

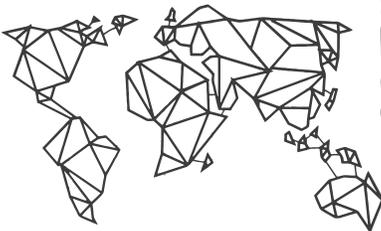


GREAT
COMMISSION
ACADEMY

¹ Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges,
Lead Like Jesus: Lessons from
the Greatest Leadership Role
Model of All Time (Nashville, TN:
Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2005), 4.

Notes:

**GREAT
COMMISSION
LEADERSHIP
HOMEWORK
PACKET
ONE**



JESUS' LEADERSHIP EXAMPLE

There is one perfect leadership role model you can trust, and His name is Jesus.¹

Blanchard and Hodges

MEMORY VERSE

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18 [NIV]

REAL LEADERS FOLLOW JESUS

Jesus stated that discipleship must include teaching those we disciple what He commanded (Matt. 28:18-20). Jesus taught that all who serve Him must follow Him (Jn. 12:26). Great Commission leaders must follow Christ's example as they serve Him so others can follow theirs (see Paul's example of this in 1 Cor. 11:1). Jesus gave us the Great Commission and He is the ultimate example of a leader so it's important to know how Jesus led. We'll go through an extensive description of leadership characteristics this week and each will give a reference to a time when Christ exhibited it. There are undoubtedly more. The bottom line, your faith starts with Jesus, the Great Commission starts with Jesus, leadership starts with Jesus and there is no other foundation we can lay than Jesus (1 Cor. 3:11).

WHAT IS A LEADER AND HOW DOES A LEADER LEAD?

Erin and I teach our kids leadership principles and often give them opportunities to lead in different ways. Once, when our daughter Eliana was five, she exclaimed, "I'm a good leader because I love Jesus!" What a simple but true statement. True leadership begins with loving and following the leader, Jesus. Before going any further, make sure you have a personal relationship with Jesus. If you want to follow THE Leader you must first know what that leader looks like. This week we'll discuss the characteristics that all great leaders demonstrate, the ones Christ modeled for us. We'll give you a leadership model which is based on Christ's example. Learning to be a Great Commission leader

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requires that you follow the greatest leader of all time who gave us the Great Commission in the first place.

→ **Before getting started, what is your favorite thing about Jesus?**

→ **Which of His leadership attributes do you admire most?**

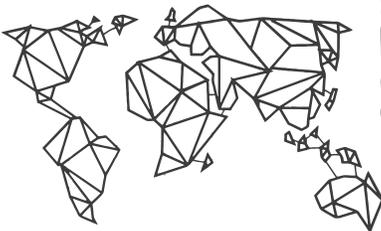
THE LEADERSHIP ACRONYM

We'll categorize the various leadership characteristics into 10 key areas: Lifestyle, Example, Action, Direction, Expertise, Relationships, Serving, Habits, Initiative and Propagating. Anyone who demonstrates these leadership characteristics will be an effective leader. Below we'll elaborate on each of these characteristics, including many subcategories for each, drawing attention to the leadership example Jesus demonstrated when He walked this earth 2,000 years ago (we'll share a few references that describe these characteristics and there are undoubtedly many more). As you contemplate His perfect leadership example, remember that He is alive this week, empowering you by His Holy Spirit to follow His example (2 Cor. 3:18).

→ **Which of the LEADERSHIP characteristics do you think are most important and why?**

LIFESTYLE

LEADERSHIP begins with lifestyle. Jesus led first with His lifestyle. His walk matched His talk. That began with intimacy with His Father (Jn.10:30) and a life and ministry based on God's Word (Mt.4:4) and prayer (Mk. 1:35). This led to His perfect, godly character (Jn. 14:9)! That was demonstrated in His love (Jn .15:9), trustworthiness (Heb. 13:8), integrity (Heb. 4:15), confidence (Mt. 21:12-17), sincerity



