

## Sample (Session Three) from *The Leader's Example*

This sample session is taken from the Learner's Guide, which every learner is required to obtain. The Instructor's Guide has the exact same content but also includes PowerPoint Slides, Exams, Leader's Notes and Instructor Tips for teaching each session.

### Look For These Unique Design Features In This Session:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Session Outline</b>      | – Listed on the first page to provide a brief overview.   |
| <b>Objectives</b>           | – A primary educational objective, plus detailed supporting objectives for each main concept.                       |
| <b>Main Diagram</b>         | – Each module has a main diagram to provide a “You Are Here” visual for the learner.                                |
| <b>Diagrams &amp; Boxes</b> | – Many diagrams and visuals to enhance and support the teaching concepts.   |
| <b>Bolded Key Points</b>    | – The key points are bolded in a concise way for the Instructor and Learner to easily grasp the essential concepts. |
| <b>Outline Format</b>       | – All sessions use an easy-to-follow outline format to make the lesson easy to teach and easy to learn.             |
| <b>Point to Ponder</b>      | – Summary or climactic thoughts placed in a shaded oval area to provide emphasis or interaction.                    |
| <b>Group Application</b>    | – Every session has a Group Application at the end for small group activity, interaction, and assessment.           |
| <b>Discussion Questions</b> | – Further questions for discussion and reflection.  |
| <b>Appendices</b>           | – Added material to study the topic further or provide assessments and resource tools.                              |

## *The Leader's Example*

**Contains Seven Sessions**

### **Teaching Sessions**

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Session 2: Coming to Our Example .....	2-1
Session 3: Following Our Example .....	3-1
Session 4: Being Like Our Example .....	4-1
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**There are seven sessions in *The Leader's Example* module. The circled session shown above is printed in this book to provide a sample for you.**

## SESSION OUTLINE

### **A. Introduction: Two Key Diagrams.**

1. Module Diagram.
2. Session Diagram.

### **B. Godly Character – Following a Moral Compass.**

1. Definition of character.
2. Character is tested and proven through pressure.
3. Character is revealed in crisis – not formed in it.
4. Character is measured by what we are willing to surrender.
5. Character is a lifetime pursuit.
6. Character is not charisma.
7. Character is fearing God, not man.
8. Character is shaped by the company we keep.

### **C. Eight Areas of Godly Character.**

1. Holiness.
2. Integrity.
3. Honesty.
4. Humility.
5. Self-control.
6. Selflessness.
7. Compassion.
8. Perseverance.

## SESSION OBJECTIVES

### Primary Objective:

To understand how the second phase of discipleship (Following Jesus) focuses on Godly character as a moral compass so that ministry leaders will become people of Godly character and produce disciples who do the same.

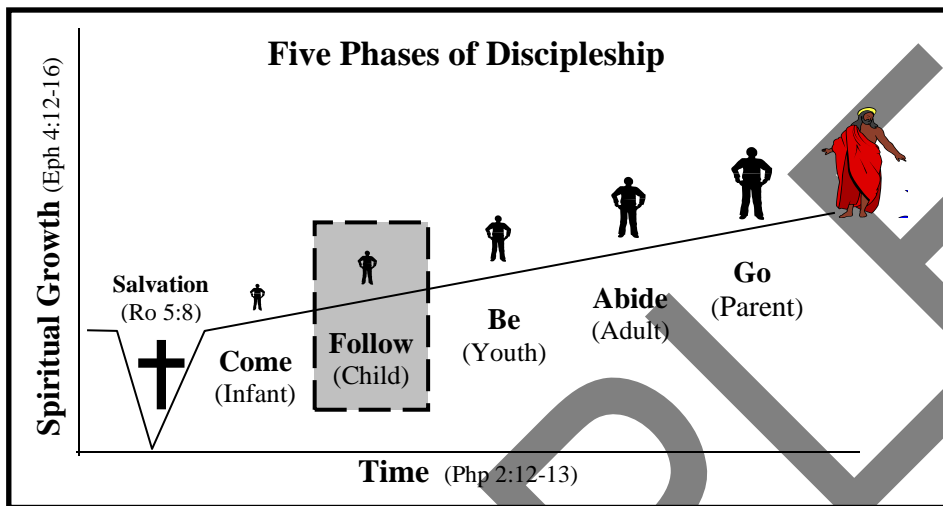
### Supporting Objectives:

- A. Participants will be able to identify the module and session diagrams that describe Following Our Example.
- B. Participants will be able to list eight characteristics of godly character.
- C. Participants will be able to explain eight distinct areas of godly character.

