

# LEAD

**WEEK ONE: IDENTITY IN CHRIST**

# WEEK 1: IDENTITY IN CHRIST

## WATCH

Use these notes to follow along as you watch the video. Be sure to write your own thoughts and ideas down to share with your group.

The first step on this leadership journey was to become a **follower of Jesus**. You can see the whole plan, from beginning to end, in Ephesians 1:3-10.

**We are disciples first. We are leaders second.** We are followers of Jesus first, leaders of people second.

What God has said about who you are:

- You are His child. (John 1:12)
- You are a friend of Jesus. (John 15:15)
- You are an heir with Christ. (Romans 8:17)
- You have wisdom. (1 Corinthians 1:30)
- Your body is a temple. (1 Corinthians 6:19)
- You can be confident. (Ephesians 3:12)
- You are a citizen of heaven. (Philippians 3:20)
- You are forgiven. (Isaiah 43:25)
- You are free. (Romans 6:18)
- You are loved. (Romans 8:35-39)

To be a Christ follower means believing what God has said about you even if your feelings and logic betray that.

Humble and hungry leaders know who they are. They've been given an identity in Christ.

Humble and hungry leaders are **disciples first, leaders second**.

## READ: EPHESIANS 1:3-14

**Read:** Ephesians 1:3-14, and identify what we have because of our identity in Christ. Circle those things here.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

*In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.*

**Reflect:** What does it mean to have hope in Christ? Spend time reflecting on what this means for you personally. Do you truly believe the things Christ said about you are really true? Or do you seek blessing, worth, and hope from other places and/or people? Take some time to be honest with yourself and to reflect.

## PRAY

This week, pray through Psalm 139. Carve out time this week to intentionally pray through each verse, asking God to speak to you regarding how He sees you, and thank Him for the truth of what you have in Christ.

**Verses 1 through 6:** As you pray this verse, spend time acknowledging the fact that God knows you, inside and out.

*O Lord, You have searched me and known me!  
 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
 You discern my thoughts from afar.  
 You search out my path and my lying down  
 and are acquainted with all my ways.  
 Even before a word is on my tongue,  
 behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.  
 You hem me in, behind and before,  
 and lay Your hand upon me.  
 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
 it is high; I cannot attain it.*

**Verses 7 through 12:** As you pray these verses, spend time remembering that God is everywhere, sees everything, and knows everything.

*Where shall I go from Your Spirit?  
 Or where shall I flee from Your presence?  
 If I ascend to heaven, You are there!  
 If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there!  
 If I take the wings of the morning  
 and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
 even there Your hand shall lead me,  
 and Your right hand shall hold me.  
 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
 and the light about me be night,"  
 even the darkness is not dark to You;  
 the night is bright as the day,  
 for darkness is as light with You.*

**Verses 13 through 16:** Thank God for revealing the unique ways He created you.

*For You formed my inward parts;  
 You knitted me together in my mother's womb.  
 I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
 Wonderful are Your works;  
 my soul knows it very well.  
 My frame was not hidden from You,  
 when I was being made in secret,  
 intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
 Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
 in Your book were written, every one of them,  
 the days that were formed for me,  
 when as yet there was none of them.*

**Verses 17 through 22:** Ask God to transform your heart to reflect His.

*How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
If I would count them, they are more than the sand.  
I awake, and I am still with You.  
Oh that You would slay the wicked, O God!  
O men of blood, depart from me!  
They speak against You with malicious intent;  
Your enemies take Your name in vain.  
Do I not hate those who hate You, O Lord?  
And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?  
I hate them with complete hatred;  
I count them my enemies.*

**Verses 23 through 24:** As you pray these two verses, ask God to search you and reveal to you any unrecognized or unrepentant sin in your life. Allow God access to your heart and to continue His transformation in your life.

*Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts!  
And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!*

## **DISCUSS**

Think on these questions throughout your week. Write a short response to each, and come ready to discuss them with your group.

