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Written by  
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**Leadership Assignment 2**  
*"The Four Levels of Leadership"*

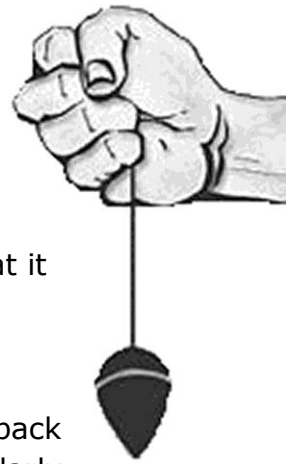
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## Looking Back & Looking Ahead

### Reminders Before Your Begin

Here you are after your first year in the Salt & Light Program. You survived! (Hooray!) Pat yourself on the back. No doubt you have had a very busy year with a great deal of information poured into you regarding worldview, evangelism, apologetics, and leadership. We are excited that you will be joining us for another round, to learn more of what it takes to make a difference for the kingdom of God.

I'm sure that you have forgotten everything from your first leadership assignment, so let me review what you learned. See if any of this comes back to you. In the first assignment you studied Jesus as a young man, particularly as He is described in *Luke 2:52*. Here is a summary of the four areas we discussed:



**Jesus Increased in Wisdom:** He was submissive to His parents, He learned as much as He could from His teachers, and He spent unhurried alone time with God.

**Jesus Increased in Stature:** He recognized that a strong body is of great benefit, that He was to glorify God with His body and that the "bigger" He became in others' eyes, the smaller He had to become in His own eyes.

**Jesus Grew in Favor with God:** He submitted to God's authority in His life, He obeyed God's commands and pursued His expectations, He did not love Satan's world, and He loved people.

**Jesus Grew in Favor with Men:** By loving others, serving others, meeting the needs of others, Jesus made a good name for Himself.

I'm also sure that you've forgotten the definition and purpose of a plumb line. A plumb line is an architect's tool to evaluate straightness of a wall. The Bible, God's Word, is our plumb line to determine whether or not something is true. Christ, the Living Word, is our plumb line for life; we measure all things next to His example. He is our standard for leadership.

Now, leaders come in all shapes and sizes, and people are called leaders for various reasons; they may have different qualities, personality types, gifts, talents, positions, and powers. So then, how can you tell when you've seen a leader? While there are no cookie-cutter ways to spot a leader, there are some characteristics which are found in every leader's life.

In an effort to distinguish leaders more easily, we have defined four types of leaders or levels of leadership. In this way, we can identify those students who are ready and able to demonstrate servant leadership before their peers. Therefore, in this second assignment, you will define and develop the concept of each level of leadership. So then, let's discover the four levels of leadership and see what it takes to become the best leader you can be.

## Following the Leader

Level 1

*To become a good leader, you must first become a good follower.*

No matter how high a person climbs the ladder of leadership, no matter what position one has or how much authority he or she wields, it is always wise to put oneself in a position of "followship."

**Oftentimes leaders can be the world's worst followers.** However, although they get impatient and angry and often despise following others, it is exactly what they need.



You too need to follow. You may have great aspirations of leading others someday, but you will not lead anyone until you truly master this first step. So then, why is it a good idea for you as a future leader to put yourself in positions of followship? What can you possibly learn from following others?

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Let's face it. Most of the time, we don't like to follow others; we would rather lead them. In your opinion, what are some reasons why people struggle so much with following?

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Take a minute to list all of the people in your life whom you are expected to follow.

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Wouldn't you say that some people are easier to follow than others? Why is that, I wonder? What are some reasons why people are easier or harder to follow?

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Read *Proverbs 22:1*. How does this verse relate to good followship?

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Would a good follower follow only those who are easy to follow? No, a good follower will learn to adapt to his or her leaders. Mark my words, in your lifetime, you will run across good leaders and poor ones, as well as everything in between. Good followship will take you a long way in this world, especially as you glorify God and make a good name for yourself. It's vital that you learn good followship while you're young. Don't buck those who are hard to follow. Learn from them!

