

## CLI Leadership Bible Study: Lesson 1

*How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ*

Welcome to CLI's Leadership Bible Study! You are taking an important step in order to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ. You are embarking on a never-ending journey to make a difference in your community, your world and most importantly God's kingdom.

No one is born a leader, but with God's grace, anyone can develop this gift to be used for good. However, leadership is not easy. It takes effort and sacrifice. It takes an undivided heart towards the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

With this right heart and motivation, God will provide all that you need, when you need it. But remember, you must trust and follow Christ. Your goal as a Christian leader is to allow Christ to work through you in order to bring glory to God. May He draw you close and equip you for every good work.

This study is freely given and your work freely reviewed in the name of Jesus Christ. Your only cost will be the stamps and envelopes necessary to return your completed answer sheet(s). When you finish each lesson, return it to us for comments and encouragement from one of our "Bible Ministers." Your answers, along with a new lesson, will be mailed back to you within 1-2 weeks.

Since this study is offered to men and women, we will frequently use the pronoun "he" when referring to both genders. The term man/men can also refer to the whole human race in the Bible, so please take this into consideration. God's revealed Word is for every single person. The Bible contains God's commandments, promises, and warnings which are essential for spiritual health and vitality (strength, energy). Bon Voyage! (French for "good journey")

God be with you now and forevermore!



Executive Director<sup>1</sup>

*Advancing Christ's Light in Prisons*

All Scripture is from The NIV Study Bible, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, Kenneth Barker, General Editor, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1995.

---

<sup>1</sup> Kathleen Skaar is the author of CLI's Leadership Bible Study. She is founder and Executive Director of CLI with a Master of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. She also holds a Master of Business Administration from Meredith College and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Florida.

## **Lesson 1: Building a Leadership Model (Day One) *Leadership Defined***

Words are interesting concepts. If I were to say banana and you understood English, most likely you would imagine a yellow thick-skinned fruit. Other words that denote abstract (not concrete) ideas are harder to grasp. For example, numbers and other pure mathematical objects would be considered abstract.

Sometimes we have heard words so many times that we think we understand what they mean, but in fact we don't. Then again, we may have been taught incorrectly. Therefore as Christians it is beneficial to study the real or varied meanings of the words that define our faith. The simple act of clarifying a word's definition can have a dramatic effect on your walk with the Lord.

Words can also mean different things to different people. Even the name Christian may have different meanings for different people. For example, a Christian may be defined as one who goes to church on Sunday or as one who reads the Bible. The Christian may be labeled for what he does rather than for the One he serves.

Believers in Christ were first called Christians in Antioch (Acts 11:26). The Greek *Christianos* (Χριστιανός) “originally applied to the slaves belonging to a great household.”<sup>2</sup> Slaves belonging to such households had greater status and authority in the community because of the high social rank and wealth of their owners. Later the term *Christianos* came to denote the adherents (supporters) of an individual or party.”<sup>3</sup>

Christians are servants or slaves who belong to the great household of God through Jesus Christ. You belong to God and are to serve Him only. You serve Him through His Son, Jesus.

When you live up to the true definition of Christian, others will know that you are a follower of Jesus. Your status and authority will come from the Sovereign God, who is the Ruler and Owner of all. Your behavior, works, and attitudes will always point to the One you are serving rather than to yourself.

Sometimes people call themselves Christians but are excessively (extremely) involved in their own interests, businesses or activities. They are self-absorbed and engrossed in their own world. Their primary focus is on themselves. Self-absorption is being overly involved with yourself.

---

<sup>2</sup> Trent, Butler, Editor, *Holman Bible Dictionary*, (Homan Bible Publishers, Nashville TN, 1991), 252

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

**Question 1.** Based on the definition of Christian above, how is self-absorption contrary to a follower of Christ?

**\*\*See end of lesson for repeat of questions and blank spaces for you to write your answers.** *When all the questions have been completed, return your answer sheets to CLI. You may keep this lesson for your own study or review. You may pass it on to another or discard.*

**2.** Have you been guilty of the sin of self-absorption? If so, what will you do about it? (Consider 2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

*However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.* 1 Peter 4:16

**3.** In 1 Peter 4:16 why do you think Peter says that if you suffer as a Christian, praise God?

Christ suffered death on the cross so that man could have his sins forgiven. As a follower of Christ, the Christian may be called to suffer for upholding His name. The Christian is blessed to follow in his Master's footsteps even in painful trials and persecutions when he or she is aligned (united) with God's will.

