

# Handout

## Are You a Jesus-Style

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## Leader?

Leadership is not standing in front of a crowd to speak or command. Leadership is imitating Christ in attitude and action. Leadership involves three balanced pairs:

- Nurture and correction
- Action and reflection
- Service and prompting

Jesus lived his life in perfect balance. For example, when the woman was caught in adultery, Jesus used both nurture and correction (John 8:1-11).

For each characteristic, rank yourself from one to five, with five being excellent.

### Nurture

*balances correction*

- I treat each person as an irreplaceable, one-of-a-kind, cherished creation of God.
- When I teach, I begin with what people know and lead them to discover more about Jesus.
- I say good things about people—things Jesus would say—even if no one else does.

### Action

*balances reflection*

- I practice obedience to God rather than just talk the talk.
- I put other people's needs before my own, showing personal care but not allowing others to trample me.
- When I enter a room, I look for the person who is standing alone and go talk to that person. If I'm already talking, I open my circle to others.

### Correction

*balances nurture*

- I am willing to respond to the corrective words of others rather than get defensive.
- I practice and encourage good behavior, knowing that good is more fun than bad. I also recognize that example teaches more than any words.
- I talk calmly but directly about negatives that need fixing. I follow God's guidance rather than simply speak my mind.

### Reflection

*balances action*

- I take time to listen to Jesus before I speak and act.
- I allow myself to be loved and ministered to, rather than do all the giving.
- I choose ministry projects based on Jesus' guidance and true need, not just because they will make me look like a good leader.

Are You a Jesus-Style Leader?

APPENDIX G

DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS! (Teen Edition)

(For Week 5)

Instructions: For each question, enter the number that most applies to you.

- 3 = THAT'S ME!
2 = This is PROBABLY me.
1 = This is PROBABLY NOT me.
0 = DEFINITELY NOT me!

- 1. I try to worry more about the needs of others than my own.
2. People come to me when they need to talk out a problem.
3. I would like to give money to those in need.
4. I enjoy explaining the Bible to others.
5. I like to try to help others know God better.
6. I don't mind being seen with people who aren't that popular.
7. When I see needy people on cold nights, I really feel like inviting them to my home.
8. On Friday nights, I am usually the one who decides where we go and what we do.
9. I like to tell others about my relationship with God.
10. I have confidence that God will get me through both good and bad times.
11. I like doing jobs that most people don't want to do.
12. I am known for my positive attitude.
13. I get a real kick out of giving stuff away.
14. I like studying the Bible so I can explain it to others.
15. I like to pray for and with others.
16. I would like to work with disabled people.
17. I like having friends stay overnight at my house.
18. I like to organize and motivate groups of people.
19. I can sometimes make discussions relate to God.
20. I believe that God can do things that seem impossible.
21. I have helped other people so their work was easier.
22. I like to help sad people feel better.
23. I try to be smart with my money so that I can give extra money to people who need it.
24. I like learning and studying the Bible.
25. I would love to lead a Bible study at school.
26. I feel very sympathetic toward the needy.
27. I don't feel disrupted when there are guests at my home.
28. I have encouraged others to finish a job.
29. I would like to help someone else become a Christian.
30. I have confidence that God will keep his promises even when things are bad.
31. I don't mind doing little jobs that other people don't consider important.
32. I can encourage others through what I say.
33. I know that God will meet my needs, so I want to give freely to others.
34. I could show others what different ideas in the Bible mean.
35. I like to serve people to show that God cares for them.
36. If a friend is sick, I call to see how he/she is doing.
37. I like having company come to my house.
38. I would like to lead, inspire, and motivate people to do God's work.
39. I would like to tell others that Jesus is the Savior and help them see the positive results.
40. I trust that I can call on God and know that he will be there when "impossible" situations happen.
41. Sometimes when I do jobs, nobody notices, but I don't mind.
42. I like it when people are happier after I have talked to them.
43. I have given away my money or belongings to those in need.
44. I think that I could show others how to find answers on their own.
45. I would like to help bring people back to Christ who have wandered away from him.
46. When I see a homeless person, I really want to help.
47. My friends come over to my house because they feel comfortable there.
48. When I'm in a group, sometimes people look to me to take charge.
49. I take any opportunity I can to tell people about Christ.
50. When everything looks bad, I can still trust God.

