



JESUS, PART 9: LEADING GREAT

Jesus introduced the most powerful, transformational, and inspirational leadership principle on the planet. Every leader you respect practices it. The leaders you don't respect don't practice it. You can lead without it, but you won't be a leader worth following unless you embrace it.

THE BIG IDEA: In God's Kingdom, leadership sacrifices self for the well-being of others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you define greatness in leadership? Talk about one of the best leaders you've followed. What qualities made that person worth following?
2. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Mark 9:30–37](#).

³⁰ Leaving that region, they traveled through Galilee. Jesus didn't want anyone to know he was there, ³¹ for he wanted to spend more time with his disciples and teach them. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead." ³² They didn't understand what he was saying, however, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant. ³³ After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing out on the road?" ³⁴ But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else." ³⁶ Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me."

[Mark 9:30–37 \(NLT\)](#)

3. Jesus redefines great leadership. Does his definition seem realistic and achievable in your world? Why or why not?
4. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Mark 10:42–45](#).

⁴² So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ⁴³ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

[Mark 10:42–45 \(NLT\)](#)

5. If Christians embraced Jesus' words above, how might it change the church's reputation in the world?
6. If you redefined great leadership based on Jesus' upside-down definition, what would you have to change about how you lead? What might you have to sacrifice? What might you gain?
7. [Read again Mark 10:42–43](#). Do you need to do a better job of serving someone you lead? If so, what would it look like to leverage your influence on that person's behalf?
8. Imagine how your family, workplace, or church might be different if you began to practice Jesus' upside-down leadership. As you consider these areas of your life, who do you need to ask, "How can I help?" How can this group encourage you and help you follow through on the answers you receive?

MOVING FORWARD

Against all odds, the followers of a crucified teacher with no territory, military, or authority survived and multiplied. They did so because they embraced a counterintuitive leadership principle: the first go last. That feels unnatural, but when we see it, we admire it. Christians are called to it. And it begins with a question: *How can I help?*

WEEKLY READING

Spend some time reading and reflecting on John 11–13 and Mark 10.