

SESSION 1

[36 MINUTES]

**WHO WILL
I FOLLOW?**





WELCOME AND INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome! The purpose of this leadership course is to ignite greatness in you—as Jesus defines it—so you, in turn, can ignite greatness in others. It’s about how you can influence others with a love-based approach to leadership vs. a power-driven one.

(Facilitator: Remember that whenever you see a box like this, it’s for you to read and follow the instructions. See the “Instructor Narrative” tips on page 7.)

- + Note: **Add additional time** for introductions if students don’t know each other or if they don’t know you.
- + Introduce yourself if they don’t know you.
- + If students are at tables and don’t know each other have them introduce themselves to their table and tell a little known fact about themselves OR if you have a group of students who have a leadership position, have them tell each other what office/position they hold.
- + If they’re not at tables, wait to do introductions until the first small group activity.

PRAY to open up the course.



LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY [1 MINUTE]

Purpose: For students to evaluate whether or not they think they’re a leader

Before the video begins, take a moment to answer the question on page 4:

How do I view myself?				
1	2	3	4	5
I’m not a leader.		I’m not sure.		I’m definitely a leader.

In this first video, we’re going to look at the impact leaders have on us, whether it’s good leadership or bad.



WHY LEADERSHIP MATTERS [PLAY VIDEO, 8 MINUTES]

NOTES:

Leadership matters (whether it's good or bad) because it impacts others' lives

Definition of a Leader:

Anytime you influence the thinking, behavior or development of another person, you're taking on the role of a leader



LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION [5 MINUTES]

As you just saw, leadership matters because leaders impact us all the time, sometimes it's for good and sometimes it's bad. But either way we're influenced by them. So, let's think about this.

Who influences your choices on any given day—positively or negatively?

Turn to the person next to you to answer that question. If you need to have 3 people in your group to include everyone, go ahead.

Give them 10-15 seconds to answer.

Whose choices do you influence on any given day—positively or negatively? Share your answer with your partner.

Give them 10-15 seconds to answer.

OK, what were some of your answers?

Possible Responses (1 minute):

- + Brother/sister
- + Friends
- + Teammates
- + Mom/Dad—If they don't mention parents/guardians, be sure to bring it up.



As you can see, we are all *being* influenced or led and we are all *influencing* or leading others.

So, who/what is influencing Jake and in what ways?

Possible Responses:

- + Parents—Their choice of moving to a new place has negatively impacted Jake: he’s now scared because he doesn’t know anyone and is in an unfamiliar place; and he lost his status with friends and community.
- + Jake’s dad’s boss— He decided to steal from the company, which put Jake’s dad out of work— obviously negatively impacting the family with loss of income and security, creating fear.
- + Fear (See examples above.)
- + Loneliness (See examples above; Jake doesn’t know anyone.)

And who is Jake influencing?

Listen for: his parents.

How did Jake’s response influence his dad?

Possible Responses:

- + He made his dad feel horrible.
- + He caused his dad to become defensive/angry.
- + His dad felt like he let Jake down.

As you’ve pointed out, Jake was influenced both directly and indirectly by the choices of others and at the same time he is influencing others by his choices.

We will come back to the subject of Jake and his dad later, but for now, let’s see how this influence process plays out with a girl from school.



WHO WILL I FOLLOW? PART 1

[PLAY VIDEO, 5 MINUTES]



The goal of this entire course is for students to take one step toward leading like Jesus in a work/serving group they are currently involved with (at school, church or home).

The purpose of this session is for students to choose Jesus as their leadership role model.

Objectives for students:

- + Determine whether they view themselves as a leader or not by using the leadership continuum to evaluate their leadership
- + Realize that leadership is important because leaders impact the lives of others—positively and negatively (The video shows the problem with bad leadership through Jake’s father’s boss and its impact on Jake.)
- + Realize, whether they like it or not, that they are a leader and that they in turn are being led/influenced by others (Leadership Definition: “Anytime you seek to influence the thinking, behavior or development of another person”)
- + Decide to follow the Greatest Leader of all time, Jesus—beginning by taking one step to be more influenced by God the Father, just as Jesus was (through video and a small group activity)

For more information, please read pages 3-35 in *Lead Like Jesus* and pages 10-13 in *Lead Like Jesus 6-week Study Guide*.

OUTLINE

- i. Welcome and Introductions (if needed)**
 - a. Large Group Activity (Students assess whether they think they’re a leader or not.)**
 - b. Video: Why Leadership Matters**
 - c. Large Group Discussion**
- ii. Video: Who Will I Follow? (Part 1)**
 - a. Large Group Discussion**
 - b. Video: Who Will I Follow? (Part 2)**
 - c. Large Group**
 - d. Small Group Activity: How Can God Influence You?**
 - e. Large Group Debrief**
- iii. In Closing...**



LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION [1 MINUTE]

Ok, Jake is obviously being influenced by Carmen, the girl he's just met.

