



Week #4 of Series: Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church, Sunday July 13, 2025

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Leadership is "the ability to influence and guide a group towards a common goal." We are all leaders in at least one place/situation—and leaders by default because of the Great Commission.

"Core Principles of Servant-Leadership in Proverbs: The Road Less Traveled"

"A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold." Prov 22:1

Premise: a "RICH" servant-leader prioritizes and cultivates these timeless foundational character traits:

R_____ "Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge." Prov 1:7

"No human wisdom or understanding or plan can stand against the Lord." Prov 21:30

How are you regularly cultivating a deeper faith in God to show you what path to take, instead of relying on self?

I_____ "People with integrity walk safely . . ." Prov 10:9

"The way of the Lord is a stronghold to those with integrity, but it destroys the wicked." Prov 10:29

If a Data Analyst were to observe you at work for one week, what would their report say about your work ethic, etc.?

C_____ and **C**_____ "... the words of the wise bring healing." Prov 12:18

"Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success." Prov 15:22

"Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." Prov 16:23-24

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend." Prov 27:17

Let's be teachable. Surrounding ourselves with others to encourage us and hold us accountable is so important.

H_____ "Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom." Prov 11:2

"Fear of the Lord teaches wisdom; humility precedes honor." Prov 15:33

Our planning/leading should be in pencil, in partnership with God. (Old Yiddish proverb: "Man plans, God laughs!")

Additional “RICH” Proverbs to Discuss with a Friend or Life Group Regarding Servant-Leadership:

Proverbs 5:21-22 - For the Lord sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes. An evil man is held captive by his own sins; they are ropes that catch and hold him.

Proverbs 10:21 – The words of the godly encourage (NIV: “nourish”) many, but fools are destroyed by their lack of common sense.

Proverbs 13:11 - Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; wealth from hard work grows over time.

Proverbs 14:23 - Work brings profit, but mere talk leads to poverty!

Proverbs 17:10 - A single rebuke does more for a person of understanding than a hundred lashes. . .

Proverbs 17:27-28 – A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is even-tempered. Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent; with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent.

Proverbs 18:13 - Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.

Proverbs 19:2 - Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good; haste makes mistakes.

Proverbs 24:26 - An honest answer is like a kiss of friendship.

Proverbs 25: 20 - Singing cheerful songs to a person with a heavy heart is like taking someone’s coat in cold weather or pouring vinegar in a wound.

Some Quotations to Consider/Discuss with a Friend or Life Group Concerning Leadership:

“Victory over all the circumstances of life comes not by might, nor by power, but by a practical confidence in God.” *Eric Liddell*

“Being made in the image of God confers on us a great responsibility . . . we are His workmanship.... So, why not be at our best at all times? *Truett Cathy*

“If you want to lead an orchestra, you must turn your back on the crowd.” *Max Lucado*

“The first service one owes to others in a community involves listening to them.” *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

“True greatness, true leadership, is found in giving yourself in service to others, not in coaxing or inducing others to serve you.” *J Oswald Sanders*

“Average leaders raise the bar on themselves; good leaders raise the bar for others; great leaders inspire others to raise their own bar.” *Orrin Woodward*

Note: Solomon was well-known for his marriages, his political alliances, the expansion of Israel, and the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem. Solomon, King David’s son, is regarded as the primary author of Proverbs. The collection of wise sayings is directed to younger persons who were/are leaders-in-training. (Under King Hezekiah’s reign 250 years later, scribes gathered and added more proverbs, compiling them into what we now enjoy as the Book of Proverbs.) Unfortunately, fame & wealth got the best of him, and toward the end of his 40-year reign as Israel’s third king, Solomon stepped away from the wisdom that had blessed and guarded him. As a result, the kingdom would be divided. Solomon’s decline in faith serves as a reminder to us of the potential consequences of straying from God’s path. (Nearing the end of his life, Solomon realized his folly and concluded that fear of the Lord gives life its ultimate purpose. Read Ecclesiastes 12:13 & 14 to see Solomon’s final recorded words.)