

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

AT HOME

A STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP MINI-JOURNAL





Student Leadership at Home: A Student Discipleship Mini-Journal

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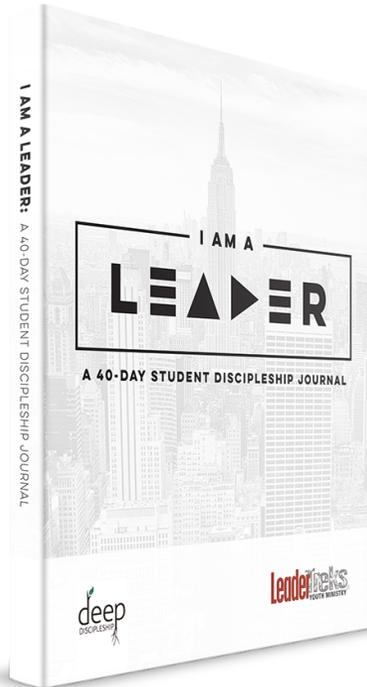
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I AM A LEADER

A 40-DAY STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP JOURNAL

(available at: leadertreks.org/leader)

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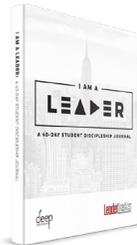
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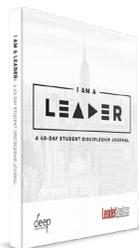
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INTRO:

“I wish this was different.”

Have you ever thought this as you watched a situation unfold in front of your eyes? It’s a sign that leadership is needed, and it probably means that you’re up.

When Christ makes us a part of his family, he wants us to begin to care about the things that he cares about. As we grow closer to him, our hearts start to break for what breaks his. But when we feel burdened and wish these things were different, it’s not because he wants us to just mope around and feel bad about the world, he wants us to change it. God’s people were always meant to be leaders, influencing the world around them. Scripture is full of these types of stories.

But leadership isn’t a personality trait that you magically get—it doesn’t happen overnight. Leadership must be learned. And through that learning process, we discover how God has gifted us, where he’s called us to, and how he wants to change the world through us.

HOW IT WORKS:

