

# SESSION 4

[37 MINUTES]

## THE HEAD OF A LEADER

## WHERE AM I HEADED?

## I HEADED?





**The purpose of this session** is for students to take a first step toward writing their personal vision statement

Objectives—for students to:

- + Realize that vision is critical because it motivates people by giving them a purpose. (The video shows the problem Jake runs into because he lacked vision and then moves onto Jesus' vision for leadership.)
- + Take the first step in writing their personal vision statement (during an individual activity)
- + Brainstorm ways for each of them to use their skills, abilities, talents, and spiritual gifts to serve others (through a small group activity)

For more information, please read pages 83-93 in *Lead Like Jesus* and pages 64-80 in *Lead Like Jesus 6-week Study Guide*.

#### OUTLINE

- i. **Video: Why Vision Matters (Part 1)**
  - a. Large Group Discussion
  - b. Video: Why Vision Matters (Part 2)
  - c. Large Group
- ii. **Just You Activity: First Steps Toward a Personal Vision Statement**
  - a. Small Group Activity: Your Vision
  - b. Large Group Activity
- iii. In Closing . . .



We've been talking about our heart as a leader, which is where transformation begins.

**In this session, we're going to begin talking about the Head of a leader, which is what we think and believe about leadership, people, and work. It influences our choices and decisions.**

**But the Head of the leader starts with knowing who we are and connecting our vision to God's vision.**

Let's go ahead and watch the video. You can follow along on page 28 in your Guide.



## **WHY VISION MATTERS (PART 1)**

**[PLAY VIDEO, 4 MINUTES]**

**NOTES:**

Our Heart—What motivates us

Our Head—What we believe about leadership and leading others (it influences our choices and decisions):

- + It's knowing who you are, where you're going, and how you're going to get there.
- + It's knowing how and why to include others.



## LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION [2 MINUTES]

Jake now has a leadership problem. Sam, doesn't want to put the time or effort into practicing, and on top of that, Sam now feels like the whole band is ganging up on him.

**As the band leader, what do you think Jake's goal should be?**

Listen for something similar to the following:

- To get Sam on board (because Jake doesn't want to find someone else and probably couldn't with the short timeframe)

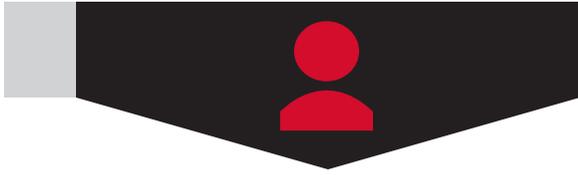
If you don't hear it, propose the above as a goal Jake might have

**If you were in Jake's position, what would you do next?**

**Possible Responses (there's no correct answer):**

- + Talk to Sam
- + Find someone to replace him
- + Have the band apologize to Sam

OK, now let's listen to some teaching about vision and how that impacts Jake's thinking and actions.



## WHY VISION MATTERS (PART 2)

[PLAY VIDEO, 7 MINUTES]

### NOTES:

What would you do if people in your group weren't putting in the effort to get something done? You could try:

- + Ordering them around.
- + Using threats.
- + Giving up totally and just doing it yourself.

OR you could try encouraging them by using a leadership skill called "Vision Casting."

### Vision

- + It's a picture of the PREFERRED future, the future you want to see come true.
- + It's got to tell others what you want to see happen and why—because vision is what gives people the inspiration to keep on keeping on.

*For example:*

- + Martin Luther King saw a future with everyone having civil rights—not just a few
- + Jesus saw sin no longer blocking our way to God.
  - o He saw a future where there were no more sacrifices—He was it, the final one.
  - o So now all we have to do is ask Him for forgiveness and to come into our lives to lead us.

Proverbs 29:18 says, "Without a vision, the people will perish."

How does vision affect our world? In Jake's case:

- + He already knows "what" he wants Sam to do: come to practice, come on time and play his heart out.
- + Jake's missing the "why"—the inspiration for Sam to "keep on keeping on."
- + So, finally, Jake tells Sam it isn't really about just following through on a commitment or not wanting to make a fool of themselves (neither of those goals are very inspiring).
- + The vision is really about helping out kids—a whole school full—who can't afford school supplies and backpacks.
- + Then Jake ties in how their band could make that happen—that music is powerful and can touch the hearts of their friends like nothing else. This connection through music can inspire friends to really want to give their money to this cause.



## LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION [4 MINUTES]

Jake used an extremely important leadership skill with Sam that had nothing to do with vision, and that was the apology. We won't cover the elements of it today, however, many times apologizing is critical to building trust with those you lead.

So, moving to vision, let's dissect what we saw for a minute:

- When Jake was talking with Carmen, he realized he had a vision for this event.
- And when he talked to Sam he explained the band's role in that vision.

### So, what was Jake's vision and the band's role in it?

Listen for something close to these statements (1 minute):

- For every student at Roosevelt to have school supplies and a backpack.
- For the band to do such a great job playing and choosing music that the students would be moved emotionally to donate above and beyond what is "normal" for this cause.

We've taken a look at Jake and how important it is to have a vision that you're passionate about.

Now it's time to look at Jesus. The video mentioned Jesus' overall vision but now let's look at **Jesus' vision for leadership which was and still is radical. He lays it out in Matthew 20:25-28, you can read it on page 30 in your Guide:**

If you'd like, ask for a volunteer to read this passage. Be sure everyone can hear them.

***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."***

The first thing He says has to do with defining greatness for His people. Notice he doesn't say it's "bad" or prideful. **He knows we're wired for greatness, and He even affirms it. However, He does have a radical definition of it.**



**The world defines a great leader as having power over others by being the smartest, the richest, the sexiest, the most powerful.**

***You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.***

**Jesus on the other hand defines a great leader as someone one who strives to serve others.**

***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 . . .***

**Notice that Jesus doesn't tell us to be "greater than"—that would be comparison. Rather, Jesus just tells us to become great. Because He knows that when we're great, we'll bring out greatness in others.**

**To be great, we need to serve. Being a great leader means using our influence to serve others not exploit them.**

**And a key way we can serve others and bring out their greatness is by understanding God's vision for us personally, how it fits into His overall plan and then inviting others to join in.**

So, you're now going to have a chance to take a first step toward your vision. But before we jump into that, I want to mention what Sam's mom brought up—that the only way that we can lead like Jesus is to first HAVE Jesus.

And if you don't have Jesus that may be what you'd like to handle first. If so, come talk to me or someone in your group. Let me pray.

**Sample Prayer :**

Father, thank you for this day that will never come again. And thank you for this time together to be able to study how Jesus led so we, too, can follow the greatest Leader that ever lived.

**Lord, there might be some students here that might not know you and I ask that you would draw them to You. That they would realize that You, Jesus, are the only one who can get rid of the sin obstacle keeping them from You.**

I also want to invite your Holy Spirit to come and guide each one of these students right now as they wrestle with what unique contribution you want them to make. I pray that you give them insight into how you wired them up and how they can use them for Your purposes.

We love You, Lord,  
In Jesus' Name, Amen



Go ahead and start on your vision statement on page 31.  
You have 6 minutes.



## JUST YOU ACTIVITY: FIRST STEPS TOWARD A PERSONAL VISION STATEMENT (PART 1) [6 MINUTES]

Purpose: For students to take the first step in writing their personal vision statement

### NOTE:

Below are the instructions for the Individual Activity: First Steps toward a Personal Vision Statement



### FIRST STEPS TOWARD A PERSONAL VISION STATEMENT (PART 1)

1. What am I good at? / What do I love to do?

[Hint: Think about your skills/abilities/talents or your spiritual gifts if you know them.]

