is a process of time, nurturing and maturing. The Bible tells us that we were once a wild branch and were producing fruit of the world, but then one day we invited Christ into our lives, and at that moment He grafted us into Himself. His life and strength would now begin to flow through our branch. The life of the Holy Spirit would become the sap that would bind us to Christ and in time would produce what we call the fruit of the Spirit. This is unique fruit because it is only one fruit that carries within it all kinds of characteristics. It is also produced through relationship. We abide in God and He abides in us. The stronger the relationship, the more fruit that will be produced.

The fruit is the by-product of a healthfully maintained tree. The branches must keep a relationship with the trunk and with the roots if they hope to produce any type of fruit. The life comes from the roots out into the branches, and in due time produces a fruit that contains within it more seeds to produce more trees and fruit. The fruit is there for nourishment for those who pick it and for regeneration for those who want to plant. We are told that we will be known by our fruit, whether we are a disciple of Christ or a disciple of the world.

The fruit of the Spirit includes character qualities that God possesses and that the Holy Spirit imparts to us as we live in trusting obedience to God (*The Holy Spirit*, Anders, P146). Nine qualities embody the fruit of the Spirit. Billy Graham, in his book titled *The Holy Spirit*, observes that this one fruit is characterized by nine specific pieces that can be divided into three clusters of three.

- 1) Love, Joy, Peace (God first)
- 2) Patience, kindness, goodness (others second)

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3) Faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (self third)

We can see that we start by putting God first, then others second, and ourselves last. We see this concept also with the idea of Joy. If you want to experience true joy you must follow the same pattern that the word itself spells out. **J**esus first, **o**thers, and **y**ourself last. The purpose of that fruit can be twofold. First it is to nourish others, and secondly it is there to produce more plants. It is not there for the benefit of the tree. The only benefit that the tree gets is having the **JOY** of producing it, of seeing and having the **JOY** of others eating from it, and having the **JOY** of watching it grow to a place where one day it will produce more fruit.

There are three important steps that we must implement if we hope to see the fruit of the Spirit flowing in and through our lives.

1. We must consciously surrender ourselves to the Holy Spirit. Ask yourself: have you ever realized that you belong to God, that your body is the actual residence of the Holy Spirit? Have you ever offered your body (life) to God as Romans 12:1 demands?

2. Next, we must see ourselves as having died to sin but having become alive to Christ. Paul said in Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me... and the life which flows out through me is of Christ Jesus.

3. Then, we determine by faith to bring ourselves under the Lordship of Christ. This happens progressively as we bring our minds under His control. Our actions respond to the Spirit’s control over our thoughts: “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” Romans 12:1-2.

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When we become a child of God we become a vessel or temple where God dwells. His very presence produces fruit that will touch the lives of all those around us. It is like a spark of fire that ignites the wood which begins to burn and attracts attention. Others will also be touched and ignited by the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

RELEVANCE:

The fruit should be the first evidence of a life that has been baptized and filled by the Holy Spirit. That is why Christ tells us that we will be known by our fruit (Matthew 7:16). The world is looking for real fruit, fruit that they can freely pick and have. We must understand that more of the fruit of the Spirit must be flowing through our lives, growing and becoming the foundation to all that we do for Christ. We also must realize that everything that we do in Christ and that which we do in the world will produce some type of fruit. Remember Paul tells us that whatever we plant, in due season we will reap (Galatians 6:7-10) and points out that we also have the blessing to plant, sow and reap a harvest from those lives around us.

REFLECTION:

Is the fruit of the Spirit evident in what I say and do? Is it the lifeblood of my discipleship walk and reflecting who I am in Christ? What kind of fruit are people seeing hanging from my branches?

RELATED SCRIPTURES FOR THE LESSON:

Gen 1:11-12 Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation: plants yielding seed, *and* **fruit** trees on the earth bearing **fruit** after their kind with seed in them”; and it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees

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bearing **fruit** with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good.

Gen 1:29 Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has **fruit** yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

Psalms 1:3 He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, which yields its **fruit** in its season.

Isaiah 3:10 Say to the righteous that *it will go well with them*, For they will eat the **fruit** of their actions.

Isaiah 37:31 The surviving remnant of the house of Judah will again take **root** downward and bear **fruit** upward.

Matthew 3:8-10 Therefore bear **fruit** in keeping with repentance; ...The axe is already laid at the **root** of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good **fruit** is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 7:16 You will know them by their **fruits**. ...

Matthew 7:17-20 So every good tree bears good **fruit**, but the bad tree bears bad **fruit**. A good tree cannot produce bad **fruit**, nor can a bad tree produce good **fruit**. Every tree that does not bear good **fruit** is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their **fruits**.

Matthew 12:33 Either make the tree good and its **fruit** good, or make the tree bad and its **fruit** bad; for the tree is known by its **fruit**.

Matthew 7:20 So then, you will know them by their **fruits**.

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Luke 3:8 Therefore bear **fruits** in keeping with repentance,

John 4:36 Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering **fruit** for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much **fruit**.

John 15:2, 4, 5, 8, 16 Every branch in Me that does not bear **fruit**, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears **fruit**, He prunes it so that it may bear more **fruit** ... Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear **fruit** of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much **fruit**, for apart from Me you can do nothing ... My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much **fruit**, and *so* prove to be My disciples. ... You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear **fruit**, and *that* your **fruit** would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

Romans 8:23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first **fruits** of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

I Corinthians 15:23 But each in his own order: Christ the first **fruits**, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

Philippians 1:11 having been filled with the **fruit** of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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Colossians 1:6 & 10 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing **fruit** and increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace of God in truth; ... so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing **fruit** in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON:

Roots: Isaiah 11:10, Romans 11:16, Colossians 2:6-7

Tree & its fruit: Matt. 7:15-23

Fruit of the world: Colossians 3:1-11

God's harvest field: Galatians 6:7-10, Matthew 9:37-38

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT DEFINED

1. LOVE

- Love is the steady direction of our will toward the lasting good of another. (The Holy Spirit, Anders, pg.147)
- No mark distinguishes the Christian more than love.
- God calls us to 'Christ-like love'.

2. JOY

- Joy is a deep sense of well-being that is not dependent upon favourable circumstances, but rooted in a fundamental acceptance of, and confidence in, the will of God (The Holy Spirit, Anders, pg.151).

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3. PEACE

- Peace is the absence of anxiety and the presence of trusting assurance in the promises of God. (The Holy Spirit, Anders, pg.153)
- SHALOM: unity, completeness, rest, ease, security (The Holy Spirit, Graham pg.286).

4. PATIENCE

- Patience is the ability to endure unpleasant people and circumstances for a higher cause (The Holy Spirit, Anders, pg.160).
- Long-suffering (KJV) “hanging in there”.
- To remain steadfast even when provoked.

5. KINDNESS

- Kindness is treating others well in word and deed (The Holy Spirit, Anders, pg.162).
- Gentleness - love-enduring - loving kindness – tenderness.

6. GOODNESS

- Goodness is doing that which is beneficial for others (The Holy Spirit, Anders, pg.165).
- Righteousness imputed and demonstrated.

7. FAITHFULNESS

- Is being reliable in doing what you should do (The Holy Spirit, Anders, pg.166).

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- Trustworthy perseverance / dependability.

