

LEAD LIKE WESLEY

Group Leader's Guide

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ABOUT THIS STUDY

Lead Like Wesley by Mark Gorveatte forms the basis of this ten week group study. This leader's guide used in conjunction with the book, is designed to build strong leaders who resemble John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, in their character and mission. Reflection questions are also at the end of each chapter of the book that may be helpful to review or add to the questions included in this guide. Expect leadership qualities to expand and grow stronger in all who participate in this interesting and challenging study.

Week 1

LEAD DILIGENTLY

Am I resolved to do all the good I can this day, and to be diligent in the business of my calling?

—JOHN WESLEY

TO THE FACILITATOR

Welcome everyone to this first session and establish an enjoyable time by passing out index cards and instructing each person to write anonymously something about him- or herself no one else knows. Collect the cards, read the information, and have the group guess who matches the information on each card. Tell the group that each person there is a leader with influence over others. The purpose of this group study is to strengthen that leadership and increase its influence.

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

It has been estimated that 350,000 churches exist in the United States. Each of those churches has leaders. Some leaders are strong; others are weak. Nevertheless, every leader must grow stronger in character and ability to lead. We cannot overestimate the power of diligent leadership. John Wesley was diligent. Mark Gorgeatte writes in *Lead Like Wesley*, “Three hundred years ago, when there was no digital communication and the fastest means of travel was still horseback, John Wesley and his Methodist circuit riders blazed a trail of revival across England at a pivotal time in history. While the Methodists preached the good news of full salvation freely offered by God’s grace, France was embroiled in a bloody revolution. The spiritual reformation led by Wesley and the Methodists paved the way for dramatic societal transformation in the British Isles” (p. 12).

John Wesley was a leader who followed the apostle Paul’s instruction in 2 Timothy 2:2: “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to religious people who will also be qualified to teach others.”

At the time of Wesley’s death in 1791 there were 541 active leaders under his direction. This fact testifies to his diligent leadership.

The apostle Paul certainly exemplified diligent leadership. He blazed a trail for God across the Roman Empire, and even when he was in prison, he was diligent. He wrote his Prison Epistles while incarcerated. So when he wrote to the believers at Rome, he didn’t ask them to be something he was not. He wrote in Romans 12:8, “If it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”

When we think of the word *diligence*, we most likely attach the meaning of “industry, attention, and care.” Paul reminded the Corinthians about the care (diligence) he had shown them. He wrote, “What carefulness it wrought in you” (2 Cor. 7:12).

Being diligent, the servant of God guards his or her time. Colossians 4:5 tells us to “make the most of every opportunity.” Proverbs 19:15 warns, “Laziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless man goes hungry.” Wesley disdained and avoided idleness. He slept only from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. so he would have adequate hours for worship and service.

On pages 26–27 of *Lead Like Wesley*, Gorveatte gives four valuable points he gleaned from Peter Drucker’s book *The Effective Executive*:

- Know where your time goes. Without awareness of your current practice, you will not be able to make the needed adjustments for greater effectiveness.
- Eliminate unproductive activities.
- Delegate productive activities to people who can do them as well or better.
- Free up and focus your best time for activities with the highest value to the organization.

Certainly, Jesus set a sterling example of diligence. He arose early, prayed, and ministered throughout the day, preaching, teaching, and healing the sick and forgiving all who put their trust in him (see Mark 1:35–39). Knowing he had come to earth to die for our sins, Jesus “resolutely set out for Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51).

The apostle Paul urged young pastor Timothy to be diligent in the duties of ministry. He wrote, “Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress” (1 Tim. 4:15).

We should all have the goal of doing God’s will and coming to the end of life having fought the good fight, having finished the race, and having kept the faith. This is how the apostle Paul and John Wesley lived their lives.

