

# INTRODUCTION TO IMAGES OF LEADERSHIP

You have probably already concluded that real-life leadership seldom precisely follows strict laws. As Max DePree said, "Leadership is an art," not a science, and is about shades and tones, not black and white. The advantage of thinking about images, Biblical, three-dimensional, look-at-them-from-different-angles images is precisely that they are not black and white. They have texture and shape, they can be examined at a distance or in detail. They may be contextualized, yet they have real substance. And, in fact, they are biblical. Most often, images are the ways the scripture teaches about leadership. In one form, parables, they comprise the bulk of Jesus' teaching in the gospels.

Hence *Images of Leadership*. The nine images are meant to form a package, a composite image, of leadership from scripture, in the same way that the various images on the cover combine to form a single composite picture of our Lord. Each image, each chapter of the material, can easily stand alone and doesn't need the other material to make it understandable or useable for a group. The sessions are modular so that they can be rearranged or selected to serve the needs of any group or team.

## EACH SECTION IS ORGANIZED AROUND THE FOLLOWING PATTERN:

- 1 discussion-based Biblical study,
- 2 brief summary in lecture format, and
- 3 small group discussion using case study, personal inventories, and interactive exercises. The result is a training experience that is

▶ **THOROUGHLY BIBLICAL:** the sessions are built not around alliterative lists but an inductive study of Scripture.

▶ **THOROUGHLY INTERACTIVE:** the sessions are built not around the flamboyant story-telling and personality of some presenter but the shared experience in Scripture and its application to the specific contexts of the group members.

▶ **THOROUGHLY INSIGHTFUL:** the sessions combine familiar and less familiar passages of Scripture with keen insights for ministry that can be used and built upon in your ministry today.

▶ **THOROUGHLY INTEGRATED:** the sessions emphasize the character and faith development of the leader and not simply rote application of techniques.

▶ **THOROUGHLY PRACTICAL:** with a skilled use of case studies and personal exercises, the Biblical insights are brought home with memorable and useful tools and skills.

This material has been developed and tested in countless settings with InterVarsity students around the country over decades, as IVCF staff have applied our historical strengths of Scripture study and contextualization to the question of leadership development with young adults. More recently, this material has been brought to the church in its current format. All the case studies have been reframed for the church context, but the Biblical insights remain as foundational as ever.

# IMAGES OF LEADERSHIP: CONTENTS

IMAGE	WHAT GOD OFFERS	OUR RESPONSE
<p><b>SHEPHERD</b></p> <p>Psalm 23 John 10:1-17 Ezekiel 34 John 21:15-19 Acts 20:17-38 1 Peter 5:1-4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• His shepherding care.</li> <li>• His fierce loyalty to us as his sheep.</li> <li>• Extravagant provision for his flock.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be satisfied in his care.</li> <li>• Out of our sense of provision, offer shepherd care to others.</li> <li>• When we lack what we need to be shepherds, we are to return to the Lord, our shepherd.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SERVANT</b></p> <p>Mark 1:40-44 Mark 10:42-45 John 13:1-17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A model of extravagant servanthood.</li> <li>• A call to extravagant servanthood.</li> <li>• The resources with which we can serve others in God's name.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To lead by serving.</li> <li>• To serve by leading: foresight and insight.</li> <li>• To serve by speaking.</li> <li>• To participate in the economy of God.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PATIENT</b></p> <p>Psalm 50:7-15 Isaiah 64:4 Luke 12:35-38 Acts 17:22-25 Mark 8:34-38 Mark 10:27-31 Mark 10:41-45</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of his expertise and power available to heal and to save.</li> <li>• His work and mercy for those who wait for him.</li> <li>• Life, security, greatness if pursued by paradox through faith</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To stop trying to impress God and let him work.</li> <li>• To submit to the Doctor's care and his prescription for our health and wholeness.</li> <li>• To find our heart's desires met in a life of ministry</li> </ul>
<p><b>SAGE</b></p> <p>1 Kings 3:5-28 James 1:5-7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To young leaders, the resources with which to lead, especially his promise of wisdom to all who ask for it.</li> <li>• Encouragement and support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To believe God will give us the wisdom we need to care for his people.</li> <li>• To care about what is in people's hearts, not just their behavior.</li> <li>• To offer wisdom wisely, helping people make their own decisions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SENTINEL</b></p> <p>Ezekiel 33:1-9 Hebrews 3:12- 4:1 1 Samuel 25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For his people, a sentinel, one who sees clearly approaching danger and speaks clearly of it.</li> <li>• Promise of future provision and grace, if we listen to the sentinel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To embrace the message of the sentinel, rejecting the lies of sin.</li> <li>• To step in to the role of sentinel in a daily, routine way.</li> <li>• To speak in a way that people hear grace and a way out.</li> </ul>

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IMAGE	WHO LEADERS ARE	WHAT LEADERS DO
<p><b>VISIONARY</b> 1 Chronicles 29:1-22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Captivated by a vision larger than themselves.</li> <li>• Receive vision as a gift and pass it on without their ego in the way.</li> <li>• Clearly see God and his great goodness and their own dependence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak about what is true but have hope for what is possible.</li> <li>• Model risky choices to move toward the vision and call others to follow.</li> <li>• Live by faith in a way that inspires others to do so also.</li> </ul>
<p><b>STEWARD</b> Nehemiah 1:1-2:18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heartbroken over the needs of the people of God</li> <li>• Moved to pray for a work of God in response.</li> <li>• Thoughtful regarding how to participate in that work.</li> <li>• Willing to entrust the vision to others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both pray and plan, neither too "spiritual" nor too practical.</li> <li>• Delegate the vision, not just a task. Responsibility with authority.</li> <li>• Evaluate afterward and learn from it.</li> <li>• Make difficult choices between competing values.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SPONSOR</b>            Luke 9:1-6, 10            Luke 10:1-21            2 Timothy 1:1-2:7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eager to turn over real ministry to others.</li> <li>• Equipped to be equip-pers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give opportunity, training, authority and insight to prepare people for ministry.</li> <li>• Speak about the difficulties, not just the joys, of ministry.</li> <li>• Serve as a coach, offering vision, training, challenge and encouragement.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SOWER</b>            Mark 3:7-19            Mark 6:7-13            John 13:1-17            Acts 20:17-36            Mark 2:18-20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committed to growth and multiplication of ministry.</li> <li>• Willing to focus on a few for the sake of the many.</li> <li>• Committed to serving leaders not using them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on partnership over coverage and depth over breadth.</li> <li>• Model and articulate the model in order to pass it on.</li> <li>• Look for ways to turn situations into multiplicative ministry opportunities.</li> </ul>