

# Student Leadership Build Class - Student leaders serve

*Who is someone you know personally is a good leader?*

*What about them makes them a good leader?*

## Leaders know its not about them

Being selfless is biblical. It's Jesus focused, Jesus centered and Jesus honoring. And it's a lifestyle. You can't just turn the selfless button on and off. You have to embrace it fully.

So what does a leader who is NOT all about themselves look like? They are:

- Ready to take the fall.
- Willing to sacrifice.
- Always informed enough to make the tough decisions.
- Constantly learning.
- Quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. (Yikes!)
- A great follower who understands how to be led.
- Constantly encouraging. (Yikes #2!)
- Always hustling.

As leaders, it's easy to think it's about us when others are looking to us to lead. Resisting pride, ego, and selfishness is a natural and constant fight. When you are tempted to make it all about you, remember to practice these principles. Not only will you feel your focus shift, but ironically, you will gain even more respect from those around you.

## Leaders Are Servants

Matthew 20:25-28

*25 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 26 It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Philippians 2:5-7

*5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*

"Instead of viewing leadership as a chance exert your power, view it as an opportunity to serve."

*"Being a servant leader acknowledges the different roles, responsibilities and strengths of people. It is not about who's in charge. It is about who is best suited for which roles. It is about helping people accomplish things beyond what they previously thought possible. Servant leaders have a genuine respect for those they lead."*

- Mark Miller - Vice President of Development Chick-fil-A

## Even Me?

- *Who are some leaders in the Bible the you know of?*
- *What traits did those leaders have in common?*

The Bible doesn't present one clear description of what a leader looks like. The only obvious similarity they seem to share is they were imperfect and unlikely choices.

- Abraham - Pagan worshipper & lied that his wife was his sister to save his own life, a decision that almost cost both of their lives
- Moses - Murderer and had a bad temper
- David - Adulterer & started as simple shepherd
- Peter - Denied Jesus, impulsive, and was fisherman
- Paul - Persecuted the early church
- Jesus - Literally born in a barn and grew up the poor son of a carpenter

God can use anyone for leadership to do big things. If you are willing and faithful, God can use you to do big things.

## How to Be Great Leader

### Do It Quietly

*Matthew 6:1-4*

*1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.*

*2 "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

Biblical leaders choose to be a minister, who serves others, not a consumer, who is served by others.

### Serve Until It's Over

Every event has setup, during, and cleanup

When you take initiative to serve in all three areas you breath life into the other leaders, especially the leader in charge.

- *How would your mindset change if you were involved/invested in the setup & cleanup and not just the even itself?*

## Hey, No One is Doing That...

Necessity is the mother of all inventions, needs are the mother of all ministry.

- *What needs can you think of that the youth ministry has?*

Keeping your eyes and ears open to what is going on around you will help you discover the needs around you.

A leader serves even when no one else will help

When you see a need take initiative to address it, you don't need permission to serve

- *What would a leader do in this situation?*

## Be A Clique Buster

You need Christian friendship, these are key to long term healthy faith.

Sometimes as leaders you need to break from your Christian huddle and look to connect with those who are on the outside, alone, or not connecting well.

- **Commitment 1** - Commit to a regular meeting time when student leaders can hang out together
- **Commitment 2** - Commit to separating from each other to serve, especially at special events, possibly strategize to work in pairs.
- **Commitment 3** - Commit to being prepared to answer questions about the youth ministry. Beyond the routine, know dates, costs, and where to get more info. One of the easiest ways to connect with the unconnected is to talk about events on the calendar.

## Be on the lookout

There will always be new and returning students at youth group.

As a leader you need to watch for these people, meet them, talk with them, sit with them and introduce them to others in the group.

Don't look for a quick escape, even if you are struggle to connect with them, try to connect them with someone who they may connect with better.

## Diffuse Don't Fuel

Even the best youth groups will have problems, be a part of the solution.

Ministry is difficult, churches are filled with imperfect people, and we have 7th graders, there will be chaos. As leader, reacting to the chaos in a positive way is crucial.

*Taylor Brown's example*

- *How do you think other students can/will see adult and student leaders differently?*
- *What can you do to leverage your influence in the most beneficial way?*
- *What is one practical thing you can do this week to step into being a leader?*