FOCUS ON LIFE


1. Who looks to you for leadership?
2. What do you find in John Wesley’s life that you would like to emulate?
3. Why do you agree or disagree that it is possible today to maintain an active ministry on six hours sleep per night?
4. What unproductive activities do you think most Christians should give up?
5. Why should a Sunday school teacher not wait until Saturday night to prepare his or her lesson?
6. How might a leader’s life inspire others to volunteer for Christian service?
7. What goals should all Christians have in common?
8. Why do you agree or disagree with Mark Gorveatte’s comment that “the spiritual reformation led by Wesley and the Methodists paved the way for dramatic societal transformation in the British Isles” (*Lead Like Wesley*, p. 12)?
9. What do you think are the most compelling reasons to diligently serve God?
10. How might a leader use social media effectively to advance the gospel?

WRAP-UP

Write *leader* vertically on the chalkboard. Ask group members to suggest leadership qualities for each letter to create an acrostic. For example, L—love, E—example, etc.

Week 2

LEAD URGENTLY

——
A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

—JOHN C. MAXWELL

TO THE FACILITATOR

Ask those who work against deadlines to tell how a sense of urgency helps accomplish a task. Explain that this session discusses a leader’s sense of urgency.

FOCUS ON GOD’S WORD

John Wesley called upon leaders to lead urgently with full intensity and engagement. This kind of leadership has no time for triviality or procrastination. Jesus said, “My food . . . is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest” (John 4:34–35).

Jesus’ life and ministry were characterized by a sense of urgency. Even as a twelve-year-old boy, he said, “I must be about my Father’s business” (Luke 2:49 KJV). In response to his disciples question about the blind man, Jesus replied, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned . . . but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work” (John 9:3–4). He also expressed urgency when he told the Pharisees, “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also” (John 10:16).

The apostle Paul also led with urgency. Whether he preached to a few or many, he passionately urged his audience to believe in Jesus: “I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2). He did not procrastinate about serving God. When it became clear to him that God wanted him to take the gospel to Europe, he did not delay. His coworker, Luke, reported in Acts 16:10, “After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

On page 37 of *Lead Like Wesley*, Mark Gorveatte writes, “To create a sense of urgency for individuals and organizations, the leader must model this at every opportunity. Is the stated need for urgency congruent with the actual degree of urgency with which the leader tackles the mission? Does the leader demonstrate urgency in even simple things like starting meetings on time? Does the leader exemplify urgency by eliminating low-priority activities from his or her schedule to make room for higher value initiatives?”

FOCUS ON LIFE

1. How might a pastor model a sense of urgency to his or her staff? Throughout the congregation?
2. How might an elder or Sunday school teacher show a sense of urgency?
3. Do you think it matters if a worship service habitually starts late? Defend your answer.
4. Why do you agree or disagree that a church has no sense of urgency if it fails to contact visitors?
5. Why do you agree or disagree that complacency is a big problem in many churches?
6. Do you think a shortage of workers in many churches is due to a lack of urgency? Why or why not?
7. How is lethargy the opposite of urgency?
8. Why do you agree or disagree with a researcher's statement in *Lead Like Wesley* that "a sense of urgency in my opinion cannot be coached. It is either part of your DNA or not. It is how people are wired" (p. 38)?

WRAP-UP

Instruct your group members to anonymously rate the level of their urgency about ministry on a scale of one (not urgent at all) to ten (very urgent). Challenge each member to become more urgent this week.

Week 3

LEAD POSITIVELY

A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.

—MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

TO THE FACILITATOR

This session deals with interpersonal relations. Positive ones result in efficient, joyful productivity.

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

Jesus chose unlearned, working-class men to be his disciples, and he transformed them into dynamic leaders. In spite of their faults, he loved them, and in spite of their slowness to learn, he encouraged them. Take Peter, for an example. When Jesus met Peter, he changed his name to one that reflected his positive attitude toward Peter. “Jesus looked at [Peter] and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas’” (John 1:42). Cephas or Peter means “rock.” Peter was anything but rock-like until Jesus transformed him, but Jesus looked beyond what Peter was to what he would become.