Now let's see how the terms Christian and leadership work together. Leadership means being a leader - someone who leads. It is a verb (action word) with a variety of meanings:

1. To show the way to by going in advance.
2. To guide or direct.
3. a. To serve as a route for; take: *The path led them to a cemetery.*  
b. To be a channel or conduit for (water or electricity, for example).
4. To guide the behavior or opinion of; induce.
5. a. To direct the performance or activities of.  
b. To inspire the conduct of.
6. To play a principal or guiding role in.
7. a. To go or be at the head of: *The queen led the procession.*  
b. To be ahead of: *led the runner-up by three strides.*  
c. To be foremost in or among:<sup>1</sup>

In a real sense all of these definitions apply to Jesus, the preeminent (most excellent) Leader. *First*, He showed the way by going in advance; He was born of a woman and lived on earth. He is the firstborn among many brothers (Romans 8:29). *Second*, He guides and directs the Christian in the right course (John 10:14).

*Third*, He is the path of life. He is the way or channel to God (John 14:6). *Fourth*, He guides us in all truth that affects our behavior and opinions (John 1:17). *Fifth*, He directs our works and activities (John 10:16). He inspires us to be pure and holy (1 Peter 2:5). *Sixth*, He is the Principal and Guide in our life. *Seventh*, He is the head and at the head of everything (Colossians 1:15-18). He is foremost in and among all men and all angels (Philippians 2:10, Revelation 3:14).

The Christian has the great privilege of following the Son of God, the utmost (greatest) Leader. In leading others, the Christian gets his instructions from Jesus. The Christian leads in obedience.

**4.** Review the ways Jesus leads above. Are there any ways listed above that Jesus is not leading your life? Explain.

The goal of this study is to build up Christian leaders. Christian Leadership is heading up, leading, guiding, and going out in front for the cause of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. Being a leader is an active call upon your life. It is not for the weak or mediocre. The true leader will not be spit out of Jesus' mouth (Revelation 3:16). But neither will the true leader be proud or boastful (James 4:6). It is a high calling that demands a high level of commitment. Let the "heavenly boot camp" begin!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Personal Application: Pray the following prayer in sincerity:**

Lord Jesus, You are an excellent Leader. Everything that You do is for the good of all people. How You love God's creation and how You love me. Your ways are far superior to my ways and I long to follow You completely. I pray that You lead me in every area of my life. I ask that no one and no thing in my life is free from Your leadership. Make me a leader totally identified with You, my Lord. May I lead with a pure heart giving all the glory to our triune God. Amen.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lesson 1: Building a Leadership Model (Day Two) *The Model***

Building a house, computer system, or any other involved structure generally doesn't happen overnight. It takes time to develop and implement the plan. You'll need the right instructions or directions from the beginning. For example, if you want to build a house you wouldn't copy a model for a car. If you were making lasagna for dinner, you wouldn't be following the instructions for a chocolate cake. In other words, whatever it is you want to make or build, you must start with the right design or plan in accordance with the proper model. It is also a process.

In the very same way, Christians generally do not become effective leaders in an instant. It takes time to develop and implement the plan of leadership. And like anything else, Christians need the right instructions from the beginning to end up with the right results.

*I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.<sup>16</sup> I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. John 13:15-16*

5. Read John 13:15-16. Who is the model for building a Christian leader?

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

6. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Where do you find the instructions for following the Model?

Yes, Jesus is the Model and the Bible is the blueprint.<sup>4</sup> However, our Model and Blueprint are not stagnant or fixed objects. They are living: He is our *living* Lord and our instructions are the *living* Word. Our relationship with both is dynamic and vibrant. Thus, the Christian starts to build his or her skills by *actively* following the Model and *actively* studying His words.

7. Do you think there are many Christians today working from the wrong model or blueprint? If so, what kind of model are they working from and what will be their end result?

8. At this point in time, what model and blueprint are you using?

Everyone who is a Christian is a leader. You are either leading people to Christ or away from Christ. There is no middle ground. Now, some people have a special anointing or gift for leadership from the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:8) just like some have a special anointing or gift from the Holy Spirit to evangelize (2 Timothy 4:5). There are different gifts from the Holy Spirit to glorify God. But we are not talking about spiritual gifts right now. We are talking about what every Christian is called to do as a follower of Christ.

