

The Kingdom Centered Leader

A Biblical Study on Leadership Contrasting Secular Leadership

This series explores leadership not through ambition, power, or image management, but through the rule and reign of God. *The Kingdom Lens* invites leaders to see themselves, their seasons, and their influence from heaven's perspective—where identity precedes authority, surrender precedes strength, and legacy outweighs success.

Throughout this series, Kingdom leadership is intentionally contrasted with secular leadership models, particularly principles found in *The 48 Laws of Power*. These contrasts are not presented to mock or dismiss secular wisdom, but to expose its limitations when compared to leadership shaped by God's character, purposes, and redemptive plan.

Series Arc

The studies progress intentionally, tracing the formation of a Kingdom leader from divine design to generational legacy:

1. **Psalm 139 – Leadership begins before birth**
2. **Daniel 4 – Building your own kingdom vs. being a Kingdom leader**
3. **2 Kings 18:18–19:19 – Kingdom leadership under opposition**
4. **2 Corinthians 12:9–10 – Strength in weakness (pt 1)**
5. **2 Kings 20:1–11 – Strength in weakness (pt 2)**
6. **2 Kings 20:12–19 - Leadership after success**
7. **Ecclesiastes 3:1–8; Deuteronomy 8:16; Psalm 46:10 – Productive leadership in the right season**
8. **Joshua 4 – Leadership through remembrance**

Each study stands alone, yet together they form a unified framework for leaders seeking to live and lead under God's rule.

The Kingdom Centered Leader

Study Index

1. Leadership Begins Before Birth

Primary Scripture: Psalm 139

Core Truth: Leadership is formed in the mind of God before it is expressed in the world.

Kingdom Emphasis: - God's intentional design precedes calling and capacity. - Leadership flows from identity, not achievement. - God prepares leaders internally before positioning them externally.

Secular Contrast (48 Laws of Power): - Leadership as self-made, image-driven, and strategically constructed. - Emphasis on perception over purpose.

2. Building Your Own Kingdom vs. Being a Kingdom Leader

Primary Scripture: Daniel 4

Focus Figure: King Nebuchadnezzar

Core Truth: Pride builds monuments to self; humility builds space for God's rule.

Kingdom Emphasis: - Authority is entrusted, not owned. - God resists self-glorifying leadership. - True leadership submits power to God's sovereignty.

Secular Contrast (48 Laws of Power): - Law 1: Never Outshine the Master
- Law 6: Court Attention at All Costs
- Law 30: Make Accomplishments Seem Effortless

3. Kingdom Leadership Under Opposition

Primary Scripture: 2 Kings 18:18–19:19

Focus Figure: King Hezekiah

Core Truth: Opposition reveals whether leaders rely on God or self-protection.

Kingdom Emphasis: - Silence, humility, prayer, and dependence on God. - Spiritual warfare often precedes breakthrough. - God fights battles leaders surrender to Him.

Secular Contrast: - Intimidation, manipulation, fear-based control. - Law 37: Create Compelling Spectacles to Intimidate.

4. Strength in Weakness (Part 1)

Primary Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9–10

Focus: Paul's thorn and God's grace

Core Truth: God's power is perfected in surrendered weakness.

Kingdom Emphasis: - Weakness invites God's strength. - Humility creates space for divine power. - Leadership begins with surrender.

Secular Contrast: - Law 3: Conceal Your Intentions / Hide Weakness. - Exploiting vulnerability rather than redeeming it.

5. Strength in Weakness (Part 2)

Primary Scripture: 2 Kings 20:1–11

Focus Figure: King Hezekiah

Core Truth: God meets leaders not through denial, but through honest dependence.

Kingdom Emphasis: - Prayer over performance. - Trust over control. - Healing as an invitation to deeper humility.

Christological Connection: - Jesus embraced weakness to release resurrection power.

6. Leadership After Success

Primary Scripture: 2 Kings 20:12–19

Focus Figure: King Hezekiah and the Babylonian envoys

Core Truth: Success reveals what pressure hides.