Paul too showed a positive attitude regarding his coworkers and other believers. To the Philippian believers he wrote, “Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:6).

Although Paul experienced numerous trials and much persecution, he never lost confidence in what God was doing in his life. He believed “that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. . . . Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Rom. 8:28, 35, 37). In spite of all his trials, Paul could testify, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Cor. 4:16–18).

Paul let young pastor Timothy know he had confidence in him. With a positive attitude he told Timothy, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12). Paul’s words offered strong encouragement to Timothy to keep faithfully serving the Lord. Even in prison, Paul exhibited a positive attitude. In Philippians, a letter often dubbed the “joy epistle,” he saw his circumstances as having a positive effect on others. He wrote, “Because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear” (Phil 1:14). None of his adverse circumstances kept Paul from being content.

In his book *Strengthening Your Grip*, Charles Swindoll wrote, “The single most significant decision I can make on a day-to-day basis in my choice of attitude. It is more important than my past, my education, my bankroll, my circumstances, or my position. . . . The longer I live the more convinced I become that life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how we respond to it.”¹

Mark Gorgeatte writes, “When you are leading positively, you see the potential in others, usually more than they see in themselves, give them the time and direction they need to develop, and resist the temptation to give up on people too quickly” (*Lead Like Wesley*, p. 58).

FOCUS ON LIFE

1. Describe a time when you observed the damage caused by a leader’s lack of confidence in a team member.
2. What do you learn from Peter’s rise to leadership in the early church?
3. How can you show confidence in a coworker? What might you say that would build up that person?
4. Why do you agree or disagree that a leader must lead with a positive attitude?
5. What reasons does a Christian leader have to be positive?
6. How is it possible to have a positive attitude when life throws so many negatives at you?
7. What positive outcomes do you see when you serve God faithfully?
8. Why do you agree or disagree that a church can be a very negative organization?
9. Why do you agree or disagree that God is working in every Christian’s life?

WRAP-UP

Suggest that each group member write a note to a coworker that extols that person’s characteristics and abilities.

NOTE

1. Charles Swindoll, *Strengthening Your Grip: How to Be Grounded in a Chaotic World*, rev. ed. (Brentwood, TN: Worthy, 2015), 227.

Week 4

LEAD CANDIDLY

Leaders become great, not because of their power,
but because of their ability to empower others.

—JOHN C. MAXWELL

TO THE FACILITATOR

Invite volunteers to share how they were helped by the candid counsel another Christian gave them.

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

Those who look to us for leadership need to be treated with respect. Instead of focusing on their faults, we need to see what they can become because God is working in them (see Phil. 2:13). Mark Gorveatte writes, “When people are unsure what might be said about them, that lack of confidence will destroy a culture of collaboration. Ultimately, a trust deficit will undermine the mission. Wesley believed that speaking negatively about others had devastating consequences for all concerned. He was convinced that people on the inside of the organization speaking ill of each other could do more damage than any outside critic” (*Lead Like Wesley*, p. 64).

The Bible condemns the practice of speaking evil of another person. Colossians 3:8–9 condemns anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language. Ephesians 4:29 exhorts us to say “only what is helpful for building others up.” Titus 3:2 commands us “to slander no one.” Paul included slander in a list of grave moral offenses in his letter to the Corinthian church: “Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor. 6:9–10).

In *Lead Like Wesley*, Mark Gorveatte wisely observes:

Speaking negatively about people who are not present sows seeds of mistrust in an organization. When that behavior is tolerated, even the participants are left to wonder what is said about them when they are not present. Even before people find out what was said about them, unspoken cues may signal that interpersonal dynamics on a team have broken down. Simple gestures like rolling the eyes or abruptly halting conversations when another person passes by send the not-so-subtle message that the fabric of trust is unraveling. People inevitably find out what has been spoken about them in their absence. And when they do, what had been a gradual erosion of teamwork quickly becomes a mudslide. (p. 70)

Two women in the Philippian church were known for their loyalty to the cause of Christ, but they fell into a sharp disagreement. The broken fellowship was so serious that Paul called upon a

third party to reconcile the two so they would enjoy and reflect unity in Christ (see Phil. 4:1–3). It is essential that leaders “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3).

