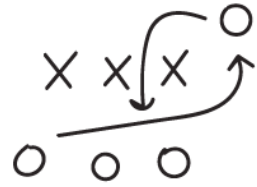


# LEADING CHANGE



Week One  
Leading Yourself: Character & Accountability

## 01. INTRODUCTION

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Hello there, My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I want to welcome you to session one of the Leading Change – leadership small group. Thank you for taking the time to grow as a leader.

**Before we jump in:** I want to encourage you to get somewhere quiet. Turn off any distractions, pull out your pen and study guide and really focus in this session. I believe that this time when joined with your small group discussion, is going to be a rich place for the Holy Spirit to speak to you. It is going to be more than just information but will lead to transformation. **I want to open up our time together by asking you this question:**

**Biggest Need in our world:** God-Honoring, Spirit-Empowered, Christ-Following – Leaders. Number one prayer request of Jesus...

### Matthew 9:37-38

<sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

**Why this small group:** Over time It is easy as a Christian to forget that we are called to be leaders in our world. The purpose of this leadership small group is to teach you how to be a leader in your church and in every area of your life.

**A great leader isn't built by being busy.** It is built by doing the right things consistently, over time, in the trenches. **In this small group, we are going to teach you how to PUT YOUR MASK ON FIRST** so that you can lead others well.

We are going to journey together over the next 8 weeks, part one we are going to focus on Personal Leadership and then in part two, last four weeks we are going to talk about shared leadership. **Let's jump in to week one as we talk about Character and Accountability:**

### **I Corinthians 9:24-27**

<sup>24</sup> Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! <sup>25</sup> All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. <sup>26</sup> So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. <sup>27</sup> I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

## **02. TRANSITION TO MESSAGE**

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**We sometimes think that personal growth is a moment.** Like it happens and then you're all grown up. Nope, it happens with discipline and consistent work. **Paul uses the example of a RACE and runner.**

- You have to think differently depending on what kind of race you're running. Sprints and dashes versus marathons or long distance races.
- What you can do in a moment you can't always do over a long distance.

**Illustration:** Working out in Texas versus New Mexico – My experience in the gym. High speed, go fast for 45 minutes – It took me 2 hours! Same

thing feels harder at a higher altitude, Greater leadership requires a different strategy – one of endurance and consistency.

## 03. MESSAGE

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### ***Even Jesus experienced this with his own growth:***

**Context:** Jesus is a 12 year old boy. Parents go to Jerusalem as was the custom, they accidentally leave Jesus behind and don't realize it until they have traveled over a day! **(parent irritation if I have to turn around for adilyns backpack! Little alone a whole day!)**

### **Luke 2:46-52**

<sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

<sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> **And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.**

They could tell he was a superstar at 12 years old but that wasn't when he started his ministry

- **18 Years later!** Not a word. He was an apprentice to Joseph his adoptive father who was a carpenter.

**Personal growth is a process that takes time.**

**What to expect:** The win for our time together, personal growth. Going back to the fundamentals

- The goal isn't just to give you some principle that we will all apply different **but to give you a framework.**

**In this session, we are going to learn about personal growth**

- We are always in process. I'm not where I want to be but I'm not where I used to be.

**The foundation of all leadership growth and success is Character:**

**Character** is defined as the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual.

**Context:** Luke 2, even Jesus had to grow. He was perfect but He still went through a process. Then we don't see Jesus again in scripture until he steps out of 18 years of obscurity and right before he begins his public ministry, and discuss what happened following **Jesus' 21 years in obscurity** right before his public ministry. And what happens?

**Matthew 4:1-11**

**4** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. **2** For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

We see **Three Characteristics of Character** from Luke 2 and Matthew 4

1. Character is built over time. (21 years as carpenter's apprentice)
2. Character is built in hiddenness. (no mention of miracles, status)
3. Character is tested through temptation. (Jesus was tempted)

As we continue to read this story in Matthew 4, we see that Jesus was tempted in 3 very specific ways:

**Three Tests of Character** – All temptation come from one of these:

**The temptations of Jesus in Matthew 4.**

**Matthew 4:3,6,9**

<sup>3</sup> During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.” [**lust of the flesh**]

<sup>6</sup> and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. [**pride of life**]

<sup>9</sup> “I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.” [**lust of the eyes**]

**John emphasizes these temptations as well:**

**1 John 2:16**

For everything in the world--the **lust of the flesh**, the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**--comes not from the Father but from the world.

**Man’s first temptation.**

**Genesis 3:6**

“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food [**lust of the flesh**], and that it was pleasant to the eyes [**lust of the eyes**], and a tree to be desired to make one wise [**the pride of life**], she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat”.

Lets look at each of these test, first:

**1. Lust of the Flesh**

It can involve any type of sinful activity that will bring pleasure to the body.

- Sexual Sin
- Addictions (Be mastered by nothing)
- Gluttony
- Uncontrolled Anger & Violence

## 2. Lust of the Eyes

We rarely hear of the sin of coveting in today's time, but "thou shalt not covet" was the 10th commandment that God gave to the Israelites.

To covet means to have a yearning or a strong desire to have something that rightfully belongs to someone else or something you haven't earned or worked for.

- Entitlement (wanting something without earning it or it being given)
- Status & Recognition
- Fairness
- Mammon (love of money)

## 3. Pride of Life

The pride of life is that sinful temptation for excess greatness or power that we all feel the temptation to attain. Pride itself is one of the sins that God hates most. Some examples of this sin include the following:

- Excess or undue esteem, "to make a name for ourselves" to be seen by others
- Self-Righteousness – we're better than others
- Power (to lord it over others, Jesus said that those who desire to be great should be the greatest servant)
- Pride (Always the teacher never the student.)

**Wow big list of what to look out for. How do I know that I'm growing in character? How can I possibly be ready for this?**

## Character always produces accountability.

Are you accountable?

- Character produces accountability to God.

### **James 4:7**

7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- Character produces accountability to Others.

### **Matthew 18:19-20**

"I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. 20 For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."

Interesting to note that this comes immediately after how we deal with conflict and offense, more about that later in study.

**Your faith is personal but it isn't private.** You will only grow in your character by growing closer to God and to His People. Period.

**Clarification:** Accountability is a person, not an organization or an ideal but a person. First to God but then to others – not a big group but specific people.

## 04. CLOSING & PRAYER

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### Three Accountable Relationships

#### 1. Every Christian needs a Paul who is leading.

People use this family language a lot, spiritual father (You need them, but they don't need you) But you can't be fathered by a podcast!

## **I Corinthians 4:15**

Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

This is one, maybe more over time. (Pastor Willie George, Steve Smothermon)

- 2. Every Christian needs a Barnabas who is loving.** A friend or several friends who are with you, encouraging you. They sharpen you. (You need each other)

### **Acts 11:22-24**

The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

- 3. Every Christian needs a Timothy who is learning.**

### **1 Timothy 1:2**

I am writing to Timothy, my true son in the faith. May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord give you grace, mercy, and peace.

**Did you know that someone is watching you.** You may only have one or two spiritual fathers but you can have a lot of sons and daughters. They are looking to you to be an example for them to follow.

**You fail two ways in your character: When you go too fast and when you go alone.**

Character always produces accountability and it is the foundation of all personal growth and success. It is key to leading yourself.



The foundation determines how wide and tall you can build. It is often the most overlooked but most important part of every structure. Be sure it is build on the solid foundation/Rock of God's word.

### **Let's Pray.**

Well, That wraps up this session, be sure to take time right now while it's fresh to complete the reflect and write questions so that you are ready for a good small group discussion. Thanks and I will see you again in the next session.