What are some necessary characteristics of a good follower? Read these passages and write out down what you learn.

*1 Peter 5:5, 6*

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*Hebrews 13:17*

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*1 Peter 2:17-20*

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*Colossians 3:17, 22-25*

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*Philippians 2:3-11*

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*Philippians 2:14, 15*

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*Ephesians 6:1-3, 5-8*

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As a coach, I loved being around good athletes, but oftentimes great athletes are not very “coachable.” They think they are God's gift to the sport and that they already know everything about it, so there's nothing I or anyone on the team can say to make them any better than they already are. That player is deceived by his or her pride and will never be truly successful.

As much as I enjoy being around great athletes, I would take a more coachable player, who may not be as good. Why? Because those players can be taught and they want to improve; they are hungry to get better every time they play. I want to be around those type of people. It makes we want to invest in them and push them as far as I can. But, you know what? All they are doing is demonstrating good followship. They are expressing the mentality every coach or leader wants to see or hear — **“Whatever you need, I'll do it!”** That kind of follower will go far. He or she will glorify the Lord, honor themselves, and bless their leaders. That's the kind of follower you should strive to become.

Would you consider yourself to be a good follower? Why or why not?

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## Leading Yourself

Level 2

# 4

*"The greatest victory in life is to conquer oneself." - Socrates*

Now that you understand that good leadership begins with good "followship," you are ready to move on. What does a good leader need to work on next? Well, **a person cannot effectively lead others until he can first efficiently lead himself.** What does that mean exactly? What does that look like?

Can teachers demand punctuality of students when they themselves are not on time to class? Can they demand preparedness of students when they themselves are not prepared? Can they demand kindness and respect of others when they themselves speak harshly, sarcastically, or belittle students? Can teachers demand exemplary notebooks and lockers if their own notebooks or desks are disorganized and messy? No, not all all.

What's the problem? Teachers can expect many things, but they cannot demand anything unless they demonstrate their own expectations. This truth is very similar to Level 3 of leadership — "Leading by Example." However, *before one can lead by example, he or she must become an example worth imitating.*

The problem with the teachers described above is that they are compromising their own leadership. **Good leadership is always undermined by a poor example.** Students are more likely to be on time when they know that the teacher will not only be on time but will be waiting for them. Students will be better prepared because they know that the teacher is not only prepared but ready to start class promptly. *When you take care of your own business well, it is easy to expect that others take care of their business also.*

Take a minute to read *1 Timothy 3:4, 5*, concerning Paul's instructions about the qualifications of an overseer or elder. Although the subject of this passage may not be applicable to you, the principle of the passage is very applicable. How so?

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Now, read this quote from Hugo Grotius (1654). Underline or highlight our recurring theme.

“He knows not how to rule a kingdom that cannot manage a province; nor can he wield a province that cannot order a city; nor he order a city that knows not how to regulate a village; nor he a village that cannot guide a family; nor can that man govern well a family that knows not how to govern himself; neither can any govern himself unless his reason be lord, and will and appetite be [servants]; nor can reason rule unless herself be ruled by God and wholly be obedient to Him.”

After looking at both Grotius and the Bible, the principle is clear — *you should not and will not be able to “govern” or lead others until you can govern or lead yourself.* So then, the bottom line is self-government. How well do you govern yourself? **For how you govern yourself will determine much of how you will govern or lead others.**

What are some areas that you should be handling well, before you ever try to lead or govern others? Take a minute and list those that you think are most important.

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Here are a few areas that we think you should be handling well. Please define each of them and explain why they are key areas in regards to self-government and leadership of others.

Diligence

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Responsibility

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Discretion

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Punctuality

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Virtuous Conduct

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Self-control

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Respect for People, Property, and Policies

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Positive Attitude

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Now, go back and rate yourself from 0-5 in each area. Which areas are your strengths? Which areas are your weaknesses? How would your weaknesses compromise or undermine your leadership of others?