If someone under our supervision or mentoring commits a sin, we should confront that person candidly rather than involving others in the situation. Galatians 6:1 counsels, “If someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.”

FOCUS ON LIFE

1. Why do you agree or disagree that a leader should always keep confidences?
2. Why is it so difficult to confront someone with the truth?
3. How do you feel when someone rolls his or her eyes at something you say? Why?
4. How do you know God is working in the lives of his people? Give an example of what you’ve seen or experienced.
5. Why do you agree or disagree that a leader should not slander a politician?
6. Do you feel defensive when someone points out your faults? Why or why not?
7. How would you define slander?
8. Why do you agree or disagree that slander is as destructive as adultery (see 1 Cor. 6:9–10)?
9. What steps should a leader take if two coworkers have stopped speaking to each other?
10. Why is it best not to believe a charge against a coworker without first speaking to him or her?

WRAP-UP

Encourage group members to speak the truth in love at all times.

Week 5

LEAD RESPONSIBLY

Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.

—JACK WELCH

TO THE FACILITATOR

This session endorses the act of confronting oneself and others as soon as a leader sees inappropriate behavior.

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

Wesley expected his leaders to carefully examine the lives of their class members lest any wander from their commitment to Christ. He urged his leaders to do so lovingly, plainly, and as quickly as possible. These guidelines are based in Scripture. Paul wrote that we should speak the truth in love (see Eph. 4:15). He saw this as a necessary ingredient in our spiritual maturity. King Solomon taught, “Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses” (Prov. 27:5–6).

Mark Gorveatte quotes Wesley as saying, “The longer I live the larger allowances I make for human infirmities. I exact more from myself, and less from others. Go thou and do likewise!” Gorveatte continues, “But Wesley was not reluctant to confront wrong behavior when it was serious enough to negatively impact others. He understood that to be his responsibility as a leader” (*Lead Like Wesley*, p. 85).

Galatians 6:1 admonishes us to confront an erring brother or sister with the purpose of restoring him or her. The confronting must be done lovingly and plainly. The sinning saint must understand what he or she did and why the confrontation is taking place. We must care about the person we want to help.

We are responsible for others on our team. We watch over them and understand we must give an account (see Heb. 13:17).

In *Lead Like Wesley*, Mark Gorveatte wisely advises, “Do not stand back and simply hope that people on your team will work out their own conflicts. Do not expect situations to improve by themselves. Take ownership and take action in the best interests of each member and of the team. Leading like Wesley means leading responsibly” (p. 92).

FOCUS ON LIFE

1. Why do you agree or disagree that it takes a certain personality to confront someone?
2. What might happen if a leader chooses to overlook sin in his or her own life? In a team member's life?

3. What might happen if a leader confronts in a spirit of pride?
4. Why do you agree or disagree that little or no confrontation occurs in many churches?
5. What does it mean to watch over our team members? What does it mean to give an account for how we watch over our team members?
6. How might failure to confront negatively impact others?
7. What three rules of confrontation would you give to members of your team?

WRAP-UP

Instruct your group members to search their own lives for sins they have not confronted. Challenge them to confront those sins without delay.

Week 6

LEAD HUMBLY

True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.

—C. S. LEWIS

TO THE FACILITATOR

Have a volunteer read 1 Peter 2:21 aloud. Explain that this session highlights the importance of leading humbly.

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

On one occasion in Jesus' ministry, his disciples quarreled over who would occupy the top positions in Jesus' kingdom. "Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many'" (Matt. 20:25–28).

Wesley exemplified humility as he led great numbers of people, and he rebuked those leaders who fell victim to praise. Once, he confronted a Methodist leader in a letter, saying, "Not being sufficiently on your guard, you suffered loss from being applauded. This revived and increased your natural vanity" (quoted in *Lead Like Wesley*, p. 96).