---

<sup>4</sup> Blueprint is a photographic reproduction, as of architectural plans or technical drawings, rendered as white lines on a blue background. Also called *cyanotype*. A detailed plan of action. (from Microsoft Bookshelf 1996-97 edition)

Our goal is to become like Jesus. Jesus was the most excellent of men. He is the perfect leadership Model. The question then becomes: How can we follow in His steps and be a leader of excellence?

*But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*  
John 14:26

*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.* 2 Corinthians 3:18

Read John 14:26 and 2 Corinthians 3:18 and answer question 9:

**9.** How can you follow in Jesus' steps and be a leader of excellence?

The Holy Spirit helps you follow Jesus and become a leader like Him. You are being transformed or changed into His likeness throughout your life. It is a long building process but always keep your eye on the glorious face of Jesus, for this is the face that you will look like in the end.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Personal Application:**

Ask God to speak to you personally through the following verses about Jesus:

*"Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.<sup>19</sup> He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets.<sup>20</sup> A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory.<sup>21</sup> In his name the nations will put their hope."*

Matthew 12:18-21 (quoted from Isaiah 42:1-4)

**10.** What did God say or impress upon you?

**11.** Communication with God is pivotal (essential) in your role as a Christian leader. Do you regularly hear (in your mind or heart) God speaking to you?  
Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

**12.** I would like more information about communicating with God: Yes No  
(Circle One)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Lesson 1: Building a Leadership Model (Day Three) *The Chief Cornerstone***

Have you ever built anything? Perhaps you have been on a construction team and helped build a house or you might remember building something with your toys when you were a child. In order to build, one must take individual parts and place them together in a systematic way. The outcome will be a product or form that is far more useful than its individual parts. Not to say that the individual parts cannot be useful for other purposes but compare a concrete block with a completed house, a single thread with a shirt, or an aluminum panel with an airplane.

After you have your model or plan, the individual parts must be selected carefully. They must be compatible for the project. In other words, you must use the materials that the blueprint calls for if you want the final product to look like the model. Would you want to lead a team attempting to build an airplane with concrete blocks? Of course not! You want to lead a team that is going to do something useful and make a difference. An aircraft that could not get off the ground would not be very beneficial. Of course you could make a restaurant in the shape of an airplane, but then you would have a restaurant that was not a flying machine, but was just shaped like one!

It is not only important to build with the correct parts but also to use quality materials. Quality materials will last longer and function properly. With quality materials the finished project will be more secure and safer to use.

**13.** What happens if you begin your project with faulty or defective materials?

**14.** Do you have a real life story to share of a project that was built with defective materials? What happened?

Without choosing your building materials properly, you would not only be wasting your time but the time of others as well. Your product would be just as defective (flawed) as the materials that you used. Consider for a moment that Christian leadership is about everlasting benefits. It is about making a difference forever. You are leading others forward to their advantage; you are leading them towards God.

**15.** What would you do if you discovered your building materials were of inferior quality?

Leading and building have a lot in common. Leadership is gathering individuals with different perspectives (viewpoints) and putting them together in a way that

births a greater purpose, a greater good. Like using the proper materials in a building project, the individuals must be appropriate for the job. For example, if a group of Christians were gathering for a worship service, you would not ask a nonbeliever to give a personal testimony of how he came to know the Lord.

**16.** What are some reasons that you should not ask a follower of a non-Christian religion to pray for you or to lead a group in prayer?

A follower of another religion is not talking to the one, true, living God. Our Father in heaven forbids idols or false gods in the life of His people (Exodus 20:3-4). Remember, God the Father is only approached through God the Son (John 14:6). Building is used as a metaphor<sup>5</sup> in various parables<sup>6</sup> in the Bible. Jesus was skilled at using everyday occurrences in the lives of the people to illustrate a spiritual truth. His parables were entertaining yet extremely meaningful.

*"I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice.<sup>48</sup> He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.<sup>49</sup> But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete." Luke 6:47-49*

**17.** According to Jesus in Luke 6:47-48a, what is a person like who hears His words and puts them into practice?

**18.** When the flood came what happened (v.48b)?

**19.** What do you think the flood represents in this parable?

**20.** In Luke 6:49, what is a person like who hears His words but does not put them into practice?

**21.** What happens when the flood or torrent strikes (v.49b)?

---

<sup>5</sup> A figure of speech in which a word or phrase that ordinarily designates one thing is used to designate another, thus making an implicit comparison. *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language*

<sup>6</sup> A parable is a simple story that illustrates a moral or spiritual truth, most commonly about the kingdom of God. Hernando, James D. *Dictionary of Hermeneutic, 101.*

In biblical times, people would search for a good strong cornerstone for a foundation for their house or building. The cornerstone was a stone that was laid at the corner of two walls to strengthen and bind them together. The cornerstone is used in the Bible as a symbol for strong leaders.

