



Jesus Leads: Transparency | April 8, 2020

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Two of the most popular words in leadership right now are vulnerability and transparency. This week we will look at how Jesus chose to lead with both of these traits, and how you can too!

Key Verses

Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Discussion

Author and political commentator Christopher Hayes, has highlighted the fact that, "In the past decade, nearly every pillar institution in American Society...has revealed itself to be corrupt, incompetent, or both." If leaders repeatedly break the trust of their followers, employees, and volunteers, we start to naturally distrust leaders, people of authority, and word of the next leaders that follow.

1. Who is someone either in the news or in your personal life that has fallen short of the trust of their followers?
(be careful in discussion to speak about examples of behaviors not personal attacks, especially in areas of politics)
2. After leaders have broken your trust, do you find it easy or hard to trust other leaders? Why or why not? How have you dealt with that?

To effectively lead others we need to be able to humbly reflect on how our actions and words are perceived by those around us. In short, the world does not revolve around the leader. As you seek to lead in your own life, begin to welcome feedback and seek out peers that can help hold you accountable for who you say you are, as well as, who your followers perceive you to be.

3. Would you have more trust for a leader that shows openness and transparency towards their followers? Who is someone that does this well? Who is a leader that is welcoming to new perspectives on their own actions?
4. Are there people in your life who have your permission to hold you accountable? Who are they? If not, who might they be?

In Mark 8:27-30, Jesus questions his disciples about who he is, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." Then Jesus prods Peter further asking who specifically he thought Jesus was. Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." Jesus then instructs them not to go tell others who he is. It's almost as if Jesus wants to know what his closest friends see in him. He is essentially asking, "Am I who I say I am?" Then he is hoping his actions will draw people to him not what others say about him. Jesus invites his followers to hold him accountable and measure him by his actions not his words.

5. How might transparency and vulnerability in your personal and professional life positively affect your follower's trust in you?
6. Are there people in your life who you need to check in with regarding your accountability or their accountability?

What's Next?

Lack of accountability leaves us exposed to bad decisions or at the very least perceived bad decisions. When left unchecked, we can lose the trust and do lasting damage. This week as you live your faith, seek to create transparency and vulnerability. Model transparency by seeking 2-5 people that you can trust to hold you accountable for your actions and leadership. Check in with these people regularly and hold these peers accountable for being able to speak honestly about who they perceive you to be.

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