When calling men and women to follow him, Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matt. 11:29). Just as two oxen yoked together must maintain the same pace if any work is to be accomplished, so in serving Christ we must bear his yoke of humility.

Jesus showed ultimate humility by leaving heaven and coming to earth in human likeness. Philippians 2:7–8 announces, "He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" As he prepared for death, Jesus gathered his disciples together in an upper room. No servant was present to wash their dusty feet, and none of the disciples made a move to fill the role. But Jesus took a basin of water and a towel and bent low to wash each disciple's feet. He took a servant's role. He demonstrated humility in action.

It took awhile and several lessons in the folly of pride for Peter to learn humility. But he learned well, and wrote in 1 Peter 5:5–6, "You who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.' Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time."

If we are to lead like Wesley and be like Jesus, we must serve with a humble heart.

FOCUS ON LIFE

1. Why do you agree or disagree that a humble person may not know he or she is humble.
2. Is it possible to be proud of one's humility? Why or why not?
3. How would you describe false humility?
4. How does humility help to make someone a leader?
5. What did it take to make the apostle Peter humble?
6. Why do you agree or disagree that humility may be a personality trait?
7. How might a leader's lack of humility affect his or her team?
8. Why do you agree or disagree that children are being taught to shun humility?
9. What has impressed you most about a humble leader you have known?

WRAP-UP

Challenge the group members to perform at least one humble act every day this coming week.

Week 7

LEAD BOLDLY

F-E-A-R has two meanings: Forget everything and run
or face everything and rise. The choice is yours.

—ZIG ZIGLAR

TO THE FACILITATOR

A military leader must lead boldly. Explain that this session teaches that a leader of a team of believers must lead in the same way.

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

John Wesley proclaimed, “Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen, such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven upon earth” (quoted in *Lead Like Wesley*, p. 108).

The apostle Paul was the kind of man John Wesley must have appreciated. In 2 Corinthians 3:12, the apostle wrote, “Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.” Paul feared nothing but failing to do God’s will.

The Christian leader ought to be willing to take risks if he or she believes God has given him or her a task. Jesus’ disciples warned him about the risks of going to Jerusalem, but Jesus was determined to go there because this was God’s will (see John 11:7–8).

Throughout his ministry, Jesus boldly spoke the truth and confronted the hypocrisy of Israel’s religious leaders. The disciples saw this boldness and ultimately displayed the same boldness. Following Jesus’ resurrection, they boldly proclaimed the gospel in Jerusalem, the city in which the Lord was crucified (see Acts 2:14–36; 3:12–26; 4:8–12). Although the Jewish leaders commanded Peter and John to stop speaking in Jesus’ name, both Peter and John were bold and told them, “We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” (4:20).

Even jail time could not remove the boldness of the apostles. They still taught after they were released from jail and after they were reprimanded by the Jewish leaders. They had to share the good news of Christ.

Another leader in the early church, Stephen, boldly rehearsed Israel’s history and linked Jesus to the fulfillment of prophecy when he was brought before the Jewish leaders. He accused them of resisting the Holy Spirit and killing Jesus. Infuriated, the Jewish leaders rushed at Stephen, dragged him out of the city, and stoned him. However, as the stones were pummeling his body, Stephen boldly prayed that the Lord would forgive his persecutors.

The entire book of Acts records the courageous efforts of the church’s leaders to spread the gospel. Hebrews 11:35–39 pays tribute to those bold men and women of faith who suffered martyrdom for their faith.

FOCUS ON LIFE

1. What might happen if you boldly but respectfully shared the gospel with a coworker after hours?
2. How did Jesus display boldness in his ministry and death?
3. Why do you agree or disagree that missionaries in countries with a large Muslim population are showing boldness by being there?
4. Who do you believe are the hardest people with whom to share the gospel? How might believers acquire the boldness to share the gospel with them?
5. Why do you agree or disagree that attacks on Christians are becoming frequent and require boldness on our part?
6. How might a lack of boldness derail church growth?