1. What key learnings or things have stood out to you from the material this week?
2. What does it mean to be a disciple first and a leader second?
3. What did you learn about who you are in Christ, and how has that shaped the way you see yourself? Out of all of the truths that Greg walked through that God says about us, which one do you find hardest to accept, and why?
4. Think through and explain how your brokenness has influenced your leadership. How does your identity as a sinner saved by grace influence your leadership?

5. Read Philippians 2:3-5 together. All of us do things out of selfish ambition. In what ways do you identify when you do things out of selfish ambition, and how do you respond? What does having the “mind of Christ” mean, and what are the implications of that for our leadership?
  
6. Evaluate when a behavior comes from selfish ambition, insecurity, or vain conceit rather than an identity in Christ:
  - a. Do you have a need to know everything? Where does that come from?
  
  - b. Do you seek credit, even when others have contributed? Why do you need credit for others’ work, or more importantly, your own?
  
  - c. Do you compare your gifts to others? How do you respond to others receiving recognition, spotlight, or platform? Is your default to elevate others and selflessly serve those you lead? Why or why not?
  
7. In *Search for Significance*, Robert McGee references the “trip in” approach, which is to address heart-level sin issues by *identifying* them, *confessing* them to God and someone, *rejecting* their hold over your life, and *replacing* them with the truth of God. Ask yourself which one of the following you struggle with the most, and be prepared to share with your group ways you are going to replace that with the truth of God:
  - a. Do you struggle with shame and guilt from the past?
  - b. Do you have a fear of failing?
  - c. Are you addicted to the approval of others?
  - d. Are you obsessed with performance and/or attached self-value to your performance?

Before leaving today, commit with your group to find your identity in Christ alone, and memorize Galatians 2:20. When you’re tempted to make an issue about yourself, replace it with the identity of Christ.

## ACTION

What’s the one thing you’re going to do differently in light of what God showed you this week?

## RESOURCES

We want to point you in the direction of some essential books written on this topic, for further growth and development.

- *Search for Significance* Robert McKee
- *Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness* Tim Keller

# LEAD

**WEEK TWO: CALLED TO BE HUMBLE**

## WEEK 2: CALLED TO BE HUMBLE

### WATCH

Use these notes to follow along as you [watch the video](#). Be sure and write your own thoughts down as you discover what it means to humbly embrace your call as a leader.

All leaders are fighting a battle against pride. In order to be an effective leader, you must go to war with the pride inside yourself.

**People follow humility—people rebel against pride.**

Followers internally ask these three questions of their leaders:

- Can I trust you?
- Do you care about me?
- Can you help me?

By becoming the greatest servant, Jesus became the greatest leader. If your leadership is for you, it will eventually hurt other people.

*Go back to move forward*—an identity in Christ is found when you die to yourself. The old you, the one filled with pride, must surrender.

God is in the business of redeeming things. **It isn't uncommon for our strongest gifts to grow out of our deepest pain.** The power of the cross is far greater than the power of your past.

Humility is a posture, a practice, and a presence.

Humble and hungry leaders are disciples first and leaders second.

### READ

Take the spiritual gifts assessment, identify your top three, and read the descriptions of your top three attached.

### PRAY

Practice humility in prayer; pray these things throughout the week. Take time each day to communicate with God your total dependence on Him.

- Thank God for the top three gifts He has given you. Ask Him to reveal a deeper understanding of them and how you are currently using them.
- Praise God for your weaknesses. Give some specifics, and remember what Paul writes in 2 Corinthians, *"But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."* (2 Corinthians 12:9-10, ESV)
- Spend some time thanking God for someone who has gifts that you don't have. Ask Him to bring people into your life who have talents and perspective to complement your own.
- Pray for humility. Pray to God to help you give Him any and all glory. Ask Him for more self-awareness—that you would be reminded just how much you need Him.

## DISCUSS

Think on these questions throughout your week. Write a short response to each, and come ready to discuss them with your group.