*So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed. Isaiah 28:16*

*Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem. It is firm, a tested and precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never run away again."<sup>NLT</sup> Isaiah 28:16 (quoted in 1 Peter 2:4-8)*

**22.** Read Isaiah 28:16 both in the NIV and the New Living Translation (NLT). Based on a cornerstone being used as a metaphor for a leader, give a description of his character.

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.<sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.<sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22*

**23.** Read Ephesians 2:19-22. Who is the chief cornerstone?

Not only is Jesus our Model, He is the chief building material. He most assuredly is our all-in-all. In other words, we see Jesus (Model) through the Bible (Blueprint) and we understand the plan. However, to begin building we need a sure foundation that we can trust. In order to become a Christian leader, a person must trust Jesus as Lord and Savior.

**24.** As a Christian leader, what is the goal of your building project (purposefully bringing individuals together) according to Ephesians 2:19-22?

The Christian leader's goal is to become and help others become a holy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Like the temple in the Old Testament, we are to be a living place of worship (adoration, devotion). Christian leaders glorify God and lead others to glorify God also. The tasks, the team members, and the activities may all be different but the end result is the same: Glorify God.

Glorify means to give glory, praise, and honor. The Hebrew<sup>7</sup> word for glory is *kabod* (כְּבוֹד). It means abundance, weight, burden, and honor. It is used in various ways in the Bible but when it refers to God it means recognizing His importance (heavy weight) and majesty. Glorifying God is recognizing God's holy character, His goodness and tremendous worth. God is preeminent. He is the most excellent, the greatest, and unsurpassed Supreme Being.

The Christian leader must begin building with our chief and precious (great value) Cornerstone. You are taking these lessons because you have professed faith (belief, trust) in Jesus Christ; however, if you are unsure of your relationship with God, read Genesis 1:27, 3:1-17, Romans 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, and 10:9.

**25.** Is there anything keeping you from total surrender and submission to Jesus Christ as Lord? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Please explain your answer:

\*\*\*\*\*

**Personal Application:**

*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.*

1 Corinthians 3:11-14

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind any wrong foundation or building block in your own life? Confess (agree with God that you sinned) and repent (turn away from) from your wrongdoing. Ask God to help you build your life on Jesus Christ and no other. Pray that all you build from this day forward will survive for His glory.

\*\*\*\*\*

---

<sup>7</sup> The Old Testament was originally written in the Hebrew language and the New Testament in Greek.

## Lesson 1: Building a Leadership Model (Day Four) *The Trinity*

In looking to Jesus, our Model and Cornerstone, we must look to Him in the right way. Jesus, the Son of God was born fully man and fully God. He is one with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. The explanation of this divine unity is difficult because it is a divine mystery.

A divine mystery is something that our human minds cannot fully understand about God. The Trinity is one of the most important and well-known divine mysteries. The word trinity is not found in the Bible but simply means “tri-unity” or “three persons in one.” The name Trinity as referring to God was first used in the book *Against Praxeas* by “Church Father”<sup>8</sup> Tertullian (160-225 AD).

Tertullian used the term to describe the relationship of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This name came into existence because Bible scholars were reflecting critically on the pattern of divine activity portrayed and revealed in Scripture. As they studied and meditated on God’s Word, they came to agree on the doctrine of the Trinity. Church doctrine is a written body of teachings that has been set forth and accepted by the theologians (study God, religion) and the church body.<sup>9</sup>

The doctrine of the Trinity states there is one God who exists eternally<sup>10</sup> in three distinct persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Father,

---

<sup>8</sup> The Church Fathers or Fathers of the Church are the early and influential theologians and writers in the Christian church, particularly those of the first five centuries. Those fathers who wrote in Latin are called the Latin (Church) Fathers, and those who wrote in Greek, the Greek (Church) Fathers. Famous Latin Fathers include Tertullian, Augustine of Hippo, Ambrose of Milan, and Jerome; famous Greek Fathers include Irenaeus of Lyons, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Athanasius of Alexandria, John Chrysostom, and the three Cappadocian Fathers. (Source: Wikipedia free encyclopedia -

[HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/CHURCH\\_FATHERS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_fathers))

<sup>9</sup> Church doctrine can fluctuate somewhat among Protestant and Catholic denominations. Indeed even among Protestant denominations there are differences of how Scripture is interpreted. However, there are certain tenets of the faith that must be in place for a particular congregation or group of people to be called Christian. The Trinity is one such doctrine and some others include the Fall of Adam and Eve, the Virgin birth of Jesus, Jesus being fully God and fully human, His death on the cross to pay for man’s sins and resurrection from the dead.

