

Leadership

Monday, 1/5/09 – Read Mark 1:16-20

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: There is a lot of confusion in our world today (and in the church) about LEADERSHIP. Much of the dysfunction in our world results from this confusion. And the consequences are often tragic. Jot down some examples of dysfunctional leadership. ... Can the Bible help us understand good leadership and how it works? Let's explore that this week. ... We begin, as the Bible does, not with leading but with following. God's plan for us is that, before we can be leaders, we have to be followers -- followers of Jesus. All of us are leaders at some points in our lives, and all of us are invited by Jesus to follow him. In what ways are you following Jesus?

Tuesday, 1/6/09 – Read Mark 6:6b-13

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Jesus called people to follow him, and then he sent them out to lead others. He instructed them to take very little with them. What do you think his purpose was in instructing them to take so little? ... Maybe he wanted them to remember that they were dependent on following him, not on their own resources. What do you think?

Wednesday, 1/7/09 – Read Matthew 20:24-28

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: If there is a single problem with leadership, it's this: that leaders mistakenly believe that their leadership role makes them superior, gives them a special status. What does Jesus say about this human tendency?

Thursday, 1/8/09 – Read John 13:12-17

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Jesus explicitly gave his disciples a new model of leadership -- the leader as servant. On his last night with his disciples, Jesus got down on hands and knees and washed the disciples feet and then instructed them that being "Lord" and "Teacher" meant being "servant." ... What do you think of this model? Whom have you seen lead this way? ... Write down one thing you would be doing if you were to lead this way.

Friday, 1/9/09 – Read James 1:2-8

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The Phillips translation of today's reading, translates verses 6-7 this way: The one who trusts God, but with inward reservations, is like a wave of the sea, carried forward by the wind one moment and driven back the next. That sort of person cannot hope to receive anything from God, and the life of the person of divided loyalty will reveal instability at every turn." ... We began this week by thinking of following Jesus as a necessary part of leading others. Think about that again. What's the result of following Jesus with divided loyalty? What's the result of leading others with divided loyalty?

My Faith Journal, January 4, 2009
Second Sunday of Christmas
So, Lead!

Saturday, 1/10/09 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: We're not all leaders in the same way. Even in the church there is great variety. The leadership of a Sunday School teacher needs to be different from that of the leader of a planning team. But according to today's reading, all our leading is to serve "the common good," the good of all. ... Think about those times when you are in leadership, maybe with lots of people, maybe with just one or two. Does your leadership serve the common good, the good of all? Give some examples.

**Sunday, 1/11/09 – Read Ephesians 4:11-13
and 1 Corinthians 12:27**

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The Bible describes us together as "the body of Christ." That's what God wants and needs us to be -- the embodiment of Christ in our world now. God's goal for leadership is "building up the body of Christ." What do you think that means? What kind of leadership builds up the body? What kind of leadership tears down the body? ... Give some examples when you have seen our church's leaders "build up the body of Christ."

What do I want to remember out of today's message?

What action do I intend to take as a result of today's message?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life experience. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.