

SESSION 6

[36 MINUTES]

**THE HABITS
OF A LEADER**

HOW DO I STAY

CONNECTED

WITH GOD?





The purpose of this session is for students to practice two of the five key Habits: Experiencing God's Unconditional Love and Prayer

Objectives—for students to:

- + Know the five key habits Jesus used to stay connected to the Father
- + Assess how they're doing with the five habits (through a large group activity)
- + Choose which habit they'd like to do start or do more of (through a large group activity)
- + Experience two of the five habits modeled by Jesus: Experiencing God's Unconditional Love and Prayer (through a large group and a partner activity)
- + Identify one way they can practice love/serving in a key relationship (through a partner activity)
- + Choose one (at the most two) Takeaways to act on, after reviewing their Takeaway list in the Appendix

For more information, please read pages 153-180 in *Lead Like Jesus* and pages 157-160 and 145-147 in *Lead Like Jesus 6-week Study Guide*.

OUTLINE

- i. Video: The Habits of a Leader (Part 1)
 - a. Large Group Activity
- ii. Video: The Habits of a Leader (Part 2)
 - a. Large Group Activity
 - b. Large Group
 - c. Partner Activity: Expressing Love
- iii. Large Group: Course Summary
- iv. In Closing . . .
 - a. Video: Ignite!
 - b. Closing Prayer



Welcome back to our last session on habits. As we look at the life of Jesus, no one had more stress than He did. But He practiced at least 5 key habits that helped Him stay connected to the Father—so He could stay focused on what He needed to do.

Let's go ahead and watch this next video.



THE HABITS OF A LEADER (PART 1)

[PLAY VIDEO, 6 MINUTES]

NOTES:

Habits—those practices that help us stay connected with God.

Jesus, the Son of God, even HE had to have great Habits to stay connected with His Father

So, if He needed it, stands to reason we do too!

5 Key Habits:

1. **Solitude**—being silent and completely alone with God to listen to His “still small voice”
At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep Him from leaving them. Luke 4:24
 - + No agenda
 - + Away from everyone and everything
2. **Prayer**—having a conversation with God
Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24
 - + Talking with Him, but also listening to Him
 - + Really believing He cares about you and wants to know what's on your heart
 - + Believing that He will change you
 - + A way to connect our plans and efforts with His plans



LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY [1 MINUTE]

Purpose: For students to assess how they're doing with these five key habits that Jesus practiced

On page 47, we're going to take a moment to assess how you think you're doing on these two habits. And for some of you this may be the first time you've even heard of some of them!

So, how are you doing with Solitude? Using a 1 to 5 scale: 1- I don't do this habit; 3- I sometimes do this habit; 5- I do this habit consistently.

SOLITUDE				
1	2	3	4	5
I don't do this habit.		I sometimes do this habit.		I do this habit consistently.

So, how are you doing on Prayer?:

PRAYER				
1	2	3	4	5
I don't do this habit.		I sometimes do this habit.		I do this habit consistently.

Pause.

Let's now hear about the other 3.



THE HABITS OF A LEADER (PART 2)

[PLAY VIDEO, 1 MINUTE]

NOTES:

3. Applying Scripture—reading the Bible and then applying it/using it in your life

Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22

- + A love letter from God
- + A “how-to” manual for life—including how to deal with people

4. Experiencing God’s Unconditional Love—reflecting on and soaking in His love

And may I have the power to understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep your love really is. May I experience your love so that I will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from you. Ephesians 3:18-19

- + Experiencing how crazy He is about you
- + Because we can’t give something away that we don’t have
- + (*Unconditionally loving the people around you*)
- + (*Getting your self-worth and your security only from Him*)
- + (*This is the antidote to pride and fear.*)

5. Safe Relationships—friends you can relax and be yourself with and hold you accountable

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

- + Who encourage us
- + Who when necessary, keep our feet on the ground (will tell us the truth)
- + (*Who will be real with you*)
- + (*Who will challenge, encourage and ask hard questions when you need it*)

These 5 Habits connect you to God so He can ignite something incredible in your life.



LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY [10 MINUTES]

Purpose:

- For students to pick one habit they’d like to practice more of in the future
- For them to Experience God’s Unconditional Love

So, how are you doing with Applying Scripture?



APPLYING SCRIPTURE

1
I don't do
this habit.

2

3
I sometimes
do this habit.

4

5
I do this habit
consistently.

Pause.

Finally, how are you doing on the last two—Experiencing God's Unconditional Love and Safe Relationships:

EXPERIENCING GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

1
I don't do
this habit.

2

3
I sometimes
do this habit.

4

5
I do this habit
consistently.

SAFE RELATIONSHIPS

1
I don't do
this habit.

2

3
I sometimes
do this habit.

4

5
I do this habit
consistently.

Pause.

1. Looking back at how you assessed yourself: Which habit do you do the most? And what benefit do you get from doing that habit?

You can write your answer on page 48 in your Guide.

Pause.



2. Which habit would you like to start or do more of? It doesn't have to be a habit that you rated yourself low on.

I'll give you a moment.

Pause.

3. What habit did you choose and why?

Pause so they can write down their answer or think about it.

Share with the students the habit you want to do more of. For example: I want to start doing Solitude because I need to really unplug and get centered and connected to God...and that's the one I tend to avoid the most!

The habit I want to start or do more of is _____, because _____.

OK, it's your turn.

4. Find a partner (or get into groups of 3 to include everyone), and share your answer with them.

Give them 2-3 minutes.

Discreetly listen in and write down a couple of their answers so you can share those with the rest of the group.

Be prepared to share your answer with the group also.