WRAP-UP

Instruct each group member to think of one unfinished task that requires boldness. Challenge each member to approach that task with courage this week.

Week 8

LEAD CONSISTENTLY

——
Earn your leadership every day.

—MICHAEL JORDAN

——

TO THE FACILITATOR

A leader who is one thing one day and another the next day will have few followers. People want their leader to be consistent day by day and hour by hour. This session puts the spotlight on consistent leadership.

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

Wesley practiced consistency. One consistent practice was to preach in the fields every morning before sunrise. He maintained this practice well into his late eighties. Rising early every morning allowed him to write books and leave a legacy for all who carry on his work.

Jesus, our supreme leader, consistently rose early to engage in prayer (see Mark 1:35). Throughout his life, he consistently did the Father's will. At the beginning of his ministry, he taught his disciples to pray, "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10). He answered his enemies, "I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me" (John 8:28). In the garden of Gethsemane he prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done" (Matt. 26:42). On the cross, he announced that he had completed his father's will when he said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). Commenting on Jesus' lifelong consistence in doing the Father's will, Paul wrote, "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross" (Phil 2:8).

Emphasizing the importance of consistency, Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

In *Lead Like Wesley*, Mark Gorveatte comments on Wesley's life of consistency. "On Wesley's seventy-second birthday, June 28, 1774, he reflected on his good health. He found himself to be as strong as he had been thirty year earlier. He gave the credit to God for this but also described some of the consistent practices he believed God blessed: 'The chief means are, 1. My constantly rising at four, for about fifty years. 2. My generally preaching at five in the morning; one of the most healthy exercises in the world. 3. My never traveling less, by sea or land, than four thousand five hundred miles in a year'" (p. 127).

We can be encouraged not only by John Wesley's consistency in holiness and ministry, but also in Jesus' consistency. Hebrews 13:8 states, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

FOCUS ON LIFE

1. Why would you not follow a leader who says, “Do what I say and not what I do”?
2. Why do you agree or disagree that we cannot be as consistent as John Wesley in lifestyle and ministry?
3. Why do you agree or disagree that a person cannot be a strong leader if his or her church attendance is inconsistent?
4. How might a person schedule his or her priorities in order to have a consistent prayer life?
5. Do you think rising early in the morning for devotions is a necessary requirement for good leadership? Why or why not?
6. Read 2 Timothy 4:6–8. What good fight must a leader consistently fight?
7. What helps a leader keep the faith to the end of life?
8. Why is a crown of righteous more desirable than fame or fortune?

WRAP-UP

Challenge each group member to identify one area in which he or she needs to be consistent and to make a plan to be consistent in that area.

Week 9

LEAD ACCOUNTABLY

Leadership is about taking responsibility, not making excuses.

—MITT ROMNEY

TO THE FACILITATOR

This week's session is about accountability. As you lead your group, reflect upon the fact that you are accountable to guide the members faithfully and responsibly.

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

Wesley lived and ministered with a keen awareness that he must give an account to God. Strong leaders also live and minister with this same awareness. The apostle Paul wrote, "So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God" (Rom. 14:12).

When God saved Paul, he appointed him to carry his name before the Gentles and their kings and before the people of Israel. Paul fulfilled this appointment with a keen sense of accountability. He testified before King Agrippa that he had not been disobedient to the vision from heaven—the commission he had received from the Lord. Near the end of his life, he testified that he had "fought a good fight . . . finished the race . . . [and] kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7). His firm expectation was to receive a reward from the Lord.

Hebrews 13:17 instructs readers to submit to their leaders "because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account." Strong, faithful leaders keep in mind that they are accountable to God for how they lead.

Mutual accountability among team leaders is not only helpful, but also essential. In *Lead Like Wesley*, Gorveatte writes, "Adhering to mutually agreed upon expectations was the glue of the Methodist movement. To provide guidance to a fast-growing enterprise without the speed of electronic communication that we take for granted today was a nearly impossible task. Accountability to standards of practice was vital" (p. 141).

