

Ministry Team Discussion Guide – April 2011

This past month, our leadership articles (found on leadership.churchoftheking.com) have focused on the following spiritual aspects of leadership:

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Being a servant
- 3) Courage

- Of these three aspects of spiritual leadership, which do you think you are the best at? Which one do you find to be the most challenging? Why?

Leaders understand that in order to effectively lead we must first of all rely on God to be our strength. This dependence on God is born out of our growing relationship with Him, which is developed through our times of prayer.

King Solomon gives us a good example of a leader who cried out to God in order to become a great leader when he said, *“Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?”* (2 Chronicles 1:10).

When God has called you into a life of leadership, He puts people in your life that you must pray for. We must seek His divine intervention, wisdom, and empowerment to lead effectively.

- Do you find yourself praying regularly for those God has called you to lead? Why or why not?
- When you do pray for those you are leading, do you find that God works to accomplish things you could never do on your own? Please explain.
- What can you do to become consistent in praying for those you are currently leading?

When we pray, we will find that our love for God and for others will continually grow (Matthew 22:37-39). When this happens, we will find that our desire to serve others will grow.

J. Oswald Sanders, in Spiritual Leadership says, *“Jesus’ master principle: True greatness, true leadership, is found in giving yourself in service to others, not in coaxing or inducing others to serve you.”*

- Serving others is the greatest call of a leader. How does the idea of “servant leadership” differ from how a lot of people view leadership?

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:26-28

- What can you do to begin to imitate Jesus’ servant leadership?

When we make the decisions to pray for those we lead and serve them with a pure heart, we will begin to lead with courage.

- How would you define courage?

Courage can be defined as doing the right things, even when they aren't convenient, popular, or easy, and courage is obtained through daily decisions.

- Why do you think courage is such an important quality for leaders to have?

Leaders gain influence through the daily decisions to love people the way God loves them, by serving them and by living as an example for others to follow. The Apostle Paul, one of the greatest leaders who has ever lived, said *"Follow me as I follow Christ."* (1 Corinthians 11:1).

As we continue to desire to grow as leaders, we need to focus on developing our prayer life, our servant's heart, and our ability to lead courageously. When we focus on these important characteristics, then we will begin to see God increase our ability to lead.