

## SESSION 3

[36 MINUTES]

# THE HEART OF A LEADER

HOW DO I  
EXALT GOD  
ONLY?





**The purpose of this session** is for students to identify 1 step to take to move away from their fear/pride and toward humility/confidence in God in their work group situation.

Objectives—for students to:

- + Share how they would react to the case study/video of Carmen and Tasha's situation (through large group discussion)
- + Identify one step they can take to move toward humility/confidence in God (through an individual time of solitude and surrender)
- + Brainstorm ideas on how they can react out of humility/confidence (instead of pride/fear) in their work group situation (through a small group discussion)

For more information, please read pages 63-73 in *Lead Like Jesus* and pages 57-62 in *Lead Like Jesus 6-week Study Guide*.

#### OUTLINE

- i. Video: Exalting God Only (Part 1)
  - a. Large Group Activity
- ii. Video: Exalting God Only (Part 2)
  - a. Large Group
  - b. Just You Activity: Surrender
  - c. Small Group Activity: Exalting God Only
  - d. Large Group Debrief
- iii. In Closing . . .

Exalting God Only allows us to respond to others and God with humility and confidence instead of pride and fear. So, let's see how this plays out with Tasha and Carmen.



## EXALTING GOD ONLY (PART 1) [PLAY VIDEO, 4 MINUTES]



## LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY [2 MINUTES]

Purpose: For students to share how they'd react to the case study of Carmen and Tasha

**OK, let's find out what you would do next if you were in Carmen's situation.**

**Let me read all of your choices first, and when I read them a second time you can vote. You can follow along on page 20 in your Guide.**

**If you were in Carmen's situation, would you:**

- 1. Just act like you normally would?**
- 2. Turn around and make a joke to lighten up the situation, like "You'd look much better if you tied your hair up."**
- 3. Try again to connect with Tasha.**
- 4. Just leave and connect with her later.**

**Ok, who would act like you normally would? Raise your hand.**

Pause

If you think they need a little movement, have them stand instead of raise their hand.

**Who would make a joke to lighten up the situation? Raise your hand.**

Pause



**Who would try again to connect with her? Raise your hand.**

Pause

**Who would just leave and connect with her later? Raise your hand.**

Pause

It's interesting to see how we'd respond. And there isn't a right answer. To respond as Jesus would with His heart, we need to factor in our personality along with the skills we're about to learn.

So, with that in mind, let's see what Carmen decided and then we'll hear some teaching on how to move away from our pride and fear.



## **EXALTING GOD ONLY (PART 2)** [PLAY VIDEO, 8 MINUTES]

Moving away from pride and fear means understanding each other's world—seeing things from another's perspective, not just your own.

How does that happen?

- + Reach out to that person, putting their hurt, pain, or anger before your own pride or fear.
- + When you get rejected, don't give up!
- + STOP and step back emotionally.
  - o "Stuff" your own EGO down by acknowledging:
    - Your own fear (fear of rejection, being lashed out against).
    - Your own pride swelling up (from being treated in a way you don't like).
  - o Choose to act:
    - With humility vs. being prideful.
    - With confidence vs. being fearful.

Moving away from your pride or fear means moving toward Exalting God Only



## EXALTING GOD ONLY AS...

THE ONLY ONE I WORSHIP

THE ONLY ONE WHO GIVES ME  
MY SECURITY & SELF WORTH

MY AUDIENCE OF ONE AND THE  
HIGHEST AUTHORITY IN MY LIFE



## REPLACES PRIDE AND FEAR WITH

### HUMILITY

We put the needs of others before ourselves.

We look for ways to praise others and give them credit.

We choose to give others the “front seat” (or spotlight), while we take the backseat... willingly.



### CONFIDENCE (IN GOD)

We trust God... really.

We rest in His goodness, His plans and His love for us.

We are real with others.

We work up the courage to step out in faith (vs. caving in to fear).

Instead of judging others, we understand them.  
Instead of pointing out their faults, we accept them, love them... faults and all.

## WHICH MOVES US TOWARD

**True Community** (vs. separating/isolating ourselves).

**Contentment** (vs. comparing ourselves to others and coming up short).

**Authentic and Truthful** (vs. distorting the truth and putting up a front).



## LARGE GROUP [1 MINUTE]

**Humility and confidence only come through surrender—giving ourselves, our EGO, completely to God— which is what Carmen did.**

She surrendered her EGO to God and allowed Jesus to lead her so she responded to Tasha in humility and compassion instead of reacting out of pride.

**Tasha and Carmen’s relationship began to move:**

- + **From isolating themselves from each other to being in community.**
- + **From distorting the truth by putting up fronts to authenticity and trust by being real and truthful with each other.**
- + **From comparing themselves with one another to contentment by stopping the competition and accepting each other.**

**So, now the question is: What are you going to do about YOUR heart?** If your heart’s not right, you can’t lead like Jesus. Having a heart like Jesus isn’t something you can do on your own; that’s like trying to do your own open-heart surgery.

**A transformed heart is only something the Holy Spirit can do.**

**But, there is something you CAN do and that is invite God in—not just to be your Savior or your teacher or your friend—but invite Him in to be the Lord of your life.**

**We’re talking about total surrender—like King David did in Psalm 51:10, when he said:**

***Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.***

And when you do that, you change direction just like Carmen did with Tasha.