8. GENTLENESS

- Gentleness is treating others carefully, with respect and sensitivity (The Holy Spirit, Anders, pg.167).

- Meekness is not weakness or timidity, but love under control / tamed.

9. SELF-CONTROL

- Self-control is the ability to resist immediate gratification for the sake of a higher goal (The Holy Spirit, Anders, pg.169).

- Temperance (KJV)

- Strength in mastering of one's thoughts/actions.

-Temperance/self-control in every aspect of the Christian's life can offer the only true anchor in turbulent times.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF FRUIT

Rotten or worldly fruit

Artificial fruit

Real fruit

THREE TYPES OF FRUIT

<u>The Weed</u>	<u>The Artificial Fruit</u>	<u>The Fruit of the Spirit</u>
hatred	limited love	love
sorrow	happiness, not real joy	joy
anxiety, strife	numbness, carelessness	peace
impatience	laziness, insensitivity	patience

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pride	manipulation by kindness	kindness
evil	hypocrisy	goodness
infidelity	half-heartedness	faithfulness
self-seeking	false modesty	meekness
lack of control	choosing lesser gods	self-control

VI Gifts

A **servant leader** is **gifted** for the purpose of service and helping others mature in the body of Christ. A leader needs to understand what the **gifts** are and how they differ from their talents. When a leader works within the understanding of **giftedness** there is great fruit that comes from that ministry. Many people have a variety of abilities, but the **gifts** are lead, nurtured and matured by the Holy Spirit.

DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

Gifts: something that is voluntarily transferred by one person to another without compensation; the act, right, or power of giving or bestowing. *Synonyms:* bequest, bonus, bounty, contribution, donation, grant, gratuity, offering, present, ability, attribute, capability, power, talent, turn.

Talents: natural aptitude or skill. *Synonyms:* aptitude, facility, gift, knack, technique, expertise, capacity, faculty, endowment, strength, forte, skill, cleverness.

KEY SCRIPTURE

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members

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*do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have **gifts** that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

Romans 12:5-8

*As each one has received a special **gift**, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever **serves** is to do so as one who is **serving** by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Peter 4:10-11*

CONTEXT: Romans 12:5-8

- Paul teaches on the remnant of Israel.
- Paul teaches the Roman church about being grafted into the vine of Christ.
- Paul teaches how God still has a purpose and plan for Israel.
- Paul tells the believers that they are living sacrifices for Christ Jesus.
- Paul reminds the believers that they are all members of one Body and that Christ is the Head.

INSIGHTS

The subject of **gifts** has been very controversial over the years. This was also the problem that the Corinthian church faced and Paul had to give specific instructions for the local church. Many problems were caused by a lack of understanding. Others occur because of human nature and pride. Many want the best “on display” the type of **gifts** for others to see. They would appear to have the biggest impact on the church and

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community; but **gifts** are entrusted to us in a stewardship form, given by God to be used in service. Because of that we should be very grateful for wherever God puts us in His body. All **gifts** are an act of God's grace to God's disciples. Our goal is to be faithful in using these **gifts** for His glory.

Gifts and Talents

In reality we must understand that all things that we have are from God. Talents are something we are born with and **gifts** are what God gives to His disciple at a later point in time. As we understand the difference we can begin to appreciate our strengths and weaknesses and those of others as well.

Gifted by Christ: Ephesians 4:7, 1 Timothy 1:14

When Christ calls us, He also **gifts** us for the area of service that He has revealed. We need to pray and seek the face of God to guide us. **Gifts** are given by God through grace and love to encourage us to serve. Everyone in the body is unique, necessary and important.

Gifts are for Service: 1 Peter 4:10-11

Gifts have been entrusted to us and we need to be good stewards of them. All the **gifts** are needed in order to serve the body. Servanthood is the best place for people to grow and mature. Service also shows our strengths and weaknesses. We must see as leaders that there is a place for every disciple to serve. We should be helping others also to find their place in serving Christ!

Gifts are in Rough Form: Romans 12:5-8, 2 Timothy 1:6

Gifts do not come in a readymade form but are given to us by God in rough form. They are like seeds that have been planted. We, through the help of the Holy Spirit, must nurture and grow these seeds until they are mature enough to produce fruit. In the same way we help

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others to mature their **gifts**. This growing process can be very challenging as it means stepping out in faith and becoming vulnerable. You will make mistakes. There are three areas that the leader needs to understand about **gifts**.

1. Need to control their use.
2. Need to exercise them.
3. Need to use according to God's will

Gifts are for equipping others: Ephesians 4:12, Romans 1:11

The key to **gift** giving is to help equip others for service. Leadership is a step of faith, to reach out and do things beyond our ability and strength. This is why God gives to us **gifts** – to remind us that we need to be dependent upon Him for all that we do. We need to walk each day with Christ. Discipleship is a lifelong discipline of becoming equipped and of equipping others.

Gifts are of many forms and levels: 1 Corinthians 12:1-12

Gifts are given to us by someone else. Christ **gifted** us with the Holy Spirit, whose purpose is to give **gifts** to the disciples. They are given to bless, strengthen and help others. Nevertheless, **gifts** also need to be nurtured to their fullest potential. What follows is a list of what some of the gifts are.

Prophecy	Helps or Service	Teaching
Exhortation	Giving	Administration/ ruling
Mercy	Apostleship	Evangelism
Pastor	Wisdom	Knowledge
Faith	Miracles	Healings
Discerning of Spirits	Tongues	Interpretation

RELEVANCE

These three words – "ministry", "equipping" and "gifts" – must

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work in harmony with each other, being seasoned by the fruit of the Spirit. Ministry is for the service of others, and if we are going to serve well, we must understand our God-given **gifts** and talents. They are given to us in order to help, encourage, strengthen and bless others. The **gifts** are not for our own convenience or encouragement, but for the strengthening of the church and for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ. We are all part of the same body, and as we work with each other as disciples, our foundation is the grace and love of Christ. We must have a view each day of how we can take that which we have been given and use it to equip and mature someone else for the kingdom of God.

Understanding our **gifts** (our "**gift mix**" will vary from those of other disciples) is of great importance for leaders so we can focus on getting better equipped, as well as having unity and harmony.

REFLECTION

List the **gifts** that you believe you have. List the **gifts** that other people say you have and then compare the two lists. Pray that you may see and understand the **gifting** of the individual people that you lead. Do you practice using your **gifts**? Learn all you can about them so you can become a better tool for Christ Jesus.

RELATED SCRIPTURES FOR GIFTS

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 Now there are varieties of **gifts**, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of **ministries**, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another **gifts** of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the

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same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

Ephesians 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's **gift**.

Ephesians 4:11-13 And **He gave** some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

1 Timothy 4:14 Do not neglect the spiritual **gift** within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.

2 Timothy 1:6-7 For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the **gift** of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON

1. Research the various kinds of **gifts** and how they function in the body of Christ.
2. Study the **gifts** and talents of the people you work with.
3. Develop a plan on how you can practice that **gift** that God has given you.

VII Example

A leader becomes an **example** in all that is said and done, as well as a picture to a lost world of who Christ is. We are to **exemplify** Christ

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in all ways. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, our lives reflect the fruit He produces. Paul told many people to follow him as he follows Christ. The actions in our lives should be leading people into the very presence of Christ Jesus.

DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

Example: a person or thing regarded in terms of their fitness to be imitated or the likelihood of their being imitated. *Synonyms:* sample, illustration, precedent, lead, guide, model, pattern, blueprint, template, paradigm, ideal, standard, role model.

Follow: go or come after (a person or thing proceeding ahead); move or travel behind; come after in time or order. *Synonym:* come behind, come after, go behind, go after, walk behind, tread on the heels of, accompany, go along with, go around with, travel with, escort, attend, trail, abide by, adhere to, stick to, keep to, comply with, conform to, obey, observe, heed, pay attention to, note, have regard to, mind, bear in mind, take to heart, be guided by, accept, yield to, defer to, respect.

Mentor: an experienced and trusted adviser; an experienced person in a company, college, or school who trains and counsels new employees or students. *Synonym:* adviser, guide, confidant, counsellor, consultant, spiritual leader, trainer, teacher, tutor, coach, instructor.

KEY SCRIPTURE

*For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an **example** for you to follow in His steps.*

1 Peter 2:21

CONTEXT

- Peter teaches how we have a living hope in Christ.
- We are exhorted to live a holy life.

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- We are living stones chosen by God.
- Peter teaches that whatever situation we find ourselves in, we are to submit to our rulers and masters.

INSIGHTS

Within leadership is the word "lead". We are to lead by **example**, modelling what Christ demonstrated to us. This will often run contrary to our nature, but with the power of the Holy Spirit it is possible. We are to follow in the steps of Christ. A **servant leader** is a shepherd who leads the sheep into green pastures. He cares and ministers to the sheep in such a way that they will thrive and produce more sheep.

In this section, we will explore six different **examples** of leadership that we are encouraged to follow and be an **example** of to others.

1. Christ's example: John 13:15-17

Christ set before the disciples an **example** to follow. They were mentored by Him for over three years. There were many things that they did not understand, but He assured them that when He left the Father would send the Holy Spirit. He would give them wisdom and understanding in all things.

Christ's **example** was one of a servant. He came to serve, not be served and we should do likewise. He told His disciples that if they followed His **example** they would be blessed in all that they did. A servant heart does not expect a reward but serves out of a heart of love and grace.

2. Paul's example: 1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 3:17, 2 Thessalonians 3:7

Paul often made confident and bold requests that they were to follow him like he followed Christ. Just like Paul, we must be willing to mentor people. We need to walk with them over time so that they can

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grow and mature. Taking them to a seminar or giving them a book to read will help a little, but equipping comes when people walk with us. Let us read Paul's words, "*Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ*" (1 Corinthians 10:32-11:1).

3. Timothy's example: 1 Timothy 4:12-13

Timothy was a young man, yet Paul saw his leadership abilities and knew the potential that lay in his heart. God can use the lives of children, youth and young adults to show others the way to Christ. We are exhorted to have a child-like faith. Paul told Timothy to be an **example** through his speech and life. He should do all things through love, faith and from a pure heart because others are watching. He was also encouraged to read the Scriptures daily. A leader must spend time in prayer and in the Word if we hope to overcome the things of this world. We are promised that if we walk in Christ's steps that we will be more than just conquerors. Timothy was exhorted to draw closer to Christ and he would have the boldness and strength to lead others.

4. Church's example: 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

The church as a body is also to **imitate** Christ. We are to let the fruit of the Spirit flow through us corporately. The church reflects to the world whom we serve and what we believe. Often we work as individuals and we neglect moving and living together as a body. We are to be an **example** in all areas, even in persecution and suffering. The Thessalonian church was a model to many others. What was going on inside was pouring out into the streets. People were seeing and hearing testimonies of lives that had been changed. Their actions and lifestyle were now completely different as individuals and as a group. Their faith in God was becoming known everywhere.

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5. Disciples' example: Titus 2:7

Titus encouraged leaders to set an **example**, doing what was right and good. He also told them to do everything with integrity, seriousness, and soundness of speech. This was so that those who would oppose them would have no ground to stand on, finding nothing bad to say.

6. Leadership example: 1 Peter 2:21, 2 Thessalonians 3:7

Leaders are not born but are trained by the church and by God. We need to be faithful in studying and living out the Word in our lives. We should be people who are not idle or wasting time, but should be busy teaching and serving others. There are always people around who desire to learn and grow.

We are called to walk in a disciplined manner. Leaders lead by **example** and others will not follow if our words do not line up with our actions. Again God will take us through times of stretching and pruning but the purpose is to produce fruit.

RELEVANCE

Jesus told the first disciples when He called them: come follow me and I will make you fishers of men. **Servant leadership** is casting the hook of a vision for service in a particular area and then watching as people come and follow. Our lifestyle should cause others to want to follow. They like what they see and desire to have the same thing for their lives. Leadership is mentoring by **example**; words are not enough. We have to lead others by living out what we believe. Jesus told the disciples that the harvest was ripe, but people were like sheep without a shepherd. They needed someone to lead them in order to follow.

REFLECTION

As a leader do I see that I am a modern day shepherd of people?

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Have I taken time to see who is following in my steps? What have I done today to assure that I am walking according to Christ's will and in His footsteps?

RELATED SCRIPTURES FOR THE LESSON

Matthew 4:9 And He said to them, "**Follow Me**, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:18-22 Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "**Follow Me**, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and **followed Him**.

John 13:15-17 For I gave you an **example** that you also should do as I did to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

John 21:19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "**Follow Me!**"

1 Corinthians 11:1 Be **imitators** of me, just as I also am of Christ.

Philippians 3:17 Brethren, join in **following my example**, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8 You also became **imitators** of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an **example** to all the believers in

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Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

2 Thessalonians 3:7 For you yourselves know how you ought to **follow our example**, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you,

2 Thessalonians 3:9 Not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would **follow our example**.

1 Timothy 4:12-14 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an **example** of those who believe. Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.

Titus 2:6-8 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; in all things show yourself to be an **example** of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

1 Peter 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an **example** for you to follow in His steps.

RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON:

1. Research sheep and shepherd relationship.
2. List areas where the Bible teaches concerning leadership.

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3. List some people of the Bible who were good **examples** to others around them and why.

VIII Stewardship

"**Stewardship**" is not a word commonly used. The concept is that we have been entrusted with something that is not ours. We can use it and take care of it until the owners ask for it back. We have to treat it like it is ours and remember that we will be held accountable for the condition that we return it in. **Servant leaders** must keep in mind that they will be held accountable for what they have been **entrusted** with by Christ.

DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

Stewardship: supervise arrangements or keep order, manage or look after (another's property). *Synonyms:* management of, care of, take care of.

Accountability: (of a person, organization, or institution) required or expected to justify actions or decisions; responsible. *Synonyms:* responsibility, liability, answerability, responsibility, reporting, obedience.

Entrusted: to look after, to maintain in good order, to be responsible for, delegated to. *Synonyms:* given, received, responsibility, commitment.

KEY SCRIPTURE

*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in **serv**ing one another as **good stewards** of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever **serv**es, let him do so as by strength which God supplies; so that in all things God*

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may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

CONTEXT

- Teaching on wife and husband relationships.
- The challenge of suffering for doing good.
- Keeping our hearts and mind focused on what Christ has done for us.
- The importance of living our lives for God.
- Sharing that the end times are near.

