



June 21, 2020

Discussion Guide

Face the Issue:

This week, Brian challenged us concerning our ideas of leadership and who our leaders should be.

The Bible doesn't gloss over the fact that leadership is difficult. You can read stories of leaders being murdered, plotted against, and tempted in nearly every possible way. You can read stories of leaders who blew it and lost their people's trust. And you can also read stories of leaders, like Paul, who put their past behind them, took time to grow their relationship with Christ, and make a real difference.

On a scale of 1–10, with 10 being the highest, how would you rate your trust of leaders in general? Explain.

Name three important qualities that you need to find in a leader before you can trust them?

Into the Word

Brian pointed out to us that a Biblical leader is humble and leads as a servant leader. They are also expected to go first into the conflict.

In the Old Testament, Israel's judges, and then kings, often led the way onto the battlefield during times of war. Joshua led his men into the battle for Jericho. Othniel "became Israel's judge and went to war" (Judges 3:10). Ehud, Israel's second judge, started a war with the Moabites by killing their king, Eglon (Judges 3:20–22). King David got himself into trouble by sinning with Bathsheba because he stayed behind while his army went to war. In fact, going to war was so common for kings that 2 Samuel 11:1 starts this way: "In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war..."

Kings were expected to serve. Jesus, the King of kings, continued that idea in the New Testament when he washed his disciples' feet and then said, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him" (John 13:15–16). Paul picked up on what Jesus taught, and he lived it by being on the front lines of extremely dangerous missionary work. By and large, the world wasn't accepting of the gospel while Paul was preaching it, and as a result, he was under constant attack from the Jews.

Read 2 Corinthians 11:23–30.

Think about the leaders you know. Are they on the frontlines of their respective battlefields? Do they show concern for those who serve them? Explain.

Reread the hardships that Paul endured in 2 Corinthians 11:23–30. God doesn't necessarily call every leader to endure the exact same hardships, but how willing would you be to endure the hardships Paul faced?

Paul didn't fight physical battles like Old Testament judges and kings. What type of battles did he fight instead and how did he do it?

How about you? In the areas that you have been called to lead, are you on the battlefield? How are you showing concern for those that are following your leadership (in your home, at your workplace, in the church)?

Apply The Word

No matter what Paul did, he was always completely dedicated to his mission. Before he became a Christian, his goal was to stamp out Christianity by any means necessary. After his conversion, his goal was to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. He was once willing to take other people's lives if they dared to believe the gospel. Then he became a man who was willing to die for the gospel.

How willing are you to risk everything for the sake of the gospel?

Being a Biblical leader means taking risks as you lead. What would be the hardest things to risk? The easiest?

What have you done to show your willingness to take risks for the sake of the gospel?