To give you that opportunity, you’re now going to have some time alone with God. **Turn in your Student Guide to page 21, and read the directions. You’ll have about 10 minutes.**

And if you’d like to find a more comfortable spot, feel free to do so.



## JUST YOU ACTIVITY: SURRENDER [10 MINUTES]

Purpose: For students to identify one step they can take to move away from fear/pride and toward humility/confidence in God

### NOTE:

Below is the Individual Activity: Surrender instructions



### SURRENDER

*The purpose of this time is to give you an opportunity to ask God to become the Lord of your life, including the Lord of your relationships. Allow God to speak directly to you about how you can grow in humility if you tend to be prideful or in confidence if you tend to be fearful.*

1. Decide whether it's pride or fear that primarily motivates you. (If it's both, choose one to focus on at this time.)
2. Read the verses below under that heading (Confidence or Humility) and choose the one that is the most meaningful to you.
3. As time allows, do one or more of the following (there's space below to write down your thoughts):
  - a. **Write the verse in your own words.** Then read your paraphrase back to yourself.



b. **State the opposite meaning of the verse.** (Proverbs 3:4-6—Don't trust God, figure out everything on your own.)

- What impact does the verse have now?

c. **Personalize the verse.** (Prov. 3 (insert your name), trust in God . . .)

- Let the Holy Spirit apply it to a need, a challenge, an opportunity or a failure in your life.
- What will you do to apply this verse in your life? Be specific.

d. **Pray the verse back to God.** Put your own name or situation in the verse. (Father, please help me to trust you with my fear of (insert fear here); I can't figure this out myself.)

#### CONFIDENCE

- *For you have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth. Psalm 71:5*
- *The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. Isaiah 32:17*
- *But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. Jeremiah 17:7*
- *Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. 2 Corinthians 3:4*
- *In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. Ephesians 3:12*
- *In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. 1 John 4:17*

#### HUMILITY

- *He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way. Psalms 25:9*
- *Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life. Proverbs 22:4*
- *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:2-3*
- *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Philippians 2:3*
- *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12*





- *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. James 3:13*

**Notes:**

4. Spend a couple of minutes writing down one step you can take to move away from fear/pride toward confidence in God/humility.

**A step I can begin taking toward confidence/humility:**

After 10 minutes, call students back together.



## **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY: EXALTING GOD ONLY [8 MINUTES]**

Purpose: For students to brainstorm ideas on how to Exalt God Only in their work group situation

All right, now taking what you've just experienced, let's go back to your work group situation. In the last session, you identified a work group and how your pride or fear affected your interactions.

What I want you to do now is look at that same situation that triggered your pride or fear. But this time, brainstorm as a group, other ways you could respond differently—to get ideas as to how others might handle the same situation.



You'll have a couple of minutes per person, but first, we'll divide up. **Those of you who are challenged mostly by pride will go over to this part of the room.**

Point to one part of the room.

If people start moving, ask them to please wait until you read off all 3 groups.

**Those who are challenged mostly by fear will go over to this part of the room.**

Point to another part of the room.

**And those who are challenged by both will go over to this part of the room.**

Point to other part of the room.

**OK, go ahead and move now. And, quickly get into groups of 3. And if you need to get into groups of 4 to include everyone do that. Take 15 seconds to get into your groups.**

Give them just 15 seconds to get into groups. Otherwise start putting students into groups.

**Go ahead and read the directions in your groups and then start.** If you have any questions, let me know.

**NOTE:** Below are the instructions to the Small Group Activity: Exalting God Only

1. Get into groups of three or four.
2. Tell your partners the following information:
  - + The work group situation you discussed in Session 2
  - + What triggered your pride/fear/both
  - + What you did about it (even if it was "nothing")
  - + The step you just identified that you want to begin taking—from page 23
3. Then as a group, brainstorm other steps or ways you could respond.



After 2 minutes, tell students to go to the next person.  
After another 2 minutes, tell them to switch to the last person.  
Then after another 2 minutes call time.



## LARGE GROUP DEBRIEF [2 MINUTES]

**OK, what were some ideas you came up with?**

**Possible Responses:**

- + I need to stop being so sarcastic in my group and say encouraging things instead.
- + I need to speak up and contribute to the group instead of thinking that what I have to say doesn't matter or won't make a difference.

Optional Small Group Discussion (If time allows):

1. Think of a recent interaction with your parents/guardians that didn't go well.
2. Share with your group:
  - + Whether you experienced pride or fear.
  - + What caused that response.
3. As a group, brainstorm how you could have handled the situation.



## IN CLOSING [1 MINUTE]

What you just did is foundational to leading like Jesus.

**As leaders, we need to CHOOSE to step back and respond to others with humility or confidence rather than reacting out of pride or fear. We need to invite God into the moment.**

And this applies not only to the work groups we're in but also to our families. Let me pray for us right now.



**Pray:**

- + For God to give them the courage to take their one step.
- + For God to begin working in that one relationship.
- + That God would prepare the student's heart and that person's heart for their next interaction.

**Please take a moment to write down your Takeaway from this session.**

If you're doing Session 3 right away, say:

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

If you're not doing Session 3 right after Session 2:

- + Pray to close the session.
- + Say: Look for ways to use your Takeaway within the next 5 days.