

TAKE THE LEAD

leaders
need to p

LEADER'S GUIDE

introduction

Welcome to *Take the Lead: Leaders Need to P*. Focusing on the heart of leadership, *Take the Lead* is a training resource to start your teenagers on their Christian leadership journey. The second in the series, “Leaders need to P” is the next step in training for older teens that have a leadership role.

This **Leader’s Guide** works in tandem with a **Participant’s Workbook** and an optional **Bible Reading Guide**. Together these resources are designed to instruct young leaders in some basic leadership principles.

In this course there are four sessions:

- » Leaders Need to **Pray**
- » Leaders Need to **Prepare**
- » Leaders Need to **Persevere**
- » Leaders Need to **Play**

Even though the sessions in this Leader’s Guide are written like a script, feel free to personalise the content. You’ll be more effective that way!

The **Leader’s Guide** contains outlines for each session including group activities, videos and questions. Everything you need for each session is provided - see ‘Preparing for the Course’ for more details. Each session takes around 30 minutes depending on how much time you give to discussion/activities. You could either do all four sessions as a leadership training day or you could do it as part of a leader’s meeting/home group and do one session each time you meet.

I hope you and your group will find this material helpful as you seek to release their leadership potential!

Dion Fasi, AYM Youth Ministry Consultant, Auckland

MORE IN THE ‘TAKE THE LEAD’ SERIES:

LEADERS HAVE I’S: Leaders Have Influence, Integrity, Initiative, Imagination
LEADERS CAN C: Leaders Can Collaborate, Connect, Coordinate & Celebrate

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preparing for the course

- » **Print the Participant’s Workbooks** - these are located on a disc at the back of this Leaders Guide.
*Note: Throughout the sessions there are several words in **ORANGE CAPITAL LETTERS**. These words are the answers for the ‘fill-in-the-blanks’ sections found in the workbook. If you would prefer to provide full notes (rather than filling in the blanks) there is an alternative workbook provided on the CD.*
- » **Download & embed the videos into the supplied Powerpoint file** (also located on the disc). All the videos for this course are available on the “Anglican Youth Ministries” Youtube Channel, in the “Leaders Need to P” playlist: bit.ly/1dpl7GJ.
For instructions on embedding videos, see aym.org.nz/embeddingvideos
- » **Decide how you want to use or incorporate the Bible readings.** You could use them as an introduction to your teaching session, readings for your young leaders to do during the week after your session, examples of the attribute you’re teaching, and/or part of your prayer time together.
- » **Pray that God will use the course to grow the gift of leadership around you.**
- » **You may wish to plan ways to draw your church’s attention to the course, and its participants** e.g. through photos, testimonies, a presentation of certificates at the end of the course.

1

leaders need to pray

What you need for this session:

- » Projector with computer/laptop and speakers
- » Workbooks and pens

SLIDE 2: LEADERS NEED TO PRAY

SLIDE 3: PLAY VIDEO CLIP

“Best prayer EVER! Pastor Joe Nelms - Nascar Nationwide - Nashville, TN”

SLIDE 4

Prayer is about recognizing that God has what we **LACK**. Prayer is the primary way we access the **POWER** of God. Every great Christian leader in history relied heavily on prayer.

- » “God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.” John Wesley
- » “God shapes the world by prayer. The more prayer there is in the world the better the world will be.” E.M. Bounds
- » “Satan trembles when he sees the weakest Christian on his knees.” William Cowper
- » “Seven days without prayer makes one weak.” Allen E. Vartlett
- » “I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach.” Charles Spurgeon
- » “Prayer is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings.” Chrysostom
- » “We must begin to believe that God, in the mystery of prayer, has entrusted us with a force that can move the Heavenly world, and can bring its power down to earth.” Andrew Murray
- » “Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.” Oswald Chambers
- » “Ten minutes spent in the presence of Christ every day, even two minutes, will make the whole day different.” Henry Drummond



WORKBOOK ACTIVITY:

Highlight/underline the quote you find the most challenging or encouraging.

Read Matthew 6:9-13

In this passage Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray. His aim isn't so much to put words in our mouths, but more to give us a blueprint of God's will... after all, Jesus wouldn't teach us to pray for something that the Father didn't want to answer!



WORKBOOK QUESTION:

What does this prayer tell you God wants to do in your life and the lives of those around you?

The Bible encourages us to pray by ourselves privately, as well as together with others.



WORKBOOK QUESTIONS:

What do you like about praying by yourself? What don't you like about praying by yourself?

What do you like about praying with others? What don't you like about praying with others?

