

UNLEASHING

TAKE

YOUR

THE

GOD-GIVEN

LEAD

INFLUENCE

LEADER GUIDE



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Leadership.

Some of us might hear that word multiple times per week. It's like a catch-all for how to be better at life.

What makes it even more interesting is that everyone has a different definition of leadership. Definitions for what leadership is and how to lead well depend on who you ask and where you look.

So how can we know where to begin in actually studying leadership?

By going back to the source — the Bible.

What leadership themes are in the Bible? Who were some of the best leaders in the Bible? What made those leaders effective?

Over the next six weeks, we're going to learn from some of the leadership principles in scripture.

Even if you're wondering whether you really need this study, don't back out just yet. We all need to grow our leadership skills — for ourselves, for our families and friends, and to be effective in what God has called us to do.

If you're willing to put in a little work, what you take away from this study can impact every part of your life.

Ready?

Let's do this.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shaun Wood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "W".

EASY REFERENCE GUIDE

STUDY TOPICS

Week 1 – Introduction: learn about our Theme Scripture, 1 Timothy 6:11-12, and what leadership means for a man of God.

Week 2 – Integrity: talk about what integrity is, why it's important for a leader, and connect it to Daniel and righteousness in the Bible.

Week 3 – Honor: explore how to honor people as a leader, and connect it to Joseph and gentleness in the Bible.

Week 4 – Courage: discover what courage looks like for a leader, and connect it to John the Baptist and faith in the Bible.

Week 5 – Motivation: hear how to motivate others in a positive way, and connect it to Nehemiah and love in the Bible.

Week 6 – Commitment: identify where commitment comes from and how to grow it, and connect it to Moses and endurance in the Bible.

SUGGESTED WEEKLY FORMAT

FELLOWSHIP

Time before your meeting starts to let group members chat and get comfortable.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Get your group talking.

VIDEO

A 10-15 minute video about the week's topic. Encourage your group to take notes during the video.

RESPOND

Questions to help your group members reflect on what they saw. They'll write answers in their participant guides.

DISCUSS

Talk about answers from "Respond" and keep the discussion going with additional questions based on your remaining time.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Challenge your group to apply the principles they just learned.

END IN PRAYER

Suggested prayer topics.

WEBSITE & PASSWORDS

WEBSITE:

www.freedomchurch.sc/takethelead

SUGGESTED WEEKLY FORMAT

90 Minute Groups		60 Minute Groups	
Section	Length	Section	Length
Fellowship	15 minutes	Fellowship	5 minutes
Conversation Starters	5 minutes	Conversation Starters	5 minutes
Watch the video	15 minutes	Watch the video	15 minutes
Respond questions	15 minutes	Respond questions	10 minutes
Discussion	30 minutes	Discussion	20 minutes
Put It Into Practice	5 minutes	Put It Into Practice	2 minutes
End in prayer	5 minutes	End in prayer	3 minutes

LEADER RESOURCES



This icon designates a question you can send to your group before your meeting so they can think about it. These questions are meant to lead your group into the subject for that week and generate great conversation and thoughts.

Weekly Group Communication: Each week, email or text your group the Lead Question (designated by the icon) and prayer requests from the previous meeting. You can also check on how your group is doing working on the previous week's subject.

Weekly Leader Tips: You'll receive one-minute tip videos in the weekly Sunday email to help you create a great group experience. These videos can also be found on the leader site.

Curriculum Resources: To prepare for your first meeting, watch the Curriculum Resources video on the leader page to understand all the study components.

THEME SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 6:11-12

“But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue **righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness**. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”



WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- Who's the best leader you've ever had? Describe him/her.
- If you could only choose one word/phrase to fill in this blank, what would you choose? "A good leader is always _____."
- If you could pick one leader from history to meet, who would you choose and why?

Watch the Week 1 video: *What is Leadership? Encourage your group to take notes in their Take the Lead Participant Guide during the video and during the discussion. After the video, give your group 10-15 minutes to individually answer the "Respond" questions in their guide.*

RESPOND

After watching the video, let the group answer these questions on their own:

- List at least two key areas in your life where you want to be a stronger leader. Are there specific actions you already know you can take in those areas? What are they?
- What are some ways you want others to see you as a man of God? (e.g., in how I forgive, in how I love, in how I help people, etc.)



Leadership is intentional influence. What are some ways you intentionally and *unintentionally* influence others, good or bad?