INSIGHTS

With **servant leadership** comes responsibility. We as leaders are entrusted with many things that we will be held **accountable** for. We need to understand the gifts that God gives are for a purpose – to **invest** them in the lives of others. In this section, we will look at seven areas in what it means to becoming a "**stewardship leader**".

1. Stewards of our talents: Matthew 25:14-20

The parable of the talents is a story teaching people about the area of **accountability**. The parable is about three people whom the master knew. He was about to leave, not knowing when he would return, and he wanted to give them some responsibility. He entrusted them each with a certain amount of money based on their ability. In due time the master came back and wanted the workers to give an **account** of what they had done with the money entrusted to them. Two of the people doubled what they had been given. The third hid his out of fear of the master and did nothing. He did not only lose what he had, but he also did not build on that which he was given. Because of this action, all that he had was taken away and he was cast out into utter darkness.

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This parable reminds us of all that God has given and **entrusted** us with. It also reminds us that while our Master is away we need to be about the ministry of being a wise **steward**, for when we least expect it, our Lord will return. At that time He will ask us to give an **account** of the things He entrusted us with. The ministry of leadership has as its base **accountability** and **responsibility** for what we have been given.

2. Stewards of our time: Luke 12:35-48

Time is also a gift from God as we do not know the hour that we will be called home to our King. In some ways time has become an enemy. We are told that God gives enough time to accomplish those things that are of His will. Much time is wasted throughout the day doing things that have no value. We spend time buying and then worrying over all the things we have purchased. We are told to be ready in season and out of season. We need to evaluate and determine those things that are the most important. Jesus told a parable about ten virgins. Five were wise and five were foolish. The result was the foolish virgins missed out on being with the Lord. The biggest thing that our enemy comes to steal is time.

We are asked in this passage of Scripture to answer Christ's question about who was the wise **steward**. The Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible **steward**, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?" (Luke 12:42). A **servant leader** must use his time wisely. When you do not, it is like water running from a cup that has a hole in it. We must value our time and other people's time. We have been **entrusted** with much and need to use it wisely.

3. Stewards of the Gospel: Luke 16:10-12

The Gospel is the foundation all we do. We have been **entrusted** with this Good News to proclaim through all the earth. But the Gospel should also be the salt that flavours everything we as leaders do. Paul calls it a mystery to some, but to those who believe, it is life. The Gospel

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should be the foundation of our daily thinking. We as disciples need to lead others with a heart full of the Gospel. This message has been **entrusted** to us and its truth is life changing and freeing. The principles of the Bible are foundational to all leaders who disciple others.

4. Stewards of our walk: Ephesians 5:15-17

A leader is one who puts plans into action. We needed to ask God for wisdom as we serve others. Paul told the Ephesian church that they needed to be filled daily by the Holy Spirit, as He will teach us how to walk out our lives for the glory of God (Eph 5:18). Each day we need to come to the fountain of God and drink from His living waters. We are not asked to walk in our ability and strength but in His. We are being challenged in this passage to be careful how we live out our lives. The **servant leader** has to walk his personal life journey with God. Only then will we be **entrusted** with walking alongside others.

5. Stewards of our giving: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Stewardship is not just giving of finances but helping people, putting forth our time and abilities. Giving is like planting precious seed that will bring forth a harvest. It is again important that we be open to the moving of the Holy Spirit. It not the size of gift that counts, but being faithful in doing something. We are so often worried about what others may think. Many people are not faithful in little things, and therefore cannot be **trusted** with greater things.

Stewardship is a step by step learning, listening and doing process. God wants us to reap a harvest but we first must be wise in that which He has already given to us. The key is to be obedient to God in all areas of our life. Everything we have is His. We are told freely you have received now freely give. Often the greatest gift is the gift of time. It is one aspect of managing resources.

6. Stewards of God's grace: Ephesians 3:2

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The greatest gift that we are **entrusted** with is God's grace. It is because of grace that we have been set free from a life of sin and death. As leaders we need to be people who administer God's grace to others freely to those around us. Paul told the church that this grace was a mystery. It came through Jesus Christ, God's only Son. Grace is unmerited favour and we need to extend this amazing grace to those who are around us. Grace is double sided – it is to be freely given, yet there is an accountability on how we use it.

7. Stewards of our ministry: 1 Peter 4:10

Peter tells his reader that they have been given gifts to serve with, but need to be good **stewards** on how to use these gifts. The gifts of the Spirit can be a great blessing or can be very destructive. The gifts must flow forth from the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit is the foundation stone that the gifts are to be built on. The gifts and fruit are given for one main purpose –to serve one-another. We serve as **servant leaders** as though we are Christ Himself. We are His hands and feet. We need to be good **stewards** of the ministry that we have been **entrusted** with.

RELEVANCE

God is a God of giving, **entrusting** to us many things including people's lives. People are a special treasure of God, each one unique and full of potential. We must then open our hearts to serve the people to the best of our ability, not doing things for selfish gain but from a true heart of love. We hope to see these people grow and mature in Christ. Leaders will be held accountable for what they have been entrusted with. We cannot hide or pretend we do not know what we have been gifted with. We must walk in the truth and light of God's Word because it will light our path.

Stewardship indicates that we have been given something to look after and we must do our best to fulfill the trust that God has given us.

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REFLECTION

List some things that you can remember that God has put in your hands and to this point have done nothing with? What areas have you not been faithful in fulfilling His call concerning **stewardship**? What you do with people He make you responsible for and what have you done with them? What does accountability mean when it come to my life and those around me?

RELATED SCRIPTURES FOR STEWARDSHIP

Luke 16:10-12 He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will **entrust** the true riches to you? And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a **cheerful giver**.

Ephesians 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the **stewardship** of God's grace which was given to me for you.

Ephesians 5:15-17 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Colossians 1:19-29 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil

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deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister. Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions. Of this church I was made a minister according to the **stewardship** from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labour, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON

1. Research the old English concept of stewards and stewardship.
2. Reflect on what it means to be accountable as a believer and as a leader.
3. Write out a list of things that you can see that God has entrusted you with.

IX Seed

The purpose of planting **seed** is to bear a crop. As we sow **seed** in people's hearts, it will bear a crop. **Servant Leaders** need to catch the vision that what we do today affects history. Lives will be touched and changed. For example, Abraham did not at first trust God for a son.

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Although he believed God's promises, but he did not think God was big enough for his circumstances. He and Sara decided he should have a child with Sara's servant Hagar. We are seeing the results of that decision even today. Everything we do in the present plant **seeds** that will come forth in the future. **Seeds** can bring forth not only a harvest in our generation, but can influence many in generations to come.

DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

Seed: a flowering plant's unit of reproduction, capable of developing into another such plant. *Synonyms:* kernel, germ, Genesis, source, origin, root, starting point, beginnings, potential, cause, reason, motivation, motive, base, basis, foundation, fundamental; core, nucleus, heart, essence.

Treasure: a quantity of precious metals, gems, or other valuable objects. *Synonyms:* cherish, hold dear, place great value on, prize, set great store by, value greatly, esteem.

History: the study of past events, particularly in human affairs: a continuous, typically and chronological record of important or public events or of a particular trend or institution. *Synonyms:* chronology, story, account, study, saga, narrative, tale, chronicle, archive, record, report, narrative; memoir, biography, autobiography, public records, annals.