While it can be easy to recognize the importance of prayer, actually making prayer a regular habit can be more difficult.



WORKBOOK QUESTION:

What stops you from praying more regularly?

SLIDE 5

While we should try to make prayer a habit, it is not supposed to be a duty... it is a **PRIVILEGE**. God doesn't dictate when and how we should pray, rather he invites us to pray and promises that we will be blessed if we do. Prayer isn't something we have to do to make God happy...prayer is a gift to make us happy!

There are some things we can do to make prayer easier. Here are some ideas:

- » Pray outdoors. Go for a walk.
- » Try giving God the best time of your day rather than the leftovers. Praying last thing at night when you jump into bed is a great thing to do, but if it's the only time you pray you may find that you only manage a few sentences before you nod off! Getting up 10 minutes earlier so that you can spend some time with God before school/work might be a better idea.
- » Pray out loud. Even if you just whisper under your breath, the act of moving your lips stops your mind from wandering the way it does when you pray in your mind.
- » Be creative. Write, draw, sing... there are many different ways you can communicate with God.

- » Keep a journal where you list the things you've prayed about, and anything you feel like God has spoken to you. Make sure you record any answers to prayer... nothing makes you want to pray more than realizing how effective your prayers have been in the past!



Tell the group that they'll now have some time to pray by themselves.

Afterwards come back together and get each person to share one thing that they prayed about and/or anything they felt like God did/said/showed them.

After everyone has shared, pray about those things as a group. You could sit in a circle and go around the circle for prayer requests, getting each person to pray for what the person on the left shared.

SLIDE 6

***People only pray as much as they think they need to.
Many think they rarely need to.
The wise ones know they really need to.***

bible readings: pray

JOHN 17:1-26

Jesus prayed this just before he was arrested.

What do you like about this prayer?

What does this prayer show you about the character of Jesus?

Is there anything in this prayer that you could include in your prayers for your youth group? Spend some time praying for your youth group now.

PSALM 43

This Psalm is the prayer of someone who is obviously going through a hard time.

Does this Psalm encourage you in any way?

Use it to tell God about any hard times you're going through.

EPHESIANS 3:14-19

Paul prayed for the Ephesians that they might know the love of Christ. His love is so great that you need power to understand it!

Pray this prayer for yourself and for others today.

LUKE 18:1-8

In this parable the widow's persistence is used to challenge us to persevere in prayer. While God knows what we need before we even ask, sometimes we will need to pray continually and with persistence before we see the things we're praying for! (This is linked to the topic in Week 3 which is 'Leaders Need to Persevere').

Try setting yourself a prayer challenge for this year: pick one person or one thing that you're going to pray for consistently for as long as it takes to see something happen.

2

leaders need to prepare

What you need for this session:

- » Projector with computer/laptop
- » Workbooks, pens and Bibles

SLIDE 7: LEADERS NEED TO PREPARE

Have you ever had one of those dreams where you have to do something, or go somewhere, and you're totally unprepared for it? Maybe it's going to school in your pyjamas, or sitting an exam and you don't know any of the answers, or you're about to board an aeroplane but you didn't bring your ticket. It's such a relief when you wake up! It's bad enough when you're unprepared in a dream... but it's worse when it happens in real life. What could have been a great event or talk or game doesn't end up working out great because the work you needed to do beforehand didn't get done.

When we are gifted in something we can fall into the trap of thinking we can just wing it all the time. For example, if you're a good public speaker you might be tempted not to do much preparation for your talk. Or if you're good at leading games you may not bother thinking through what you'll do this week, because you can just make it up when you get there.

SLIDE 8

While you might be able to get away with “winging it” sometimes, good leaders value preparation because preparation releases your **POTENTIAL**. Usain Bolt is obviously a naturally fast sprinter, but it's unlikely he'd be world-record-fast without hours and hours of training. Our favourite singers and musicians may be naturally talented but they still put in huge amounts of preparation in order to create the music we love.

Often we just see the end result of things but it wouldn't be the same without preparation.

Read Matthew 25:1-13.

This is a parable about being prepared for the return of Jesus.



WORKBOOK QUESTIONS:

What was the mistake that the foolish bridesmaids made?

What can we learn from it regarding the tasks we are given?

Sometimes like the bridesmaids we overestimate how much we have and underestimate how much we need. A common example of this is with time. We overestimate how much time we have to do something and then we underestimate how much time we will need to do it. For example let's say you are down to do the talk at youth group for the coming week. You have some free time on Monday but you think, "That's okay I've got Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to write it". Then on Tuesday you think, "That's okay I've still got Wednesday and Thursday." You do the same on Wednesday. Problem is something comes up on Thursday and suddenly you're stuck with half an hour before youth group on Friday to frantically try and come up with something. This is called procrastination.