- Write down at least two feelings/areas of your life that are challenging for you. (You could write down *anger, doubt, marriage, career, lust, dishonesty, fatherhood, etc.*)
- Next to each area you wrote down, write an attribute from 1 Timothy 6:11 that you think would MOST help you improve. (Godliness, righteousness, faith, love, endurance, or gentleness.) Why did you choose each attribute?
- What does it mean to you to "fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Timothy 6:12)? What are you fighting against?

DISCUSS

Go through the “Respond” questions with your group, then use these additional questions to continue the conversation as your group’s time allows.

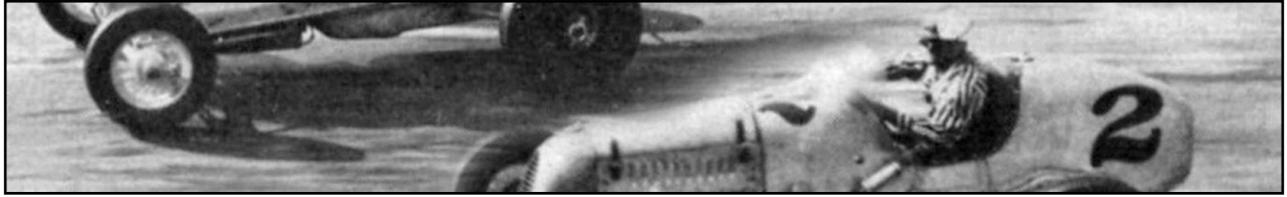
- Larry said godliness is growing in having Christ at the center of your life. How is that different from following religion? Give some examples.
- Where do you have the most room to grow in your godliness (where does Christ need to be at the center of your life the most)? Why?
- Look at 1 Timothy 6:11-12. Do any of these qualities surprise you for a “man of God”? Which quality comes most naturally to you? Which one is most difficult for you?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- Practice growing in godliness this week. Whether it’s praying more, reading your Bible, listening to a sermon, or something else, find some ways to connect with God and make Him a priority throughout the week.

PRAY FOR IT

- This week, pray for God to give you guidance about what He wants you to learn and how He wants you to grow. Ask Him to help you have a receptive attitude to hear what He is saying to you.
- Write down each person’s name in your group. Pray for them to grow in their godliness this week.
- **Leader prayer:** End your time with prayer. Ask God to make your group aware of the opportunities they have to be leaders, and to help them grow in their godliness by making Christ the center of their lives.



WEEK 2: INTEGRITY

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- If you could be any fictional character from a book or movie who has strong integrity, who would you be? (e.g., Luke Skywalker, Black Panther, Gandalf, Morpheus, etc.)
- Play “Two Truths and a Lie.” Have each person say two true things about himself and one false thing – and be creative! (e.g., *I’ve met two presidents, I hold a state high school record for most points in a basketball game, and I know every word to every Metallica song ever released.*) Let the group try to guess which one is the lie for each guy.
- When you were a kid, would you have been more likely to steal something, or tell on someone who stole something?

Watch the Week 2 video: Integrity. Encourage your group to take notes in their *Take the Lead Participant Guide* during the video and during the discussion. After the video, give your group 10-15 minutes to individually answer the “Respond” questions in their guide.

RESPOND

After watching the video, let the group answer these questions on their own:

- Where in your life do you feel stuck or like you’re in the wrong place? Why?
- List at least three things you still have control of despite feeling stuck. (e.g., *prayer, how you treat others, where you turn for support, etc.*)
- Should it matter more to you how people see you, or how God sees you? Which one do you focus on the most in how you live? Why?
- What’s a public challenge you’ve faced in your life? (e.g., *parenting mistake, job failure, compromising your values, etc.*) What could you have done in private to be better prepared for that challenge?



How is the person you are in private different from the person you are in public? What can you do to grow in your integrity and be the same person in private and in public?

DISCUSS

Go through the “Respond” questions with your group, then use these additional questions to continue the conversation as your group’s time allows.

- Chad talked about Jerry Rice working as a bricklayer in the offseason. Can you relate to that story? When in your life has something unexpectedly prepared you for your future?
- What’s an area of your life where you’re great at keeping your integrity, even when things are difficult? What’s an area where you struggle? (e.g., *exercise, relationships, diet, time management, self-discipline, etc.*)
- What does it mean to “be in right standing with God”? What’s a simple choice you can make to pursue that kind of relationship?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- Think of some ways you can grow your **integrity** this week. How can you take greater responsibility over the things that are in your control? How can you honor God and your relationship with Him in the face of things that are outside your control? What changes can you make to who you are in private to grow who you are in public?