# Study it

(4)

## Core Session: Unexpected Leaders (55 minutes)

### Preparation

- Gather the following items:
  - copies of handout 12, "Election Notes," one for each participant
  - pens or pencils
  - copies of handout 13, "Student Council Ballot," one for each participant plus one for every five or six participants
  - newsprint and markers
  - masking tape
  - copies of handout 14, "Biblical Connections," one for each participant
  - Catholic Youth Bibles* or other Bibles, one for every five or six participants
  - copies of handout 15, "God Qualifies the Called," one for each participant
  - a tape player or a CD player
  - tapes or CDs of reflective instrumental music
- Prepare and post a sheet of newsprint that lists the names of the fourteen candidates noted on handout 13.
- Write the following questions on a sheet of newsprint and post the newsprint where all can see it:
  - What made this person a good leader?
  - What made this person an unlikely leader?
  - Why did God call this person?
  - Why did this person say yes?

### The Election (25 minutes)

1. Gather the participants into a large group. Begin with the following comments:
  - It is not uncommon for us to choose leaders. We choose a president every four years, as well as state and local leaders, and you have probably been involved in selecting class officers, presidents of clubs you belong to, or chairs of certain committees.

(4)

- Today we are going to look at what makes someone a good leader. Is it natural abilities, certain qualities, or specific skills? Does a person need all those qualities and skills to lead effectively? Is it possible to lead without them?

2. Distribute handout 12, and pens or pencils. Share the following ideas:

- Imagine that your school is holding a student council election today. As a responsible member of your class, you want to make an educated decision about who should be elected. You are a junior in high school, and you want to make sure your senior year will be a good one.
- Without talking to anyone, read the information on the handout and begin to decide who will make the best leaders for your school.
- As you are reading, I will give each of you a ballot [handout 13]. You will need to select seven people to serve on the student council. You have about 5 minutes to read the notes on the handout and make your selections on the ballot.

3. Ask the participants to form small groups of five or six. Provide each group with an additional copy of handout 13. Give the following instructions:

- As a group, your job is to agree on seven people who should lead your school.
- You have 10 minutes to talk with one another and come to a group decision about who should be selected as the leaders of your school.

4. Call time after 10 minutes, even if the groups are not done. It is more important to process their conversation than it is to have them come to a decision.

Gather the participants into a large group, and ask each small group to tell who it selected as leaders. As the small groups report, place a check mark next to each selected name on the posted list of candidates. Summarize the balloting by noting who received many votes and who received few or none. There is no need to declare a winner of this election; you might need to re-focus the participants' attention on learning more about leadership through this activity than on declaring the winners of the election.

5. Ask the following questions, recording the answers to the first question on newsprint:

- What criteria did you use in making your decisions?
- Why did you choose those criteria?
- If someone does not meet those criteria, do you think they can lead? Why or why not?

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6. Make the following comments, using information from the discussion in step 5:

- We can sometimes be too narrow in our thinking about who can be a leader.
- We have seen, throughout the ages, that some people are great at leading in one way, but not as successful in other ways.
- For example, Jimmy Carter has achieved many great things since leaving the U.S. presidency. He has become one of the most trusted leaders in the world, and he has made an incredible difference in the lives of thousands through his volunteer work and his international efforts to create peaceful and humane conditions. However, when he was president, many people considered him ineffective.
- Sometimes the people who look least like a “classic leader” are those who make the biggest difference for good in our world.
- There are young people who would never think about putting themselves up for a student council election at their schools, but who do incredibly good things in their parishes and in their communities. [Name some young people who do good things without the benefit of an official position. Invite the participants to offer names as well.]
- We are now going to take a closer look at the candidates from the student council elections.