SLIDE 9

Procrastination is the **ENEMY** of preparation. Good preparation is about overestimating how much time we need and underestimating how much time we have. Think about how much better it would feel to have finished writing your talk on Monday!

Good time management helps you make the most of your week. Here are some possible ways to improve your time management:

- » If you are someone who often runs out of time, try doubling your estimates. So, for example, if you think half an hour should be long enough to drive to the shops, give yourself an hour. That way if it takes longer than you expected (maybe there were road works) then you should still have time to do it.
- » Ask someone to keep you accountable with how you are managing your time.
- » Keep a diary or planner. Check it daily, and don't just check for today - look over the upcoming week as well. If there is an event that requires preparation make sure you write in the preparation time for it earlier as well. Often we run out of time to prepare because we prioritize the things we want to do above the things we need to do.



WORKBOOK ACTIVITY:

Think about your typical week's timetable.

1. What are the immovable things? E.g. school, work, church. Write them in the timetable on the next page.

2. What are the things that are movable but you need to do? E.g. homework, chores. Write them in the timetable.

3. Now imagine that on Friday you are in charge of running a water balloon fight. You have also been asked to share your testimony at church on Sunday morning. Below is a list of tasks you will need to do to prepare for those two things. Add each task to the timetable.

- » **Buy water balloons**
- » **Write your testimony**
- » **Set up for water balloon fight, including finding buckets for the**

balloons, cones or something similar to mark home bases, and filling up the balloons

» *Pray for the upcoming Sunday service*

It's important to realize that preparation doesn't mean you'll never have to think on your feet or be flexible. Sometimes circumstances arise that you just can't be prepared for and that are out of your control. Also, preparation doesn't guarantee that it will turn out as amazing as we want it to be. But it will mean that you can be satisfied that you did your best.

Some personality types find it easier to be prepared than others. For those of you who are organized, detail-minded people you might need to be aware that it's possible to fall into the opposite trap of being over-prepared and worrying about having every tiny little detail sorted. Preparation is supposed to make you less stressed rather than more... so keep doing your prep but chill out a little bit!



WORKBOOK ACTIVITY:

Circle a number (1 being strongly disagree, 4 being strongly agree) for each of the statements below:

- » *I often leave things to the last minute*
- » *People describe me as organized*
- » *When given a task I often just 'wing it'*
- » *I often wish I had spent more time preparing*
- » *I often underestimate how much time it will take to do something*
- » *I think well on my feet*
- » *I am always apologizing for being late*
- » *I over-prepare and stress out about every tiniest detail or potential problem*
- » *People get frustrated at my lack of preparation*
- » *I easily forget or overlook things I need to bring or do*
- » *I use a diary/planner*
- » *I struggle to be flexible with what I have prepared*



WORKBOOK QUESTION:

Looking at these statements, what changes do you need to make, and how will you make them?

SLIDE 10

Preparation helps you avoid desperation.

bible readings: prepare

LUKE 14:28-30

Jesus spoke this parable to challenge people to consider the cost of becoming his disciple.

What can we learn from this in regards to the task we might be required to do as leaders?

ESTHER 3:13-4:17

This passage is a description of Esther preparing to meet with the King of Persia. To visit the King unannounced had the penalty of death, so Esther's decision was very courageous. But Esther knew that she needed to be prepared, which is why she set aside time for fasting. She knew that unless she had time, both to prepare herself and to dedicate the situation to God, she had no chance.

Sometimes we find leadership easy, and sometimes leadership requires us to be courageous and do difficult things. But regardless of the situation it is always important to set aside time for preparation and for God. Ask God to help you manage your time well, so that you can feel prepared and so that you can dedicate what you do to God.

JOSHUA 3:5

Joshua was given the task of taking the Israelites across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land. In this verse he tells the people to consecrate themselves because of what God was about to do. Consecration was a spiritual preparation: getting rid of what is not pleasing to God and dedicating them afresh to God. As Christian leaders it's a good idea to consecrate ourselves before we go to youth group.

What would that look like for you? If possible try fitting in half an hour before youth group to go for a walk and spend some time with God. This will help you to prepare you spiritually.

PROVERBS 21:31

In this verse we see that even if we prepare well, ultimately we need to trust in the Lord.

Spend some time praying that God would take your preparation and add his grace and power.