<sup>10</sup> Eternally or being eternal in reference to God means that He always was and always will be. He is without beginning or end.

Son, and Spirit are of one and the same divine essence. In other words, each member of the Trinity is fully God and fully one with each other. (Person is another term coined by Tertullian to help in understanding the God of the Bible.)

**26.** Why do you think we bring up the Trinity in our study of leadership?

Following God the Son means that you are also following God, the Father and God, the Spirit. Therefore, our Leadership Model must include the triune God. In order to know and relate to God properly, you must understand the Trinity as much as is humanly possible. You will rely on the triune God in all that you do each day.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Personal Application:**

**27.** Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and then read and meditate on the following verses: John 1:1-2, 3:16, 10:30, 14:16-17, 17:21, 20:28; Matthew 16:15-17, 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; Nehemiah 9:20; Isaiah 48:16; Zechariah 4:6 and Joel 2:28-29.

**28.** What was one thing that you learned from reading these verses?

**29.** What was one thing that God revealed to you about Himself?

**30.** Is there anything that you will do differently from reading these verses? Explain:

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Jesus is the Word of God**

We cannot relate to our Model, Jesus Christ, without relating to His whole essence. To know Jesus is to know the Father and the Holy Spirit. They are one with an eternal relationship. They always existed, exist today and will always exist.

The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew. It has been translated into many languages including many different versions in English. Sometimes one translation of the Hebrew Scriptures captures a truer and deeper meaning of a particular word than another. Languages have certain nuances or grammatical differences that may be difficult to translate. Still, most versions give a clear and accurate interpretation of God's Word and the different word choices do not affect the meaning of the text.

The Hebrew word in Genesis 1:1-2 that we translate God is Elohim (אֱלֹהִים). This is a masculine, plural, noun, yet whenever the true God is referred to in Scripture

the verbs, adjectives and pronouns that are used with His name are in the singular. In other words, Elohim does not refer to many gods but the unity and yet diversity that we call the Trinity.<sup>11</sup>

Another indication of the triune God is when Elohim says “Let us make man in our image’ (Genesis 1:26). In ancient times a king or ruler was referred to in the plural as a form of respect; this is called the plural of majesty. Certainly, God is the King and the use of the plural of majesty is appropriate in the text. However, it can also be viewed as a marker for the existence of the Trinity working harmoniously together in creation.

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.* Genesis 1:1-2

**31.** Read Genesis 1:1-2. In the beginning who created the heavens and the earth?

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* John 1:1-3

**32.** Who was with God the Father at creation according to Genesis 1:2 and John 1:1-3?

### **Old Testament and the Word**

The definition of word is exactly what you might expect. It is a sound or combination of sounds, or its representation in writing or other types of media that symbolizes and communicates meaning. Even with the onset of the technological revolution,<sup>12</sup> the basic unit of our communication is the same, the word.

*And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.* Genesis 1:3

**33.** According to Genesis 1:3, when God said “Let there be light” what happened?

God used words in powerful ways to bring the universe into existence and to make His existence known to mankind. He reveals who He is, what He is like and how He wants us to live through His words. God made sure His words were recorded

---

<sup>11</sup> Hebrew for Christians website:

[HTTP://WWW.HEBREW4CHRISTIANS.COM/NAMES\\_OF\\_G-D/ELOHIM/ELOHIM.HTML](http://www.hebrew4christians.com/names_of_g-d/elohim/elohim.html)

<sup>12</sup> The term “Technology Revolution” used to define the change in society from an agricultural to an industrial one. Today the word is used to describe the high tech environment especially caused by the invention of the internet.

and preserved for all people. In Old Testament times, the Word became identified with God.

**Yahweh used words to create and uses His creation to communicate His presence:**

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
2Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.  
3There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Psalm 19:1-3  
(see also Romans 1:19-20)*

The Hebrew noun *dabar* (דָּבָר) is translated “word” in English. *Dabar* (דָּבָר) is defined as speech, discourse, saying, word and the sum of what is spoken. When used in conjunction (combination) with God, it refers to His divine communication with His people.