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(Mt. 6:5), optimism (Mt. 8:23-27), enthusiasm (Mt. 9:37), humility (Php. 2:6-11), strength (Lk. 2:52, Jn. 12:6, 13:29), honesty (Is. 53:9), passion (Mt. 21:12-17) and fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23, 2 Cor. 3:18). Because of His godly character he was influential (Lk. 12:1), disciplined (Mk. 1:35, while it was still dark...) and committed to the process of continued growth (Lk. 2:52). He overcame obstacles (Mt. 14:15-21), barriers (Is. 53:2-3), negative circumstances (Jn. 1:46, 7:52) and led in the power of the Holy Spirit (Lk. 4:1)! Anyone who follows that example of a lifestyle will be an effective leader.

→ **Which of these lifestyle characteristics is most striking to you and why?**

→ **How have you seen God developing these characteristics into your life as you've followed Jesus?**

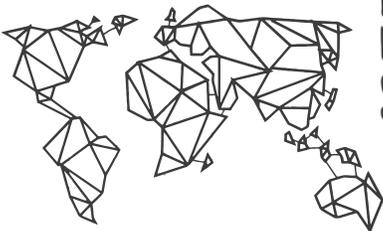
EXAMPLE

LEADERSHIP requires leading by example. Jesus led by example, by showing others the way (Jn. 13:14-15). He never called people to do what He hadn't demonstrated for them. His perfect lifestyle and ministry were the example of what He called others to do. All godly leaders must lead by example.

→ **Why is it important that leaders lead by example?**

ACTION

LEADERSHIP requires leading with action. Jesus led with action. Jesus did whatever was needed (Jn. 2:1-11). He demonstrated an unstoppable can-do attitude of reliance on the Father (Mt. 9:37). He was courageous (Mt. 8:23-27, Lk. 12:4-12), energetic (Mt. 21:12-17) and did



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the right things, the right way, at the right time (Jn. 7:1-10). He even led with action in what He said. He spoke the truth (Jn. 8:32, 45), knew, practiced and taught the Word of God (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10, 7:29). He lovingly & truthfully rebuked & confronted when necessary (Mt. 23). Jesus communicated vision and direction to those He led (Mt. 28:18-20). He avoided pointless, condescending, rude and profane speech (Is. 53:9, Eph. 4:25-32, James 3:2, Heb. 4:15). Ultimately, He communicated confidently and boldly (Mt. 7:29, Lk. 4:32). Jesus lived and spoke with action!

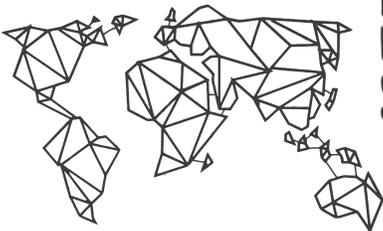
→ **Have you ever had a leader who was lazy or passive? What did that convey to you? How effective were they in their calling?**

→ **How do you need to grow in the area of action?**

DIRECTION

LEADERSHIP requires leading with direction and communicating that to the team. Jesus led with direction and communicated that to His followers. He led with vision (Acts 1:8). He knew the best way to get His team to His goal (Mt. 28:18-20). He was confident and sure of His calling, purpose and role (Lk. 19:10). He was decisive (Mk. 11:13-14, 20-25). He knew when to say no (Mt. 16:21-23). He took charge when needed (Mt. 8:23-27). He led with good intuition, discernment, judgement and wisdom (Mt. 21:23-27). He was committed to the vision and wouldn't compromise absolutes (Lk. 22:42). He focused on objectives, not obstacles (Mt. 14:13-21). He built momentum (Mt. 9:1-8). He followed and worked towards His purpose and the big picture (Lk. 10:19). He led creatively (just look at His miracles) and with an eternal perspective (Mt. 4:23). Godly leaders must lead with a sense of direction, conveying that to those they lead.

→ **How can you better lead with His direction (Matt. 28:18-20)?**



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EXPERTISE

LEADERSHIP requires leading with expertise. Jesus led with expertise and authority (Mt. 28:18), demonstrating godly authority (Mt. 16:24-27). He always had answers (Mt. 22:15-22). He wouldn't give up when opposition arose (Mt. 26:47-56). He knew His own limitations (Jn. 4:6). Remember, Jesus' limitations were only those which accompanied taking on humanity (Phil. 2:6-11).