PRAY FOR IT

- Pray for God to show you where you can grow in your integrity this week, and ask for the strength and wisdom to submit in anything He reveals to you.
- **Leader prayer:** End your time with prayer. Ask God to show your group where they can grow in their integrity, and to give them a strong will to pursue righteousness and a right standing with God.



WEEK 3: HONOR

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What's your favorite movie that shows a man/men with a strong sense of honor? Why? (e.g., *Captain America*, *Men of Honor*, *The Last Samurai*, *Cinderella Man*, *Remember the Titans*, *Captain Phillips*, etc.)
- What's the most honoring thing you've ever seen someone do?
- Who in your life has set the best example of honor? Explain.

Watch the Week 3 video: Honor. Encourage your group to take notes in their *Take the Lead Participant Guide* during the video and during the discussion. After the video, give your group 10-15 minutes to individually answer the "Respond" questions in their guide.

RESPOND

After watching the video, let the group answer these questions on their own:



What are some gifts/resources you have that you could use to serve others around you? Give some examples of how you could use them.

- Jonathan said honor always chooses to serve, like Joseph did while he was in prison. Who are some people in your life who aren't easy to serve, but you still know you're called to serve them?
- What are some ways you can serve those people?
- In what areas of your life is it easy for you to think of yourself FIRST? (*Think money, time, sex, pride, getting your way, etc.*)
- What would it look like for you to serve others first in those areas? Give some specific examples.
- What would it look like for you to honor God the same way by serving Him first? How would some of your priorities change?

DISCUSS

Go through the “Respond” questions with your group, then use these additional questions to continue the conversation as your group’s time allows.

- How would you describe the difference between being passive and being gentle?
- Jesus wasn’t lowly (unimportant). He MADE himself lowly. What are some ways we can choose to make ourselves lowly with regard to others around us?
- How would your life change if you measured your significance by how you **serve** instead of by your **success**?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- Find some ways to **honor** others this week. Who’s someone you wouldn’t normally have honored before hearing Jonathan’s message? How can you honor them? What are some ways you can serve the people you’re closest to? How can you honor God in a new/deeper way?

PRAY FOR IT

- Pray for God to help you be a man of honor. Ask for his help in growing in humility, and ask Him to show you opportunities to serve others and honor them above yourself.
- **Leader prayer:** End your time with prayer. Ask God to give your men a servant’s heart, and for them to find ways to show honor and gentleness to others this week.



WEEK 4: COURAGE

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What's a job that you think takes a lot of courage? (e.g., skyscraper window washer, astronaut, bomb squad technician, etc.) What kind of salary would it take for you to do that job?
- What's a fear you had as a child that you grew out of? Is there one you haven't grown out of?
- Describe the most courageous thing you've ever seen/heard about.

Watch the Week 4 video: Courage. Encourage your group to take notes in their *Take the Lead Participant Guide* during the video and during the discussion. After the video, give your group 10-15 minutes to individually answer the "Respond" questions in their guide.

RESPOND

After watching the video, let the group answer these questions on their own:

- Jeff said many men in the Bible were dreamers who believed what God wanted to do in their lives. What are three things you believe God wants to do in your life?



Courage is the presence of faith in the face of fear. What are some areas where you're afraid to lead courageously? What would faith look like in the face of those fears?

- Although John the Baptist doesn't seem like a traditional leader, he was a tremendous *influencer*. Write down the names of at least two people you want to have a positive influence on.
- For each person you listed, how will you need to have courage to be a positive influence? (e.g., *courage to be vulnerable, courage to stretch yourself, courage to seek God more, courage to live out what you believe, etc.*)
- What's something(s) you've allowed to become mediocre in your life because you don't want to fight to make it great? What are some ways you can show courage and fight for it?

DISCUSS

Go through the “Respond” questions with your group, then use these additional questions to continue the conversation as your group’s time allows.

- What are some common situations that require courage? (Think personal, professional, spiritual, etc.) Are there any that show up in your life frequently?
- Does your leadership point to you, Jesus, or somewhere else? What are some simple ways we can point to Jesus in our leadership?
- What are some ways you need to be courageous this week? Tell the group what you need to do.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- Take opportunities this week to be **courageous**. What do you need to fight for? How can you point others to Jesus? What are some ways you can promote others instead of yourself?