*And God spoke all these words: 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. Exodus 20:1-2*

**34.** Read Exodus 20:1-2. When God spoke these words to the Israelites, what was He revealing about Himself?

God was revealing His name and character. He is the living God with the power and authority to save them from the hands of the Egyptians. He is the Deliverer. He is the LORD who cares.

*He declared to you his covenant, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets. Deuteronomy 4:13*

**35.** Read Deuteronomy 4:13. How did God reveal to the Israelites the moral order He desired? God’s Word is used as a synonym (means the same) for the law or moral order. God’s Word is authoritative; when He speaks it is law. His law or commandments are ways in which God shows His people how He desires for them to live. His purpose is holy living. Thus, it was through God’s Word that we also understand His ways and holy character.

## **New Testament and the Word**

Meditate on John 1:4, 14 and Revelation 19:13 and answer question 7:

*In him was life, and that life was the light of men. John 1:4*

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*  
John 1:14

*He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.*  
Revelation 19:13

**36.** Based on what you previously read about the Word in the Old Testament, what do you think the apostle John meant when he says that the Word became flesh?

**37.** Give a definition of the theological term “incarnation.”

The word incarnation is not in the Bible but it describes one of Christianity’s most important doctrines.<sup>13</sup> The term Christ “incarnate” comes from the Latin word *incarnation*, which means being or taking flesh. It describes what is happening in John 1:14, *The Word became flesh*.

The word flesh in this verse is a term used for humanity. Flesh is another word for body. God became human with an earthly body. Jesus is therefore fully human and fully God. The New Testament affirms that Jesus had two natures, human (Matthew 1:1-17) and divine (Colossians 1:19, John 20:28). Nevertheless, in one of our greatest Christian mysteries, Jesus is of one substance (essence) with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

The New Testament was originally written in Greek. The Greek noun *logos* (λόγος) is translated “word” in our Bible. *Logos* means ‘something said,’ such as a word or a saying. In the beginning God created the world by speaking it into existence.

The Greek word *logos* (λόγος) has the same meaning the Hebrew word *dabar* (דָּבָר). God communicates and manifests (makes known clearly) Himself through His Word. The Bible is also known as the Word, God’s words to us. God speaks to us through the Bible, His Word.

The apostle John was making the connection for his audience that the Word they identified with God, is Jesus. Jesus is God walking in the flesh, in a human body. God revealed Himself then and reveals Himself now through Jesus. We can know who God is through Jesus. We can know what God is like by studying Jesus in our Bible. And when we follow Jesus, we are following God and His plan for us. God’s purpose for all men and women is that they are like Jesus.

---

<sup>13</sup> Christian doctrine is a principle, rule or body of beliefs that forms the basis of our faith.

**38.** What is God's purpose for your life?

*Go now, write it on a tablet for them, inscribe it on a scroll, that for the days to come it may be an everlasting witness.* Isaiah 30:8

**39.** According to Isaiah 30:8, how long will God's Word be a witness (gives evidence, testify)?

Jesus is our everlasting Witness! Jesus is the Word. He is our Model, Blueprint and Cornerstone. Our life and leadership are deeply-rooted (entrenched) in Christ.

Jesus is God! He became flesh and communicated clearly that He was the Son of God who came to give us light and life. He reveals and communicates the character of God.

**Note:** Some scholars have stated that John used the Greek word *logos* to refer to the Greek's idea of some kind of controlling principle or power in the world. That is, they would understand the word as the concept of a god or a creating force in their own language. Both definitions would be appropriate and make sense to the Jew and to the Greek. Both these groups of people would have the opportunity to read or hear John's letter.

### **Lesson 1: Building a Leadership Model (Day Five) *The Triune Relationship***

In order to follow our Leader and lead like Him, we must understand the interrelatedness of the Father, Jesus, and Spirit. Are they jealous of one another? Do they ever get angry at each other? Do they make fun of the other Person? Do they ever belittle (put down) the other one? I'm sure you answered all these questions with an emphatic and forceful: NO!

**40.** How do *you* think the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit truly feel about each other?

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have been together ceaselessly (eternally) without beginning and without end. Benjamin Franklin's proverb that fish and company stink after three days may apply to human relationships but certainly not to the Divine. They work together in love and never tire of each other.

