

RESGEN

Servant Leadership Devotional Day 1: At Work

Opening Question

Who are a few of the leaders you most admire? Why?

Key Passage for the Day

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:42-45).

1. Jesus pointed out a common temptation for people in a leadership role. What was it?
2. Why did he call his disciples to a higher standard? What was that standard?
3. In our quest to be more like Christlike, how do we avoid the temptation to abuse our positions of leadership?

Other Verses for Reflection

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves (Philippians 2:3).

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 7:12).

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Galatians 5:13-14).

Call to Action

What are two specific ways you can love and serve others in your workplace today?

- 1.
- 2.

Prayer

Lord, help me serve others in my work today. Empower me to care for and show the love of Jesus to my co-workers, customers, boss and others I will connect with through my day. Amen.

RESGEN

Servant Leadership Devotional Day 2: At Home

Opening Question

Was leadership modeled at home in a healthy way as you were growing up? Why or why not?

Key Passages for the Day

Husbands, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives (Ephesians 5:25-27, The Message).

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

In Ephesians 5, Paul says that we are to love our wives like Jesus loved the church and gave himself up for her. This is a sacrificial love, a servant-hearted love. God also desires that we show sacrificial love to our kids while modeling how they should live. I have heard this said by several different people: “If you want to change the world, go home and love your family.” It’s a powerful statement! Two meaningful ways to show them how much they are loved are:

1. Giving attention. Putting down our phones, laying aside our hobbies/plans, or turning off the TV and choosing to fully focus on them.
2. Giving words of life. Using kind, encouraging, and affirming words, even when we’re angry or disappointed in their behavior.

Other Verses for Reflection

...You husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together (1 Peter 3:7).

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them (Colossians 3:19).

Kind words are like honey - sweet to the soul and healthy for the body (Proverbs 16:24).

Honest Personal Assessment

1. On a scale of 1-10 how are you doing with number 1 above? How “present” are you when you are with them?
2. Would you say that your words tend to be more negative or positive? More often said with a warm tone or cold? What “temperature” are you setting in your home?

Call to Action

What adjustments do you need to make in order for you to be more disciplined and serve your family and others by being fully present and speaking life into them at all times?

Prayer

Lord, thank you for giving me the gift of my family. Give me a servant's heart for my wife and kids and help me speak words of encouragement and life to them today. Amen.

RESGEN

Servant Leadership Devotional Day 3: In the Community

Opening Question

Do you view yourself as a leader in your neighborhood and/or community? Why or why not?

Key Passage for the Day

Then they (the disciples) began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them. Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called 'friends of the people.' But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves (Luke 22:24-27).

Most of the time when we hear the word "leadership," we tend to think of it as positional in a top-down sort of way. This is easy to do because of how our government, workplace, and other systems in our lives have largely been structured. Those who have been specially trained, elected, or who have accomplished great things in the world's eyes are seen as leaders. And while none of that is necessarily wrong, is that all there is to leadership and achieving greatness? Education and elevation? According to Jesus, in Luke 22, it definitely isn't!

I love this quote from Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love."

Other Verses for Reflection

But whoever has adequate resources, and sees his brother in need, but has no compassion for him, how does the love of God live in him? Believers, let us not love with words, giving lip service to compassion, but in practice and sincerity, because practical acts of love are more than words (1 John 3:17-18).

Call to Action:

1. What gets in the way of you serving others in your community e.g., pride, time, apathy, feelings of inadequacy, not knowing where to begin, etc.?
2. What are some practical ways you can love and serve your community in the next week, e.g., helping a single mother, doing yard work for the elderly, serving alongside an organization that helps the poor/homeless, mentoring a teen without a dad, etc.?

Prayer

Lord, the amount of need in my community is great, but I often don't see it or use all that you have given me to help. Give me your eyes to see the need, your heart to care for those less fortunate, and the love of Christ that compels me to refuse to do nothing about it. Help me lead by example today. Amen.