## A. Introduction: Two Key Diagrams.

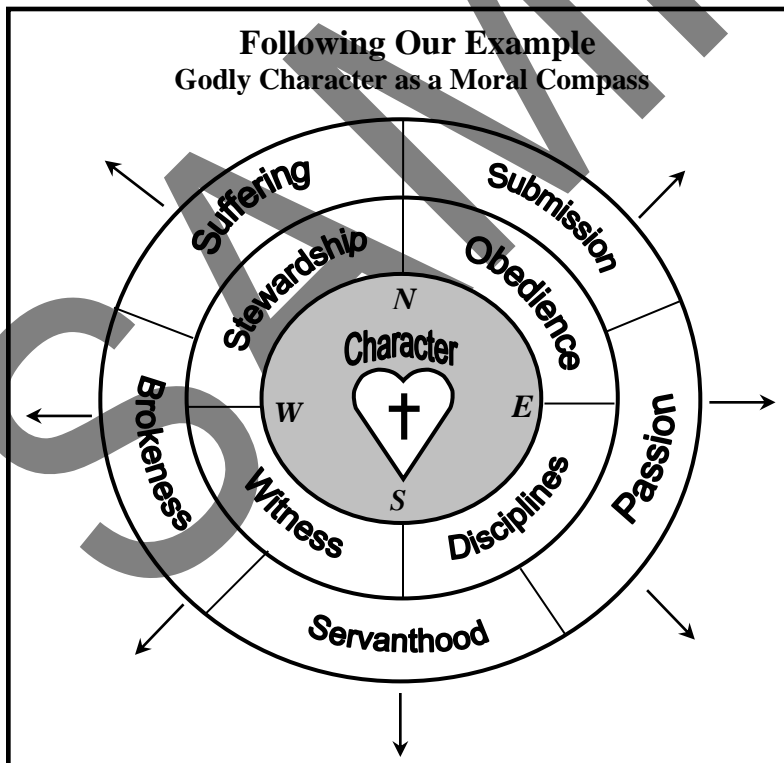
### 1. Module Diagram.

This session focuses on the Follow (Child) phase of discipleship.



### 2. Session Diagram.

This session focuses on Godly character as a moral compass.



## B. Godly Character – Following a Moral Compass.

### 1. **Definition of character.**

The word *character* comes from a Greek word that means an engraving instrument. A character is an impressed image that corresponds with the original pattern. Likewise, God desires His character to be impressed into ours.

### 2. **Character is tested and proven through pressure.**

Failure can have ultimate value, if life lessons are learned. Consider King David in 2Sa 12:13. Although he sinned grievously, the Lord restored him because of his repentant heart.

### 3. **Character is revealed in crisis – not formed in it.**

Character is what we default to in difficulty. Consider King Saul in 1Sa 15:22-23. The Lord rejected him as king because he failed to seek and obey the Lord during a crisis, costing him the throne.

### 4. **Character is measured by what we are willing to surrender.**

Consider Jonathan in 1Sa 23:17. Although he was next in line for the throne, Jonathan deferred to David as God's anointed choice.

### 5. **Character is a lifetime pursuit.**

We will each spend our life developing our character. Even though it will never be perfected here, we must keep on trying (Mt 5:48).

### 6. **Character is not charisma.**

People can have charisma (dynamic personalities and giftings), but no character. Personality and gifts can take you places, but you need character to keep you there.

### 7. **Character is fearing God, not man.**

Character is much more concerned with God's opinion than living for the praise and approval of man (Pr 29:25).