It's interesting to hear where everyone is on their journey with this. I heard one person say: _____ and another one say: _____ .

The thing to remember is that making these habits a part of our lives is a journey and **the point is for them to CONNECT US WITH GOD, not become a task to be checked off!**

In Session 3 we practiced one of the habits: Applying Scripture. You spent time reflecting and then figuring out a next step you could take to move toward humility or confidence.



We're now going to touch on two more habits. We aren't going to be able to do all five during our time together; however, we are going to experience Prayer and God's Unconditional Love. We'll start with God's Unconditional Love.

So, what I'm going to do is read some verses about how much God loves us...how much he loves you. Let it wash over you. Allow these verses to sink in at a heart level—to begin touching you.

Quite honestly, **the only antidote to our pride and fear is experiencing His unconditional love.**

So, if you would, please close your eyes as I read these to you.

- + Read the following verses slowly and with meaning.
- + Pause between each verse/bullet.
- + It might seem long, however, it really only takes about a minute—2 at the most.
- + These verses plus others are also listed with their reference in the Appendix under Experiencing God's Love

- **I take great delight in you.**
- **Come to me like a child.**
- **Put your hope in me.**
- **I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you.**
- **You can always approach me with confidence.**
- **Ask and you will receive.**
- **I forgive you.**
- **I have called you by name and you are mine. Nothing can separate you from my love.**
- **You are fearfully and wonderfully made. You are the apple of my eye.**
- **Come to me and I will give you rest.**
- **You didn't choose me, I chose you.**
- **Call to me and I will tell you great things.**
- **I will never leave you or forsake you.**
- **I know your name. Before you were born, I knew you.**
- **I stand at your door and knock. If you open it, I will come in.**
- **I want you to have life, life to the full.**
- **I love you.**



LARGE GROUP [1 MINUTE]

You can open your eyes now if you'd like.

You are unconditionally loved by God—and nothing can separate you from Him.

It's critical you and I understand and trust in that truth. And it's critical because it's hard to give away something we don't have.

Jesus came from love, with love and for love. And He wants us to feel and believe that we're unconditionally loved. Because only then will we be able to love others as He did.

And if you haven't picked up on it yet, **the final secret for leading others like Jesus is that it's love-based.**

But when we begin to give love away, what does that actually look like? That's what this next activity on page 49 is about and you will practice the second habit—Prayer.



PARTNER ACTIVITY: PRAYER— EXPRESSING LOVE [8 MINUTES]

Purpose: For students to pray that their partner would take a step in being more loving/serving in a key relationship

1. Find a partner. If you need to have a group of 3, do so.
2. Fill in the blanks in the following sentence and then share your answer with your partner:

“I want to be more (insert word from below) with (the name of a key relationship). One way I'll do that is by (one action you'll take).”

For example:

- I want to be more courteous with my dad. One way I'll do that is by not looking at my cell phone *when he's talking to me*.
- I want to be more patient with Michael, who's in my work group. I'll do that by not interrupting him anymore.



3. Pray for your partner, specifically their key relationship and the step they want to take.

You have 8 minutes.

After 8 minutes call them back together.

NOTES:

Words Describing Love (1 Corinthians 13):

- + Patient
- + Kind
- + Content
- + Humble
- + Courteous
- + Good-natured
- + Gracious
- + Encouraging
- + Sincere



LARGE GROUP COURSE SUMMARY

[2 MINUTES]

Not only were you able to practice the habit of prayer, but you also experienced an important first step toward leading like Jesus: expressing love. Jesus is love. So, if we can't love like He does, we can't lead like He does.

And as leaders, we need to constantly be reminded how much we matter to God because, as leaders, we need to remind those around us how much they matter to God.

As we've learned, leadership is fundamentally about serving others, as Jesus did. And loving them as He did.

We've gone through a lot together:

- **We've discovered that our heart is mostly motivated by pride or fear. But, then we discovered how we can move toward humility or confidence.**
- **We looked at the head of a leader and you took the first steps toward writing your own Vision statement.**
- **We then turned to the hands of a leader and how you can develop others by serving them instead of using them.**



- **Finally, we experienced a few of the habits of a leader—how we can stay connected with God. And you chose one to begin practicing.**

Take a moment now and **turn to the Takeaway section of your Student Guide. Look at what you wrote down, and pick 1—or 2 at the most—that you want to act on and star them.**

Pause and move on when most people are done.

IN CLOSING [3 MINUTES]

As we close, it would be great for us to hear from you.

What did you get out of going through *Ignite* and how do you see yourself using it back at home or school?

- + Take 3 minutes to hear from the students. Hearing from student peers is one of the best ways to not only summarize the material, but also to reinforce the power of it, including how others are going to actually use it—which, in turn, encourages others to do the same
- + As each person shares, encourage the group to clap for them. You may consider giving them a prize for volunteering.
- + Make sure everyone can hear what's being said.

Thank you. We're going to watch this one last video and then I'll close in prayer.



IGNITE!
[PLAY VIDEO, 3 MINUTES]



CLOSING PRAYER [1 MINUTE]

Here's a prayer you could use that highlights language used in the video and the course (for example: ignite, bring out the greatness in others, "us to be more like you"):

Lord, thank you for who you are and who you are to us. Thank you for loving us unconditionally and giving us a model for leadership that's different than the world's.

Please ignite our hearts, so that we're transformed ...for us to be more like You. And ignite our hearts so that we can help bring out the greatness in others at school, home, church and all the other places we touch people. Please give us the strength to begin making the changes you want us to, give us your direction and your wisdom and most of all you. We love You.

In Jesus' Name, Amen