- **What areas of expertise do you need to grow in?** (As you consider that, check out the bibliography and see if there are any resources that might help you grow.)

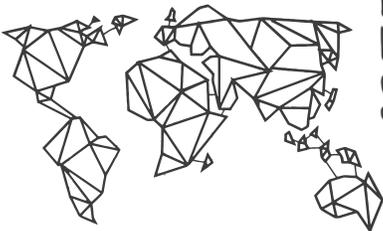
RELATIONSHIPS

LEADERSHIP requires leading relationally. Jesus led relationally. He always led with His team, His disciples (Mt. 4:18-22, Jn. 6:70)! He had good boundaries (Mt. 12:46-50, 16:23, Jn. 13:10). He loved genuinely (Jn. 15:13). He empathized with people (Jn. 11:35). He developed close personal relationships (Lk. 19:1-10). He listened to others (Jn. 4:1-26). His dynamic personality attracted people of all types (Lk. 4:42). He was committed to those He led (Jn. 18:15-18 & 22:15-17). Christ-like leaders will lead others out of their love for God and those they lead (Mk. 12:29-31).

- **How can you love Jesus and others more deeply?**

SERVING

LEADERSHIP requires leading by serving. Jesus modeled this and led by serving. He came to serve and to give His life for those He led (Mk. 10:45). Jesus strengthened, supported, encouraged and built up those He led (Again, Jn. 13:14-15). He never manipulated others or abused His authority (Mt. 20:25-28).





Notes:

→ **List a specific act of service you will do this week:**

HABITS

LEADERSHIP requires leading with good habits. Jesus maintained good habits. He was disciplined and diligent (Again, Lk. 2:52), hard working (Mt. 4:23) and was balanced in the physical, relational, spiritual and mental aspects of His life (Again, Lk. 2:52). He was faithful (Jn. 17:6-19) and did whatever it took to accomplish the vision and help the team win (Jn. 15:13). He led with a good attitude (Lk. 10:21). He prioritized effective ministry (Mk. 1:36-38). He led sacrificially (Lk. 9:58, Jn. 15:13). Leaders must follow His example and cultivate the right habits.

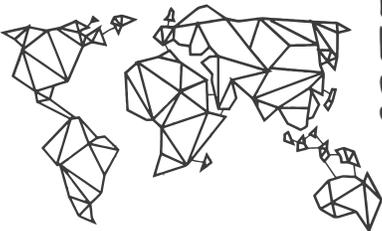
→ **List any bad habits you need to break:**

→ **List any good habits you need to cultivate:**

INITIATIVE

LEADERSHIP requires leading with initiative. Jesus led with initiative. Leaders are resilient and bounce back after "failure." Jesus never failed but was quick to bounce back after a lack of results (Mk. 6:1-7). Jesus led as a "self starter" (Mt. 4:23), because He was internally motivated (Jn. 5:19), with correct motives (Jn. 14:31).

→ **Are you a self starter or not and why?**



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PROPAGATING

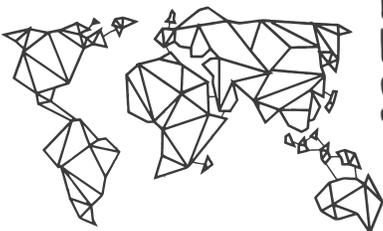
LEADERSHIP requires propagating vision and leaders. Jesus propagated the vision of the Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20). He was committed to multiplication (Again, Mt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8). He invested in a few key people (Mk. 3:14) and delegated to them, empowering them, and cutting them loose to lead (Mt. 10:5-8, Lk. 10:1-20)! Jesus shared the gospel (Mk. 1:14-15) and made disciples (Mt. 11:1), the two fundamentals of spiritual multiplication. Finally, He always led with His team, His disciples (Jn. 6:70). Jesus was committed to the process of spiritual multiplication and He has called all of His followers to do the same.

