Seeing Leadership Differently

What is Christian Leadership?

Leadership is not first about a role; it's about intentional influence that helps move something forward: leaders notice, care and act.

Warm up

When you hear the word leader who or what comes to mind?

Watch

Bible Passage
Matthew 20:20-28

Key Points

- God is more concerned about our availability than our ability.
- Leadership is intentional influence that helps something move forward.
- Christian leaders are servants of Jesus who enable others to pursue God's purposes.
- Leadership is about noticing, caring, acting.

Discuss

- What stood out for you about Christian leadership from the video?
- Where do you see people intentionally influencing others in daily life?
- What did you make of the definition of leadership (see above)?

Watch

Key Points

What prevents people seeing themselves as leaders?

- I'm not an upfront person... I just help out...
- I don't like speaking in front of a group.
- I don't feel confident enough.
- I don't know what to do and whether I'd be any good at it.
- I'm not like leaders I know.
- I've seen leadership not done well.
- I don't feel 'good enough' as a Christian.

Activity

Which of the common reasons do you most relate to? What would you add?

Looking at the 'leadership swimming pool':

- Which person best represents how you currently feel about leadership or respond to the idea of taking on a leadership role?
- Which person best represents where would you like to be in relation to leadership? What would help you to get there?
- What is the conversation you have with yourself about leadership? leadership?

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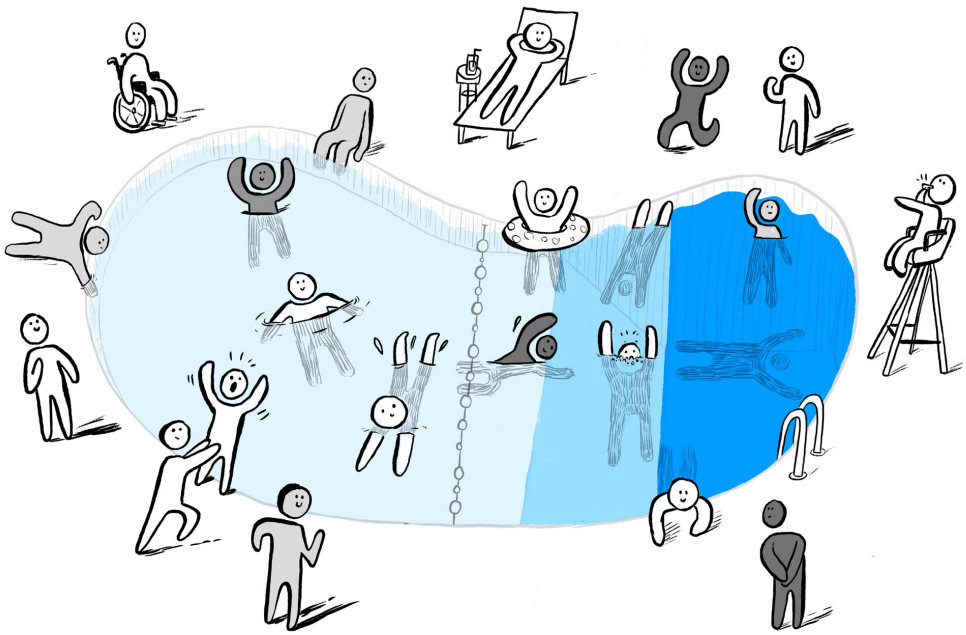

Wrap up

What is God inviting you to take away from this session, and what one thing might you do about this?

Before next time

Talk to God about how you feel about leadership. What might be holding you back from dipping your toe into the leadership pool, or taking a step further into it? What might he be saying to you?

Pray

Lord Jesus,
thank you that you are more concerned
with my availability than my ability.
As I seek to lead others towards you,
give me eyes to see where I can serve,
a heart ready to care,
and hands willing to act,
all for the growth of your kingdom.
Amen.

Go deeper

Want to explore further? Take a look at the ideas below. To access resources and links use the QR code and then scroll down to the Go Deeper section.

- **Reflect**
  Additional handout – 'Leadership definitions'.
- **Read**
  Growing Leaders, James Lawrence (CPAS), pp. 27–48.
- **Watch**
  The Chosen, Series 4 Episode 4: a dramatisation of Matthew 20:20–28.
  An encouraging story of a leader noticing, caring and acting.
- **Listen**
  Hwa Yung on leadership and servanthood.
- **Challenge**
  Notice. Care. Act.
  Ask God to help you notice an opportunity you care enough about to serve others — then act on it, however small. Keep a note of each time you do.

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