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Reread the end of Grotius' statement:

“Neither can anyone govern himself unless his reason be lord, and will and appetite be servants; nor can reason rule unless she be ruled by God and wholly be obedient to Him.”

What does he say is the key to self-government? Explain his point in your own words.

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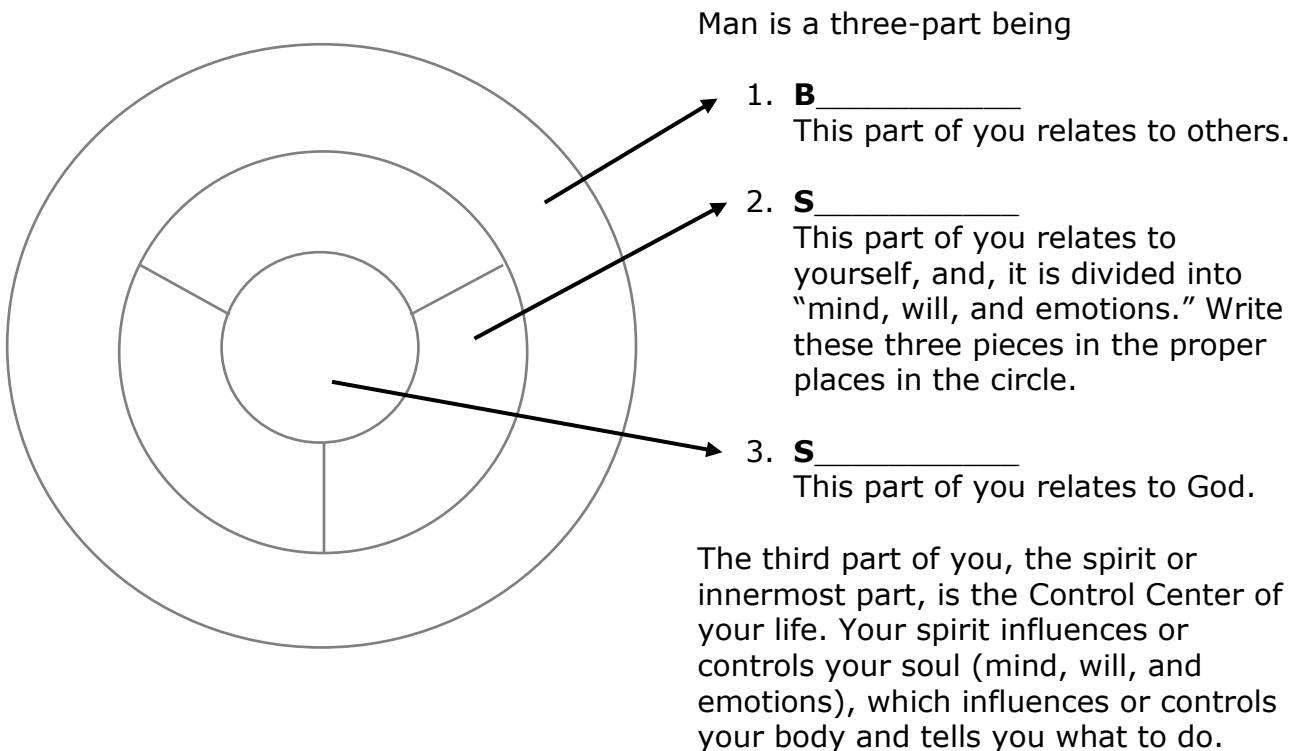
At the beginning of this section, you read this quote by Socrates: “The greatest victory in life is to conquer oneself.” Socrates *is* correct in his statement; it is a tremendous triumph to overcome one's fears, differences, habits, shortcomings, and sins. But the problem with Socrates' statement is not that it is important to conquer oneself, but rather *it is the means by which one conquers himself*. How is it done?