→ **What is the best picture of spiritual multiplication you've ever seen?**

JESUS WILL DEVELOP THESE IN YOU AS YOU DRAW NEAR TO HIM!

Work through the Christ-like leadership characteristics in this week's "Act Now" section below. Ask God where you need to grow. Christ will grow you in all these areas! This is what He promises (Jn. 15:5). Remember, the more time you spend with someone, the more like them you will become. The Holy Spirit is transforming you this very moment to be more like Christ (2 Cor.3:18). With that in mind, do this week's application section to get a better perspective of how to allow Him to grow you in different areas. We can't stress this enough. As you grow closer to Jesus on a daily basis, taking steps of faith following Him, He will develop you into a strong leader. Keep your eyes on Him (Heb.m12:1-2). This is just the beginning of a life-long journey!

Remember, your weaknesses, inabilities, failures and past present no challenge to God's will for your life. Your willingness does. Be willing to be and do what God made you for. You don't have what it takes but God's Spirit in you does so be the leader He made you to be and turn this world upside down for Him!



² John MacArthur, *The Book on Leadership* (John MacArthur, 2004).

³ John C. Maxwell, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership: Follow Them and People Will Follow You—10th Anniversary Edition* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2007).

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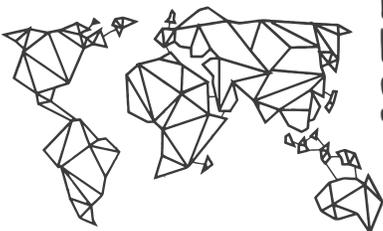
ACT NOW

CHRIST-LIKE LEADERSHIP CHECKLIST

Below is the LEADERSHIP acronym and leadership issues associated with each area described by the acronym (remember, this checklist derives straight from Jesus' leadership example). Check each area you feel weak in and begin trusting God to develop those in your life (many of these leadership traits are found in MacArthur's *The Book on Leadership*² and Maxwell's *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*³).

LIFESTYLE: Leaders lead in how they live.

- Leaders live in intimacy with God (Jn. 10:30).
 - Leaders know, share and apply God's Word (Mt. 4:4).
 - Leaders pray (Mk. 1:35).
- Leaders have convictions based on Scripture; a Biblical worldview (Jn. 8:28-29).
- Leaders have Godly character; Christlikeness is key (Jn. 14:9)!
 - Leaders love (Jn. 15:9).
 - Leaders are trustworthy (Heb. 13:8).
 - Leaders have integrity: a clear conscience yields boldness & confidence (Heb. 4:15).
 - Leaders are confident, because of Christ, 2 Cor. 3:4-6 (Mt. 21:12-17).
 - Leaders are sincere (Mt. 6:5).
 - Leaders are optimistic (Mt. 8:23-27).
 - Leaders are enthusiastic (Mt. 9:37).
 - Leaders are humble (Php. 2:6-11).
 - Leaders allow others to serve in their strengths (Jn. 12:6, 13:29).
 - Leaders apologize when wrong (Note: Jesus wasn't ever wrong).
 - Leaders are honest (Is. 53:9).
 - Leaders are passionate (Mt. 21:12-17).
 - Leaders exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness & self control (Gal. 5:22-23, 2Cor.3:18).
 - Leaders have godly character which yields respect which



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yields loyalty which yields influence (Heb. 4:15)!
Principle: People follow the leader 1st, then the vision.

- Leaders are strong: people follow leaders stronger than themselves (Lk. 2:52).
- Leaders are influencers (Lk. 12:1).
- Leaders are disciplined (Mk. 1:35, "while it was still dark...").
- Leaders are committed to the process of continued growth (Lk. 2:52).
- Leaders overcome obstacles (Mt. 14:15-21).
 - Leaders overcome personal barriers (Is. 53:2-3).
 - Leaders overcome negative circumstances (Jn. 1:46, 7:52).
- Leaders lead in the power of the Holy Spirit (Lk. 4:1)!

EXAMPLE: Leaders lead by example.