Key Areas Examined: - Missed opportunities to glorify God. - Comfort replacing gratitude. - Short-sighted thinking about legacy.

Jesus Contrast: - Hezekiah displayed wealth; Jesus emptied Himself (Philippians 2). - Hezekiah preserved peace for himself; Jesus secured peace for all.

7. Productive Leadership in the Right Season

Primary Scriptures: - Ecclesiastes 3:1–8

- Deuteronomy 8:16

- Psalm 46:10

Supporting Narrative: Moses' premature action versus God's timing

Core Truth: Productivity flows from discernment of God's season.

Kingdom Emphasis: - Learning when to sow, wait, rest, love, and endure. - Trusting God through wilderness seasons.

Secular Contrast: - Hustle, force, impatience, and outcome-driven leadership.

8. Leadership Through Remembrance (Year-End Study)

Primary Scripture: Joshua 4

Core Truth: Kingdom leaders memorialize God's faithfulness, not personal achievement.

Kingdom Emphasis: - Reflection before transition. - Teaching future generations. - Gratitude anchoring forward movement.

Secular Contrast: - Erasing history. - Self-credit. - Forward motion without reflection.

Series Aim

The aim of *The Kingdom Lens: Kingdom Leadership Series* is not merely to inform leaders, but to **form them**—shaping hearts, renewing minds, and aligning lives with God's Kingdom so that leadership flows from intimacy with Him rather than mastery of technique.

The Kingdom Centered Leader

Study 1: Leadership Begins Before Birth

Series: The Kingdom Lens – Kingdom Leadership Series

Primary Scripture: Psalm 139:1–18

Core Truth

Leadership is formed in the mind of God before it is expressed in the world. Before calling, position, or influence, God establishes identity.

“All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” (Psalm 139:16)

Context of Psalm 139

Psalm 139 is David’s reflection on God’s intimate knowledge, presence, and intentional design of human life. Rather than addressing leadership directly, the psalm establishes a foundational truth: **God relates to people before they perform for Him.**

David emphasizes: - God’s **omniscience** (He knows us fully) - God’s **omnipresence** (He is with us everywhere) - God’s **intentional creation** (We are formed on purpose, not by accident)

This psalm grounds leadership not in ambition, talent, or opportunity—but in divine intention.

Kingdom Leadership Emphasis

1. Identity Precedes Assignment

Kingdom leadership flows from *who God created you to be*, not what you achieve.

2. Formation Happens Before Visibility

God works internally before He positions leaders externally.

3. Calling Is Discovered, Not Manufactured

Leadership is received through surrender and obedience, not self-promotion.

Secular Leadership Contrast (48 Laws of Power)

Secular View: - Leadership is self-made - Image and perception determine influence - Power is constructed through strategy and control

48 Laws Emphasis: - Build reputation aggressively - Shape perception at all costs - Conceal weakness and curate identity

Kingdom Contrast: Where secular leadership teaches leaders to *create themselves*, Kingdom leadership teaches leaders to *discover themselves in God*.

Christological Connection

Jesus Himself affirms this Kingdom pattern:

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.” (Jeremiah 1:5 – applied Christologically)

Jesus did not seize leadership through power. He walked in perfect alignment with the Father, trusting identity before authority.

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17)

Notice: **affirmation came before public ministry.**

Leadership Reflection Questions

- Where have I tried to manufacture leadership rather than receive it?
 - Am I striving for visibility before allowing God to complete His formation?
 - How does knowing I was designed intentionally change how I lead today?
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Closing Prayer

Father God,

Thank You that our lives are not accidental and our calling is not random. Teach us to rest in the identity You formed before we ever acted. Free us from striving, comparison, and self-construction. Shape us internally so that when You position us externally, we lead with humility, clarity, and obedience. May our leadership flow from intimacy with

You, not insecurity before others.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Kingdom Centered Leader

Study 2: Building Your Own Kingdom vs. Being a Kingdom Leader

Series: The Kingdom Lens – Kingdom Leadership Series

Primary Scripture: Daniel 4

Focus Figure: King Nebuchadnezzar

Core Truth

Pride builds monuments to self; humility creates space for God's rule. Kingdom leadership recognizes that authority is entrusted by God, not owned by man.

“Is not this the great Babylon I have built by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?” (Daniel 4:30)

Context of Daniel 4

Daniel 4 is a royal testimony written from the perspective of King Nebuchadnezzar, the most powerful ruler of his time. The chapter recounts: - A troubling dream given by God - Daniel's faithful interpretation - A season of divine warning and mercy - The king's public pride - God's humbling judgment - Nebuchadnezzar's eventual restoration

Unlike many prophetic accounts, this chapter is deeply personal. God does not remove Nebuchadnezzar immediately—He gives him time to repent. When pride remains, God intervenes to reclaim glory for Himself.

Kingdom Leadership Emphasis

1. Authority Is Entrusted, Not Owned

Leadership authority belongs to God and is temporarily stewarded by leaders.

2. God Resists Self-Glorifying Leadership

When leadership exists for personal glory, God actively opposes it.

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6)

3. Humility Creates Space for God's Rule

Submission restores what pride destroys.

“Those who walk in pride He is able to humble.” (Daniel 4:37)

Secular Leadership Contrast (48 Laws of Power)

Law 1 – Never Outshine the Master

Leadership survival depends on strategic submission, not moral humility.

Law 6 – Court Attention at All Costs

Visibility and admiration are treated as power itself.

Law 30 – Make Your Accomplishments Seem Effortless

Success is curated to inspire awe and reinforce dominance.

Kingdom Contrast:

Where secular leadership teaches image management, Kingdom leadership teaches *glory redirection*—returning honor to God.

Christological Connection

Jesus models the opposite posture of Nebuchadnezzar:

“Though He was in the form of God, He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.” (Philippians 2:6–7)

Where Nebuchadnezzar elevated himself and was humbled, Jesus humbled Himself and was exalted.

“Therefore God has highly exalted Him...” (Philippians 2:9)

Jesus demonstrates that **true Kingdom authority flows through surrender, not self-promotion.**

Leadership Reflection Questions

- Where am I tempted to take credit for what God has done?
- Am I building something for God's glory—or my own legacy?
- How does humility shape the way I steward influence?

Closing Prayer

Father God,

Search our hearts for pride we may not see. Where we have taken credit for what You have entrusted to us, bring repentance. Teach us to steward authority with humility and gratitude. May our leadership always point back to You as the true King. Shape us into leaders who submit joyfully to Your rule, trusting that exaltation belongs to You alone.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Kingdom Centered Leader

Series: The Kingdom Lens – Kingdom Leadership Series

Primary Scripture: 2 Kings 18:18–19:19

Focus Figure: King Hezekiah

Core Truth

Opposition reveals whether leaders rely on God or default to self-protection. Kingdom leadership responds to threat with humility, prayer, and dependence on God.

“Do not be afraid because of the words you have heard... I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land.” (2 Kings 19:6–7)

Historical & Biblical Context

The events of 2 Kings 18–19 take place around **701 BC**, when the Assyrian empire—then the dominant world power—threatened Judah. Sennacherib’s officials publicly mocked Hezekiah, intimidated the people, and challenged their trust in God.

The Rabshakeh’s strategy was psychological warfare: - Undermining faith in God - Exaggerating Assyria’s power - Creating fear and public panic

This was not merely political pressure—it was **spiritual opposition**.

Kingdom Leadership Emphasis

1. Silence Before Intimidation

Hezekiah instructed the people not to respond to the enemy’s threats (2 Kings 18:36).

2. Humility Before God

Rather than asserting royal authority, Hezekiah tore his clothes and went to the house of the Lord (2 Kings 19:1).

3. Prayer Over Strategy

Hezekiah brought the threat directly before God instead of relying on alliances or tactics (2 Kings 19:14–19).

4. Dependence on God's Word

God responded through Isaiah, reminding Judah that the battle belonged to Him.

“The battle is not yours, but God's.” (cf. 2 Chronicles 20:15)

Secular Leadership Contrast (48 Laws of Power)

Law 37 – Create Compelling Spectacles to Intimidate

Fear is used as a weapon to control outcomes.

Secular Response: - Manipulation - Psychological pressure - Self-preservation - Fear-based decision making

Kingdom Contrast:

Where secular leadership amplifies fear, Kingdom leadership quiets the soul and listens for God's voice.

Spiritual Warfare Lens

“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the world, but have divine power to destroy strongholds.” (2 Corinthians 10:4)

Opposition often arrives through circumstances: - Medical reports - Financial distress - Family conflict - Relational pressure

The enemy uses these moments to deposit fear and defeat, but God invites leaders to **humble themselves, listen, and trust His plan.**

Christological Connection

Jesus modeled Kingdom leadership under opposition:

- He remained silent before false accusations (Matthew 27:12–14)
- He entrusted Himself to the Father (Luke 23:46)
- He overcame spiritual opposition through obedience

Where earthly kings fight to preserve control, Jesus surrendered control and secured victory.

Leadership Reflection Questions

- How do I typically respond when opposition arises?
 - Do I react with fear and strategy—or humility and prayer?
 - What current opposition is God inviting me to surrender to Him?
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Closing Prayer

Father God,

When opposition rises, quiet our hearts and remind us that You fight for us. Forgive us for the moments we rely on fear, manipulation, or self-protection. Teach us to respond with humility, prayer, and trust. May we be leaders who listen for Your voice above every threat and rest in Your power to deliver.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Kingdom Centered Leader

Study 4: Strength in Weakness (Part 1)

Series: The Kingdom Lens – Kingdom Leadership Series

Primary Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:7–10

Focus Figure: The Apostle Paul

Core Truth

God’s power is perfected in surrendered weakness. Kingdom leadership does not deny weakness—it offers it to God as the place where His grace is revealed most clearly.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Context of 2 Corinthians 12

Paul writes to the Corinthian church to correct distorted views of leadership, power, and spiritual authority. The culture prized eloquence, dominance, and outward strength. In contrast, Paul openly speaks of a “thorn in the flesh”—a persistent weakness God chose not to remove.

Paul explains: - The thorn was allowed to prevent pride - He pleaded for its removal - God reframed the issue: **power is not diminished by weakness—it is revealed through it**

This passage dismantles performance-based leadership and re-centers authority in dependence on God.

Kingdom Leadership Emphasis

1. Weakness Is Not Disqualification

In the Kingdom, weakness becomes the platform for God’s strength.

2. Humility Creates Capacity for Grace

Grace flows where leaders stop striving to appear strong.

3. Surrender Redefines Power

Kingdom leadership measures success by faithfulness, not control.

“For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10)

Secular Leadership Contrast (48 Laws of Power)

Law 3 – Conceal Your Intentions / Hide Weakness

Secular leadership teaches leaders to mask vulnerability to preserve authority.

Law 22 – Use the Surrender Tactic

Weakness is weaponized strategically, not surrendered authentically.

Kingdom Contrast:

Where secular leadership hides weakness to maintain power, Kingdom leadership surrenders weakness to release God’s power.

Discernment: Revealing vs. Performing Weakness

Kingdom leadership does not mean oversharing or seeking sympathy. Paul’s weakness was not broadcast for attention—it was surrendered in humility to God.

True Kingdom posture: - Honest before God - Wise before people - Anchored in humility, not manipulation

Christological Connection

Jesus perfectly embodied strength through weakness:

“He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:8)

Where Paul learned dependence through weakness, Jesus chose weakness to redeem humanity.

The cross reveals the greatest paradox of leadership: **surrender produces resurrection power.**

Leadership Reflection Questions

- Where am I resisting weakness instead of surrendering it to God?
 - How has pride shaped my understanding of leadership strength?
 - What might God want to reveal through the area I wish He would remove?
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Closing Prayer

Father God,

We confess that we often run from weakness instead of trusting You within it. Teach us to surrender what we cannot control and to rest in Your sufficient grace. Strip away pride, performance, and fear, and replace them with humility and dependence. May Your power be clearly seen in our leadership, not because of our strength, but because of Your faithfulness.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Kingdom Centered Leader

Study 5: Strength in Weakness (Part 2)

Leadership Through Sickness

Series: The Kingdom Lens – Kingdom Leadership Series

Primary Scripture: 2 Kings 20:1–11

Focus Figure: King Hezekiah

Core Truth

God meets leaders not through denial of weakness, but through honest dependence. Seasons of sickness and limitation are invitations into deeper humility and trust.

“Set your house in order, for you shall die, you shall not recover.” (2 Kings 20:1)

Context of 2 Kings 20:1–11

Hezekiah’s illness occurs at the height of his leadership influence—after national reform and military deliverance. Unlike opposition from enemies, this threat is internal and personal.

Key movements in the passage: - A sobering prophetic word - Hezekiah’s private prayer and tears - God’s merciful response - Healing and life extension - A confirming sign from God

This moment reveals that even faithful leaders must continually return to dependence on God.

Kingdom Leadership Emphasis

1. Prayer Over Performance

Hezekiah did not leverage his past faithfulness—he turned his face to the wall and prayed.

2. Trust Over Control

Rather than managing outcomes, Hezekiah entrusted his life to God.

3. Healing as an Invitation to Humility

God's mercy was not merely restoration—it was a call to steward extended life faithfully.

“The Lord heard Hezekiah's prayer and saw his tears.” (2 Kings 20:5)

Secular Leadership Contrast (48 Laws of Power)

Law 3 – Hide Weakness

Secular leadership teaches leaders to conceal vulnerability to maintain authority.

Law 22 – Use the Surrender Tactic

Weakness is strategically displayed to gain advantage rather than surrendered to God.

Kingdom Contrast:

Where secular leadership denies weakness publicly and exploits it privately, Kingdom leadership brings weakness honestly before God.

Discernment: Surrender vs. Exposure

Kingdom leadership does not seek sympathy or rescue from people. Hezekiah's prayer was not a public performance but a private surrender.

True Kingdom posture: - Honest dependence before God - Wisdom in sharing with others - Humility without self-promotion

Christological Connection

Jesus embodies perfect trust in weakness:

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” (Luke 23:46)

Where Hezekiah received extended life, Jesus surrendered His life so others could receive eternal life.

Through Christ, weakness becomes the doorway to resurrection power.

Leadership Reflection Questions

- How do I respond when my strength is limited?
 - Do I pray first—or perform longer?
 - How might God be inviting deeper trust through my weakness?
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Closing Prayer

Father God,

We bring before You our frailty, limitations, and fears. Teach us not to deny our weakness but to meet You within it. Help us trust You with outcomes we cannot control and to steward every extension of life, strength, and opportunity for Your glory. May our leadership be marked by humility, prayer, and faithful dependence on You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Kingdom Centered Leader

Study 6: Leadership After Success

Series: The Kingdom Lens – Kingdom Leadership Series

Primary Scripture: 2 Kings 20:12–19

Focus Figure: King Hezekiah and the Babylonian envoys

Core Truth

Success reveals what pressure hides.

Moments of victory and blessing often expose the deepest posture of a leader's heart. What adversity refines, success reveals.

Scriptural Context (2 Kings 20:12–19)

After God miraculously healed Hezekiah and delivered Judah from Assyria, envoys arrived from Babylon. On the surface, this was a diplomatic visit. Beneath the surface, it was a spiritual test.

Hezekiah, who had just witnessed God's power and mercy, chose to **display his wealth, resources, and armory** rather than testify to the Lord who delivered him. Scripture tells us:

"There was nothing in his palace or in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them." (2 Kings 20:13)

The prophet Isaiah later confronted him, revealing that what Hezekiah proudly displayed would one day be carried away. The issue was not Babylon's interest — it was **Hezekiah's heart**.