Can a sinner, who is under the influence of his sinful nature, overcome his own sinful habits and hang-ups? No. We want to be lazy, we don't want responsibilities, we don't want to think about anyone else but ourselves, and we don't want to be told what to do. In our sinfulness, we cannot conquer ourselves successfully. It's impossible! We need help. So, what can we do?

Self-government *is* possible, but not through our own sinful means. The power to conquer oneself must come from another source. Grotius' argument is that “our reason must be ruled by God and wholly obedient to Him.” However, a sinner's reason cannot be ruled by God and wholly obedient to Him unless a change takes place, an internal change, a change of the heart.

Follow the instructions on the next page to see how this works, because it is absolutely essential that every believer understands the key to self-government.

Notice that there are three circles drawn below. They represent the three parts of your being. Read *1 Thessalonians 5:23*, to figure out what the three parts are; then, write them in the proper places.



The Bible tells us that there are two types of spirits than can influence or control your soul and body. Read *1 Corinthians 2:12* and *1 Corinthians 3:16*, to find out what they are and, then, write them here.

Spirit #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Spirit #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Of these two spirits, we are born with the first one, a sinful, worldly spirit, which does not and cannot please God. In fact, read the following passages and describe what we were once like when we were inhabited by the first spirit: *Genesis 6:5, 11, 12; Psalm 14:2,3; 51:5; 53:3; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23.*

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The reason we cannot govern ourselves by ourselves is because **we have a problem**, a sin problem. We have a desperately sick heart and a sinful, worldly spirit. Though Socrates was correct by saying that it is important for one to conquer himself, *Socrates could never have conquered himself by himself*. He needed help, like we do, to overcome his sinful nature.

Ah, but that's where the good news of Jesus Christ comes in. You see, God knew we had a problem, so He put the solution where the problem is — in us. When we realize that we are worthless in and of ourselves and we give ourselves fully to Him, asking Him to forgive our sins based on Jesus' blood and sacrifice, He regenerates our lives by giving us a new spirit and a clean heart (*Psalms 51:10*). What's amazing is that things immediately begin to change. We are new creatures and the old self begins to disappear while the new self in Christ begins to surface (*2 Corinthians 5:21*).

Go back to your circles and draw a cross, big and bold, in the circle that represents the spirit.

Then, draw an arrow from the cross to the "mind" part of the soul, then from the mind to the "will," from the will to the "emotions," and finally from the emotions to the "body." What happens when you become a Christian is that Christ first changes your spirit, then begins influencing how you think, the decisions you make, and your character, and then He ultimately changes how you act towards others. In essence, it is Christ who lives in and through you (*Galatians 2:20*).

However, *salvation is only the beginning of self-government*. Many Christians, although they have the capacity for self-government, do not practice self-government. Why is that? Read these passages and see if you can determine the answer: *Luke 9:23; John 3:30; Galatians 5:13, 16, 17, 22-25*.

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Why are some Christians self-governed and others are not? It comes down to this: those who are self-governed are yielding themselves daily to the spirit of Christ in their lives; they live for His purposes, with His desires, and for His glory. They surrender to His leadership and rely upon His power to overcome their own selfish, sinful, worldly tendencies. Those who are saved and yet struggle with self-government are clinging to their own will and ways, and thus are not demonstrating fruit in their lives.

What about you? How have you seen Christ work in your life to change you into His image? Do you believe that you're leading yourself in such a way that you are ready to lead others? Why or why not?

