

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

As a leader of your Christian club, you have a position of influence. People are looking to you to lead by example, and they want to see that your words and your lifestyle match. If you say that Christ is central to your life, then your actions must reflect that. How you live is a crucial part of your witness for Christ. How will you expect

others to hear what you have to say or follow you as a leader if they cannot see the proof of God working in your life? Scripture is clear about the type of lives we should live as believers. God continually challenges and exhorts us to live holy lives like Christ and continually be transformed in His image.

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:1-2).

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me"
(Psalms 51:10).

HEART CHECK

On the following pages are 7 Christlike characteristics that should be exemplified in your life as a follower of Christ. Gather your leadership team together and pray through this list. Humbly pray through each characteristic and ask God to reveal to you areas of your life that need refinement and growth. Allow the Lord to first transform your heart so that He can use you as an authentic, influential leader in your school.

"THE GREATEST SINGLE CAUSE OF ATHEISM IN THE WORLD TODAY IS CHRISTIANS WHO ACKNOWLEDGE JESUS WITH THEIR LIPS AND WALK OUT THE DOOR AND DENY HIM BY THEIR LIFESTYLE. THAT IS WHAT AN UNBELIEVING WORLD SIMPLY FINDS UNBELIEVABLE."¹

BRENNAN MANNING

¹Quote By Brennan Manning. Good Reads Inc., nd. Web. 4 Aug. 2013 <<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/283520-the-greatest-single-cause-of-atheism-in-the-world-today>>.

Number One - TRUSTWORTHINESS

As a leader, you must hold yourself to a higher standard than you hold others to. Don't ask someone to do what you aren't willing to do. Do what you say you're going to do. Let others see that you mean what you say and that you act according to the things you value. The Lord uses men and women who are trustworthy and raises them to leadership.

Paul says, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1).

"Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens" (Exod. 18:21).

How can you exemplify **TRUSTWORTHINESS** more as individuals on your leadership team?

Number Two - CONSISTENCY

Ask yourself, "do I model consistency of character?" The truth is that God calls us to lives of consistency. Jesus was the perfect example of consistency. He lived a faithful life of love, worship, and prayer. He never backed down from His word. He never contradicted Himself. He never gave reason for others to doubt Him.

Ephesians 5:1-21 tells us to "be imitators of God and live a life of love just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." So if we are to imitate God in the following ways, we must do so consistently.

How can you exemplify **CONSISTENCY** more as individuals on your leadership team?

Number Three - DEVOTION

Where is your focus? Has the world distracted you, or are you running after the things of God? Our goals should align with the will of God, caring about the things that God cares about.

"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Phil. 1:27).

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:1-3).

How can you exemplify **DEVOTION** more as individuals on your leadership team?

Number Four - LOVE

How you love others will reveal whom you serve – the King of Kings or man. Do you feel a deep love, compassion, empathy, and care for your club and your school? Do others see the Christian leaders of your school as different? Do they see your love for one another?

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35).

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Gal. 5:13-14).

“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe” (Phil. 2:14-15).

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matt. 9:36).

How can you exemplify **LOVE** more as individuals on your leadership team?

Number Five - HUMILITY

It is so easy as leaders to become prideful and begin to think more highly of yourself than you should. Pride seeps in and you begin to find your identity in your position rather than in Christ. What would it look like for you to serve your team rather than doing what is best for you?

“Do nothing from selfishness or vain conceit, but in humility consider others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Phil. 2:3-4).

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load” (Gal. 6:2-5).

How can you exemplify **HUMILITY** more as individuals on your leadership team?

Number Six - GENEROSITY

Do you value material things over people? Where is your treasure? Where do you spend most of your time? As leaders, people will be looking at your lives to see who you really are, and they will know if you care enough to be generous with them

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35).

How can you exemplify **GENEROSITY** more as individuals on your leadership team?

Number Seven - HONESTY

Are you a man or woman of your word? We serve a God whose Word is eternally important. Our own words must reflect that as well. We must allow others to see that we mean what we say, and what we say is to be valued.

"Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' But I tell you, do not swear at all... Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one" (Matt. 5:33-37).

"Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator" (Col. 3:9-10).

How can you exemplify **HONESTY** more as individuals on your leadership team?

Application

These characteristics are crucial in leadership. Your life must reflect the attributes of Christ for people to follow you. They must see you as a person that is worthy to be followed. Take these things seriously and help each other to grow in them. Work on your life with God, as well as with each other. This will take time.

Therefore, you should also review these topics through the year as your leadership team meets together to plan and create. It can even be used as your devotional to begin meetings! However you choose, keep these attributes before you as a leadership team and pray that God will give you hearts that exemplify who He is.