For example—I'm good at or love:

Art/music/singing	Math/science/computers
Writing	Sports
Fixing cars	Selling/Making money
Cooking	School
Waterskiing	Reading
Tutoring	Animals
Organizing/planning	Getting people together
Hospitality	Helping others
Leading	Teaching/speaking/debating

**Star the top 2-3 that you feel the strongest about.**

2. How can I use what I'm good at or love to do to serve others?

For example:

- + I love playing in a band, I could get our band to play for charity events to help the poor/need.
- + I'm good at art and I'm creative. I want to help organizations that help the homeless by doing the artwork for their flyers, posters, or brochures, so people will really want to volunteer and give money to get people off the streets.



- + *I love to read, so I'm going to start a book club and invite/include those students that are on the fringe.*
- + *I'm good at math and I could tutor others in the peer mentoring program or an after-school program/ministry.*
- + *I love waterskiing and I have the gift of evangelism. I want to use waterskiing to reach other kids for Christ. So, I'm thinking of starting a waterskiing club/ministry and offer to teach kids how to ski and use that time to ask them questions and talk to them about God.*
- + *I'm good at leading others. I could get a group together to raise money for the food pantry.*

**How can I use what I'm good at or love to do to serve others?**

After 6 minutes, call the group back together or when most students have finished.  
Then read the instructions to the Small Group Activity below.



## **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY: FIRST STEPS TOWARD YOUR VISION STATEMENT (PART 2) [10 MINUTES]**

Purpose: For students to have their group brainstorm ideas of how they could use their skills, abilities, talents, and spiritual gifts to serve others

- 1. Ok, you'll need to get into groups of 4. (The person with the shortest hair is the leader.)**
- 2. Share what you just wrote down (#2 above: how you can use what you're good at or love to do to serve others) with the group.**
- 3. Then, as a group, brainstorm as many ideas as possible for how you could use your skills/abilities/talents/spiritual gifts to serve others. Be sure to write their ideas down in the space below.**



4. **Allow about 2 minutes per person, and then move to the next person in the group.**
5. **After everyone is finished, take a moment to review the brainstorming ideas you just wrote down and the idea you shared with the group (#2 above). Then star the one you like the most.**

Purpose: For students to have their group brainstorm ideas of how they could use their skills, abilities, talents, and spiritual gifts to serve others

- + After 5 minutes, tell them they should be halfway done.
- + After another 4 minutes (9 minutes total), tell them they should move on to #5.
- + If they need more time and you have extra time allow them to keep working.
- + Discreetly listen in to get quotes from students that you can use in wrapping up below—but DO NOT use their names unless you get their permission first. For example: “I heard some great comments like . . .(and then share what you heard)”



## LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY [3 MINUTES]

Purpose: To identify one way they can bring “greatness” out in others in their work group/family/others (one way they can serve them)

### I heard some great statements, like...

- + Share with the entire group a couple of statements that you overheard.
- + OR ask the students what great ideas they came up with for someone in their group

This is a great start toward having a personal vision statement and how God wants to impact the world through you. We’re now going to circle back to this concept of greatness and how to bring it out in others.

Think about your work group or if you’re not in a work group, then think about your family.



I'd like you to write down your answer to this question on page 33:

- What's one thing you can do to bring out the "greatness" in others—what's one way you can serve them?

**Write your answer down.**

Give them a minute to write their answer down.

**Now turn to the person next to you and share it with them.**

After a minute move on.

**Quickly, what were some ideas you heard from your partner?**

Take a couple of responses and then move on.

## **IN CLOSING [1 MINUTE]**

### **Prayer**

Lord, You created me. You shape my dreams, and You continually craft the circumstances of my life so that You can use me to spread Your kingdom vision and values throughout the earth.

I am grateful to belong to You, and honored to be part of what You are doing. All that I am and achieve is because of You. Use me today, I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

**OK, now take a moment and write down your Takeaway from this session in the Appendix.**

Give them a moment to write their answer down.

If you're doing the next session right away, say:

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

If you're not doing the Session 5 right away, then:

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