1. What key things stood out to you from the material this week?
2. Can you look back and see times when you misused your gifts? In what ways do you ensure your motives in using your gifts are to glorify God and advance His mission verses your own?
3. What do you think of when you hear the word calling? Has it been a vague idea in your life or do you see it clearly?
4. In his book, *Gaining by Losing*, pastor and author J.D. Greear writes, "Whatever you're good at, do it well for the glory of God. And do it somewhere strategic for the mission of God." In what ways are you using what you're good at to contribute to God's kingdom?
5. What did you learn about yourself from the spiritual gifts assessment? How can this new awareness contribute to your growth, both professionally and personally?
6. How does your current position fit your giftedness? How do you handle when your position doesn't align with your gifts?
7. Based on your assessment, what is one way this week you can intentionally grow in one of your top three gifts?





**LEAD**

**WEEK THREE: COMMITTED TO BE HUNGRY**

## WEEK 3: COMMITTED TO BE HUNGRY

### WATCH

Use these notes to follow along as you watch the video. Be sure to fill in the blanks and write your own thoughts down as you take steps toward a lifelong commitment to growth.

If you commit to growth, there will be an eventual harvest. Faithful leaders grow when the rains come, when winds try to blow them over.

Leaders who are committed to being hungry, who are committed to growing, learn how to cultivate the soil of their hearts in prayer.

**It's not always natural to want to grow**, so we need to let God reclaim what natural means in our lives.

Humble and hungry leaders:

1. Know who they are (identity in Christ).
2. Have gifts from God (called to be humble).
3. Commit to continual growth (committed to be hungry).

They learn and lead themselves. They gather experience, and aren't scared away by fear of failure. They are relentlessly committed to relationships and continual growth.

If you aren't hungry for growth, your leadership will grow stale. **The best leaders are the best learners.**

Humble and hungry leaders commit to growing, especially when it's not easy or comfortable. Humble and hungry leaders are disciples first, leaders second.

### READ

Take time to read and meditate on the following passages of Scripture.

**Galatians 6:9 (ESV)**

*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

**Colossians 3:23 (ESV):**

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.*

**2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV):**

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

**1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV):**

*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

**2 Peter 3:18 (ESV):**

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

## PRAY

Pray through these things throughout the week. Commit each day to God and His will for it, even when you may not feel like it.

- In Luke 2, a young Jesus spends time in the temple with older teachers, and at the end, it says, “*And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.*” (Luke 2:52, ESV) Jesus modeled a commitment to growth even at a young age. Pray to God that He would increase your wisdom and maturity.
- Take stock of the fruit of the spirit in your own life (Galatians 5:16-25). Ask God to reveal which fruit of the is most lacking. Repent, and be honest with yourself and with Him about why this has been a void in your life. Ask God to produce more.
- Ask God to prune the parts of you that don’t reflect these fruits. Invite Him to uproot the things in your life that stunt your growth.
- Spend some time asking God to give you a deeper hunger for His Word, and that He would help you grow in your gifts and abilities for His glory.

## DISCUSS

Think on these questions throughout your week. Write a short response or prompt to each, and come ready to discuss them with your group.

1. What’s been the greatest season of personal growth in your life? Your leadership?
2. How do you ask others for feedback? How do you find out what it’s like to be on the other side of your leadership?
3. Can you recall a time when you had to endure a difficult situation? What kind of lasting effects did that experience have on you?

4. We've mentioned it a few times now, but what do you think of the three questions every follower asks of a leader?
  - a. Can I trust you?
  - b. Do you care for me?
  - c. Can you help me?
  
5. Answer these three questions:
  - a. What are practical ways that you can build trust with others?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How can you be sure your followers know that you care?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What are you doing to be able to help others more?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. If a humble and hungry leader is a disciple first and leader second, what are you currently doing to grow as a disciple?

## **ACTION**

What's the one thing you're going to do different in light of what God showed you this week? If the best leaders are the best learners, what are you learning right now that will make you a better leader?

## **RESOURCES**

We want to point you in the direction of some essential books written on this topic, for further growth and development.

- *Leadership Pain* by Samuel Chand
- *Leadership Insight* by Gene Harker

**LEAD**

**WEEK FOUR: COMPELLED TO MULTIPLY**

# WEEK 4: COMPELLED TO MULTIPLY

## WATCH

Use these notes to follow along as you watch the video. Be sure to write your own thoughts and ideas down as you learn more about how to multiply the impact of your leadership.