KEY SCRIPTURE

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Galatians 6:7-10

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CONTEXT

- Paul teaches the Galatian church about Hagar and Sara.
- Paul proclaims what kind of freedom we have in Christ Jesus.
- We are exhorted to walk in the Spirit.
- We are exhorted to be careful not to be deceived by false teachers and religions.
- Paul tells of the importance in having the fruit of the Spirit flowing through our lives.
- We need to be careful that we evaluate ourselves concerning the things that we do.
- We need to be people who share with one another.

INSIGHTS

The **servant leader** needs to understand how to plant **seeds** wisely. There are many kinds of **seed** in the world. The leader needs to inspect what kind of **seed** is planted in people's lives, as it can have a long term effect. We can, through God's strength, change the course of history. It is not good enough to sit back and say that it is not our problem. For example, TV, radio, books, music and videos game can all be **seed** planters that can bring forth a unwanted type of harvest that can be very destructive. We must inspect the **seed** and ask God for discernment about what that **seed** might produce.

Once we understand the types of **seed** and what we are to do with it, we then need to start sowing wherever we can. We need to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct us to the soil that has been prepared.

The end of responsibility does not come once the **seed** is planted. We must nurture, feed and water the plant through prayer and the Word of God. A baby is not born, then left on its own; there are many years of responsibility in parenting that child to a place of maturity. Part of nurturing is weeding and pruning. We discipline in love because we know what will happen if we do not. In the same way, leaders are called to nurture people. This may call for times of discipline which can be

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painful but beneficial to their lives.

The leader invests the **seed** – turning the **seed** into a crop that will keep producing. We sow so we can get a return on what has been planted. We also do not just reap on earth but store treasure in heaven. Remember, harvesting can come at different times of the year or in different seasons, depending on the type of **seed**.

One other point is that the **servant leader** himself is **seed**. We are not only to plant **seeds** in others, but we must be planted ourselves, in order to multiply and bear fruit. Jesus states,

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. John 12:24

There is a process of dying that every leader must go through; dying to self and becoming a new creation. You are breaking open so that the **seed** inside can sprout and bring forth a new plant that will bear much fruit. It is like metamorphosis. A worm, through the miracle of God, becomes a butterfly. We as **servant leaders** need to train and equip others so that they can understand the importance of this process in their daily life. Paul said “I die daily” (1 Corinthians 15:31). Again, what we do as leaders is not for the rewards or blessing here on earth but for the love and joy of serving our King Jesus Christ.

RELEVANCE

We have the joy as leaders to plant things into other people’s lives. Our everyday actions will produce a crop of some type and what we do will affect the course of history. We are given precious **seeds** to sow and need to be wisely sowing each day. God tells that there is a great storehouse of **seed** which we will never run out, but we must broadcast it into others’ lives if we hope to see a harvest. So much is lost when people wait for others to do the work. We need to realize that each one of us is very important to the ministry of **seed** distribution. Every **seed** you sow can bring back fifty, seventy-five to hundred fold. The potential is

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huge but the labourers are few. This is why we are exhorted to keep praying to the Lord to send out more labourers (Matt. 9:30-31). Different people do different kinds of work, and it is God who gives the increase. We as leaders need to have faith that what we sow will produce a crop in due season and not to grow weary in labouring for Christ. As long as there is time, we as **servant leaders** must keep sowing, nurturing and harvesting all we can.

REFLECTION

What have I been doing with the **seed** that God has entrusted to me? What kinds of lives have I been sowing into? Have I lost heart or am I full of fear about stepping out? If so, confess that before God and ask for help. What is the **seed** that God has given to me to plant and where?

SCRIPTURES RELATED TO SEED AND TREASURE

Isaiah 33:6 And He will be the stability of your times, a wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is his **treasure**.

Matthew 6:19-21 Do not store up for yourselves **treasures** on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves **treasures** in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your **treasure** is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 13:31-32 He presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard **seed**, which a man took and sowed in his field; and this is smaller than all other **seeds**, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

Matthew 17:20-21 And He said to them, “Because of the littleness of

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your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard **seed**, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move: and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting.”

Matthew 23:18- 23 Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom **seed** was sown beside the road. The one on whom **seed** was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. And the one on whom **seed** was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. And the one on whom **seed** was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a **grain of wheat** falls into the earth and **dies**, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. If anyone serves Me, he must **follow Me**; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honour him.

1 Corinthians 15:36-38 You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; 37and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare **grain**, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the **seeds** a body of its own.

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this **treasure** in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

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2 Corinthians 9:10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your **seed** for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness

1 Peter 1:22-23 since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of **seed** which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON:

1. Study the whole process of planting and growing.
2. What is spiritual seed?
3. Study some people's lives and see how history was changed because of what they planted.

X Harvest

Servant leaders need to have their focus set on what may lay ahead into the future, like a farmer who plants a field has faith that there will be a **harvest**. Jesus uses two words interchangeably on this subject – "**harvest**" and "**fruit**". God is expecting results from our labours and so should we. Jesus explained that the harvest was ready but there was a lack of workers (Matt. 9:37-38). There is a great need for people to go out and bring what God has ready for us to receive. **Servant leadership** must be praying for fruit and for a bountiful **harvest**.

DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS

Focus: the centre of interest or activity; the state or quality of having or producing clear visual definition. **Synonyms:** centre, focal point, central point, centre of attention, hub, pivot, nucleus, heart, cornerstone, linchpin, kingpin, bedrock, basis, anchor, backbone.

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Fruit: the sweet and fleshy product of a tree or other plant that contains seed and can be eaten as food: the result or reward of work or activity. *Synonyms:* reward, benefit, advantages, product, produce, profit, return, yield, legacy, issue, deserts, outcome, upshot, result, results, consequences, effect, effects.

Reap: cut or gather (a crop or harvest); receive (a reward or benefit) as a consequence of one's own or other people's actions. *Synonyms:* harvest, garner, gather in, bring in, take in, cut, crop, receive, obtain, get, acquire, secure, realize, derive, procure.

Harvest: the process or period of gathering in crops. *Synonyms:* reaping, picking, collecting, ingathering, gleaning, return, result, fruits, product, effect, consequence, output.

KEY SCRIPTURE

*Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the **harvest**'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for **harvest**. Already he who **reaps** is receiving wages and is gathering **fruit** for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who **reaps** may rejoice together. For in this case the saying is true, 'One sows and another **reaps**.' I sent you to **reap** that for which you have not laboured; others have laboured and you have entered into their labour."*

John 4:34-38

CONTEXT

- Jesus calls the first disciples to come and follow Him.
- Jesus performs the miracle of changing water into wine.
- Jesus goes to the temple and clears it of all the money changers and sellers.
- A Pharisee named Nicodemus questions Jesus on how to be born again.
- John the Baptist gives testimony about Jesus.

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- Jesus talks to the Samaritan woman.
- Jesus tells the disciples about the harvest.

INSIGHTS

God wants all disciples to experience times of **harvest**. He is so interested in us that He wants us to receive a blessing or **harvest** for the things that we have step out and done in His name. Let us now look what harvesting is according to God's Word.