*While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"* Matthew 17:5

*And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."* Matthew 3:17

**41.** Read Matthew 3:17 and 17:5. How does God the Father introduce Jesus?

*but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.* John 14:31a

**42.** Read John 14:31. What does Jesus do to show that He loves the Father?

*But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin."* Mark 3:29

**43.** From Mark 3:29, how does God the Father and God the Son feel about God the Spirit?

(Blasphemy is speaking or acting disrespectfully towards God. Scholars have debated and continue to debate what this unforgivable sin against the Holy Spirit is. One view is that the eternal sin is attributing Jesus' work to Satan instead of to the Holy Spirit; Mark 3:22 is cited. Another view states that when a person resists the Holy Spirit's saving power and grace, they are unable to repent of their sins and will therefore be guilty eternally for their sins.)

*"Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations."* Matthew 12:18

*He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.* John 16:14

**44.** Meditate on Matthew 12:18 and John 16:14. List some of the relational characteristics (ways they get along) of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

The triune God is a picture of oneness and harmony. They love and delight in each other. They are generous with each other and want honor for each other. Amazingly, God wants the same for you and me. Read Jesus' prayer (John 17:20-24) to God the Father.

*"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,<sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.<sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one:<sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.<sup>24</sup> "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."* John 17:20-24

45. According to John 17:20, who is Jesus praying for?

46. In verse 21, what is Jesus asking the Father?

47. In verse 22, Jesus asks that the believers may be \_\_\_\_\_ as we are

\_\_\_\_\_

48. In verse 23, Jesus asks that believers be brought to complete unity for what purpose?

49. In verse 24, Jesus asks the Father that believers will be with \_\_\_\_\_

Just think, Jesus wants us to be one with God the Father and God the Spirit! Just as they love and delight in each other, God wants us to have the same relationship. You, dearly beloved Christian leader, will never be alone again. You will always be with the triune God who cares and delights in you personally, intensely and persistently! He will give you the strength, wisdom and love to identify with and be identified by others with your Model and Leader, Jesus Christ.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Personal Application:**

*"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment.<sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'<sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:36-40*

Memorize Matthew 22:36-40, recognizing the commandment includes Father, Son and Holy Spirit as our triune God. If you have memorized it in the past, review and meditate on it.

### **Leadership depends on knowing and living by this commandment.**

50. Considering the love relationship between the Father, Son, and Spirit, how do you think God expects us to act toward God and one another?

51. **After you have memorized** Matthew 22:36-40, write it on your answer sheet. Do not look at the verses. In this way your Bible Minister will know that you have completed your assignment.

\*\*\*\*\*

-End of Lesson One-

**Answers Lesson 1:** CLI Christian Leadership Study: Building a Leadership Model

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print clearly)

Name of Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 1: Building a Leadership Model (**Day One**) *Leadership Defined*

**Question 1.** Based on the definition of Christian above, how is self- absorption contrary to a follower of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Have you been guilty of the sin of self-absorption? If so, what will you do about it? (Consider 2 Corinthians 10:4-5)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** In 1 Peter 4:16 why do you think Peter says that if you suffer as a Christian, praise God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Review the ways Jesus leads. Are there any ways that Jesus is not leading your life? Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 1: Building a Leadership Model (**Day Two**) *The Model*

5. Read John 13:15-16. Who is the model for building a Christian leader? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Where do you find the instructions for following the model? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you think there are many Christians today working from the wrong model or blueprint? If so, what kind of model are they working from and what will be their end result?

---

---

---

8. At this point in time, what model and blueprint are you using?

---

9. How can you follow in Jesus' steps and be a leader of excellence? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

\*\*\*\*\*

**Personal Application:**

10. What did God say or impress upon you? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

11. Communication with God is pivotal (essential) in your role as a Christian leader. Do you regularly hear (in your mind or heart) God speaking to you?

Yes    No    Sometimes (Circle One)

12. I would like more information about communicating with God:      Yes    No  
(Circle One)

\*\*\*\*\*

Lesson 1: Building a Leadership Model (**Day Three**) *The Chief Cornerstone*

13. What happens if you begin your project with faulty or defective materials?

---

**14.** Do you have a real life story to share of a project that was built with defective materials?

What happened? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**15.** What would you do if you discovered your building materials were of inferior quality? \_\_\_\_\_

---

**16.** What are some reasons that you should not ask a follower of a non-Christian religion to pray for you or to lead a group in prayer?