### **Biblical Connections (20 minutes)**

1. Distribute handout 14. Reveal the biblical connections to the candidates on the ballot. Ask the participants whether they had guessed at the connections.

2. Invite the participants to return to their small groups. Assign one or more of the biblical characters to each group. You might select some that received many votes and some that received few or no votes during the group-reporting process. Give each group a copy of the *CYB* and the following instructions:

- Your group is to read the Scripture passage and the *CYB* article about your assigned biblical character or characters.
- For each character, answer the four questions noted on the newsprint. [Refer the participants to the newsprint you have prepared and read the questions out loud.]

Give the groups about 10 minutes to work. While they are working, provide each group with a sheet of newsprint and a couple of markers.

3. Invite the groups each to create a poster about leadership. Ask them to include anything they have learned during this session about leadership and who is called to leadership. Tell them they have 5 minutes to create their posters.

4. Gather all the participants together. Ask each group to share its poster.

5. Draw conclusions such as these from the poster presentation:

- God did not give every person every gift. We are called to use the natural abilities we have in order to do good in this world. We all contribute differently.
- Each of us is called to live our faith in this world, and if we trust, God will ensure that we have what we need to accomplish this work.
- The characters from the Bible were able to accomplish great things even though they were very “human” (had lots of faults and weaknesses), because they answered when God called and were willing to follow God’s will. How ready are you to answer God’s call?

### A Personal Reflection (10 minutes)

1. Distribute handout 15. Invite each person to think about the passages on the handout and to answer the reflection questions. Play reflective instrumental music softly in the background, and give the participants about 7 minutes to write and pray.

2. Conclude the session by inviting the young people to gather in the prayer space with their written reflections.

# Pray!

### Are You Listening? (10 minutes)

#### Preparation

- Gather the following items:
  - a *Catholic Youth Bible* or other Bible, marked at 1 Sam. 3:1–19
  - a candle and matches
  - a cloth
  - a tape player or a CD player
  - tapes and CDs of reflective instrumental music
  - copies of *Spirit & Song* or another hymnal, one for each participant
- Designate a prayer space by placing the Bible and the candle on the cloth on the floor. The participants should have enough room to sit on the floor in a circle around the cloth.

### **Spirit & Song** connections

- ◆ “Here I Am, Lord,” by Dan Schutte
- ◆ “Now,” by Rory Cooney
- ◆ “On Eagle’s Wings,” by Michael Joncas



# Election Notes

- **Alfredo** recently disowned his rich parents. He doesn't talk a lot because he has a speech impediment. When he does speak, he can be really demanding. His younger brother does most of the talking for him. Alfredo was on the cross-country team this year.
- **Ellie** is really nice, but she can't be involved in many school activities because she has to work at the family restaurant. Surprisingly, she dates the captain of the football team. His friends don't like her.
- **Jerry** skipped a grade and is younger than you and your classmates. He spends a lot of time in detention and hangs out with the troublemakers. He's kind of a loudmouth, always telling others how to be better people. His teachers are always trying to get him to be on the debate team, but he is afraid to do something so public.
- **Tanisha** is on the varsity basketball team and is a little feisty. She fouls out of the game often. She's a little bossy and judgmental.
- **Henry** plays on the chess team. He's somewhat of a pushover. It is commonly known that his girlfriend cheats on him. She broke up with him once because she wanted to date someone else, and he begged her to get back together with him. When he isn't with her, he spends a lot of time at home.
- **Anjali** lives with her stepmother. Neither of her parents is in the picture. She doesn't stand out in the crowd. She is very loyal to the few friends she has.
- **Jorge** joined the fishing club, but he quit after he fell out of the boat on the first outing. He's also well remembered because at a football game he scored the winning touchdown . . . for the other team. He quit that team too. He seems to have trouble sticking with commitments.
- **Judy** has courage and a lot of faith in herself. This year she really had people talking because she made the wrestling team. Many people didn't approve. She was successful and beat last year's state champion. Many people aren't sure how to take her. She doesn't seem to have a lot of friends.
- **Chuyen** got into a fight with a senior who was a real bully, when he was a freshman. The senior was a state-winning weightlifter, and Chuyen managed to win by outsmarting him. Chuyen is the youngest of a big family. He recently started dating a girl who was already dating someone else. This caused a lot of gossip.