1. Call: Romans 8:28, 29-38

We have at least two types of calling. One is to follow Christ as Lord and Saviour and the second is a call to do something with our lives for the Kingdom of God. We will see a **harvest** in due season but we must remain faithful to the call. We need to be convinced in our heart of that call God has laid upon us. When we are, we will be able to overcome the trials and tribulations that come upon us. The enemy does not want us to succeed in bringing in a **harvest**. Paul tells the Roman disciples that, "in all things we are more than conquerors" and to press on through life's difficulties.

2. Will: Philippians 2:13 and John 4:34

As leaders, we must understand God's will if we want to see a **harvest** in the future. The Lord's Prayer tells us to focus not on "our will" but "His will". God works through leadership that is in line with God's purposes. Paul tells the Philippians, "for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose". Each day we battle with our own desires and plans. As we pray and walk in His will we will see **fruit** from our labours.

3. Plan: Ephesians 1:11, 13-14 and Proverbs 19:21

Do we really believe that God does have a plan for our lives? Does He care about the things that I say and do each day as a leader? The

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answer is **yes**. Jesus said that a wise builder works according to a plan. He counts the cost, evaluates, makes a decision to build, and as he keeps focused, he will see the **fruit** of his labour. Ephesians tells us, “predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything...” There are individual plans as well as community plans. These plans are what draw us together in the purpose of fulfilling the great **commission / harvest**.

4. Purpose: 2 Corinthians 5:5 and Romans 8:28

Romans 8:28 tells us, “*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*” God wants the leader to work in harmony with others to fulfill God’s purpose. Again we see that we are called. As we listen we see a bigger picture. Paul tells the Corinthian church of how God has created us for a purpose, and is interested in the details of our life. He never leaves us or forsakes us, but is there to guide and equip us for the tasks that we will face each day. That is why Isaiah tells us, “*Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary*” Isaiah 40:31. God's purpose for you is to have times of **harvesting** in your life.

5. Goal: Philippians 3:14

God put before all people a goal that we are to aim for. It is one that will stretch our faith and ability. The reaching toward this goal is a daily process. We take steps each day to keep focus on the bigger task down the road. It is like climbing a mountain – at first it seems huge, but each day we take one step and over a period of time we will be standing on top. There is much excitement! After all the planning and work, we now have met our goal and reap the **harvest**. Paul tells us to press on, forgetting that which lies behind and move forward to the upward calling of God.

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6. Word: Isaiah 53:11

The Word of God is the foundation for all that we say or do. We must study it if we hope to reap a **harvest**. The Bible is full of principles for leadership and **harvest**. We need to tap into this great resource of wisdom. Hear the words of Isaiah 53: 8 to 11.

*For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.
For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth
And making it bear and sprout,
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;
So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.*

The **servant leader** needs to meditate on these words because they give much wisdom about what lies ahead for those we lead. We need to focus on God's Word and practice what it says, having faith that He will bring to pass a great **harvest**. God's Word is seed that can produce for the **servant leader** a great **harvest**.

7. Vision: John 4:35

We as leaders need to see through the eyes of the Lord. We need to ask God to open our spiritual eyes to see what He sees. In John 4:35 Jesus said, "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the **harvest**'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for **harvest**." We need to see things from a heavenly perspective, not a worldly one. We must realize that we are not in a battle against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers.

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The Bible tells us that one day Elisha was in his house when his servant came running in to tell him that the enemy armies had surrounded them. He told his servant not to worry because the armies of God were even greater. Elisha prayed that the Lord would open the servant eyes that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man. The servant went back out and saw the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha home. (2 Kings 6:15-18).

8. Lasting: John 15:16

The **servant leader** also must keep focus on fruit that will last. We need to be producing a **harvest** that will go on long after we have finished. The heavenly Father is looking for fruit from our lives and will reward us accordingly. Revelation 22:12 says, *"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done."* There will be a time of accounting for what we have done. After, there will be blessings poured out from Christ Himself. We are to be planters and **harvesters** for Christ and must remain focused and committed to this task.

RELEVANCE

We are not just building for ourselves but for those who are yet to come. We plant and sow in order for a **harvest** to be reaped. The seasons may be years before we see any fruit, yet we should not grow weary because in due time we will see a **harvest**. Leaders may wonder if anything is going to come from what they are doing and ask the question, is what we are doing going to make a difference? We must remember as Paul told the Galatians, "whatever you sow you will reap, ... so do not grow weary in well doing."

REFLECTION

What have I been planting? What kind of a **harvest** has been coming from it? What have I been focusing on in these last days?

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RELATED SCRIPTURES RELATED TO HARVEST

Proverbs 19:21 Many **plans** are in a man's heart, but the counsel of the LORD will stand.

Matthew 7:16-20 You will know them by their **fruits**. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good **fruit**, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad **fruit**, nor can a bad tree produce good **fruit**. Every tree that does not bear good **fruit** is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their **fruits**.

Matthew 9:37-38 Then He said to His disciples, "The **harvest** is plentiful, but the workers are few. "Therefore beseech the Lord of the **harvest** to send out workers into His **harvest**."

Matthew 12:33 Either make the tree good and its **fruit** good, or make the tree bad and its **fruit** bad; for the tree is known by its **fruit**.

John 15:8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much **fruit**, and so prove to be My disciples.

John 15:16 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear **fruit**, and that your **fruit** would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His **purpose**.

2 Corinthians 5:5 Now He who prepared us for this very **purpose** is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

Galatians 6:8-9 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due

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time **we will reap** if we do not grow weary.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Philippians 3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON

1. Research what it means to **harvest**.
2. Read some biographies and see what people **harvested** in their lifetimes or after.
3. Write a list of things that you have **harvested** because of the seeds that you planted in the past.

XI Commission and Charge

The **Great Commission** charges us to do a specific ministry. We can say that the **Great Commission** is a blanket statement that creates a foundation for everything else we do. We are called to live a moment-by-moment lifestyle that will model and reflect Jesus Christ to a lost world. We mirror Christ to others in the world and when they look at us they should see Christ in us. We have become part of a body of believers that lives under a new banner, different from the kingdoms of this world, and reflects our heavenly citizenship. As **servant leaders**, we need to be aware that we are the first in line to be disciplined by Christ (there is accountable for everything we do). Many times leadership is **commissioned** by God through the church. The goal of the **Great Commission** is to make more disciples.

DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS:

Commission: an instruction, command, or role given to a person or to a specially constituted group. **Synonym:** task, employment, job, work,

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piece of work, project, mission, assignment, undertaking, exercise, enterprise, endeavour, duty, charge, responsibility, burden.

Charge: to impose a particular duty or task on; to entrust with responsibility, care, custody or management of something or someone; to command or exhort with authority. *Synonyms:* burden, encumber, duty or task, directive, order, command, dictate, exhort.

Witnesses: have knowledge of (an event or change) from personal observation or experience; give or serve as evidence of; testify to; one who gives testimony to what one has seen or heard. *Synonyms:* evidence, indication, proof, testimony, evidence/proof of, attest, testify, confirm, evidence, prove, corroborate, verify, substantiate, bear out, show, demonstrate, establish, be a monument to, indicate, reveal.

Disciple: the one who has been taught and trained by a master; a learner or student; one who is mentored by another who has also been mentored himself. *Synonyms:* follower, pupil.