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## Leading By Example

Level 3

# 4

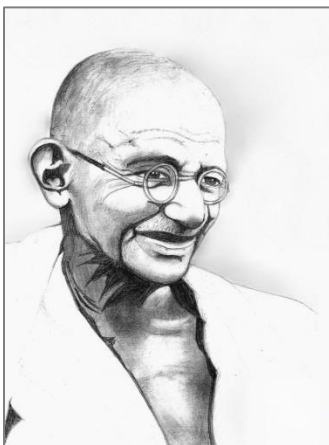
*"We must be the change we wish to see."* - Mahatma Gandhi

If you don't know who Mahatma Gandhi is, you should. He single-handedly freed India from British rule in the late 1940's, and he did so without ever firing a gun or killing a citizen of the British Empire. He held no political positions and he claimed no prestigious occupations. He had no money or wealth to boast of and his stature was small and unimposing. So then, you might ask, how did he free one of the world's largest countries from the control of the greatest empire in the 20th century? He did it with influence.

Every politician in India wanted to be free from Great Britain's control, but they didn't know how to go about obtaining their independence without a war. Gandhi recognized that India's politicians were powerless and, for the most part, ignored by the free Western world. However, Gandhi also noticed that India's politicians were not representative of the people, meaning that they were upper class businessmen, not poor, lowly farmers and shepherds like every other native Indian. It was there that he saw his chance to make a difference, by appealing to the masses and not to the blind political leaders.

But how could one man influence millions? How could one man get them to cooperate without causing chaos, rioting, or violence? Simple, he armed himself with the mentality of **"watch me do it first."** *If you want change, then demonstrate that change in your own life and encourage others to follow it.*

First, Gandhi decided to make his own clothes rather than purchase British clothing; by doing so, he kept money in India instead of sending it overseas to fuel the British economy. As millions of Indians joined with him, making their own clothes and refusing to buy from the British, factories all over England were forced to shut down and its economy plummeted. Next, Gandhi made his own salt, which was a necessary part of Indian life, refusing to buy salt from the British. Millions of Indians joined with him, making their own salt, and once



again, British salt mines were forced to close and the economy suffered. Gandhi was hitting India's invaders where it hurt most — in their wallets. Among many other tactics, Gandhi refused to follow British laws that were unjust, policies that they were expected to follow but that either persecuted them for being Indian or hinted that Indians were not equal members of the British Empire. As a result, the masses of India neglected to follow those same laws based on Gandhi's correct accusations. It was this tactic that sent the British over the edge; they had endured enough of Gandhi's tricks and were forced to give him what he demanded. What he demanded was a free India and Great Britain gave it to him just after WWII.



Why do you think a little, unintimidating figure like Mahatma Gandhi had so great an influence over India? What was the key to his leadership?

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Gandhi's leadership style can be summed up in this way: *don't expect of others what you do not expect of yourself, for you can only lead others where you've been yourself.*

Leaders are constantly making this mistake. They teach people truths that they do not follow, they accuse or judge people for sins that they themselves commit, and they attempt to lead others to places where they've never been. Our followers are not that blind and stupid. They are watching to see if we practice what we preach, if we pass our own standard of measure, if we do what we say.

Read Jesus' take on this issue in *Matthew 7:1-5*. What would He say about this principle?

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The NASB translation states *Matthew 7:5* this way, "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." How would you define a "log"?

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What are some “logs” that you constantly have to remove from your own eyes before you lead others and possibly “remove specks from their eyes?”

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Someone who tries to correct others for faults that he also commits is called a hypocrite in Jesus' words. Or perhaps a hypocrite would be one who tries to get others to do what he will not do himself. Do you know any hypocrites? How do you feel about them? Why would you not want to follow one?

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For the same reason(s) you described for not wanting to follow a hypocrite, others do not want to follow you, unless you've taken the logs out of your own eyes first and set a good example for others to follow. Consider this: if you were a follower and you could see yourself from a distance, would you want to follow you? Why or why not?

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Better yet, what would your classmates be like if they were all like you?

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You've heard this proverb: "A picture is worth more than a thousand words." Apply that to leadership.

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Are you starting to get the picture? Leadership is more caught than taught. People don't care what you say if you're not following your own directions or advice. They're watching you carefully, to see if you are what you say. Just as your leadership is undermined by a poor example, so is **leadership bolstered by a great example**. The more people see that you do what you say, they will also do what you say, or they will at least be more open to your leadership. Actions speak louder than words; the old adage is true!