- **Maggie** has a bad reputation. You are not sure how true the rumors you have heard about her are. She is the leader of the feminist club at school. She also seems to be present at important school events.
- **Mariette** is a quiet, humble person. She shocked everyone in your class when she had a baby during her first year of high school. Most people don't know her well, mostly because they don't know what to say to her.
- **Matt** is the class bookie. He takes bets on all the school games. He has a history of not being real nice to the people who lose their bets to him.
- **Fabian** crusades for causes. He is pro-choice and lets everyone know it. He is critical and judgmental of anyone who disagrees with him. He also follows all school rules and feels that rules are very important to have.
- **Juan** tends to drive you crazy. He always asks the dumbest questions in class, and you and your classmates are usually frustrated with him. He likes to fish with his dad often, and he is always talking about fishing.



# Student Council Ballot

Choose seven candidates to serve on the student council.

Alfredo

Judy

Ellie

Chuyen

Jerry

Maggie

Tanisha

Mariette

Henry

Matt

Anjali

Fabian

Jorge

Juan

# Biblical Connections

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Biblical character</b>	<b>Bible passage</b>	<b><i>The Catholic Youth Bible</i> article</b>
Alfredo	Moses	Exodus 4:10–17	“Introducing Moses”
Ellie	Esther	Esther 2:15–18, chapters 7–8	“The Book of Esther: In Depth”
Jerry	Jeremiah	Jeremiah 1:4–10	“Introducing Jeremiah”
Tanisha	Deborah	Judges, chapter 4	“Wartime Women”
Henry	Hosea	Hosea 3:1–5	“The Book of Hosea: In Depth”
Anjali	Ruth	Ruth 2:1–16	“The Book of Ruth: In Depth”
Jorge	Jonah	Jonah, chapter 1	“The Book of Jonah: In Depth”
Judy	Judith	Judith, chapter 8	“The Book of Judith: In Depth”
Chuyen	David	1 Samuel 16:1–13, 17:33–51	“Introducing David”
Maggie	Mary Magdalene	Luke 8:1–3, 24:1–11	“Introducing Mary Magdalene”
Mariette	Blessed Virgin Mary	Luke 1:26–38	“Introducing Mary of Nazareth”
Matt	Matthew	Matthew 9:9–13	“The Gospel According to Matthew: In Depth”
Fabian	Paul	Acts 7:54–8:3, 9:1–19	“Introducing Saint Paul”
Juan	Peter	Matthew 15:13–20	“Introducing Peter the Rock”

# Planning a Vacation

- You are gathered with a group of friends who are planning a vacation
- Your parents have given each of you \$500 to spend on the vacation
- Your parents have agreed that you can go anywhere you like as long as you all go together and it is morally, ethically and legally proper.
- You must provide your parents with a detailed schedule of your plans
- You cannot keep the money – you must spend it on the vacation
- You are planning a one week trip
- You have ten minutes to plan. Then you will report back to us!

Good luck... we're all counting on you!

## Our Mission Statement

We, the members of Saint Michaels High School Youth Ministry, come together to unify the youth of our communities. We look to make a difference by encouraging teens to live, understand, and enjoy their faith each and everyday. We are “today’s youth making an impact on the world of tomorrow.”