KEY SCRIPTURE

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

CONTEXT

- The death and burial of Christ.
- The resurrection of Christ.
- Christ meets with His disciples.
- The false report of those who guarded the tomb.

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INSIGHTS

Your call is to become a disciple. The fruit of that is to go forth and make other disciples. Discipleship lifestyle is a daily commitment to the truth and teachings of Christ. It is a daily walk of following after Christ and His call for us.

We are to become disciplined into a new way of living, walking in Christ's footsteps. Our life should reflect Christ in everything we say and do. We become part of a new kingdom and culture, talking and walking like the country of which we have become a citizen. Discipleship should have specific distinctive, so that when others look at us they can tell what country we are from. We are called to be Christ's ambassadors, representatives of His Kingdom.

Discipleship lifestyle is citizenship in the Kingdom of God. We come under the full rights and protection of our King. The enemy cannot enslave us, and if he tries to, we can call upon our government who will come and fight for us. Paul knew the power of citizenship – he was born a Roman citizen. We (through Christ Jesus) are born into the Kingdom of God.

Discipleship can be compared to a student who goes to university. The student enters a place that disciplines them to become equipped in the field that they hope to work in. The key to a discipleship lifestyle is discipline, becoming equipped for a life of service. Just as Paul told Timothy, we should study to show ourselves approved, good workmen for the Kingdom of Christ.

A leader must build his life around the **Great Commission** charge. We can glean seven directives from the **Great Commission** found in the Gospels and in the Book of Acts. Each is a command and all are important for the **servant leaders** to follow.

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1. Go make disciples

This first point is more a broad statement but, it does have a very specific truth that is important to **servant leadership**. There are three important words. First we must be “going,” taking responsibility and action for others in our world. Although we may not go overseas, we have our streets, neighbourhoods and cities. Many disciples of Christ do not know who their neighbours are. “Going” means getting up and moving outside of our comfort zone.

The second word we want to look at is “make”. In order to have anything, someone has to take the time to make it. If it is a cake, someone had to gather the ingredients and bake it. If it is a car, hundreds of people gather on assembly lines to put it together. Disciples are not just born but they are “made”. Salvation births us into the process of growing and maturing in our faith. At times a believer needs to be “disassembled” before he can be made into a new creation for Christ. A disciple is like a baby – it takes time and nurturing to make a true disciple of Christ. Discipleship is a process of training and equipping on both the teacher’s and the student’s part. The disciple needs to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Third is the word “disciple”. This is one who chooses to follow after the teaching and disciplines of another. When we became a Christian we became Christ's disciples. It is more than having prayer and Bible reading for fifteen minutes each day. Discipleship is a lifestyle, affecting all that we say and do. As **servant leaders** we are to help in bringing Christ to all nations. We are to give them the tools to grow and mature.

2. Baptize new disciples

Baptism is important because it identifies that a new believer is willing die to self. Baptism displays commitment to Christ and to the church. It is a first step to growth. We need to be faithful first in little things if we hope to have Christ trusting us with greater responsibilities.

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Baptism is a command of Christ. Before it takes place we should train people in its meaning and the importance of this step of faith. Baptism is a picture of death to self and resurrection to the power of Jesus Christ. We die so we can show others that we now live for a new Kingdom and King.

A **servant leader** should be baptized to bear testimony that they serve a new Master. Leaders' actions often speak louder than their words. When they humble themselves into the waters of baptism, Christ takes that step of faith and testimony and lifts them up to higher ministry in Him (James 4:10).

3. Go and teach them

It is important to understand that we are all teacher/learners and learner/teachers. Each day we learn new things and often show others through our actions what we have learned. Every child, youth or adult is a teacher in some form. We are teaching disciples to obey and know the truth of God.

The **servant leader** needs to present to others the Gospel of Christ. The Gospel should be the way and truth that we live out each day. Unfortunately, there are some leaders in the church who do not reflect the Good News but proclaim selfish and worldly ways. Their language and action reflect to people a story that does not align with the teachings of Christ Jesus.

We are **commissioned** and **charged** to teach and disciple people for Christ. If you are a leader in the church, what are you reflecting to others? Is it being a **servant leader** that obeys the Word of God?

Another truth is that when you go out and teach others, you begin to learn both about Christ and about who you are. We need to clearly see that all leaders are teachers and servants. We teach that which we have studied and experienced, then pass it on both directly or indirectly to those around us.

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4. Go and do it, in and with Christ

We must remember as disciples that we are **commissioned and charged** by Christ Jesus. We have committed to serve and to be led by Him. He came as “Emmanuel” or, “God with us”. He was not only going to be “with us,” but after the day of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit, He was going to be “in us”. He would recreate us from the inside out. Our hearts, our thinking and our outward action would change. We would see things with a new set of God given eyes.

When we go as **servant leaders** to minister to a lost world we do it in the name of Jesus Christ. We do nothing in our power or strength but through His power and strength. We are told, *that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow ... and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord* (Phil. 2:10). We are involved in a spiritual battle for lost souls. We are Christ’s hands and feet, being sent with His authority and power. All that we do is done under the banner of His name. The key is to go out and “do”. We are to work in service and ministry together with other disciples of Christ. We are part of a worldwide body of believers.

Finally we are told to “keep on keeping on” until the end of time. As long as we have breath we need to proclaim Christ Jesus and His Kingdom. Remember all this is done in the name of Jesus. We serve as He served and one day we will reign together with Him, face to face.

5. Go in the power of the Holy Spirit

Pentecost was a day that changed the disciples' lives. The Holy Spirit’s coming empowered the disciples for service and ministry. Boldness sprang forth, fear was exchanged for faith. Christ had commanded them to wait in the upper room for the coming of the Holy Spirit. This time had been prophesied about in the Old Testament and now because of Christ, the Holy Spirit was now coming and fulfilling all the Scripture. The disciple would now be empowered from on high.

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Jesus knew that if the disciples were to fulfill the **commission and charge** He had given them, they would need God's authority and power to do it. Too often we do not take the time to pray and study the Word. This is how anointing comes. We need to take in so we can give out, as Paul told the Ephesians (Eph. 5:18). King David knew the importance of meditating on God and the Word (Psalm 1:1). Isaiah told how we need to wait, when we do, we will have strength to walk, run and even soar like eagles, for God (Isaiah 40:3).

6. Go focused, committed and determined

Paul warned the Corinthian church that they were in a race (1 Cor. 9:24) and that if they hoped to win the prize, they must keep focused, committed and determined to go forward whatever the cost. **Servant leaders** need to keep focused on the race set before them because the enemy wants to sidetrack them.

Jesus has commissioned us to be ambassadors of His way and His truth. As we do, we will live out His kind of life (John 14:6). We have a **commitment and charge** to bring reconciliation to a lost people who have little hope (2 Cor. 5:20). Without Christ in people's hearts, they will spend all eternity in hell. The disciple needs to share the truth, for it is truth that sets the captives free (John 8:32).

The Bible tells us that God has a plan for our lives, one that is full of blessing if we will trust Him in all things (Ps. 37:1-11). We have to hear His voice so that our plans line up with His. He knew us even before we were born and He continues to watch over us every moment of the day.