RESGEN

Servant Leadership Devotional Day 4: In Your Church

Opening Question

How would you describe your church involvement? a) Rarely miss and also volunteer/serve
b) Rarely miss c) Attend 1-2 times/month d) Attend on holidays e) Other

Key Passages for the Day

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another... (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many (1 Corinthians 12:12-14).

One of the key ways we grow in our faith is by attending church on a regular basis. There truly is power in getting together as the Body of Christ to worship God through singing, prayer, and listening to the Word of God being taught. But it's not just about going to church. It's also about finding ways to be involved. Plugging into service opportunities within the church puts feet to our faith and gives us the opportunity to minister to individuals and families who are both in the church and outside of it; both those currently walking with Jesus and also who are still in the exploration stage. The reality is that everyone has different skills, passions, and abilities and there is room for all of us to be a part of God's work. In fact, we are all NEEDED in order for the body of Christ to function properly. Yep, that means you are needed too!

Other Verses for Reflection

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:42-47).

Call to Action

What is one step of connection you can make at your church: Making attendance more of a priority? Joining a life group? Volunteering in the youth ministry? Working in the nursery one weekend per month? Delivering meals to shut-ins or visiting people in the hospital? Giving more of your time and finances? Be intentional to take that step this week.

Prayer

Thank you for my church, Lord. Help me make attendance a priority for me and my family and give me a vision of how I can serve and fulfill the mission of reaching people for You. Amen.

RESGEN

Servant Leadership Devotional Day 5: With Your Friends

Opening Question

Do you have lots of buddies or just a few close friends? How well would you say you allow your friends to truly know you? How deeply do you know them?

Key Passages for the Day

Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens a friend's character (Proverbs 27:17).

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth...Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (John 1:14,16-17).

Many men's conferences and devotionals refer to the above Proverb. But how does iron sharpening iron really work? In order to hone a blade with a sharpening rod, you must use the right angle and force. Too much force at the wrong angle and the blade will chip or break. Not enough force and you won't sharpen it at all.

In our friendships, consider grace and truth the angle and force in sharpening each other - especially when it comes to accountability. All truth and no grace will discourage a friend and tend to make them feel condemned. All grace and no truth could convey that their sin is not serious and subsequently won't bring any level of conviction. But if our friendships are full of both grace and truth, we'll truly be loving and serving others like Jesus did. Truth lets us know the standard. Grace provides the understanding and encouragement we need to not give up and the knowledge that we are not alone in the journey. Friendship like this, where we challenge and encourage one another to live in the light, is what God desires for us to have!

Other Verses for Reflection

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity (Proverbs 17:17).

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble (Ecc. 4:9-10).

Call to Action

If you're not already meeting regularly with a small group of trusted friends, make a list of 3-4 guys you'd like to ask to do so. At RESGEN, we call this group a 'Band of Brothers.' Set up a time to talk about what meeting together could look like. Then plan to serve one another by connecting regularly to share what's going on in your lives and to encourage/pray for each other.

Prayer

Lord, thanks for the friends you have put into my life. Give me courage to be vulnerable, intentional, and Christlike in my interactions with them. Help me serve them by being a good listener, a grace-filled truth teller and someone they can trust in their journey. Amen.

RESGEN

UPCOMING EVENTS



The RESGEN Giving Life Podcast: Stories and conversations about life in Christ, everyday discipleship, and exploring ways that we as men, can give life to others.



Looking for more Great Discipleship Content?

RESGEN has a partnership with RightNow Media that provides bible study and discipleship videos for the entire RESGEN Family – ALL FOR FREE! This website and phone app has thousands of resources for individuals, families, marriages, and your Band of Brothers! Register for your free access at resgen.org/resources.

About RESGEN:

RESGEN is focused on one thing – Restoring Generations of Relationships - with God and with each other. Since starting RESGEN in 2010, Tom Henderson has reached over 375,000 people at conferences, schools, festivals and other events across the country. RESGEN hosts several annual events in Sioux Falls including the RESGEN Men's Summit and Date Night Comedy. For more information about RESGEN, to inquire about Tom speaking at your event/business, or to visit about becoming a RESGEN partner, visit resgen.org

RESGEN

PO Box 91405

Sioux Falls, SD 57109

resgen.org