PRAY FOR IT

- Pray for God to grow your faith and courage this week. Ask Him for opportunities to be courageous and for the strength and wisdom to make the most of those chances.
- **Leader prayer:** End your time with prayer. Ask God to give your group opportunities to show courage and to place greater faith in Him, and for them to point to Jesus in their leadership.



WEEK 5: MOTIVATION

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What's something that helps you get motivated? (e.g., music, watching graduation speeches, talking to certain people, etc.)
- What's something that's easy for you to get motivated about? What's something that's difficult for you to get motivated about?
- What's something you were motivated about as a kid, but now you're not?

Watch the Week 5 video: Motivation. Encourage your group to take notes in their Take the Lead Participant Guide during the video and during the discussion. After the video, give your group 10-15 minutes to individually answer the "Respond" questions in their guide.

RESPOND

After watching the video, let the group answer these questions on their own:

- What's the most effective way for someone to motivate YOU? What kind of motivation do you respond to the best?
- What's an easy way for you to show love? What's a challenging way? Why are they easy/challenging?
- Where in your life are you positioned to lead with love? What would it look like for you to be intentional about leading with love in those areas?
- Name a person who brought the best out of you and empowered you instead of just telling you what to do. What qualities did that person have? Which of those qualities can you grow in?



What does it look like to show love by investing in others? Who are the people in your life you want/need to invest in? What are some ways you can do that?

DISCUSS

Go through the “Respond” questions with your group, then use these additional questions to continue the conversation as your group’s time allows.

- What’s something in your life that you’re not very motivated about right now? Why?
- On a scale of 1-10, how good are you at investing in others? What are some simple/practical ways we can do this?
- Who in your life needs your motivation? Give at least two ways you can motivate them from a position of love.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- Look for opportunities this week to **motivate** yourself and others. Who can you lead with love? What are some ways you can invest in your family/friends/coworkers?

PRAY FOR IT

- Pray for God to help you motivate yourself and others this week. Ask for guidance to see the people in your life who need your loving leadership and for the wisdom to find ways to invest in those people.
- **Leader prayer:** End your time with prayer. Ask God to show your group how they can be a source of motivation, and for them to lead others with love by investing in them.



WEEK 6: COMMITMENT

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- For one month, would you rather commit to having a neck like a giraffe or flippers like a seal?
- What hobby have you been most committed to in your life? Why?
- If you could make yourself commit to one of these things, which would you pick and why?
 - Going vegetarian
 - Working out every day
 - Flossing
 - Reading a self-development book every month
 - Getting eight hours of sleep every night

Watch the Week 6 video: Commitment. Encourage your group to take notes in their Take the Lead Participant Guide during the video and during the discussion. After the video, give your group 10-15 minutes to individually answer the “Respond” questions in their guide.

RESPOND

After watching the video, let the group answer these questions on their own:

- What three things are you most committed to?
- Do you have commitment issues? Write down any areas of your life where you struggle with commitment. Why do you struggle in those areas?



Which do you experience most often: frustration, unbelief, or disobedience? How does that affect you and the three things you’re most committed to?

- What (or who) is something you need to be **more** committed to? Based on this message, what are some ways you can do that?
- What are some small steps you can take to grow your commitment to God to lead through His power?

DISCUSS

Go through the “Respond” questions with your group, then use these additional questions to continue the conversation as your group’s time allows.

- Name some people (personal and professional) in your life who you can ask this question: “Do you see me as a committed person?” What do you think their answers would be? Why?
- How can frustration, unbelief, and obedience help you find commitment in your life? Talk about one of those areas and how it could help you grow your commitment.
- Tell the group about something/someone you want to be more committed to. What are some practical ways you can do that?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

- Look for ways to grow your **commitment** this week. What can you do to find commitment in your frustration, doubt, or obedience? Where can you re-commit to being a godly leader? What are some ways you can strengthen your endurance?

PRAY FOR IT

- Pray this week for God to show you the right commitments in your life. Ask Him to help you keep those commitments by putting into practice everything you’ve learned over the past few weeks.
- **Leader prayer:** End your time with prayer. Ask God to give your men endurance as He shows them which parts of their lives need greater commitment, and for them to share what they’ve learned during this study with others.