3

leaders need to persevere

What you need for this session:

- » Projector with computer/laptop and speakers
- » Workbooks, pens and Bibles
- » Prize for game e.g. chocolate bar

SLIDE 11



Play an endurance game (e.g. who can stay in a wall squat the longest? Who can do a prone-hold position the longest? Or who can stare without blinking the longest?). Make sure you give a prize to the winner(s) to highlight the message that perseverance brings reward.

SLIDE 12: PLAY VIDEO CLIP

“Perhaps the best exit from a reality show ever.”

SLIDE 13

Leaders don't give up easily - they stick it out even when things get tough. Leaders see hardship as an opportunity to be **FAITHFUL** rather than a reason to quit. They know that good things often take time. It's a pretty safe bet that at some point in your leadership you will experience conflict, disappointment and failure. Many people hit those times and quit. However, while giving up may cause those uncomfortable feelings to stop, it may also mean you miss out on the lessons and blessings that come with perseverance.

Read Hebrews 12:1-2 and Philippians 3:12-14

These passages give us a key to perseverance - our **FOCUS**. The Hebrews passage tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus, while the Philippians passage tells us to keep our eyes on the prize.



WORKBOOK QUESTIONS:

What are some practical ways to help us fix our eyes on Jesus?

What things are you finding difficult or frustrating about youth group at the moment?

SLIDE 14

Often it will be **RELATIONSHIPS** that are at the centre of our difficult times. This is because leadership is about **PEOPLE**, and people are **COMPLICATED**. One of the biggest lessons you can learn is how to persevere with people... believing the best in them, working hard to reconcile and sorting through your differences whenever conflict happens. Perseverance requires a commitment to relationships. As well as being the source of a lot of our difficulties, relationships are also one of the main things that help us persevere through difficult situations. We need to stay **CONNECTED** to others who can support and encourage us, and who we can offer support and encouragement to in return.



WORKBOOK QUESTIONS:

What relationships are you glad you have? What do you value about them?

Can you think of a situation where you persevered with someone - someone you were having trouble with and you are glad you didn't give up on?

SLIDE 15

Perseverance also involves a commitment to growing in different **SKILLS** and **GIFTS**. For example, if your first try at doing the talk at youth group doesn't go well that's not a reason to never do it again. That just means you need to keep trying, trusting that you will get better.



WORKBOOK QUESTIONS:

Is there something you are confident at now that you were terrible at when you first started?

Can you think of something that you wished you hadn't given up on?

SLIDE 16: PLAY VIDEO CLIP

"AMAZING Runner falls gets back up and wins"

SLIDE 17

***Persevere... today's trial will give way
to tomorrow's triumph.***

bible readings: persevere

JAMES 1:12

Perserverance can be difficult, however this verse gives us a promise for when we have “stood the test”.

What reason does this verse give us for not giving up when times get tough?

GALATIANS 6:9-10

Sometimes serving others can feel like hard work. We don't always see the fruit of our efforts straight away. People may take us for granted. But here Paul encourages us to continue doing good to all people.

Ask God to give you grace and encouragement this week.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

This verse promises that God will always persevere with us. What he's started in us he will bring to completion.

Bring those things in your life that you know God has been persevering in trying to teach you and change to be more like Jesus.

Thank him for the way he's never given up on you and ask him to continue to bring change and breakthrough.

EPHESIANS 6:1-18

This passage reveals that sometimes our struggles are against unseen enemies. Paul gives us a list of things that act like spiritual armour for us in this struggle so that we can persevere till the end.

Occasionally when we are struggling we need extra help from God. Make a list of all the different items of armour that Paul mentions. Pray through the list, asking God to help you to put on each item. You may want to stick this list on your wall so that, if you are ever struggling, you can return to it and pray through it again with God.

4

leaders need to play

What you need for this session:

- » Projector with computer/laptop
- » Workbooks and pens
- » Props for activity (see below)



Split everyone up into teams of 2 or 3. Give each team a set of props. Inform the teams that they have 5 minutes to create an impromptu game with those props. Then get each team to run the game for the others. Below are some ideas for sets of props:

- » Apples, blindfolds, road cones
- » Rugby ball, 2 brooms, marshmallows
- » Bread rolls, paper plates, shaving cream
- » Weetbix, balloons, socks

SLIDE 18: LEADERS NEED TO PLAY

This session is called ‘Leaders Need to Play’. Leadership is a serious business, but that doesn’t mean it shouldn’t also be fun! In fact the ability to have fun is an important characteristic for leaders to have. Pessimism and angst can be infectious within a group, and the fruit of that is never good. Youth leaders should instead aim to create an atmosphere of **JOY**, as there’s nothing more attractive than a group of happy people. It doesn’t mean you don’t acknowledge pain, or that there’s never a time to be serious, but you want your youth group to be a place where people enjoy themselves.