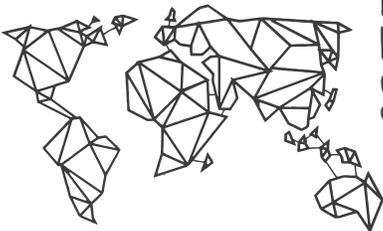
- Leaders lead by showing others the way (Jn. 13:14-15).

ACTION: Leaders take action.

- Leaders do whatever is needed (Jn. 2:1-11)!
- Leaders have a can do attitude (Mt. 9:37).
- Leaders are courageous (Mt. 8:23-27, Lk. 12:4-12).
- Leaders are energetic (Mt. 21:12-17).
- Leaders do the right things, the right way, at the right time (Jn. 7:1-10).
- Leaders take action in what they say!
 - Leaders speak truth (Jn. 8:32, 45).
 - Leaders know, practice and can teach the Word (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10, 7:29). *Note: Refer back to the Action section - Leaders do what they say, they walk what they talk!*
 - Leaders lovingly & truthfully rebuke & confront (Mt. 23, 2 Tim. 3:16).
 - Leaders communicate vision and direction (Mt. 28:18-20).
 - Leaders avoid pointless, condescending, rude and profane speech (Is. 53:9, Eph.4:25-32, James 3:2, Heb.4:15).
 - Leaders communicate confidently and boldly (Mt. 7:29, Lk. 4:32).

DIRECTION: Leaders set the direction and communicate it well.

- Leaders are visionary (Acts 1:8)!



⁴ Norman Geisler, *Systematic Theology: In One Volume* (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2011).

⁵ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994).

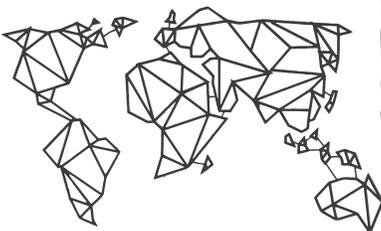
Notes:

- Leaders know the best way to get the team to the goal (Mt. 28:18-20)!
- Leaders are confident, sure of calling, purpose and role (Lk. 19:10).
- Leaders are decisive (Mk. 11:13-14, 20-25).
- Leaders know when to say no (Mt. 16:21-23).
- Leaders take charge when needed or called upon (Mt. 8:23-27).
- Leaders lead with good intuition, discernment, judgment and wisdom (Mt. 21:23-27).
 - Leaders know when to change their mind & admit they're wrong (*Once again, this goes for the rest of us, Jesus wasn't ever wrong*).
- Leaders are committed to the vision / won't compromise absolutes (Lk. 22:42).
- Leaders focus on objectives, not obstacles (Mt. 14:13-21).
- Leaders build momentum (Mt. 9:1-8).
- Leaders follow their purpose and work towards their purpose and the big picture (Lk. 10:19).
- Leaders have an eternal perspective (Mt. 4:23).
- Leaders are creative and can "think outside of the box" (*Jesus' miracles!!!*)

EXPERTISE: Leaders lead with expertise.

Note: It is vitally important that you have a strong Biblical basis for your leadership. We suggest working through a solid systematic theology text (like Geisler's Systematic Theology: In One Volume⁴ or Grudem's Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine⁵) in order to shore up any weak spots.

- Leaders lead with authority (Mt. 28:18).
 - Leaders are submitted to authority (Jn. 14:28 (*Note: Jesus demonstrated submission to the Father, having humbled Himself to become a man*), Phil. 2:6-11 (*before returning to heaven and being glorified with the glory He gave up when He came to earth*), Jn. 17:5).
 - Leaders exercise Godly authority (Mt. 16:24-27).
- Leaders are authorities; know their stuff, have answers (Mt. 22:15-22).
- Leaders don't give up when opposition arises (Mt. 26:47-56).
- Leaders know their own limitations (Jn. 4:6).



Notes:

RELATIONSHIPS: Leaders lead relationally.