Kingdom Leadership Emphasis

1. Success Tests Stewardship

Victory can tempt leaders to believe outcomes are proof of ownership rather than evidence of stewardship.

- God had entrusted Hezekiah with peace, wealth, and influence.
- Hezekiah treated blessing as **personal achievement**, not divine trust.

Kingdom Principle: Authority and success are entrusted, not owned.

2. Comfort Can Replace Gratitude

Instead of glorifying God, Hezekiah glorified what God had given him.

- Gratitude keeps leaders aligned with God.
- Comfort dulls spiritual vigilance.

Kingdom Principle: Gratitude sustains humility; comfort breeds complacency.

3. Short-Sighted Legacy Thinking

Hezekiah's response to Isaiah is telling:

*"The word of the Lord that you have spoken is good."
For he thought, "Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?" (2 Kings 20:19)*

He accepted future consequences as long as present peace remained.

Kingdom Principle: Kingdom leaders think generationally, not just personally.

Jesus Contrast (Christological Lens)

Hezekiah and Jesus offer a striking contrast in leadership posture.

Hezekiah:

- Displayed wealth and strength
- Protected personal peace
- Measured success by stability in his lifetime

Jesus:

- *"Emptied Himself"* (Philippians 2:6–8)
- Took on suffering to secure peace for others

- Led with eternal and generational vision

Kingdom Reality: Jesus gave up comfort to establish an unshakable Kingdom.

Secular Leadership Contrast (48 Laws of Power)

Secular Posture: - Display success to gain leverage - Use achievement to command respect - Protect image and advantage

Kingdom Posture: - Point success back to God - Measure leadership by faithfulness, not display - Surrender future outcomes to God's sovereignty

What the world calls strength, the Kingdom often calls vulnerability.

Leadership Reflection Questions

1. How do you tend to respond after success or breakthrough?
 2. Are there blessings in your life you talk about more than the God who provided them?
 3. In what ways might comfort be dulling your sense of gratitude or dependence?
 4. How does your leadership consider the generations that follow you?
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Prayer

Father, guard my heart in seasons of success. Keep me from mistaking blessing for ownership or peace for purpose. Teach me to steward what You give with humility, gratitude, and generational vision. May my leadership always point back to You and never to myself. Form in me the heart of Christ — willing to empty itself so others may live. Amen.

Series Theme Reminder:

Kingdom leadership is not proven by how we endure pressure, but by how we carry success.

The Kingdom Centered Leader

Study 7 — Productive Leadership in the Right Season

Primary Scriptures: Ecclesiastes 3:1–8; Deuteronomy 8:16; Psalm 46:10

Supporting Narrative: Moses' premature action vs. God's timing (Exodus 2–3)

Core Truth: Productivity flows from discernment of God's season.

Context of the Study

Scripture consistently teaches that God governs not only *what* happens, but *when* it happens. Leadership frustration often arises not from disobedience, but from misalignment with God's timing.

Moses was clearly called by God to deliver Israel, yet his premature attempt to act in his own strength resulted in failure, exile, and delay. Only after forty years of hidden preparation did God commission him to lead Israel out of Egypt.

This study invites leaders to examine whether their current efforts align with God's season—or whether they are striving ahead of His timing.

Kingdom Leadership Perspective

A. Understanding God's Seasons (Ecclesiastes 3:1–8)

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

Kingdom leaders recognize that: - God assigns seasons intentionally - Faithfulness looks different in different seasons - Obedience is not always outward productivity

God Himself models rhythm and seasonality—creating, resting, speaking, and acting with precision and purpose.

B. The Wilderness as Preparation (Deuteronomy 8:16)

God led Israel through the wilderness not to punish them, but to humble them, test them, and ultimately prepare them for promise.

Kingdom leaders understand: - Wilderness seasons refine trust - Delays develop dependence - Hidden seasons build lasting strength

C. Stillness Before Strategy (Psalm 46:10)

“Be still, and know that I am God.”