The three questions all followers ask of their leaders leave us asking this final question: What are we supposed to do with the influence we have gained?

Jesus sends us out with a charge and responsibility to lead as He led. See Matthew 28:16-20.

**This is a movement of multiplication, not addition.**

Leaders who multiply push each other. They remind one another of their identity in Christ, their humble position before God, their need to stay hungry for growth.

**The harvest is great, but the workers are few.**

"God, help me to see the people who are already in my life that I can help influence for Christ. Amen."

Humble and hungry leaders multiply the impact. They give generously to others what's been given to them. **Humble and hungry leaders are disciples first, leaders second.**

## READ

This week, we're going to study the filters our discipleship team uses to identify future leaders. Use these to think through the ways you build into leaders and identify people you can pour into. After reading, who comes to mind as someone you could pour into and lead? Write their name down in the space provided.

### How to Identify a Future Leader

#### Humble and Hungry:

- Does the potential leader have an established personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Has the potential leader had this relationship with Jesus for over two years?
- Does the potential leader have an others-focused mentality? Does the potential leader express a humble spirit? Is there a passion that is hungry in seeking God's glory and not self-gain?
- Does the potential apprentice have the relational skills to lead effectively?

#### Honest and Teachable:

- Is your potential leader teachable and able to learn skills necessary to create a healthy discipleship environment?
- Have you witnessed times when your potential leader shared in an open and honest manner regarding God's word, their personal walk, fighting against temptation/sin?

#### Servant Leadership:

- Does your potential leader grasp that serving others is the expression of our leadership in Christ?
- Potential leaders need to understand that Christ-followers lead through serving rather than position or power.
- Have you seen the potential leader connect with others in a natural way?
- Are you comfortable with your potential leader and his or her ability to relate to others?

**Contributing Member:**

- Is your potential leader currently a member of our church, or will he or she agree to pursue membership?
- Does your potential leader recognize the leader's role as a facilitator, not a teacher or counselor?
- Is your potential leader committed to the mission, values, and strategy of TPCC?

Write the name of the potential leader you're going to invest in below:

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**PRAY**

This week, we're going to pray through John 15. Set aside time this week to meditate on these verses, and ask God to speak to you.

**Verses 1 through 5:** Are you abiding in the Father? Do you trust Him with the work you're doing? Do you attempt to bear fruit by yourself, or do you rely and lean on the Father in your weaknesses?

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.*

**Verses 6 through 11:** Ask God to reveal to you an area of your life that you haven't surrendered to Him. Is the joy of the Father evident in the way you live and lead?

*If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples. As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

**Verses 12 through 17:** Ask God to reveal ways you can show His love tangibly with those you lead. How can you love them in their weakness and in their strength? How can you show the love of Christ to those you are walking alongside?

*This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.*



## DISCUSS

Think on these questions throughout your week. Write a short response to each, and come ready to discuss them with your group.

1. Explain the difference between a culture of multiplication and one of addition. How does this change the way you lead?
  
2. Share an example of someone who has discipled you in your journey with Christ.
  
3. Who is currently developing you as a leader? What are they teaching you about leadership? What have you learned from watching them?
  
4. Petie referenced Luke 10:2, where Jesus tells His disciples, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."* Who are you currently developing? What challenges are you facing as you develop him or her? Are you seeing growth? If so, in what ways? If not, why not?
  
5. Which of these common pitfalls are you most prone to fall into: insecurity, worry they will be better than you, control? Why, and what can you do about it?
  
6. We asked this question during the first week: what does it mean to be disciples first, and leaders second? What has God revealed to you about this truth over the last several weeks?

## ACTION

What's the one thing you're going to do different in light of what God showed you through the last four weeks? One way to multiply leaders is to take them through this course. Name at least one person you could lead through this. What is your plan to reach out to them?

## RESOURCES

We want to point you in the direction of some essential books written on this topic, for further growth and development.

- *Gaining by Losing* by J.D. Greear
- *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman