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“What it means to be a leader”

In this month’s study we will discuss what it means to be a leader. There are so many different aspects that play into the responsibility of being leaders. We will not cover them all, but we will discuss a few below. Feel free to discuss others challenges or responsibilities not listed.

Accountability as a leader- what does it mean to be accountable?

No matter where we may find our selves in the kingdom of God, accountability is imperative. Whether we are leaders or not, wisdom says for everyone to be accountable to some one of like faith. However, as it particularly pertains to leaders, we should be accountable. **Romans 14:13 says this, “ Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God.”** This account will happen as we enter heaven, however, what about while we are functioning in our leadership roles here on earth?

The story of David and his affair with Bathsheba is an example of a leader that failed to establish structure/accountability. He failed to be answerable on how he spends his time privately and professionally. This to is an example of the danger of living a life without accountability. Though David may have hid his sin from his associates, he could not hid it from God. **Numbers 32:23** speaks about how our sins will find us out. God sees what is done in secret, and nothing is hidden from him. **(Hebrews 4:13)** Effective leaders use the same standards for themselves that they apply to others. They hold them selves accountable just like everyone else on their team.

What are some reasons that you believe accountability is important?

What are some ways that you are accountable currently? Who is your accountability? What will you do to improve accountability moving forward?

Let’s not ruin our witness- How to avoid ruining your witness.

As leaders, we have individuals (known and unknown) that are watching us. We have sheep we are responsible for, and we will have to give account for their lives. It is so important to lead by example. **Matthew 5:16** says this... **let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”**

Matthew 5:13 says...**“we are the salt and the life of the earth.”** As leaders, it’s also important to realize this, **1 Corinthians 10:23**, **“ You say, “ I am allowed to do anything”---- but not everything is good for you. You say, “ I am allowed to do anything, but not everything is beneficial.”** In other words, using wisdom in our decision process a leaders is key. Although actions may not be sinful, is there a possibility that this action could ruin my witness? Could a new believer see me do this, and be effected in a not so positive way? Could me being in this place be perceived in a negative manner? Even though I was joking, was that appropriate to say? **1 Thessalonians 5:22 (KJV) says to abstain from all appearance of evil.”** In other if it looks or could be perceived as sinful, steer clear.

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Share a time where you made a conscious decision to shun the appearance of evil to avoid ruining your witness?

What are some things or decisions you make on a daily basis to avoid ruining your witness?

Leading while limping- don't give up!

Being a leader can be tough. There are some times we feel "knocked down" but we have to keep pushing. There is nowhere in the Bible where it says we will not experience tough times. **(Matthew 7:13)** However, we should remain reminded what **Deuteronomy 31:8 (AMP)** says, " **It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you. He will not fail you or abandon you. Do not fear or be dismayed.**" The truth is, at some point in our leadership role, we will encounter a limp causing injury. However, what is most important is for us not to give up at this place.

Are you currently leading while limping? Explain?

What are some strategies and techniques that you find helpful that you to get you through a season of limping?

Trusting God through test

Another component of leadership are test. Tests are not presented to hurt or harm us. They are not given to knock us down or make us crumble. Instead, they are created to allow us to growth in our faith in God. **1 Peter 1:6-8 (AMP)** says it this way, " **In this you rejoice greatly, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the geniuses of your faith, which is much more precious that gold which is perishable, even though tested and purified by fire, may be found to result in your praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**" Be encouraged through your tests, they make our faith muscle strong.

What was a time you remembered being tested and how did you push through/overcome?

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Name a time that a testimony came out of your test. (Romans 8:28)

Use the rest of your time together to reflect on this study. What stood out to you the most? What was your major take away? Below are two action items to incorporate in your time with the Lord. Ask Him to give you wisdom in carrying them out!

1. **Value Accountability-** Accountability is so important. We must remain vulnerable about what we may be facing in every area of life. In choosing your accountability partner, be sure it is someone of like faith. Also, having an accountability partner of the same gender is the wisest choice. Find a leader or friend that has the same convictions that you do.

2. **Pursue the heart of God-** We can discuss many more components that exist and challenges that we face in being a leader. The truth of the matter is being a leader can be tough stuff. Nevertheless, our God is faithful and we must stay reminded that to whom much is given, much is required. **(Luke 12:48)** The Lord has imparted greatness on the inside of us. In all things, let's remember to always pursue the heart of God. In every decision we make as leaders, pursuing the heart of God should be where the heart of our decision-making lies.