Why do you think that happened? What's influencing his choice? Just SHOUT OUT your thoughts!

Be sure to repeat what they shout out.

Possible Responses:

- + He thinks she's cute/he's attracted to her.
- + She seems to make sense; she sounds like she's a Christian.
- + Jake wants to be in a band.
- + Jake wants to feel accepted/fit in.
- + Jake has led before and he thinks he could lead the band.

Yes. It also sounds like Jake wants to begin establishing who he is—his identity—in this new place. So, let's see how Jesus fits into all of this.



WHO WILL I FOLLOW? PART 2 [PLAY VIDEO, 3 MINUTES]

He calls us to use our influence to serve.

(He calls us to lead as He led.)

How well am I leading?

- + Who should I measure myself against?
- + Who should I use for my leadership role model?
 - Parents?
 - Celebrity?
 - Star athlete?
 - Music artist?
 - (Other?)

What about Jesus (as your role model)? He:

- + Changed the course of history.
- + Started a worldwide movement that still exists today.
- + Was the main character in the best-selling book of all time.
- + Built into a team of people.
- + Delegated His mission to them (the Great Commission).



- + Dealt with the same challenges as you and me:
 - Imperfect people
 - Rejection
 - Criticism
 - People bullied Him
 - Major temptation
 - Betrayed by close friends

Transformed Leadership:

- + Leading yourself
- + Leading others in a one-on-one relationship
- + Leading a group or team
- + Leading a community or organization

We're going to focus on leading yourself because our hearts have to be transformed to be like Jesus, and that's the only way we'll be able to lead like Jesus.



LARGE GROUP [2 MINUTES]

He just talked about how our hearts need to be transformed to be like Jesus, before we can even lead like Him. We also talked about the importance of intentionally choosing who we allow to influence us.

Since Jesus is to be our leadership role model, we then need to look at who He was most influenced by. Turn to page 6...

- + **John 12:49-50—For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.**
- + **John 14:31—But he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.**
- + **John 15:15—I no longer call you servants, because servants do not know their master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.**



And what did Jesus' Father say about Him?

+ **Matthew 3:17**—This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.

Clearly the Father loved Jesus and influenced Him.

Because of that relationship Jesus knew who He was and how He was to lead.

As we talk about influence for us, **the most influential relationship we're called to have is with the Father—just as Jesus did.**

Turn to page 7, in your Student Guide, and get into groups of 4. Be sure everyone has a group. You have 30 seconds to do this.

- + If they need help forming groups quickly, step in and assist them.
- + Option: You can read the directions below for the Small Group Activity or just have the students read the instructions in their groups.



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY: HOW CAN GOD INFLUENCE YOU? [8 MINUTES]

Purpose: For them to identify one step they are going to take to be influenced by God vs. others.

NOTE: Below is the directions for the Small Group Activity

1. Get into groups of 4. (Depending on the number of students, one or more groups of five may be necessary. The person with the longest hair leads.)
2. Read the following scripture passages and then answer: What does God say about us?

Psalm 139: 13-16—The Message

Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb. I thank you, High God—you're breathtaking! Body and soul, I am marvelously made! I worship in adoration—what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, The days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day.



Ephesians 1:11-12—The Message

“It’s in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.”

What is God saying about you?... us?

3. As a group, brainstorm answers to the following question, and write down 1 step you will take and share it with your group:

During your day, when you realize others are influencing your choices, what step you can take to be influenced by the Father instead?

What is 1 step I can take to be influenced by the Father instead of others?

After four minutes, let students know they should be moving on to #3.

After another four minutes call the groups back together. If you have more time, then ask who’s done (not who needs more time); if it’s the majority, move on. If it’s not, then give them another minute.



LARGE GROUP DEBRIEF [2 MINUTES]

What ideas did you come up with to help you be influenced by the Father vs. others? And if you hear an idea that you think you could use, feel free to write it down and use it!

Possible Answers:

- + I’m going to memorize a verse, so when I realize I’m being influenced by someone else, I can repeat it to myself.
- + I’m going to remind myself that God made me exactly the way He wants me to be and not try to be like somebody else.



NOTE:

- + Ask them to speak up so the group can hear their answers. Use a mic if necessary, and even if they use a mic, repeat the gist of their answer (many students don't speak clearly).
- + The students may joke around. If so, join in and then ask someone else for their idea. If you get another funny one, laugh with them and ask if someone else has a serious one!

IN CLOSING [1 MINUTE]

Those are great ideas.

In closing, I want you to write down the one step you want to take in the Takeaway section in the Appendix.

Give them time to write down their Takeaway.

If you're doing Session 2 immediately after Session 1, say:

- + "And when you've done that, take a break and be back here by _____(time)."

If you're not doing Session 2 right after Session 1:

- + Pray to close the session.
- + Say: "And look to use this step during the next 5 days so you get into the practice of using it."