### 8. **Character is shaped by the company we keep.**

Associating with others of godly character will impact our own (Pr 4:13). And associating with others of ungodly character also will impact our character (1Co 15:33).

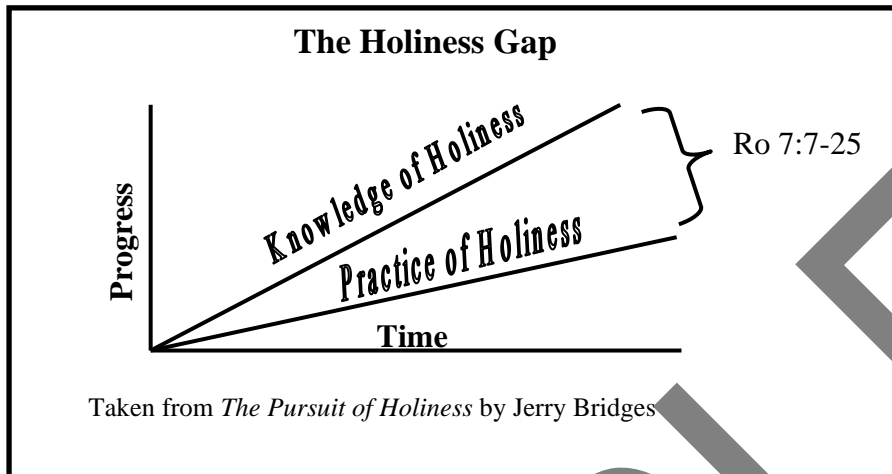
[See Appendix 3A,B]

### *Point to Ponder*

Character is who you are when no one is looking.

D.L. Moody

## C. Eight Areas of Godly Character.



### 1. Holiness.

- Holiness is being morally blameless and separated from sin.
- God is holy and expects us to be holy (Lev 11:44, 1Pe 1:15).
- God seeks holy vessels to do His work (2Ti 2:21).
- We must resist our evil desires and the evil one (Ro 7:7-25).

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### 2. Integrity.

#### a. Definition of integrity.

- Integrity comes from the word “integer” which means a whole number as opposed to a fraction. Integrity is the quality of being complete, consistent, undivided and morally sound.

#### b. Integrity in action.

- Integrity is telling the whole truth all the time.
- Integrity of character is letting your “yes” be “yes” and your “no” be “no” (Mt 5:37).
- If one area of our lives lacks integrity, it distorts the others. Like an integrated electrical circuit, if one transistor blows, the entire circuit shuts down.

### *Point to Ponder*

Holiness is nothing less than conformity  
to the character of God.

Jerry Bridges

### 3. **Honesty.**

- Honesty is a trait reflecting purity of thought, motive, and action. Whereas integrity is telling the whole truth all the time, honesty is telling a specific truth.
  - The opposite of honesty is lying. Lying is an outgrowth of deception...God hates it. It has severe consequences as seen in the case of Ananias and Sapphira (Ac 5:3-10).
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### 4. **Humility.**

#### a. **Humility is not humiliation.**

- Humility is the voluntary submission of oneself before God or others.
- Humiliation is the involuntary exposure of oneself before others.

#### b. **Humility is the opposite of pride.**

- Pride is the independent posture of the heart toward God and others – it has led to the downfall of many Christian leaders (2Ch 26:16).
- God always honors humility (1Pe 5:5) and gives grace to the humble but opposes the proud (Jas 4:6).

#### c. **Jesus is the model of humility.**

Jesus who surrendered Himself to the Father's will is the ultimate model of humility.

- *I have come down from heaven not to do my will...(Jn 6:38).*
  - *...I do nothing of my own...(Jn 8:28).*
  - *I am not seeking glory for Myself...(Jn 8:50).*
  - *He humbled Himself and became obedient to death (Php 2:8).*
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### 5. **Self-Control.**

#### a. **Self-destructive habits have consequences.**

- Someone who is a slave to destructive habits disqualifies himself or herself for the role of leadership, which demands being an example others can follow.
- Bad habits grow and will consume us if left alone.
- A bad habit is a choice you make that you can break by God's grace and power.

