When you think of leadership and influencing others, do you think of the person who stands up front and leads, or the person who stands in the back and leads? We tend to overlook the tremendous influence of the person who leads from behind the scenes.

- Can you think of someone who has influenced your life as a leader even though they didn’t have a prominent “up front” position?
- In your life, when have you taken a “behind the scenes” role? What do you like about that kind of role? What do you dislike about it?

One person who led from behind the scenes is the disciple named Andrew, who is introduced to us in the first chapter of John’s Gospel.

Read John 1:35-37.

- How did John the Baptist regard his own fame, notoriety, and popularity?
- What was the purpose of John’s personal mission?
- How does John illustrate what it means to shift from being the upfront leader to being the leader from the back?

Leading from the behind the scenes—whether you are a parent, teacher, tech person, retired, or whatever you may be—requires INTENTIONALITY and HUMILITY.

Read verses 38-40.

- How did Andrew demonstrate INTENTIONALITY and HUMILITY?
- What is the significance of the fact that Andrew is introduced as “Simon Peter’s brother”?

Leading from behind requires us to see that our identity is not defined by pedigree but by Christ.

Read verses 41-42.

- What was Andrew’s role in bringing his brother, Peter, to Jesus? Why was this significant?
- Do you think Andrew ever envied the attention Peter received from Jesus and from others? Why, or why not?

Pastor Rick encouraged us to “grow where we’re planted.” What does this mean in your own life?

According to Pastor Rick in order to take the next step in your journey of influence, “Don’t wait until you ‘get into that new job,’ or when you are finally recognized for your great leadership ability.’ Serve where God places you. Be intentional in your parenting, work, and relationships to lead from behind the scenes with humility.” How does this statement impact you today?