



Jesus Leads: Ownership | March 25, 2020

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Most people have heard about "fight or flight," however we aren't aware about how it impacts our faith and our life. Learn about what Jesus says about ownership in the face of difficulty below.

Key Verses

John 10:11-13 (NIV)

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."

Discussion

When we find ourselves in an unfavorable situation, our brain automatically switches into a "fight or flight" response. We try to protect ourselves by seeking to blame someone or something else for the difficulty. If you can picture this part of our brain the smoke detector that warns us against fire, we need to learn to silence the alarm so we respond appropriately as leaders.

1. Can you think of examples where "fight or flight" may have been at play in a leader's decisions?
2. What is an instance that you blamed someone for something that you did wrong? Why? How did this make you feel?

Self-preservation is a powerful emotion. It causes us to want to take credit so we look good and deny responsibility so we don't look bad. Research shows that the best leaders do the exact opposite. When a situation results in a positive outcome, great leaders willingly and regularly share the praise with others. When a situation results in a negative outcome, great leaders take ownership. It may feel counter-intuitive, but leadership research has proven this to be the definition of a great leader (refer to Jim Collins - *Good to Great*).

3. Can you think of examples of great leaders that have admitted when they made a mistake or gave credit away when receiving praise?
4. How does this concept challenge your understanding of leadership? In what ways does this scare you?

The best part of all this leadership research is that it's based on biblical truths...Jesus first modeled it. In John 10:11-13 the Bible tells us that *"The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."* If we think of this in terms of taking ownership, the sheep are representative of the followers, and the contrast between the shepherd and hired hand illustrate good and bad leadership. The disparity between the response of a "hired hand" and a leader, "the shepherd" is responsibility/ownership. It's not acceptable to blame the wolf or the hired hand, neither are responsible for the sheep or ultimately the outcome.

5. In your real life, what are examples of the sheep? What are examples of the wolf?
6. How might you have adjusted your leadership in the past or how might you adjust your leadership in the future as a result of Jesus's example of the hired hand vs the shepherd?

What's Next?

This week in your faith, pay attention to the places and instances where you feel "fight or flight" influencing your decisions and responses. Remember, the emotional response itself isn't the problem...it's natural. However, in the midst of difficulty, allow your faith to take lead, silence the smoke detector, and take ownership of your "flock." A good shepherd sacrifices for the good of the sheep...sacrifice credit to others can be encouraged and sacrifice self so others can be protected.

- Is there currently a situation or person you need to go back to and take responsibility?
- Is there currently a person or situation where you need to give credit? If so, how do you think that will illustrate your faith?

You can find our 5-minute faith journal template at faithinfive.com to further connect your goals with your faith.