#### b. **Self-control requires self-examination.**

- You examine yourself daily to find out where you're failing or excelling (2Co 13:5).
  - You judge yourself and mend any defective areas you discover (1Co 11:28-31).
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## 6. Selflessness.

- Selflessness reflects an unselfish attitude, having less concern for oneself than for others.
  - *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:...* (Php 2:3-5).
  - By meeting others' needs, the Lord promises to take care of us (Lk 6:38).
  - The Good Samaritan was more concerned about the man who was beaten than his own inconvenience (Lk 10:30-37).
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## 7. Compassion.

- Compassion is an awareness of another person's distress coupled with a desire to ease it.
  - God's compassion for His people can be seen throughout the Old and New Testament and is an attribute of God Himself (Ps 116:5, Is 54:7, 2 Co 1:3, Ja 5:11).
  - Jesus had compassion on the crowds because He could see that they were helpless. On the other hand, He knew He could provide the help that they needed (Mt 9:36).
  - Without compassion, reaching out to others becomes an obligation and lacks credibility.
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## 8. Perseverance.

- Perseverance is the trait of not giving up, especially in the face of difficulty and opposition.
  - Perseverance produces a deepening and maturing effect in our lives. It causes us to trust Christ in a consistent, long-term manner.
  - *Because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup>Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing* (Ja 1:3, 4).
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### *Point to Ponder*

Sow a thought, reap an act. Sow an act, reap a habit.  
Sow a habit, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a destiny.

[See Appendix 3C]

## Group Application

### Assessing Your Character Growth

Assess yourself on the growth of your character over the last few years. Rate yourself from 1 to 10 (1 – low and 10 – high). Then identify any known obstacles to your character growth in a given area.

<u>Area of Character</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Obstacles</u>
1. Holiness	-	
2. Integrity	-	
3. Honesty	-	
4. Humility	-	
5. Forgiveness	-	
6. Selflessness	-	
7. Compassion	-	
8. Perseverance	-	

### Discussion Questions for Session 3

1. Why is godly character the anchor of the disciple's and leader's life?
2. Growing in godly character is an on-going process with victories as well as disappointments. How can a disciple and leader maximize personal growth in character?
3. Describe a time when someone you know demonstrated godly character in an impacting way.

## APPENDIX 3A

**Thoughts About A Leader's Character<sup>1</sup>****1. Our Talk Does Not Prove Our Character.**

A leader greatly needs character. We often say "I have integrity" or "He/She has integrity." However, many times these statements are mere words with no meaning. It is not our speech that indicates our character, but our actions. Our character establishes who we are. Who we are focuses or skews our perspective. Our perspective determines what we do and how we do it. Thus, our character cannot be separated from our actions. When what we do and our intentions constantly fight against each other, we must examine our character to find the reason why.

**2. We Choose Our Character.**

We have no control over many things in life. We are born into a family we did not choose. We did not choose the nation, birth order, or how our parents raised us. We cannot pick our talents, or how smart we are or how well we play sports. Our environment and circumstances are forced upon us without our choosing. However, we do choose our character. We create our character every time we choose to take the easy road instead of going through a hard situation, bend the truth instead of standing underneath the weight of it, or take the easy money instead of paying the price. The choices we make today will determine the character of tomorrow. Live your life uprightly for your actions will show others your character.

**3. Leaders Need Followers to Succeed.**

Leaders need other people that follow to be leaders. This is a simple truth. However, leaders many times take for granted the sacred trust they have with their followers. People do not trust leaders who have character flaws. A leader's lack of integrity creates feelings of suspicion in their followers. Over time, if the leader's actions continue to confirm his character flaws, people will stop following.

**4. Character Flaws Limit Success.**

Sometimes when very successful or talented people reach the top, they suddenly fall apart. The reason these people suddenly fall apart is that there is a flaw in their character. They are not able to stand up under the stress impressed upon them from their new level of success. Steven Berglas, a psychologist at Harvard Medical School and author of *The Success Syndrome*, says that people who reach great heights but lack the bedrock character to sustain them through the stress are headed for one or more of the four disastrous A's: *arrogance*, *aloneness*, destructive *adventure-seeking*, or *adultery*. A weak character is not worth the price of these consequences.