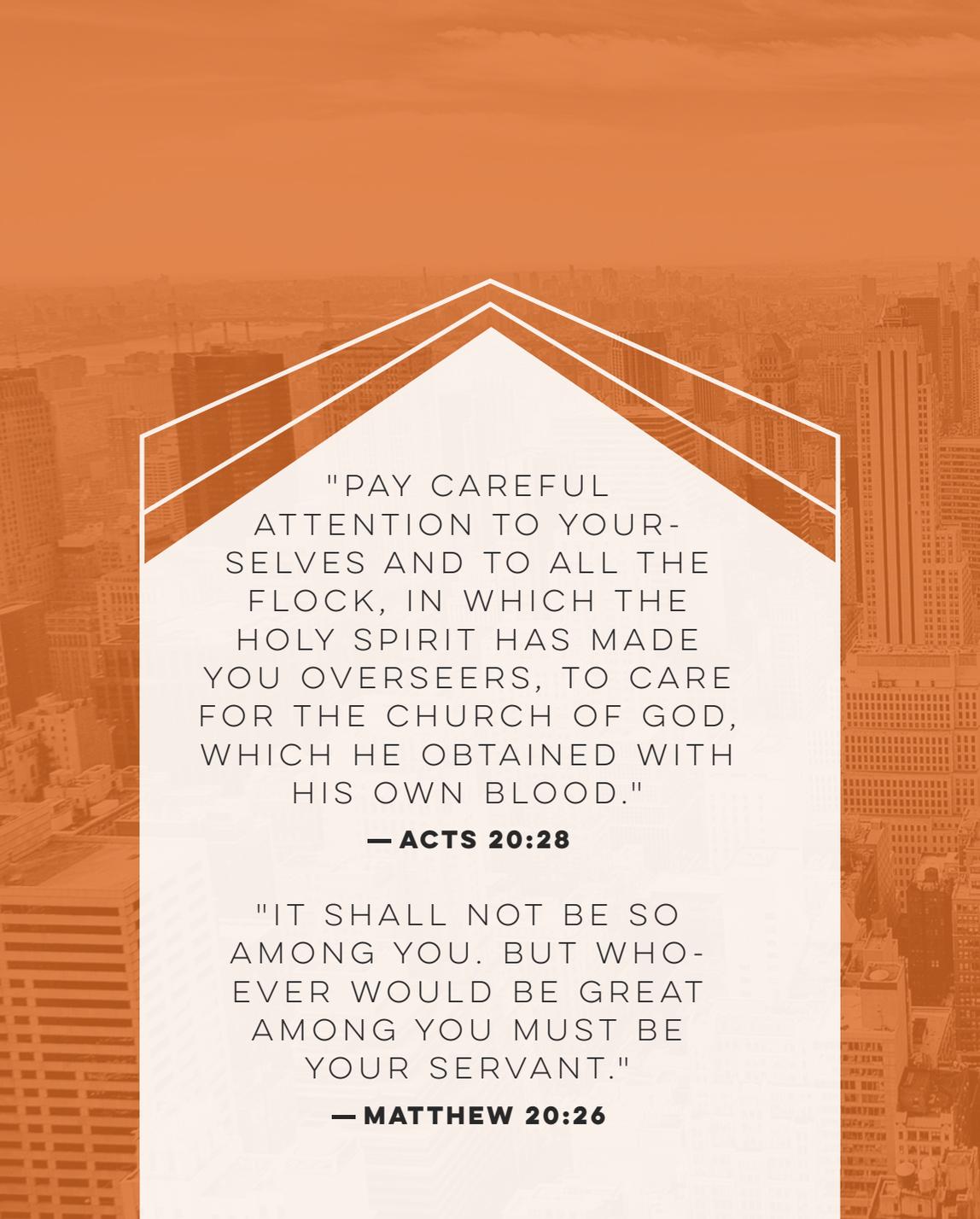
This book is designed to help you grow as a godly leader. It will take you through eight weeks of journal pages that uncover your God-given abilities and God-given mission. Each week contains a different core aspect of leadership and will equip you to be a godly servant-leader who goes beyond your personal preferences to pursuing God’s purpose.

In this journal, you’ll encounter challenges, hard questions, and Bible studies, all of which focus on a new character trait or habit to master as you grow in your leadership. Each day is different than the last and no two days are the same; no matter how you’re wired, there will be something for you!

At the end of each chapter, you'll find a MENTOR PAGE. This page is designed for you to use in relationship with an adult who is farther down the leadership road than you. While this book doesn't have to be done with a mentor, it's best when it is!



Throughout this journal, you'll also find the **MARKS OF A DISCIPLE**. These are things that Christ-followers are committed to and have in common, like connecting with God through prayer, applying his Word to our lives, serving without personal agendas, managing God's gifts, and many other things.

