



Servant LEADERSHIP

PREVIEW

The terms “leader” and “servant” aren’t typically associated with each other. The term “leader” brings to mind a strong person with vision, passion, influence, and people skills. The term “servant” pales in comparison; it doesn’t seem to apply to someone in charge or a person who would make much of a difference. However, in Scripture we see the fusion of these two terms through the life of Jesus.

PRAISE

Take a moment and reflect on the fact that when Jesus came into this world, He could have come in a more sophisticated manner. He could have come to Jerusalem as a rich and powerful king (as many had expected). Instead, He came to this world in the humblest of ways—born into a poor family from an obscure Galilean village. Mary and Joseph had traveled to Bethlehem (about six miles south of Jerusalem) to pay their taxes, and Mary gave birth to her Son in a backyard stable. The King of glory “emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself” (Philippians 2:7–8, ESV).

PARABLE

When Jesus was born, some of the first people to see Him were shepherds. Many Bible scholars believe these men were “Temple shepherds,” men of Bethlehem who cared for the flocks that would be used for burnt offerings, peace offerings, and Passover offerings in the Temple. According to the Law, these sheep had to be one-year-old males with no blemishes. You can imagine the unwavering dedication of these shepherds as they tended to the needs of these sheep.

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PARABLE *(continued)*

Just as these shepherds tended to the needs of their flock, servant leaders devote themselves to the well-being of those they lead. You may not see yourself as a leader with people following you at this school, but you are! You have an opportunity to “shepherd” people who are hurting, broken, and in desperate need of salvation. You can choose to serve the people immediately around you.

PRESENT

Servant leadership flips conventional leadership on its head. Instead of asserting authority, it emphasizes humility, service, and putting others first. Some of the characteristics of a servant leader are (1) willingness to listen—give full attention and provide constructive feedback; (2) empathy—really care about others on a personal level; (3) healing—help others to heal and give them support; (4) self-awareness and humility—accept and grow from one’s own weaknesses (Jesus had zero faults, but He did experience human weakness); (5) motivation: instead of merely telling people what to do, tell them why it’s the best thing to do; (6) vision—ability to think “beyond”; (7) ability to motivate people to grow.

Servant leadership finds its foundation in the life of Jesus Christ. Read Matthew 20:28. Notice that Jesus exemplified all of the above characteristics. In addition, amazing parallels can be drawn between Jesus as both Shepherd and sacrificial lamb. He not only is the great Shepherd of the sheep (we are His flock), but He also humbled Himself and gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sin. “And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8, ESV). John the Baptist identified Jesus as “the Lamb of God” (John 1:29).

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PRESENT *(continued)*

In John 13, Jesus provided a powerful example of servant leadership by washing the disciples' feet—a task typically performed by the lowest servant. His act showcased humility, showing that no task is beneath a leader's care. Read John 13:14. This teaches us that leadership isn't about power but about selfless service. Do you see now why that flips the traditional view of leadership?

Read Philippians 2:3–4. This is the heart of servant leadership. This passage encapsulates the essence of considering others before ourselves, a hallmark of servant leadership.

PRACTICE

Discuss the following:

1. How does the traditional view of leadership differ from the example we see from Jesus?
2. What would leadership at our school look like if it would be like Jesus?
3. What would my life look like if I served people in our school as Jesus did?
4. How can we all practice servant leadership as a P7 Club?
5. What are some needs in our school that we could aim to help this month?

PRAY

God, thank You for being our ultimate example. We see the need to be like You in a deeper way. Help us to have the strength and courage to make the necessary changes. Help us to be more aware of the needs around us. Help us to see people the way You see them. Help us to lead people to You—not try to lord over them to prove our dominance, but to serve the way You serve. Thank You for what You're going to do through this P7 Club.

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PLUS

As you go about your week, challenge yourself to intentionally practice servant leadership. Keep a journal to document your experiences, insights, and growth as you prioritize the well-being of those you lead. Let's tag in next week about this and see how we did as a group!