

# LEADERS MUST FOLLOW JESUS

## Introduction

Jesus was the greatest leader the world has ever seen. He gave his life to save us. Yet he told his disciples that he came to serve.

Christian leaders must follow the example Jesus set by serving others and always considering what Jesus would have done.

## Key Points

- Leaders should examine themselves to see if they have the qualities to lead others.
- Leaders should care for their churches - they should listen and put others first.
- Follow a plan to develop your leadership skills: Pray, read your bible, read other commentators but work out your own salvation.
- Then share God's word with others. Invite them to consider your ideas but to read the Bible themselves and work out their own salvation.

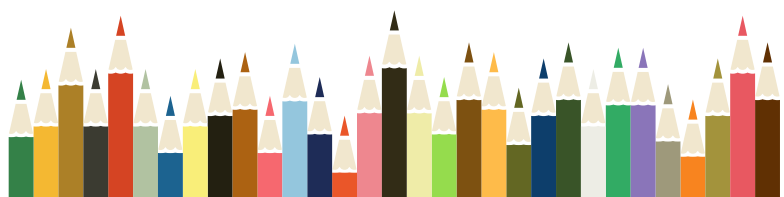


## Becoming a Christian Leader

**1. Pray.** Jesus always gave thanks to his heavenly Father and asked him for what he needed. Leaders should always acknowledge God and ask him for what they need. Matthew 26:36, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, James 1:5.

**2. Read your Bible.** Jesus quoted from Scripture. We should read God's word and put it into practise to show others we are following Jesus. Luke 4:4-12, 2 Timothy 2:15.

**3. Read other comments** but pray for wisdom to understand and be able to share the deeper things of God. If you don't know the answer, say so, don't pretend you know. 1 Thessalonians 5:21.





## What do you think?

- How can you tell a true Christian leader?
- Do all Christian leaders demonstrate the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)?
- What can you contribute to your community?
- How did Jesus demonstrate great leadership? What Bible verses say so?

## Further Reading

- What were Paul's instructions to elders and deacons in the early churches? Which Scriptures would you quote?
- What do you think of these verses: 1 Timothy 3:1-12, 2 Timothy 2:14-15; 23-26?
- What does Acts 20:28 teach us?
- Can women be leaders? What does Romans 16:1 mean to you?
- Read Ephesians 4:11-13. What does that teach us?
- Should all Christians be leaders? How? When? What verses would support your answers?

**4. Be a servant.** Examine yourself and your motives and make sure you are working for the good of others, not just yourself. Matthew 20:26-28, 2 Corinthians 13:5.

**5. Practise what you preach.** You must do what you tell others to do. Admit your mistakes, ask for forgiveness, do not judge others. Encourage them. Matthew 7:4-5, 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

**6. Build relationships.** Jesus always knew the hearts of the people so that his leadership met their needs. We also need to get to know each other and develop relationships, even if we do not agree on everything. Romans 12:18, 1 Peter 3:8.

**7. Make decisions but also encourage others to grow.** Effective leaders listen then make decisions. Sometimes they encourage others to make the decisions or to lead too. Good leaders support others to grow. 1 Peter 5:2, 1 Timothy 2:2, Hebrews 13:17.

**8. Demonstrate faith.** Good leaders do not always know what is going to happen but they show that they trust in God and that all will be well in the future. Romans 8:28.

**Summary** - Pray, read the Bible, serve others, build relationships, demonstrate faith and always encourage. God will bless you if you ask him for His help. Always ask yourself: **What would Jesus do?**