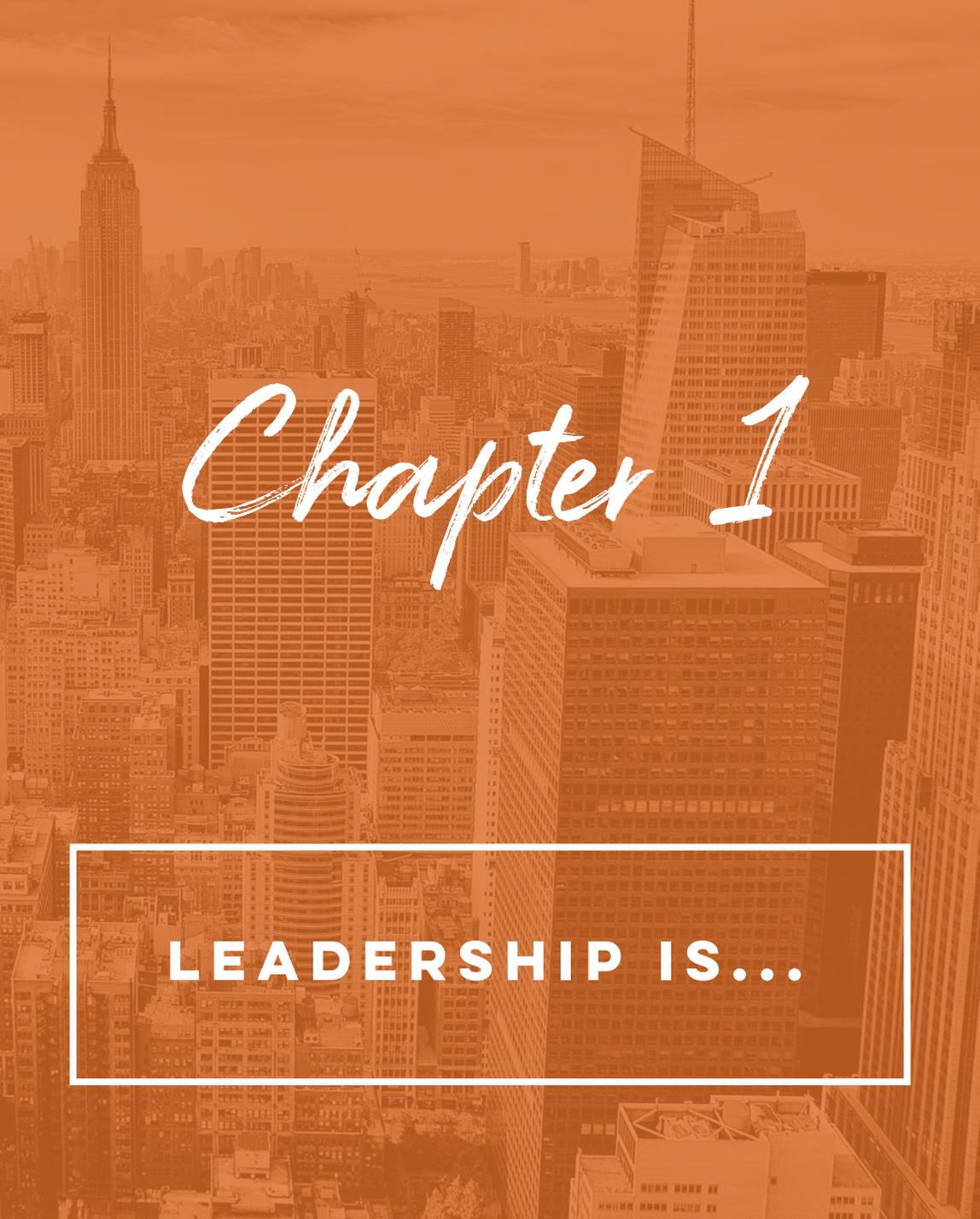


"PAY CAREFUL
ATTENTION TO YOUR-
SELVES AND TO ALL THE
FLOCK, IN WHICH THE
HOLY SPIRIT HAS MADE
YOU OVERSEERS, TO CARE
FOR THE CHURCH OF GOD,
WHICH HE OBTAINED WITH
HIS OWN BLOOD."

— **ACTS 20:28**

"IT SHALL NOT BE SO
AMONG YOU. BUT WHO-
EVER WOULD BE GREAT
AMONG YOU MUST BE
YOUR SERVANT."

— **MATTHEW 20:26**

An aerial view of a city skyline, likely New York City, with the Empire State Building prominently on the left. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The text 'Chapter 1' is written in a white, cursive script font, centered over the middle of the image.

Chapter 1

LEADERSHIP IS...

DAY 1 - *Is it Worth It?*

Leader. It's kind of a loaded word isn't it? Immediately, you think about if you want to be one or not, if you've liked or detested your leaders in the past, or if you have what it takes to be a leader. From there, people tend to go one of two ways: they either decide to copy their leaders in an attempt to become one, or they decide that leadership is harmful and not worth their time. Before you decide where you fall on that spectrum, consider this question: if your situation—be it your family, your team, your church, or your friends—required a leader, would you step up and be one?

