



We need to be people who will lead with Kingdom greatness during the difficult times ahead of us. The good news is the ability to be a great leader is readily available to each of us. There are so many misconceptions about what it means to be a leader and to live a significant life. Even within the church, we have allowed secular culture to define significance based upon how many social media followers we have or the resources we accumulate. If you are a Christ-follower, and you are allowing a secular culture to define those things, you are surrendering the greatest opportunities of your existence. If you accumulate everything, if you're highly celebrated, if everybody knows you by a single name, *yet God is not pleased with you*, what have you achieved? Wealth, power, fame? None of those are evil, but everyone is on a countdown clock, and our earth suit is not permanent. You cannot ignore God for decades and then imagine at some future point you will have the courage and momentum to find a God-switch to turn on—don't bet your eternity on that. The season ahead of us demands spiritual growth. *Let's decide we want greatness—in the context of the Kingdom of God—to be our primary objective.*

## I. ALIGNING EXPECTATIONS

Hebrews 11:32–38 <sup>32</sup> *And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets,* <sup>33</sup> *who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions,* <sup>34</sup> *quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.* <sup>35</sup> *Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.*

<sup>36</sup> *Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison.* <sup>37</sup> *They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—* <sup>38</sup> ***the world was not worthy of them.*** *They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.*

1. What characteristics make a great leader? What challenges do great leaders have in today's culture?

2. Think of a difficult time when you continued to embrace the Lord. How did this time increase your dependency upon Him? How did it impact your trust in Him?

## II. INTERDEPENDENCE, JOINING THE LORD ON HIS JOURNEY

Acts 16:6–10 <sup>6</sup> *Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.*** <sup>7</sup> *When they came to the border of Mysia, **they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.***

<sup>8</sup> *So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.* <sup>9</sup> ***During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia*** *standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”* <sup>10</sup> *After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

3. In what ways has technology helped—and hindered—your engagement with the Spirit of God?

Moses

Exodus 3:4 *When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “**Here I am.**”*

Exodus 3:10–11 <sup>10</sup> *So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”* <sup>11</sup> *But Moses said to God, “**Who am I,** that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”*

Isaiah

Isaiah 6:5 ***“Woe to me!”*** *I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”*

Mary

Luke 1:31, 34-35 <sup>31</sup> *You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ...* <sup>34</sup> *“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”* <sup>35</sup> *The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.*

#### 4. Share a time in your life (or in the life of someone you know) when God did something you thought was impossible.

##### What was the outcome?

###### A. The Essential Characteristic

**Widely differing assignments/opportunities but one consistent component: HUMILITY.**

Proverbs 15:33 *The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.*

Matthew 23:11–12 <sup>11</sup> *The greatest among you will be your servant.* <sup>12</sup> *For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*

1 Peter 5:5–7 <sup>5</sup> ... *“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”* <sup>6</sup> *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.* <sup>7</sup> *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

###### B. A Corrosive Force: PRIDE

Proverbs 16:18 *Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*

Proverbs 11:2 *When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.*

###### C. For Consideration — **Cultivate Humility and Deconstruct Pride**

1 Corinthians 1:28–29 <sup>28</sup> *He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,* <sup>29</sup> *so that no one may boast before him.*

#### 5. What is the difference between true and false humility? Why might people have trouble being humble? In what ways can you practice humility in your daily life?

### III. AN ACTION PLAN

###### A. Humility

1. Carefully establish the greatest ambition of your life for the Kingdom of God
2. Avoid selfish ambition
3. Serve regularly
4. Give generously
5. The importance of others

###### B. Pride

Repent, Renounce, and Release

#### 6. Define pride in your own words. Describe a time when you received a personal lesson about pride from the Lord.

### PRAYER

**Heavenly Father, You created the earth and everything in it by Your great power. I choose to yield my life to You. I choose obedience to Your principles. Forgive me for stubborn responses of rebellion. Holy Spirit, teach me to walk with integrity in the sight of God; grant me an awareness of Your presence. My hope is in my God and His great love for His people. His faithfulness endures forever and Your mercies do not fail, amen.**