Leading Like Jesus: A Teen's Guide to Servant Leadership



Discover how teens can lead by example through servant leadership, following Jesus' model to positively influence friends and youth community.





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Introduction

Leadership often brings to mind titles, positions, and authority. But what if leadership was something much deeper and more accessible? Teen years are a time of growth, identity, and influence. While you may not always have an official title or role, *you have the opportunity to lead in meaningful ways every day*. Jesus Christ showed us a different kind of leadership — one grounded in serving others, humility, and love.

Rather than commanding from a place of power, Jesus led by example. He washed His disciples' feet, healed the broken, and put the needs of others above His own. Through His model of servant leadership, Jesus teaches us that true leaders don't need titles to inspire and guide; instead, they lead through actions and character.

In this 3-day study, we will explore what it means to be a leader as a teen without a formal position. You'll learn how to influence your friends positively, impact your youth group, and live out leadership in everyday moments. By following Jesus' example, you'll discover the power of humility, service, and love to transform your world.

Get ready to be inspired, challenged, and equipped to lead where you are. Remember, leadership is not about titles, but about **serving others and shining God's light** in your sphere of influence.

















Your Verse

Mark 10:42–45 NIV – "...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant... For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..."

Supporting Scriptures

- Matthew 20:26 "...whoever wants to be great must be your servant..."
- Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition... value others above yourselves..."







Devotional: Leadership Starts with Serving Others

Have you ever felt like you couldn't lead because you don't have a special title? Scripture shows us otherwise. Jesus made it clear that leadership is about serving others, not holding positions of power. In Mark 10:42–45, Jesus teaches His disciples that true greatness comes from humility and service. As teens, you have many opportunities to lead simply by choosing to serve your friends, family, and youth group.

Serving others builds trust and respect, creating a positive influence without needing authority. When you put others' needs before your own, you reflect Christ's heart and invite others to follow your example. It might look like encouraging a friend, helping organize a group activity, or standing up for what is right in a kind way.

Remember: Your leadership doesn't depend on a title but on your willingness to love and serve. This day challenges you to look for ways to serve those around you, becoming a leader through your actions.







Reflect and Apply

	What are some ways you can serve your friends or youth group this week?
2.	How does Jesus' example challenge your understanding of leadership?
3.	What fears or doubts hold you back from leading through service?







Journaling Prompts

1.	List three ways you can serve others this week without needing recognition.
2.	Describe a time when someone led you by example. How did that impact you?
	Write about what leadership means to you after reading today's Scriptures.







Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing me that true leadership is rooted in service and humility. Help me to lead by example in my friendships and youth group, reflecting Your love and kindness. Give me the courage to serve without needing a title or recognition. Teach me to see opportunities to help others and to value their needs above my own. May my life point others to You as I imitate Your servant heart. Amen. \bigwedge







Day 2: 6 Leading by Example Every Day









Day 2: 🖰 Leading by Example Every Day

Your Verse

1 Timothy 4:12 NIV – "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..."

Supporting Scriptures

- Proverbs 22:6 "Start children off on the way they should go..."
- Matthew 5:16 "Let your light shine before others..."







Day 2: 🖰 Leading by Example Every Day

Devotional: Influence Through Godly Example

Being young is not a limitation; it's an advantage in leadership! Paul's encouragement to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12 reminds teens that age does not disqualify them from making a difference. Instead, you are called to *set an example in everything you do.*

Leadership through example means your words and actions align, reflecting integrity and love. People notice when you choose kindness over gossip, honesty over shortcuts, and courage over fear. Your daily decisions can influence and inspire others more than any title ever could.

Think about what people see when they watch your life. Are you a bright light in your community? Do you encourage others to grow closer to God? Jesus challenges us to shine so that the world sees God's goodness through us.

Today, consider how you can lead simply by living out Godly values boldly and lovingly every day.







Day 2: 🔥 Leading by Example Every Day

Reflect and Apply

1.	In what ways does your daily behavior reflect your faith?
2.	How can your speech encourage and uplift those around you?
3.	Who are some examples you admire? What qualities do they have?







Day 2: 🔥 Leading by Example Every Day

Journaling Prompts

	Write about a time when your actions positively influenced a friend or family member.
2.	List character traits you want to develop to lead by example.
	Think of your daily routine — where can you add small acts that reflect Christ's love?







Day 2: 🖰 Leading by Example Every Day

Prayer for Today

Father God, thank You for reminding me that my youth is a strength, not a weakness. Help me to live as an example in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Empower me to shine Your light brightly through my words and actions. Teach me to inspire others simply by being faithful to You daily. Make me a beacon of hope and encouragement in my friendships and community. In Jesus' name, Amen. 💸 🗘 🖂 🖓















Your Verse

John 13:12–15 NIV – "...Jesus said to them, 'Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet..."

Supporting Scriptures

- Galatians 5:13 "Serve one another humbly in love."
- Romans 12:10 "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."







Devotional: Follow Jesus' Example Through Service

Jesus' act of washing His disciples' feet was a powerful example of servant leadership. It was a humble, loving task that showed true leadership comes from serving others selflessly. John 13:12–15 invites us to follow this example by putting others' needs before our own.

As a teen, you may ask, *how can I live out servant leadership in practical ways?* It might be as simple as listening deeply to a friend, helping with chores, or encouraging someone going through a hard time. These acts, done in love, reflect the heart of Christ and inspire others to lead in the same way.

Serving is powerful. It breaks down barriers, builds relationships, and glorifies God. When you serve humbly, you demonstrate God's kingdom here on earth, showing that leadership is about love, not status.

Today, seek out a way to actively serve someone around you and lead with a servant's heart.







Reflect and Apply

1.	What does servant leadership look like in your everyday life?
2.	Who around you needs service or encouragement right now?
3.	How can serving others change how they view leadership?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Describe a recent time you served someone without expecting anything
	in return.
2.	List ways Jesus' example challenges your own attitude toward leadership.
3.	Plan a simple act of service you will do this week to lead like Jesus.







Prayer for Today

Dear Jesus, thank You for Your example of humble service. Help me to follow Your footsteps by serving others with a joyful and loving heart. Teach me to put others first and lead by the power of love, not status or titles. Use me as a tool to encourage and uplift those around me. Make my hands Your hands in serving others today. Amen. \bigcirc







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