

# Leaders Who Lead

## Session Two

✓ Each item below after you have discussed it with your Coach and other Leaders.

### Preparation before you meet with your Leadership Group:

- ☐ 1. Read *Unlocking the Door to Your Future*. Be prepared to share your thoughts and your prayer of commitment.

### To be completed with your Leadership Group:

- ☐ 2. Each one share your personal joys and concerns. Share about the needs of your group.
- ☐ 3. Discuss and (✓) check off point 1. Share your experience of what it means to be *In Christ* and how this significant truth affects the way you live.
- ☐ 4. Complete *Report* below.

### Empowering you to lead your Life Group this month:

- ☐ 5. Share your personal commitment to the Lord with your Apprentice and with your Life Group.

### Report on Your Life Group:

- ☐ 6. \_\_\_\_\_ Attend regularly
- ☐ 7. \_\_\_\_\_ New Attenders This Past Month

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ 8. People in One-to-One Training:

Dynamic Basics	_____	is training _____
	_____	is training _____
Dynamic Discipling	_____	is training _____
	_____	is training _____
Dynamic Sharing	_____	is training _____
	_____	is training _____

☐ 9. \_\_\_\_\_ people received Christ as Saviour through the people in our group this month.

**Prayer and Closing:**

☐ 10. Pray for each other and for our group members.

☐ 11. Go over Preparation assignment for Session Three.

☐ 12. Set a Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
for our next Leaders Who Lead session.

## Unlocking the Door to Your Future

The world you see is the world as you see it. What you see and even how you see it will always be determined by what has formed your thinking. Your past experiences have shaped your view of yourself and your circumstances. You will not change your view until you change what shapes your way of seeing. Some see life through rose coloured glasses. To see differently they need to change their glasses. Many see life as impossible. For them it is, and until they see it as possible it will remain impossible to them.

A Sunday School teacher asked little Johnny to define *faith*. He thought for a moment and then he said, *"Faith is believing that something is true even when it is not."* Many Christians who would smile at this inaccurate definition are living as though they believed it. They live as practical atheists, saying that they believe God but living each day in a way that shows that they do not.

This training is not about fitting you with a new set of glasses but with new eyes - not to convince you of something that is not true for that is false hope. No, I desire to help you become convinced of what is true by seeing clearly God's truth - to personally live in the fullness of that truth and all that God has provided for you.

Before you can lead others, there must first be confidence that you are living the Christian life. You will not consistently tell others to do what you will not do yourself. Also, others will not follow you unless they trust your integrity to be authentic.

This is not about changing what you do. What you do will change, however, as you change. You will always act according to what you perceive to be true about yourself and your circumstances. With a new perspective of who you really are in Christ we will be ready to look together at developing skills to help you change what you do and how you do it. You will also need the help of other people to keep you thinking correctly and keep you accountable as you implement your new skills.

### Set Free From My Past!

*"If only I could be set free from my wretched past!" or "I have tried to stop sinning". "I want to live a life that will please God, but I don't know what I can do, I have tried everything". or "There must be something I can do".* Such is the frustration of many God-fearing sincere Christians. The problem that is at the base of all these concerns is that they do not understand or accept the basis of their acceptance before God. To be disappointed with themselves indicates that they had confidence in themselves. Now they have rejected themselves based on their performance of the past and present.

*Why should God who is so pure and holy accept me?* He certainly knows that I fall short of what He expects and requires. The reason this whole issue is so devastating is that it is crucial to our well being. We need to know that we are accepted. To not accept yourself and to question your acceptance by others is to assume that *"I couldn't be accepted by God"*.

I don't like to be the one to break this to you but you are not acceptable to God not even if you do an overwhelming number of good things for God. Isaiah 64:6 says that **"...all our righteous acts are like filthy rags."** This verse is referring not to your worst behaviour but to the very best you can do for God. It is as if God were saying, **"Please don't try to impress Me with your goodness"**. Think about it. Do you really think you can do anything **for** God that He couldn't do better for Himself? Then you say, **"what is the use of trying?"** Exactly! There is no use in trying. God can not accept your filthy rags effort. God does accept you however, **"in the One He loves"** (Ephesians 1:6). In Christ, I am accepted and loved because Christ is accepted and loved by the Father. My sins are all forgiven because Jesus Christ shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins. God is able to be at peace with you because Jesus has **"made peace through His blood, shed on the Cross."** (Colossians 1:20). This is the only way God has provided. It is His way or no way. There simply is no other way.

Christ died for our sins and most people reading this will have already accepted Jesus Christ's shed blood as full payment for the penalty for their sins. What a wonderful thing it is to know your sins forgiven - but wait - there is more! The best part of the gospel remains to be told. Yes Christ died for my sins - that takes care of my sins. But when Christ died on the cross I died with Him - that takes care of me, the sinner - the source my sins. Many people would teach with great confidence that there is nothing you can do to earn the forgiveness for your sins - that you must simply accept Christ's death as full payment. Thank God for it and live in the freedom that comes from knowing you are clean before a Holy God. Not sinless but I now have a new nature.

Often these same people would exhort you that now, out of gratitude for what He has done for you, the least you can do is to try to live your life for God. No my friend, you can not live it by trying, just as forgiveness of your sins cannot be accomplished by trying. It is by faith we receive our new life in Christ. Being born into Him through faith we may **"...participate in the divine nature..."** II Peter 1: 4.