We also need to keep focused on the importance of the church and how God **commissions and charges servant leaders** to go out into service under the covering of the local Church. Being connected to the church gives us training, nurturing and discipline in order that we can serve.

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7. Go and bring in the harvest

Jesus tried to communicate the problems that lay ahead. It was not that there was no harvest, but there would not be enough labourers to go out and bring it in (Matt 9:37-38). Christ calls people to go, but often we are more concerned about the things of this world, than treasures for heaven. Jesus **commissioned, commanded** and **charged** disciples to go and do something for Christ, whether at home, in community or in another country. It is time to get involved! Yes there are challenges – for we fight not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers in the spirit realm (Eph 6:12).

There are two commands that must be the foundation stone to all that we say and do; Christ tells us to “love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbour as ourselves” (Matt. 22:36-40). God has **commissioned and charged** and now we need to go out in faith and serve.

RELEVANCE

The discipleship lifestyle is a call that will make a difference in yourself and those living around you. When you become trained and equipped in Christ, it is for the purpose of service. Christ knew this would be a challenge and therefore He sent the Holy Spirit to teach us. We have been given a Tutor who indwells us and is able to bring us through all challenges and difficulties. He is preparing us to live a new life, one that will reflect to others who we are in Christ, one where the fruit of the Spirit can be seen. The discipleship lifestyle is a commitment to a whole new way of living. It also means we will see and treat people differently. We no longer use the world’s methods, but God’s methods of **servant leadership**.

REFLECTION

1. What kind of leadership / discipleship lifestyle is flowing through my life and ministry?

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2. How am I helping others to become better disciples/leaders?
3. What discipline am I putting into my life to make me a stronger leader for Christ?
4. Do I only speak the Great Commission, or do I live it out in my daily life?

SCRIPTURES RELATED TO COMMISSION AND CHARGE

Mark 16:15-18 And He said to them, “**Go** into all the world and preach the **gospel** to **all** creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Luke 14:27 “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My **disciple**.”

Luke 24:45-49 Then He opened their minds to **understand** the Scriptures, and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be **proclaimed** in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are **witnesses** of these things. And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

John 13:35 By this all men will know that you are **My disciples**, if you have love for one another.

John 15:8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be **My disciples**.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be **My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

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Luke 10:2-3 And He was saying to them, The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest. **Go**; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

RELATED RESEARCH FOR THE LESSON

1. Reflect on the words disciple and discipline.
2. Reflect on the words commission and charge.

CONCLUSION

Paul exhorts Timothy on how to be a **servant leader/teacher** of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He states, in 2 Timothy 2:1-6, *You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules. The hard-working farmer ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops. Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.*

Paul gives to Timothy three examples that will conclude this booklet on **servant leadership**.

Disciple as a:

Soldier who:

- knows who enlisted him.
- knows that he is in active service.
- knows his job.

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- knows the enemy.
- knows the hardship of war.

Athlete who:

- knows the rules.
- knows not to get himself entangled.
- knows the importance of training.
- knows that he need to keep focused on the goal and prize.

Farmer who:

- knows the cost of hard work.
- knows that he must motivate himself to press on and endure hardship.
- knows that he must prepare the ground and plant seeds.
- knows that he must nurture and care for the plants.
- knows that there will be a harvest in due time.

We do not need to be afraid of **servant leadership** but need to put our lives clearly in the hands of the Great Master Leader Jesus Christ. We can see that Paul wanted Timothy to know the bigger picture about how to prepare and work with others for the ministry. The principles are the same wherever we serve.

Remember Paul's words again to Timothy,

Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

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Memorization

Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

II Corinthians 3:5-6

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

I come to You today, full of struggles, because I desire to serve You with all my heart but my busy life keeps me from serving You as I should. I know that sometime that I have not been faithful to the little things that You call me to do in my home or with my neighbours or at the job where I work. I ask that You forgive me and help me to become stronger in You. I pray to that You would help me to overcome my fears. Lord sometime I am not sure if it is Your voice leading me in some of the things that I feel I should do. Lord I need Your help to understand how and where You desire me to serve. Lord I commit my heart afresh to being your servant leader. Jesus I want to help other, but I want to make sure that I am doing it in Your strength and power. Thank You again for all Your love and help.

Your servant leader,

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Project L.A.M.B.S. International

Making disciples is the call and mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus urged the disciples to follow Him. He laid down before us the teaching and the walk that we need to follow with Jesus as our supreme example. It is imperative for every believer and the church to know that disciples are not born but they are made. For the church to be strong in the last days, we must be about the business of equipping the saints (disciples) for the work of service.

Dr. James Humphries has been ministering for over 40 years, and has experience in a variety of ministries including church planting, children's ministry, street ministry, youth ministry, camp ministry, pastoral work and directing and teaching in schools all over the world. In addition, he has taken part in traveling and ministering in the USA, Mexico, Ukraine, Myanmar, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Thailand and across most of Canada. He completed his B.R.E. and his M.A. from Briercrest, and his Doctorate of Ministry from Providence Theological Seminary in the spring of 1999.

In January 1996, Dr. James Humphries resigned as pastor of a local church with a vision to reach further abroad with the Word of God and to use it to train labourers for Christ (Matthew 9:36-38). He shared this with Dr. David Smith and Dr. Chuck Nichols of Providence Theological Seminary and they greatly encouraged Dr. James Humphries and his wife Irene to develop what God was laying on their hearts.

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In March 1997, they traveled to Jamaica where they met several pastors who were very concerned about the need for training and disciplining their young people as leaders in their churches. Dr. James Humphries and Irene did not know this would be the starting point to an international ministry of discipleship training around the world known as Project L.A.M.B.S. International.

To date, Project L.A.M.B.S. has ministered in Canada, Myanmar, Ukraine, Africa, Jamaica, Mexico, Israel, Thailand, Japan, Dominican Republic, Naga Land and China. We offer over 30 different courses. Our graduates number over 1000, and are serving worldwide. Out of this group of graduates, we have equipped and trained directors, teachers and pastors who in turn are carrying out II Timothy 2:1-2 to an even larger group of people.

In 2002 it was discovered that Irene had cancer again. God gave Irene another three years and because of that she was still able to travel and teach in many different countries. Shortly after what was to be her last trip, Irene was hospitalized in February, 2005. A few weeks later she went home to be with her Lord and Saviour on March 9.

My second wife Hkaw Win was raised and trained mostly in the land of Myanmar. She has earned B.th, University Degree and a master of Divinity Degree in Myanmar. In April 2007 she finished a second Master's Degree at Providence Theological

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Seminary in Christian Education. After July 1st, 2007 she headed back to Myanmar to head up the Christian Education Department for the Myitkyina Kachin Baptist Association and oversaw various ministries to 62 churches. After her four-year term was completed, she has been traveling and working as an interpreter and doing translations concerning various kinds of discipleship books and materials.

Over the last ten years we have lived in the countries of Myanmar and Thailand preparing a variety of resources in the Burmese (Myanmar) and Kachin Languages. To date we have published over 20 different kinds of books. Our goal is to equip and establish people as Disciples of Christ. Please pray for God's leading and wisdom. Our walk with Christ has taken us down many challenging pathways but we have seen the faithfulness of our Lord and Savior in every area. His grace has been sufficient.

Founder and Director,

Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

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8. Servant Leadership
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