Here are some characteristics of a Level 3 leader. Define each of them and then explain why they are important for others to see in you.

Initiative

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Humility

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Dependability

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Loyalty

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Boldness

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Determination

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Diligence

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Enthusiasm

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Unselfishness

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Go back and rate yourself from 0-5 with each of these characteristics. Identify your strengths and weaknesses. How do you think others would respond to your weaknesses?

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To ascend the leadership levels, you must know that **others are looking at you**. That's okay as long as you've looked at yourself first. You are not setting yourself up to be something that you're not. You want to be real, the genuine leader, one who knows that he has flaws but also one who is trying to do all he can to improve himself.

Most of all, people want to know that if you ask them to do something or go somewhere, that you will be there to go before them. That is what leaders do. Leaders go first. You must be the change you wish to see.

# Leading the Followers

## Level 4

*Godly leadership is following Christ in advance of others.*

A Level 4 leader is rare in a young person. Typically, young people are conceited, self-centered, and rarely think outside of their own little world. However, it is possible; and, if you attain to this level, you will have set yourself on a path of great success very early in life, and your future is bright, indeed.



As you would guess, a Level 4 leader is a good mixture of the other levels. He or she is a great follower, he or she has, with God's help, "conquered" himself, and he or she leads by example. But there is more to this level than just exemplifying the other three.

A person who is able to lead followers will demonstrate this mentality: **"Here's how to do it; now, let's do it together."** There is a great deal of wisdom hidden in that statement, so let's take some time to unpack it all.

First, let's expand the "Here's how to do it" part. What you'll find in leaders at this level is that they are not only good examples to others, but they can communicate well. Many leaders are good examples of what to do, but they cannot put into words what to do. It reminds me of when I became a coach. I had been an athlete all of my life; I had played five or six sports and knew how to play each of them at a high level. But when I became a coach, I crossed the line into an area for which I was unprepared. I knew how to play the game, but being able to explain the game was difficult for me.

Why is it that being a good example for others to follow is not enough? Why do you think good leaders need to be able to communicate well to their followers?

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My first experience at coaching basketball was awful. I had all of this knowledge about basketball in my head, but I couldn't get it out in an organized and meaningful way. I really don't think I taught anyone anything. I did the same thing as a volleyball coach. For several years, I had to learn to communicate my knowledge of the game in a way that beginners could understand. It took a great deal of practice and time, but eventually I got it down.

True leaders don't just know how to do things and can model them for others, but they can communicate to others in a way that they understand and in a way that motivates them to want to be involved and to do their best.

Another aspect to consider, concerning "Here's how to do it," is that many leaders not only don't know what to say or how to say, but they are afraid to say anything at all. **Silence is one of the reasons why people stay at Level 3.** They find themselves bashful, embarrassed, unsure, or even afraid to speak up or speak out. They can be an example to their peers, but don't ask them to verbally lead them. Speaking up is way outside of their comfort zone and too much to ask. But, good leaders are willing to admit their fears or concerns, and *good leaders will press on and act in spite of their fears.*

To cross the line from Level 3 to Level 4, you must be able and willing to speak up when it's time. People must know that you are not afraid to come out of your shell and demonstrate boldness. What are your feelings about stepping out, speaking up in front of others, and possibly facing rejection?

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Finally, concerning "Here's how to do it," how do you get people to listen to you, so that you can explain how to do "it"? Write down your thoughts? What's the best way to get people to hear what you have to say and then to follow what you have to say?

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I'm sure that you've heard before that no one cares what you know until they know that you care. The first way to get people to listen to you is to show them that you care. Your followers must believe that you sincerely listen to them, that you are concerned about what's going on in their lives, and that you have their best interests in mind when you make decisions.

