

LEADING WITH
DISTINCTION

SAMPLE

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 **access**
downloadable curriculum

SESSION ONE

INTRODUCTION

Athletes learn critical concepts from successful business people, and successful business people learn critical principles from athletes. In this study, we will learn vital spiritual principles by looking at biblical leadership from an athletic perspective. For many people, the spiritual arena does not hold the importance that athletics hold, but it is much more important because it deals with eternity. The impact a Christian leader makes, or fails to make, will have an impact on someone's eternal state. Therefore spiritual leaders should be the most prepared and motivated to lead.

This leadership study will cover core elements of becoming a leader of distinction—a leader that will make an impact on other people's lives for all eternity.

TEAM MEETING 1: Five Fundamentals of Spiritual Leadership

The team will make a commitment to develop a personal walk with God and become an effective witness.

TEAM MEETING 2: Five Strategies of Spiritual Leadership

The team will focus on the mental preparation necessary for meeting the challenges of spiritual leadership.

TEAM MEETING 3: Five Traits of Spiritual Leadership

The team will consider how to facilitate a winning team effort.

TEAM MEETING 4: Five Concepts of Spiritual Leadership

The team will discuss the benefits of apprenticeship, the role of a spiritual leader by establishing trust and respect.

TEAM MEETING 5: Five Principles of Spiritual Leadership

The team meeting will be a time of soul-searching discussion focused on: forgetting the past, disengaging distractions, expecting victory, and the call to spiritual leadership.

If you use PowerPoint, there are suggestions for slides found in the lessons. Each lesson has reproducible handouts for you to use. The main lesson is for you; it is written to you the facilitator. This curriculum is discussion-driven and application-oriented. We have provided tips for you along the way to help you and the group feel comfortable discussing the various topics.

SESSION ONE

FIVE FUNDAMENTALS OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

MATERIALS

- Bible
- Pens, yellow highlighter
- Handouts
- Thin, three-ring binder (be able to slip sheets into the front and back)
- Helmet decals

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To challenge men, who are in leadership positions or desire to be in leadership positions, to make a commitment to develop a personal walk with God and become an effective witness.

CONNECT

To begin this team meeting, ask your new recruits to describe spiritual excellence by using a team motto or saying they find significant. For example: “Winners never quit and quitters never win.” After they share the motto or saying, have them briefly describe how this motto or saying relates to leading with distinction. Anything above average should be recognized with a helmet decal. Work together to create (or borrow) a team motto for your study group. This will be used throughout the five sessions.

Helmet decals are used by all types of athletic teams. They are given at team meetings after a game to honor players for making plays that required one to demonstrate exceptional skills; such as most tackles in a football game, longest run for touchdown, exceptional blocking. These can be given to study participants for stimulating team conduct; participation that demonstrates excellence for going beyond the facilitator’s basic expectations.

If you like you can research helmet decals online, look for stock “award decal stickers.” Local sport shops that supply high school and college teams should also have the helmet decals available. You can also use small American flag decals which may be easier to locate.

It is okay to spend a large portion of your time in this first session to connect as a team. Do not feel like you have to be “preaching” to them the entire time. This five-session study includes plenty of time for discussing scriptures. It is very important to connect as a group as you begin this study of spiritual excellence.

Helmet decals can be given to study participants for stimulating team conduct; participation that demonstrates excellence for going beyond the facilitator’s basic expectations. You can also use a helmet image made out of a glossy (coated) paper for the team members to attach their helmet decals to. If these are set up to slip in the front and back of the three-ring binder, it could make for a coordinated and fun package.

CONSIDER

(Possible PowerPoint slides)

Have the recruits discuss the commitment required to be a leader, and then review the following. Read the verses, discussing the biblical approach to leadership.

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- Learn the Playbook: Bible Study (2 Timothy 2:15)
- Faithful to Head Sessions with the Coach: Prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- Participate in Team Activities: Fellowship (1 John 1:7)
- Faithful to Recruiting: Witnessing (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Faithful to Recognition Ceremonies: Worship (Hebrews 10:25)

Ask these questions:

What does a leader's commitment to these fundamentals say about a leader? How does a leader's commitment to these fundamentals affect their leadership?

Winners are determined by those who have more than the physical assets. The real champions (the super stars) are the ones who excel to levels few can reach. They are mentally tough.

1 Peter 1:13 instructs leaders to gird up their mind and to be sober.

- Gird means to secure by wrapping or tying.
- Sober carries the idea of being able to think clearly, not distracted or swayed by surrounding circumstances.

There are times when the offense cannot score, or the defense cannot keep the opponent from scoring, but the leader of distinction finds a way to remain level-headed, rally the team, turn the momentum and win the game!

Life can turn against the spiritual leader. Satan might turn the tide of your ministry for an inning or two. But the spiritual leader is able to keep his eye on the prize and press on to success. Continue the study by asking:

- In Job 1:13-22, how does Job illustrate this principle?
- How does Psalm 1:1-3 relate to this concept of staying mentally tough?

Discuss meditation. Ask group members: *How does meditating on God's Word help leaders of distinction stay focused on spiritual victory?*

Discuss scripture memorization. Ask: *How does memorizing God's Word help the leader of distinction stay mentally strong?*

Consider scripture memorization within the parameters of each of the five fundamentals: (Possible PowerPoint slides)

- How does Scripture memorization impact Bible Study?
- How does Scripture memorization impact Prayer?
- How does Scripture memorization impact Fellowship?
- How does Scripture memorization impact Witnessing?
- How does Scripture memorization impact Worship?

COMMIT

To end this study, provide the team with a copy of the handout "The Fundamentals." Read each Bible passage that applies to that specific fundamental, and discuss what commitment is required to establish this fundamental in their life. Have them write down the commitment required to establish the fundamental, and then discuss the benefits from establishing this fundamental in their life. Have the team members write down the benefits they believe to be most significant to them.



You may want to complete this session by discussing:

- Which fundamental is easiest to integrate into their life?
- Which fundamental is the most difficult to integrate into their life?
- Why is one fundamental more conducive to their life style than another?
- Is it important to be accountable to someone when working to establish these fundamentals into their life?

SAMPLE

The Fundamentals

Next to each commitment, write down the benefit for you and the team. How does your commitment to this fundamental affect your leadership?

COMMITMENT

THE BENEFITS

Studying the Playbook: Bible Study

Head Sessions with the Coach: Prayer

Team Activities: Fellowship

Recruiting: Witnessing

Memorial and Recognition Ceremonies: Worship

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