Leadership begins with spiritual stillness. Kingdom productivity flows from receiving God’s direction—not from constant motion.

Leadership Error: Acting Before the Season

Moses’ early act of killing the Egyptian illustrates a common leadership error: - Acting from calling without submission to God’s timing - Confusing passion with permission - Substituting urgency for obedience

True Kingdom leadership waits for God’s release.

Secular Leadership Contrast

Secular leadership philosophies emphasize: - Hustle over discernment - Force over faith - Constant output over spiritual alignment - Results without regard for season

The 48 Laws of Power implicitly promote: - Relentless forward motion - Manipulation of circumstances - Impatience with weakness or delay

Kingdom leadership rejects productivity divorced from obedience.

Christological Fulfillment

Jesus Himself modeled perfect alignment with the Father’s timing: - “My time has not yet come.” (John 2:4) - He withdrew often rather than rushed - He waited until the appointed hour for the cross

Jesus demonstrates that obedience to timing is itself a form of power.

Leadership Reflection

- What season do you believe God has you in right now?
 - Are you trying to reap where God has called you to sow?
 - Where might stillness be required before movement?
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Kingdom Leadership Takeaway

Kingdom leaders measure faithfulness by obedience, not urgency.

When leaders discern God's season: - Frustration decreases - Trust deepens - Fruit becomes sustainable

Closing Prayer

Father God,

Teach us to discern Your seasons and submit to Your timing. Quiet our striving hearts and align our leadership with Your purposes. Help us trust You in wilderness seasons, rest when You call us to rest, and move only at Your command. May our productivity flow from obedience and our leadership reflect Your wisdom.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Kingdom Centered Leader

Study 8: Leadership Through Remembrance

Primary Scripture: Joshua 4:1–8

Focus Figure: Israel crossing the Jordan

Core Truth: Kingdom leaders memorialize God’s faithfulness, not personal achievement.

Study Context & Discussion

- **Verse 1:** “Crossing the Jordan”
 - Significance: The prior generation refused to cross, stayed in the wilderness 40 years until death.
 - Lesson: If you cling to the past, you risk forfeiting God’s promises. Crossing the Jordan represents moving from **past to promise**, or eschatologically, **death to life in God**.
 - **Verses 2 & 6:** Purpose of the memorial stones
 - Physical reminders help us **remember God’s faithfulness**.
 - Without these memorials, we may forget the journey and drift backward.
 - **Applications Shared:**
 - Journals of prayer and answered prayer
 - Personal altars
 - Slogans, signs, or other visual reminders of God’s work
 - Participants noted that forgetting memorials led prior generations to lose sight of God’s guidance, resulting in exile and captivity.
 - **Reflection:** Memorials help leaders and communities **remember the process of discipleship**, maintain faithfulness, and avoid repeating past failures.
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Kingdom Emphasis

- Reflection before transition is essential for leadership.
 - Teaching future generations the lessons of God's faithfulness preserves the Kingdom impact.
 - Gratitude and recognition of God's guidance anchor future decisions.
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Secular Leadership Contrast

- Self-credit and forward motion without reflection can dominate secular leadership.
 - Forgetting the journey and focusing solely on outcome diminishes learning and spiritual growth.
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Group Application & Reflection

- Participants reflected on **2025**, remembering highs and lows, moments of obedience, near-death experiences, loss, and God's discipling hand.
 - Lessons drawn:
 - Death (loss, hardship) leads to life in God's Kingdom.
 - Memorials reinforce obedience, faith, and courage for the future.
 - Preparing the heart for **2026** with gratitude, faith, and expectation.
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Closing Prayer

Father God,

Thank You for guiding us through the seasons of 2025, for discipling us in both highs and lows. Help us remember Your faithfulness, to create memorials that keep us mindful of Your work in our lives. Teach us to let go of the past, obey Your leading, and move forward into 2026 with courage, faith, and hope. May our leadership reflect Your glory and preserve Your legacy.

In Jesus' name, Amen.