FOCUS ON LIFE

1. Do you have an accountability partner? If so, what kinds of things do you share with each other?
2. Why do you agree or disagree that the act of submitting to one's leaders demands a degree of humility as well as courage?
3. Do you think a leader can reach a stage in life when it is no longer necessary to practice accountability? Defend your answer?
4. How did Jesus show accountability to his heavenly Father?

5. What do you see as the benefits of mutual accountability?
6. How would you answer someone who claims he or she is accountable only to God?
7. Why do you agree or disagree that pastors today are accountable to do what Paul instructed Timothy to do (see 2 Tim. 1:6, 13; 2:1–3, 15, 22; 3:14; 4:2)?
8. How can you improve your record of accountability?

WRAP-UP

Instruct the group members to agree with another believer to practice mutual accountability. The partners should agree upon a time each week to share their spiritual progress, failures, and goals and to pray for each other.

Week 10

LEAD PURPOSEFULLY

For to me, to live is Christ.

—PAUL, PHILIPPIANS 1:21

TO THE FACILITATOR

Although some people live aimlessly, a leader must have an aim, a purpose to live for. This session discusses that important fact.

FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

Wesley lived and ministered with a divine purpose in view: to spread the gospel far and wide. Today's Christian leaders ought to have the same sense of purpose, because Jesus commissioned his followers to preach the gospel to everyone throughout the world (see Matt. 28:18–20; Mark 16:15). Following his resurrection, Jesus promised his disciples, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

During his earthly ministry, Jesus spoke of his purpose “to testify to the truth” (John 18:37), “to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45), and “to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). The apostle Paul summarized and personalized Jesus' purpose when he said, “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst” (1 Tim. 1:15).

Although it is commendable to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, visit the sick, and provide shelter for the homeless, these are all secondary purposes, none of which can save the lost. They must be subservient to a higher purpose—spreading the message of salvation.

In *Lead Like Wesley*, Mark Gorveatte testifies to the power of Wesley's high priority of proclaiming the gospel to the lost:

No rule carried more weight for Wesley's helpers than this one. Everything they did was to be aimed toward their primary purpose. Wesley pressed his team to be single-minded on the priority of saving souls. This was the one rule that grabbed my attention when I first read it as a young pastor. To be honest, my initial response was that I had plenty of other things to do. I had books to read, sermons to write, reports to file, phone calls to return, and committee meetings to chair. But these words of Wesley penetrated my heart and have stayed with me for more than thirty years. They remind me of the solemn obligation and sacred trust at the core of my life. I have been rescued to rescue others. (p. 153)

The apostle Paul urged his readers to recognize the priority of preaching the gospel to the lost when he wrote, “‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” (Rom. 10:13–14). To be sure, if we make it our main purpose in life to share the gospel with the lost, we will have many critics. The apostle Paul was criticized and persecuted for preaching the gospel, but he stayed true to his purpose. Wesley also had many critics but, like Paul, he stayed true to his purpose and left a sterling example for us to follow.

FOCUS ON LIFE

1. Why do you think God placed Christians in a variety of locations and workplaces? Why us specifically?
2. Why do you agree or disagree with the assumption that we cannot interest the poor and needy in the gospel until we first feed, clothe, and shelter them?
3. What criticism or opposition have you received for holding your purpose without wavering?
4. What did it cost Jesus to have the purpose of seeking and saving the lost?
5. Does God guarantee success in our mission? Defend your answer.
6. What chief distractions to fulfilling your purpose have you encountered? How have you handled them?
7. Why do you agree or disagree that most Christians are lethargic about sharing the gospel?
8. How might dedicated Christian leaders alert the lethargic to the benefits of sharing the gospel?

WRAP-UP

Thank the group members for participating in this study. Encourage them to remain loyal to their purpose and to lead like John Wesley and follow the supreme example of Jesus.