Playful leaders are worth more to your youth group than a basketball hoop or a PS4. Objects may create an environment but people create a culture.

Good leaders have **FUN** and they help others have fun. They don’t take themselves too seriously and they **ENJOY** what they’re doing. They use the resources they have but they understand that their best resource is their **ATTITUDE**. When you actually join in on youth group games, rather than just policing the rules, the young people will enjoy the games so much more. And while organized games can be great, some of the most fun can be had when the leader starts doing something spontaneous. In the hands of a playful leader a smartphone with music on it can become an impromptu dance party; an apple core can become a game of ball tigg.



WORKBOOK ACTIVITY:

Circle which of the following sentences are often true of you:

- » *I am generally a happy person*
- » *I find it easy to relax*
- » *I can take myself too seriously*
- » *I like to see people having fun*
- » *I often sit back and observe games rather than participating in them*
- » *I am aware of people on the fringes and seek to draw them into the fun*
- » *I think people could describe me as a 'smiley' person*
- » *I don't mind looking silly if it helps others have a good time*
- » *I am more concerned that rules than I am that people are being followed than that people are enjoying themselves*
- » *When there is 'free time' in the youth programme I often get something fun happening*
- » *Feeling self-conscious often keeps me from doing something I would enjoy doing*

For those of us who are naturally quieter and more reserved, we may need to be more intentional in being playful than those who are naturally bubbly and excitable. On the other hand, those of us with bubbly and excitable personalities may need to be more intentional regarding listening to people and being sensitive to their needs.



Instruct the group that on the count of 3 everyone is going to give the biggest smile possible, which they will hold for 30 seconds. As an alternative (or additional) exercise get the group to laugh as loud as they can for 30 seconds.

Be aware that some people may find this very difficult. Challenge the group to do it but don't force it as there is the potential for self-esteem issues to come up here.



1. Put your hand up if you found it difficult to smile/laugh for 30 seconds. What was difficult about it?
2. How many of you found that hearing and seeing others laughing made you feel like laughing more?
3. How much do you think your youth group has a 'culture of joy'? Imagine a scale across the room, with the wall to our left being 'Not Joyful' and the wall to our right being 'Super Joyful'. Stand in the spot you think your youth group is.

As well as having fun at youth group, it's important that leaders have fun outside of their ministry as both individuals and as a leadership team.



WORKBOOK QUESTION

What do you enjoy doing apart from youth group? How do you think doing these things might help you be a better leader?



How could your leadership team 'play' more together?

SLIDE 19

Being serious about leadership doesn't mean you have to be a 'serious' leader



You may like to do something social as a team after this session e.g. ten pin bowling, dinner or a movie.

bible readings: play

ISAIAH 61:3

This is a prophecy about what Jesus would do. We see that he came to give us joy and gladness.

Ask God to fill you and your youth group with joy!

GENESIS 2:2

God rested from his work, and this later became the foundation for his command to keep the Sabbath holy.

What does rest look like for you?

What would help you rest well?

MATTHEW 18:3


If there's one thing children know how to do, it's play.

Do something fun today and consciously invite the Holy Spirit to join you. Try and be aware of his presence with you throughout.

ECCLESIASTES 3:13

When we have been working hard it is important to remember to set aside time for fun! But when we are enjoying ourselves remember that this is God's gift to you and be sure to thank him.

Spend some time thanking God for the things you enjoy in life.



Do you want to turn the leadership potential you see in your teenagers into reality?

Are you keen to show your existing young leaders what a difference following Jesus makes to how they lead?

Are you looking for leadership training that is straightforward, grounded in scripture, adaptable, and fun?

Focusing on the heart of leadership, *Take the Lead* is a training resource to start your teenagers on their Christian leadership journey. The second in the series, “Leaders need to P” is the next step in training for older teens that have a leadership role.

In this resource we focus on four P’s that every leader needs to do: Pray, Persevere, Prepare and Play. Recognising that teenagers learn best when they are having fun, each module contains a mix of discussion questions, games, workbook activities, PowerPoint slides, bible readings and video clips. All you need to run your own leadership training!

aym

EQUIPPING ANGLICAN CHURCHES TO MINISTER TO TEENAGERS

Anglican Youth Ministries (AYM) facilitates youth ministry in the Anglican Diocese of Auckland. We offer parishes support, training and resources, as well as combined youth group events and camps.

To find out more about how we can support youth ministry in your church, contact us on 09 302 7261 or admin@aym.org.nz

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