

# Student Leadership Class - Leaders Know how to follow

## Recap Last week

When working with student leaders, it's critical they know that they need to be a follower of Christ first and foremost. This means they also need to be followers of the people God puts in their lives. Sometimes, it's easy to identify who that may be: a parent, a youth pastor, a coach, etc. But what about when the tiny 6th grader on their team speaks up with an incredible idea that's different—and better—than theirs? To be a great leader, students need to know when to get out of the way and follow others' ideas as well. This attribute takes humility, flexibility, and a desire for God's glory more than our own.

- Think of some good leaders you've followed. Why made you want to follow them?
- Have you ever seen roles reversed, where it looked like the leader was following his/her teammates?
- Why would it be important for a leader to also have the ability to be a good follower?

## Acts 15:1-12

*1 But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. 3 So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. 4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. 5 But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses."*

*6 The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. 7 And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8 And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, 9 and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. 10 Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."*

*12 And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.*

- Let's use Peter's words in verses 7-11 as an example. What can we learn about following our teammates from his words to the early church?
- What do you think was at stake for Peter when he stood up for Paul and Barnabas? How might this have been a risk for him?
- In what situations should a leader should follow their teammates?
- What obstacles or challenges do leaders face when they follow their teammates?

# What Makes a Good Follower?

Example of Super Summer leadership structure, military leadership structure

*Why is it important for each leader to “stay in their lane”?*

## **Followers support the why behind the what**

Every youth ministry event has a bigger purpose

- Youth camp - build relationships and share the gospel
- Super Summer - Grow deeper with God and fellow leaders
- MS VBS - Leadership opportunity for HS students, build relationships with MS students
- HS Retreat - Build relationships
- Wed. Service - Reach unchurched, grow in faith
- CBS - grow in faith, participate in the church
- Build - Grow and deepen discipleship

## Three Goals for Every Student

- Meet Jesus
- Fall in love with Jesus
- Serve Jesus

*How does understanding the purpose behind an event help you be less of a spectator and more of a leader?*

## **Leaders commit to developing relationships**

This is not just for you and your friends. As a leader your key responsibility is to serve others. You cannot serve others when you don't know them. This may be cause you to step out of your comfort zone and spend time getting to know new people in the youth ministry. Your friends who aren't leader will not share the same burden as you, but as a leader you can't ignore the needs of others.

## **Followers are dependable**

If you make a commitment, keep it WITHOUT HAVING TO BE REMINDED, if you can't make your commitment leader other leaders know ASAP. Arrive early & stay late.

## **Followers protecting the ministry**

If you or your friends are doing anything that undermines the health of the ministry. A leader will speak up, in a loving way, when someone is being disrespectful, divisive, or causing problems.

## **When leaders don't agree with their leader**

*Have you ever have a legitimate disagreement with one of your leaders?*

At some point you will disagree with the decisions of another leader. How you respond reveals the quality of leader you are.

- Good leaders do not gossip or talk about someone behind their back.
- Good leaders do not pretend everything is fine when it is not.
  
- Ask yourself...
  - Why do I think the decision was made?
  - What positive things can I say about the decision?
  - Why do I feel strongly about the decision?

You need to decide how you will respond then you don't agree with another leaders decision. You can...

- Accept the decision and support it, even you don't completely agree, being a leader and team player may come at the expense of your own opinion or preferences.
- Find a way to talk with the leader about the decision. Maybe there are factors your not aware that lead to that decision. Its also possible that the leader may need your input to improve the situation.
- Get out of the way. If you cannot support and encourage a decision you disagree with they its probably best you remove yourself from the situation so as not to hinder whatever else if going on. If you can't be supportive chances are you will be divisive.

### **Leaders hold onto their ideas loosely**

As a leader, you will definitely have ideas for improvements or events that you need to share that would be good for the youth ministry. I strongly encourage you to share those as you have them. We are better when we all work together.

However, be humble enough to let your ideas go if they are not accepted or to modify them to better fit the overall vision and mission of the ministry.

### **Application**

- What can you do this week to follow the people God is using in your life or on your team?