If you said yes, congrats! It means you care enough about where your feet are planted to step up and make a difference. But how do you know when a leader is required? Well, have you ever looked at something and thought to yourself, “I wish this was different”? That very thought is a sign that leadership is needed. At its core, leadership is influence, and God has given it to us so that we can influence our lives and the people around us to change for the better.

JOURNAL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

On a scale of 1–4 (1=not at all, 4=wide open), how open are you to being a leader?

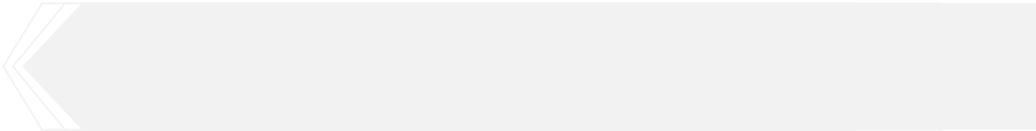
1 ————— 2 ————— 3 ————— 4
not at all wide open

When you think of the word “leadership,” what first springs to mind?

Make a list of the **five** most influential leaders who are currently in your life.



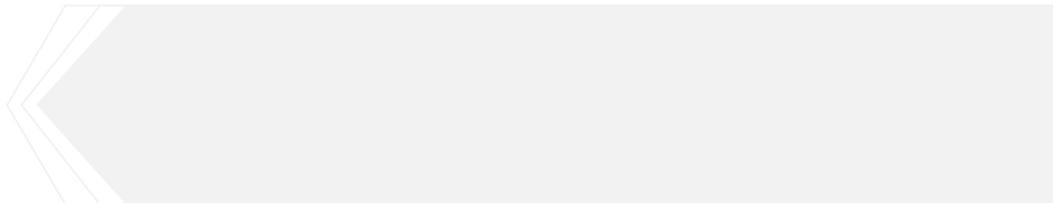
What makes these people leaders?



What have you witnessed in your life that you have wanted to change for the better? List **three** things.



How do you feel about God using your leadership to make a change in those areas?



DAY 2 - *Good or Bad*

Not all leadership is good leadership. Leadership is just an action, but the heart of leaders—shown by the way they lead and where they lead their followers to—determines if their leadership good or bad. You’ve probably experienced bad leadership; someone that didn’t treat you well, directed you poorly, or misguided you at some point. These experiences can make you wary of trusting other leaders. It can even make you distrust your own ability to lead well.

This is similar to what the Thessalonian church was experiencing. They had just received the Gospel, their church was growing, but there were some leadership changes and events that caused them to worry: “Can we trust these guys?” But Paul writes them a letter, proving his leadership is trustworthy by revealing his heart.

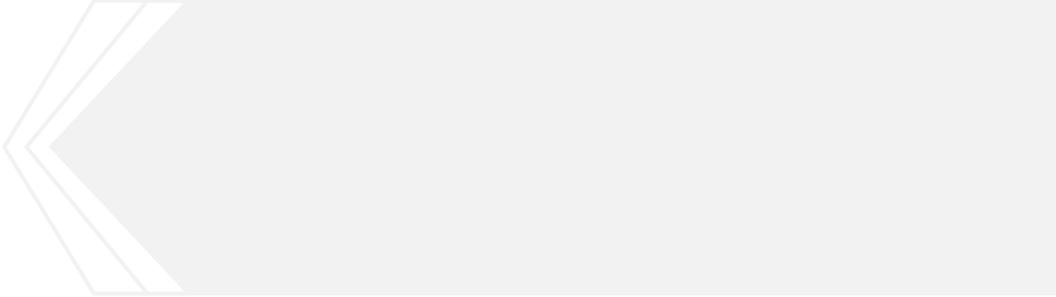
Try to specifically track all the characteristics of good and bad leadership that Paul mentions by studying **1 Thessalonians 2:1–14** using the **OPA method** for Bible study: Observation, Principles, and Application. *Helpful tip: the more effort you put into making observations, the easier the principles and application will be to see.*

OBSERVATION

Compile all the facts found in these passages. Try to make 15–20 observations about what you read.