---

---

**17.** According to Jesus in Luke 6:47-48a, what is a person like who hears His words and puts them into practice?

---

**18.** When the flood came what happened (v.48b)? \_\_\_\_\_

**19.** What do you think the flood represents in this parable? \_\_\_\_\_

**20.** In Luke 6:49, what is a person like who hears His words but does **not** put them into practice?

---

**21.** What happens when the flood or torrent strikes (v.49b)? \_\_\_\_\_

**22.** Read Isaiah 28:16 both in the NIV and the New Living Translation (NLT). Based on a cornerstone being used as a metaphor for a leader, give a description of

his character. \_\_\_\_\_

23. Read Ephesians 2:19-22, who is the chief cornerstone? \_\_\_\_\_

24. As a Christian leader, what is the goal of your building project (purposefully bringing individuals together) according to Ephesians 2:19-22?

25. Jesus is the Cornerstone from which we build our lives as a holy temple to the glory of God. Is there anything keeping you from total surrender and submission to Jesus Christ as Lord?

Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Please explain your answer:

---

---

---

Lesson 1: Building a Leadership Model **(Day Four)** *The Trinity*

26. Why do you think we bring up the Trinity in our study of leadership? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

\*\*\*\*\*

**Personal Application:**

27. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and then read and meditate on the following verses: John 1:1-2, 3:16, 10:30, 14:16-17, 17:21, 20:28, Matthew 16:15-17, 28:19, 1 Peter 1:2, Nehemiah 9:20, Isaiah 48:16, Zechariah 4:6 and Joel 2:28-29.

28. What was one thing that you learned from reading these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

29. What was one thing that God revealed to you about Himself? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**30.** Is there anything that you will do differently from reading these verses?  
Explain:

---

---

\*\*\*\*\*

**31.** In the beginning who created the heavens and the earth? \_\_\_\_\_

**32.** Who was with God the Father at creation according to Genesis 1:2 and John 1:1-3?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**33.** According to Genesis 1:3, when God said “Let there be light” what happened?

---

**34.** Read Exodus 20:1-2. When God spoke these words to the Israelites, what was

He revealing about Himself? \_\_\_\_\_

---

**35.** Read Deuteronomy 4:13. How did God reveal to the Israelites the moral order He desired?

---

**36.** Based on what you previously read about the Word in the Old Testament, what do you think the apostle John meant when he says that the Word became flesh?

---

**37.** Give a definition of the theological term “incarnation.”

---

**38.** What is God’s purpose for your life? \_\_\_\_\_

39. According to Isaiah 30:8, how long will God's Word be a witness (gives evidence, testify)?

---

Lesson 1: Building a Leadership Model **(Day Five)** *The Triune Relationship*

40. How do *you* think the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit truly feel about each other?

---

---

41. Read Matthew 3:17 and 17:5. How does God the Father introduce Jesus?

---

42. Read John 14:31. What does Jesus do to show that He loves the Father?

---

43. From Mark 3:29, how does God the Father and God the Son feel about God the Spirit?

---

44. Meditate on Matthew 12:18 and John 16:14. List some of the relational characteristics (ways they get along) of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

---

---

---

45. According to John 17:20, who is Jesus praying for? \_\_\_\_\_

46. In verse 21, what is Jesus asking the Father? \_\_\_\_\_

47. In verse 22, Jesus asks that the believers may be \_\_\_\_\_ as we are \_\_\_\_\_

48. In verse 23, Jesus asks that believers be brought to complete unity for what purpose?

49. In verse 24, Jesus asks the Father that believers will be with \_\_\_\_\_

---

50. Considering the love relationship between the Father, Son, and Spirit, how do you think God expects us to act toward God and one another?

---

---

---

51. **After you have memorized** Matthew 22:36-40, please write it here without looking at the verses. In this way, your Bible Minister will know that you have committed it to memory.

---

---

---

---

**Remember your leadership depends on knowing and living by this commandment.**

**Next Lesson 2:** Triple Love Poured Out – The triune God’s personal love for you!

Rev 4/6/2016

## **CLI Christian Leadership Bible Study**

Lesson 1: Building a Leadership Model

Lesson 2: Triple Love Poured Out

Lesson 3: Fruit and Leadership

Lesson 4: The Presence of God

Lesson 5: Leading by Example

Lesson 6: Be Filled with the Holy Spirit  
Part One and Part Two

Lesson 7: The Name

Lesson 8: Active Leadership Mission  
Part One and Part Two

Lesson 9: Prayer of a Leader

Lesson 10: Faith of a Leader

Lesson 11: Knowing God's Will

Lesson 12: The Leader's Fire of Holiness

Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare

Lesson 14: The Tender Heart of a Leader

Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship

Certificate mailed after the completion of Lesson 15