Our part is to learn to live in the fullness of the life we now possess. This involves Bible Study to understand God's life in us, trust in God that He will empower us to apply His life in our daily experience and patience as God takes the necessary time to develop His life (character) in us. Remember, **"...it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose."** (Philippians 2:13). And what is His **good purpose** He is **performing** in us? He is working everything together for this one purpose: **"...that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body."** (II Corinthians 4:11). Paul said, this is life: **"For to me, to live is Christ..."** (Philippians 1:21). This wisdom only comes to those who: **"...hunger and thirst for righteousness..."** (Matthew. 5:6).

***I will only desire God's life when I am  
completely dissatisfied with my own self life  
(the best I can do).***

How will God get us to despair to the point of abandonment of our self life? He simply lets us see ourselves for what we really are. He allows, even engineers, our failure to show us how

abhorrent we are. God's word is very clear on our inadequacy but because of our need to preserve self at all cost, our own experience is needed to drive the point home. These bitter experiences are often so painful that it is here that well intentioned friends will try to comfort and relieve the pain. Their comfort is working for my repair. It is bringing me down off the cross by encouraging me at this point that **I am alright**. God however, in His persistent grace begins again to accomplish my complete undoing. God is bringing me to the cross - to death - not to weakness, not even to dying - but to a complete and final death with Christ as I enter into what it means to be crucified with Christ. Why? I will never know anything of His incredible life, **"Christ living in me"** until I know that **"I no longer live"** (Galatians 2:20).

You may be asking, *so how do I die to self?* You don't! You simply accept what God has said that **"When Christ died you died with Him"** (Romans 6:3). **When He was buried you were buried with Him** (Romans 6:4). **When He was raised to newness of life, you were raised to newness of life with Him** (Romans 6:5). Because Jesus Christ is dead to sin (Romans 6:6-7) you too are dead to sin, **"You are complete in Christ"** (Colossians 2:10).

I remember how difficult it was for me to accept that I was dead to sin. Some years ago I was teaching a Teen Bible Study on Romans 6. I had to admit that I obviously didn't understand this truth because my experience was that I was not dead to sin. It bothered me to have to admit this to them. I went home and read and reread Roman 6:6. I would say to God, **"I am not dead to sin."** God said to me as I read, **"you are dead to sin"**. We went back and forth on this several times until I came to a profound conclusion. Because God and I disagreed, then one of us was lying. Now it didn't take me long to realise who was lying and who was telling the truth. You see, because I believed that I was still subject to sin (concluding that I was a sinner by nature) I was living as though I was a sinner. When I believed God and accepted the fact of His word that **I am dead to sin**, I was able to live in the victory over sin that was mine and had been mine from the moment I received Christ as my Saviour. My reckoning (accepting as true) myself dead to sin in Jesus Christ does not make it a fact, it is already a fact. Faith is believing God, not our experience! There can be no consistent victory apart from faith in what God has said.

On this same subject, James McConkey wrote:

***"Faith is dependence upon God.  
And this God-dependence only begins  
when self-dependence ends."***

Once we begin to reckon (count) on these facts, our Father begins to build us up in our faith. George Mueller was able to say that **"God delights to increase the faith of His children. We ought, instead of wanting no trials before victory, no exercise for patience, to be willing to take them from God's hand as a means. I say - and say it deliberately - trials, obstacles, difficulties, and sometimes defeats, are the very food of faith."**

Therefore, ***"...Offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life..."*** (Romans 6:13).

## Submission

Submission is death - death to my will, death to my way - my comfort or to anything else I may hold dear. When we see death as the final end it is very negative and to be avoided. God never sees it that way. To Him death is the inevitable door through which we all must pass in order to enter into life - His life. It is a constant biblical theme:

John 12:24 ***"...unless a kernel of wheat fall to the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."***

Galatians 2:20 First we must experience ***"not I"*** before we can experience ***"but Christ"***. This is God's way!

The story is told of a young oxen calf. When he was a new born he received everything - milk, love, care. Life was easy and fun. He would run and play with the other calves all day. One day however, much to his surprise and bewilderment, the farmer hauled him over to a huge oxen and forced his head into the other side of a large wooden yoke. Wherever the large ox went, he had to go. He could barely touch the ground. At first, he would try to squirm out of his predicament but nothing helped. None of this made any sense to him. It did, however, make perfect sense to the farmer who was preparing him for a useful future.

Like the young calf, we also tend to question God's treatment of us. We kick and scream. We complain. And with all our complaining, God continues with His personal growth agenda for us. God is doing in us exactly what we need. We will praise Him when we understand that He is preparing us for a useful future. We will co-operate with Him instead of resisting Him. Like a loving parent, He cares for our growth into fullness and meaningful purpose. He is taking us from the realm of self - ***"I know that nothing good lives in me..."*** (Romans 7:18), to where we can say with joy, ***"For to me, to live is Christ..."*** (Philippians 1:21).

Are you willing to submit yourself to God as a living sacrifice? Until you have done this, it is pointless to attempt to serve Him. This is the key to unlocking the door to your future. Until you have done this you will not know the joy of serving.

Write out a prayer to the Lord expressing your complete availability to Him.

Dear Lord Jesus,

---

---

---

---

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

This Date \_\_\_\_\_