What are some other practical ways that you can show your "followers" that you care for them? Describe them here.

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In my experience, getting people to listen either takes authority influence. Some leaders have the position of power but they have no influence with their people, meaning that their followers only do what they say because they have to, otherwise they'll get into trouble. Not everyone who has a position of authority has influence in their followers' minds. Authority is different than influence. Someone, such as Mahatma Gandhi, can wield tremendous influence without ever holding a political position. How did he have so much influence over the people of India when he had no position of power? His influence carried with it authority, and when he spoke, people listened.

Okay, so true leadership is not in what positions you hold. **True leadership is in one's capacity to influence people to act.** So then, the key to Level 4 leadership seems to be how well you can influence those around you. I think Jesus had something to say about this topic. Read *Mark 10:42-45*. What did He have to say about building your influence to lead people in a godly way?

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I have discovered three things to which followers seem to respond well. First, people want to know if you are what you propose to be, that you are genuine and real, not a fake or a hypocrite. We've discussed that already in an earlier section. Second, people respond well to sincerity, that you are sincerely interested in them and that you sincerely care. We just finished discussing this as well. **But the most important tip I could give to any leader, if he or she wants to impact followers, is to be a humble servant.**

We will discuss the importance of humility in a minute, but first let's tackle servanthood. Why, in your opinion, would Jesus point others to servanthood to be considered "great"? What is so special about serving others that grows your influence with them?

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I'm not sure what it is specifically about serving others that causes them to respect you or have more of a desire to follow you, but if Jesus held it in the highest esteem, then we should pay attention. I would be safe in saying that most leaders see themselves as having climbed a ladder of sorts and that everyone else is "under them." But that's not what Jesus insinuates? In His mind, a leader has not climbed to the top of any ladder; a leader has volunteered to be on the lowest rung of the ladder. He has basically signed up to serve others. **The higher up you "climb" in leadership, the more lowly you should consider your post,** for the higher the position, the more people you have a chance to serve.

I have been both an ordained deacon and elder at my church. To some, those may be lofty positions with prestige and power, but I do not see it that way. I don't see myself as having climbed any spiritual ladder; what I see is that I've signed up to serve, that is I've humbled myself to do the dirty work, the work that Christ honors most. *If you want to become a leader, become a servant, because serving others develops influence, and influence develops authority.* Choose to serve others.

Serving others does not come naturally or easily. What must one overcome to be able to serve others?

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Serving others produces humility, which is one reason why I think every leader must find ways to serve others regularly, so that he or she can ward off pride and remain humble. God honors those who are humble; He is opposed to the proud. Followers don't respond well to proud leaders either. Why not?

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We've discussed the "Here's how to do it" part, let's look at the "Let's do it together" part.

Notice that this leader says, "Let's do it together"; he or she does not say, "You do it and I'll watch." One of the things that can have tremendous impact on your followers is that you are not afraid to work, to get dirty, or to do the most menial tasks yourself. I've always had more respect for leaders who jump in and help versus those who stand around and watch. I want to work hard for those leaders; and your followers will want to work hard for you. Don't bark at people in a bossy way; show them what to do, be an example for them, and do it together. **You will get more productivity out of people if you join in the work.** You can't be above even the lowliest of duties; be willing to do anything.

Another aspect of "Let's do it together" is the idea of teamwork. **A good leader is a team player, not a loner who calls all the shots.** It is not your goal to prove yourself superior to anyone or to split your followers into factions; your goal is to bring everyone together, no matter how different they are, to think together, to work together, and, ultimately, to succeed together. That is not a task easily accomplished. You will need to get to know your followers, know how they think, how they respond, their strengths and weaknesses, and how you can use their skills, talents, and personalities to achieve a task. In essence, you have to be a coach, and you've got to use every player and win the game. It's difficult, but it's a lot of fun.

