



## New Testament Teaching on Servant Leadership

### Small Group Bible Study



#### Group 1: The Example and Teaching of Jesus

Matthew 20:25-28

Philippians 2:1-11

John 15:15

Characteristics of Servant Leadership Learned from Jesus:

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#### Group 2: The Example and Teaching of Paul

1 Thessalonians 2:6-9

1 Thessalonians 5:14

Romans 15:1

Galatians. 6:1-2

Characteristics of Servant Leadership Learned from Paul:

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#### Group 3: The Example and Teaching of Peter

1 Peter 5:1-7

Characteristics of Servant Leadership Learned from Peter:

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### Discussion Questions

1. Think of a church leader you know well. Without telling who the person is, discuss how his or her behavior as a leader matches the principles of servant leadership.
2. What are the likely results of church leadership that uses the principles of servant leadership as compared with church leadership that does not use the principles?

### Foundation of Service

What distinguishes Christian leadership from worldly, usually autocratic, leadership is the foundation of service to others that is willing to embrace suffering to fulfill the purposes of God. The shepherd gives his life for his sheep. Jesus said that the greatest among us must be the servant of all. Leaders serve at the same time that they direct and guide. The spirit of service confirms that a leader is a servant of the Lord. The servant doesn't command, dictate or impose. The servant serves. Today more than ever we need servant-hearted leaders. This is rooted in God's value of sacrificial love to the benefit of others.

THE AUTHORITARIAN/WORLDLY LEADER:	THE SERVANT LEADER:
Says: "Follow me!"	Says: "Let's follow Jesus!"
Decides what his vision and goals are for the church.	Works with leaders to discern the vision and goals God has for the church.
Doesn't delegate, just gives orders.	Involves others.
Makes decisions on his own	Invites others to participate in making decisions.
Complains about the weaknesses of the congregation.	Strengthens the congregation in its areas of weakness.
Does everything himself: preaching, visiting, praying, teaching, leading worship, etc.	Trains others to do ministry and affirms them.
Sees other leaders as competitors and threats.	Sees other leaders as partners and blessings.

## Am I a Servant Leader?

### THE SERVANT LEADER PROFILE



Instructions: Rate yourself as a servant leader based on the leadership statements below by circling the answer that best fits you.



I maintain and build unity.

Rarely	Sometimes	Not Sure	Often	Almost Always
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I avoid needless arguments about ownership, credit, or territory.

Rarely	Sometimes	Not Sure	Often	Almost Always
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I am not threatened by others' strengths and accomplishments.

Rarely	Sometimes	Not Sure	Often	Almost Always
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People I work with are aware I value their strengths.

Rarely	Sometimes	Not Sure	Often	Almost Always
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I find a way to use the strengths of others to help achieve the goals of the group.

Rarely	Sometimes	Not Sure	Often	Almost Always
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I work to encourage and lift up others.

Rarely	Sometimes	Not Sure	Often	Almost Always
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I celebrate the victories of my team and individuals I work with no matter how small.

Rarely	Sometimes	Not Sure	Often	Almost Always
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I am proactive to move issues ahead while maintaining meekness and a consideration of others.

Rarely	Sometimes	Not Sure	Often	Almost Always
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I am intentional about speaking well of others.

Rarely	Sometimes	Not Sure	Often	Almost Always
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I develop those who work with me to be servant leaders.

Rarely	Sometimes	Not Sure	Often	Almost Always
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I recognize and use authority properly (positional, relational, expert, personal, and spiritual).

Rarely	Sometimes	Not Sure	Often	Almost Always
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I do not depend on the position I hold for status, self-worth, or for a meaningful life.

Rarely	Sometimes	Not Sure	Often	Almost Always
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I do not make decisions based on my own advancement, comfort, or increase of authority at the expense of those I serve.

Rarely	Sometimes	Not Sure	Often	Almost Always
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I express my love for my followers by being committed to their progress, their ministries, and their growth in Christ as a key expression of His love.

Rarely	Sometimes	Not Sure	Often	Almost Always
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### Am I a Servant Leader?

In the space below, reflect on the following questions:

- What are my strengths as a servant leader?
- How can I better use my strengths as a servant leader?
- What areas of servant leadership do I struggle to perform well?
- What do I need to do personally to perform better in the areas of servant leadership that are difficult for me?
- How can I use my team to help me provide servant leadership in the areas that are most difficult for me?

### Notes

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**Discussion Questions**

- Why is it difficult for a leader to be a servant leader?
- In which of the areas of servant leadership do you think most church leaders fall short?
- In general, what can a church leader do to become “more like Christ” in his leadership?
- What are some of the burdens a church planter should be willing to bear for others?
- What would a church planter who is a servant leader be like?

**Break (15 min.)**