

## HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

### Option 1: Use this in a Group Setting

1. Follow along in this Facilitator Guide and you'll find instructions, timeframes, and extra notes just for you. The Student Handout is a separate file. Be sure to make copies for each student in your group.
2. Make sure you have what you need for the optional Live It Out activity.

### Option 2: Use this in a Mentoring Relationship, or for an individual student

- Make a copy of the Student Handout and give it (or send it) to the student. All the instructions he or she needs are in that handout.

## ✓ OBJECTIVE:

There are a lot of thoughts out there about what makes a good leader, from personality types, to skills, to appearance. Even though we might say that anyone can be a leader, students often have some preconceived notions about the kind of people that make good leaders. They think, *If I'm going to be a leader, I need to become like that.* This study focuses on helping students see that there isn't just one type of leader, and there certainly isn't a "right" type. In fact, when students understand and embrace the unique way God has wired them, they will be leading at their best and have the greatest influence.

### ? OPENING QUESTIONS:

2–3 minutes

- What are a few words to describe someone who is a leader?
- What are some misconceptions of leadership?

**Facilitator Note:** If your group of students is small enough, you can have each person share their answer. For larger groups, have them pair and share to answer these questions.

### 📖 BIBLE BACKGROUND:

20–25 minutes

#### **Read the following together:**

Leaders come from all different places, and they lead in all different ways. Yes, there are some things all leaders must do in order to be good leaders (like have integrity and character, and communicate with their followers), but there's no cookie cutter leadership profile. Leaders come from all different backgrounds. They aren't all pastors' kids. They didn't all grow up in the church. They aren't all A students—or F students for that matter. Leaders come with all kinds of personalities: introverts, extroverts, task-focused, relationship-focused. And leaders lead in different ways. Some are great at casting the vision from up front and rallying a crowd. Others inspire their teams through notes of encouragement or conversations over cups of coffee. Leaders are different.

Take a look at some of the great leaders in the New Testament. These are people who followed Christ deeply, influenced entire cities and countries, set the church in motion, and even gave up their lives for Christ. Here are some glimpses of where they came from, what their experiences were, and even a little bit of their personality.

#### **Read each Bible passage and answer the questions below.**

##### **1. Matthew 4:18–20**

*As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fisherman. "Come follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."*

#### **Discuss:**

- What background did Peter and Andrew have?
- How do you think Peter and Andrew were viewed? What status did they have before following Christ?
- How might Peter and Andrew's background be positive or helpful in their leadership?

### 2. **Mark 2:14–15**

As he [Jesus] walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

#### **Discuss:**

- What background did Levi have?
- How do you think Levi was viewed? What status did he have before following Christ?

**Facilitator Note:** Tax collectors were generally hated by their fellow Jews. As you can see in this passage, tax collectors and "sinners" are grouped together. They were viewed as dishonest swindlers who had sided with the Roman oppressors over their own people.

- How might Levi's background be a positive thing when leading others toward Christ?

### 3. **Philippians 3:4b–6**

If anyone thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews' in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

#### **Discuss:**

- What background did the Apostle Paul have?

**Facilitator Note:** Pharisees were highly educated (especially in religious law) and held prominent positions in society.

- How do you think Paul was viewed? What status did he have before following Christ?
- When Paul turned his life around and followed Christ, what parts of his background could be helpful in his pursuit of Godly leadership?

### 4. **Acts 4:36–37**

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

#### **Discuss:**

- What background did Barnabas have?
- How do you think Barnabas was viewed? What status did he have?
- Who are the Barnabases in your school or church?

### **LIVE IT OUT: Leadership Profile** (For use one-on-one or in a group setting)

10-15 minutes

Take some time to build a leadership profile of yourself. Think through all the different parts of your life that can contribute to (or take away from) your influence of others. Answer the following questions, and then consider sharing your responses with a friend or mentor who can give you feedback or even add to your profile.

- What are some **experiences** you've had that equipped you to be a godly leader?
- Do you know your **spiritual gifts**? How can you use your spiritual gifts to influence others?
- What **talents** or **abilities** do you have? How can you use these abilities to influence others?
- What are you **passionate** about (what do you love to do)? How can you use that passion in your leadership?
- Who do you **connect** with that other people might struggle to connect with? How can you influence those people in a godly way?

**Facilitator Note:** A great way to solidify the idea that all kinds of people can be leaders and lead uniquely is to have each student report to the rest of the group on of their answers to each question. If your group is large, take volunteers or have students get into small groups of two or three and share their responses. Writing down your unique leadership style is one thing, but sharing it with another person will take it even deeper.

If you are working with a student leadership team or mentoring a student, ask if you can make a copy of this Leadership Profile that they made. This will help you challenge each student and encourage them in very intentional ways.

### **APPLY IT:**

2-3 minutes

Think back over your answers in your Leadership Profile. What is something you can do in the next week to lead (in a formal or informal leadership situation) that takes into account your special gifts and wiring?

#### **Be specific:**

What are you going to do?

When are you going to do it?

Is there someone who can keep you accountable?

**Facilitator Note:** Whenever students make applications, challenge them to be specific. It's one thing to say, "I'm going to trust God more." The truth is, our students won't really know if they did this, or if they grew in trust over the week. It's another thing to say, "Every morning this week before I eat breakfast, I'm going to tell God that today is his and that I trust him, and I'm going to ask him to give me the strength to replace worries with trust." Challenge your students to answer the questions under the "Be Specific" section. You can even have them pair up, share their applications, and ask for accountability from their partner. Also, make sure students choose applications appropriate to their maturity levels. One student may be deeply challenged by a certain application, while another student wouldn't get much out of it.

### **PARTING THOUGHTS:**

*"We are all talented people. Anything whereby we may glorify God is a talent." —J.C. Ryle*

### **PRAY:**

Spend some time praying with students about their leadership roles. If your group is small enough, pray a unique prayer of encouragement for each student, affirming their unique skills and leadership style.