- Leaders never “go-it-alone” - they are part of a team (Mt. 4:18-22, Jn. 6:70)!
- Leaders have good boundaries (Mt. 12:46-50, 16:23, Jn. 13:10).
- Leaders love genuinely (Jn. 15:13).
- Leaders empathize (Jn. 11:35).
- Leaders develop relationships and personal connections (Lk. 19:1-10).
- Leaders listen (Jn. 4:1-26).
- Leaders attract others; they are interesting, friendly, etc (Lk. 4:42).
- Leaders are committed to those they lead (Jn. 18:15-18 & 22:15-17).

SERVING: Leaders lead by serving.

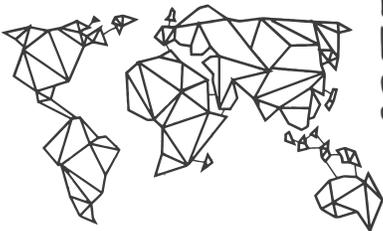
- Leaders lead by serving (Mk. 10:45).
 - Leaders strengthen, support, encourage and build up those they lead (Again, Jn. 13:14-15).
 - Leaders don't abuse authority (Mt. 20:25-28).

HABITS: Leaders cultivate the right habits.

- Leaders are disciplined and diligent (Again, Lk. 2:52).
- Leaders are faithful (Jn. 17:6-19).
- Leaders are hard working (Mt. 4:23).
- Leaders manage time and lives well; they are balanced in physical, relational,
 - spiritual and mental aspects of life (Again, Lk. 2:52).
- Leaders do whatever it takes to accomplish the vision and help the team win (Jn. 15:13).
- Leaders lead with a good attitude (Lk. 10:21).
- Leaders prioritize; low input, high impact, 80/20 rule (Mk. 1:36-38).
- Leaders sacrifice (Lk. 9:58, Jn. 15:13).

INITIATIVE: Leaders take the initiative.

- Leaders are resilient and bounce back after “failure.” *Jesus never failed but was quick to bounce back after lack of results (Mk. 6:1-7).*
- Leaders are self starters (Mt. 4:23).
- Leaders are internally motivated (Jn. 5:19).



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- Leaders lead with correct motives (Jn. 14:31).

PROPAGATE: Leaders propagate the vision.

- Leaders multiply; real growth (Again, Mt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8).
 - Leaders invest in a few key people; remember the FAITH acronym (Mk. 3:14).
 - Leaders delegate & empower others, then cut them loose (Mt. 10:5-8, Lk. 10:1-20)!
- Leaders share their faith (Mk. 1:14-15).
- Leaders disciple others (Mt. 11:1).
- Leaders are team players (Jn. 6:70).

→ **Which LEADERSHIP categories from this week's homework do you want to grow in?**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

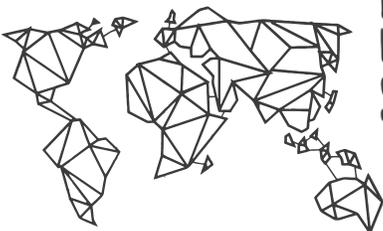
→ **Which LEADERSHIP sub-categories from this week's homework do you want to grow in?**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Remember, walk by faith growing as a leader, trusting Jesus and His Holy Spirit to develop these in your life (2 Cor. 3:18).

PERSONAL GROWTH

→ **Write out this lesson's memory verse (also, write it out several more times this week):**





⁶ G. T. Doran, *There's a S.M.A.R.T. Way to Write Management's Goals and Objectives* (Management Review, Volume 70, Issue 11, 1981), 35-36.

Notes:

- List a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant & within a Time-frame) goal⁶ for this lesson and action plans for achieving it.

SMART Goal:

Action plan:

Action plan:

Action plan:

- How are you staying close to Jesus, walking by faith and in integrity, trusting Him and the power of His Spirit in life and ministry rather than yourself, and how can you more?

- Jesus insisted that serving Him and serving others was the highest attribute of leadership (Mt. 20:25-28). How are you growing as a servant leader?

- How will this lesson help you better accomplish the Great Commission and multiply Christ-like multipliers?

- List any last thoughts and then put everything you learned in this lesson in God's hands, trusting Him to build these things into your life.