<sup>1</sup>Adapted from *21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader* by John Maxwell.

### Character According to 2 Peter<sup>2</sup>

2Pt 1<sup>5</sup> *For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup> and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.*

1. **Faith.** *Add to your faith ... (2Pt 1:5).*

Faith is the bedrock of character because faith is simply trusting God and His promises. Do not allow your mind to develop thought patterns of disbelief.

2. **Goodness.** *Add to your faith goodness (2Pt 1:5).*

This means moral excellence. It means being above reproach and not falling victim to the abuse of money, sex, or power. Deal ruthlessly with every sin and cultivate a single-hearted devotion to Jesus. A person of integrity is a whole person; there is no difference between what he appears to be in public and who he really is in private.

3. **Knowledge.** *And to goodness, knowledge (2Pt 1:5).*

Jesus said we are to love God with all our mind (Mt 22:37). God wants us to keep growing in body, mind and spirit. Continue to read, keep asking questions, and thirst for knowledge and wisdom.

4. **Self-control.** *And to knowledge, self-control (2Pt 1:6).*

Many people today are seething with rage and anger. By the power of the Holy Spirit we can keep our emotions and actions under control and not take part in destructive thinking or actions. Our legitimate appetites are to be brought under the Spirit's control, as well. True meekness, as perfectly displayed by Jesus, is strength under control.

5. **Perseverance.** *And to self-control, perseverance (2Pt 1:6).*

It is always too soon to be discouraged. No matter how difficult your circumstances may be, never, never, never lose your faith! To win the race, you must stay in the race! *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus..."* (Heb 12:1-2).

6. **Godliness.** *And to perseverance, godliness (2Pt 1:6).*

Godliness is not self-righteousness. In fact, it is the very opposite. Godliness means cultivating God's life in us, drawing upon the power of His Spirit. It means to experience the "exchanged life," exchanging all that we are not for all that Jesus Christ is. As we yield to Him, we are literally being conformed into the likeness of Christ (Ro 8:29).

7. **Brotherly kindness.** *And to godliness, brotherly kindness (2Pt 1:7).*

God calls on us to exhibit a quality that people are starved to receive: kindness. In God's eyes, your compassionate touch, your word or note of encouragement, the prayers you offer for a friend in need - these simple acts may be the most important things you do today. In a world seething with competitiveness, your kindness will really stand out!

8. **Love.** *And to brotherly kindness, love (2 Pt 1:7).*

Love should be the compelling force behind all we do. It is the greatest of all the Christian virtues. The love of Christ is part of the fruit of the Spirit that God will develop in us as we trust Him. God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us (Ro 5:5).

<sup>2</sup>Excerpted from *Growing Servant Leader* by Bobb Biehl and David Shibley. Used by Permission of Global Advance.

## APPENDIX 3C

### Suggested Resources on Christian Character

*Character Counts: Leadership Qualities of Washington, Wilberforce, Lincoln and Solzhenitsyn* by Os Guinness. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999.

*Humility: The Beauty of Holiness* by Andrew Murray. Fort Washington, PA: Christian Literature Crusade, 1980.

*The Inner Life: Cultivating the Renewal of the Soul* by Andrew Murray. Springdale, PA: Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1980.

*Leaders on Leadership* with George Barna (ed.). Chapter 4: "The Character of the Leader" written by Dr. Jack Hayford (pp. 61-79). Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1997.

*No Other Foundation* by DeVern Fromke. Cloverdate, IN: Sure Foundation, 1985.

*Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership: The Paradox of Personal Dysfunction* by Gary L. McIntosh & Samuel D. Rima. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1997.

*The Pursuit of God* by A.W. Tozer. Harrisburg, PA: Christian Publications, 1982.

*The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1978.

*Quest for Character* by Chuck Swindoll. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1982.



# Following Our Example

The LTI Curriculum Sample Collection

— *Notes* —

SAMPLE