The final aspect of "Let's do it together" is that you must know what "it" is. People will look to you to know "it" and to point others to "it." But what is "it"? "It" is the vision, the direction, the goal, or the objectives that everyone is aiming for. Knowing "it" is oftentimes the hardest part of Level 4 leadership. We are expected to be visionaries, idealists, creative thinkers, and planners; but that does not come easily. We need help. How exactly do we know what "it" is to lead our followers towards? Let me share with you what I've learned.

The greatest advice I've ever received pertaining to vision-casting or goal-setting was this: **to follow Christ in advance of others.** *No matter how high up the ladder of leadership one gets, one must always remember that he or she is still a follower, a follower of Christ.* He is our leader, He is our visionary, and His goals should be our goals. So then, as a leader I must pursue the Scriptural Christian life with a passion, to know Christ well and to follow Him closely. I need to have the mindset of "wherever He leads, I will go."

I lead a small group of married couples at our church; we meet in a home once a week for two hours, and we do life together. That group looks to me for spiritual leadership; it is my responsibility to be prepared with challenges and teaching that encourages spiritual growth. At times, that responsibility has been overwhelming for me, very heavy to say the least. But, the longer I do it, the more I've learned that the responsibility is not solely mine but God's; my responsibility is to focus on God's will for my life, to find areas where I need to improve, and to strive for excellence in my conformity to Christ-likeness. What I've found is that as I've done my best to follow Christ, He has been faithful to set challenges for me, challenges which in turn I have set for my group. In other words, I follow Christ in advance of others.

I pour my time into studying the Scriptures, to practice them myself first, and then to teach them to others. I try to be sensitive to what the Lord is saying to me, to what He wants me to do or to work on, and to what the needs are in the lives of my group members. God uses all of those things to persuade me to pursue certain spiritual paths, and in that process, I invite my group to come along with me.

I don't claim to have all of the answers or to set myself up on some pedestal; but what I do claim is to have a healthy, growing relationship with Christ, and as He challenges me, I challenge my group. That's the secret: **seek God's will and be obedient; then encourage others to follow along.** That's what it means to follow Christ in advance of others. That's what it means to be a Level 4 leader.

Who is the most impressive Level 4 leader in your life? What are some characteristics you see in this person that you are compelled to emulate in your own way?

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Take a minute, in closing, to reflect on all you've read and learned. Summarize your understanding of what a good leader is.

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# The Greatest Leader of All

## Wrapping Up

It is our desire to encourage you to reach your leadership potential in whatever field God chooses to place you, to recognize God's call on your life — **to do more than simply make a living but also to make a difference** for His Kingdom.



The Bible is full of great examples of leadership, such as Joseph, Moses, Daniel, Ezra, Esther, Nehemiah, and Paul. However, the greatest of them is, of course, Jesus. In His brief time on earth, He exemplified each level of leadership perfectly.

### Level 1 -- Jesus Was a Great Follower

It is written that He was submissive to His earthly parents, He was respectful to His earthly authorities, and He was obedient to His Heavenly Father, even to death.

### Level 2 -- Jesus Led Himself

Although He was tempted in all areas, as we are tempted, Jesus did not sin. He controlled His fleshly desires by the power of the Spirit and did not allow them to enslave Him. Thus, He was able to accomplish all that God set forth for Him.

### Level 3 -- Jesus Led Others by Example

Everything that He asked of others, He first exemplified Himself. He led the way for baptism, prayer, loving and helping others, serving, teaching, and giving all for the Lord. Jesus was the real deal, genuine, sincere, and worthy of emulation.

### Level 4 -- Jesus Followed His Father in Advance of Others

Up to His last night on earth, Jesus poured Himself into others, constantly investing His time and energies into helping others reach their potential. He encouraged them and even showed them how to make the most of their lives for God. He is the best example of a true leader.

Thus, as we strive to be leaders, we strive to be more Christ-like in character, in conscience, in words, and in deeds. In our desire to be leaders, may the Lord find us ever conforming to the image set forth by His Son.