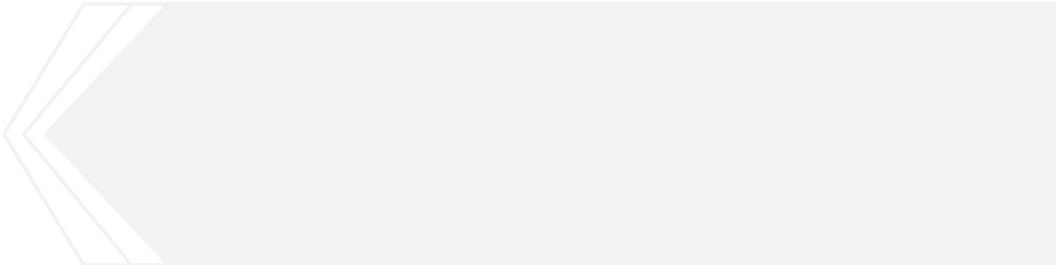
PRINCIPLES

Draw a few principles from the observations you made. What is God trying to teach you in this passage?



APPLICATION

How will you apply these principles to your life? Be specific—a good application will tell who, what, and when.



Disciples of Christ influence others to follow God, not themselves. (John 3:30)

DAY 3 - *Not What You Thought...*

POPULAR TEAM CAPTAIN **LOUD** GOOD ON A STAGE
CLASS PRESIDENT **GOOD-LOOKING**
SMARTEST PERSON IN THE ROOM **PUBLIC SPEAKER**
PUT-TOGETHER **ORGANIZED** PROM QUEEN
WELL-DRESSED **TEACHER'S FAVORITE** **PERFECT**
THE BOSS **NATURAL-BORN LEADER**
OLDER THAN ME **HIGH ACHIEVER** TYPE A
SOCIAL BUTTERFLY **CONFIDENT**

When we start to consider whether we could be a leader or not, it's tempting to compare ourselves to the leaders we've seen in the past. When we do, we subconsciously create a list of criteria that we assume, on some level, qualify or disqualify us from being a leader. The longer we live, the longer the list gets. Soon enough, we have a bunch of ideas about what a leader should be, and we probably can't live up to them.

Maybe your list looks like the one at the top of this page. We assume that in order for us to lead, we have to check all, or at least most, of those boxes. Leadership is for people like *that*, people who have *those* positions—right?

Wrong. Leadership is influence. Leadership is making a change, and anyone can do it. Yes, sometimes a leader may exhibit some of those qualities, but the character of a leader's heart matters most.

Answer the questions below as you uncover more of your leadership heart and discover how God has gifted you to influence others in your own way.

List three of the traits from the list above that you feel most disqualified by. Where do you feel like you aren't leadership quality?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write out why each of the above traits is not essential to being an influential leader.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now list three traits, gifts, or talents that you have. Next to each one, write out a way that you could influence someone with it.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DAY 4 - *The Great Commission*

Have you ever been part of a brainstorm meeting where everyone had a different opinion on the best direction for the group? The phrase “too many cooks in the kitchen” comes to mind, and it could happen anywhere—a group project, a team meeting, a family dinner conversation about where to vacation, etc. Because we are so different, the way we want to lead and the things we want to make happen can be drastically different. Sounds like a recipe for chaos.

Thankfully, God didn’t give us leadership so we could influence others to follow ourselves (and our ever-changing whims and opinions). He gave us leadership so that we could influence each other to follow him. When we listen to his commands, we can all pull together in the same direction. Then we can see him change the world through us.

Study **Matthew 28:16–20** using the **5P method** for Bible study. Pay attention to Jesus’ final words on earth; these are your marching orders.

PURPOSE

Why do you think the author wrote this? Why is it important enough to be in the Bible? In a sentence or two, write what you think the overall theme or topic is.

PRIMARY VERSE

Which verse seems to contain the most important thought in the passage? Which one stands out most to you? Write it out.

PROMISES

Make a list of any promises you find in this passage.

PROBLEMS

If you find anything you don't understand—even if it's just a word—write it down as a question. Then ask someone for the answer or look it up yourself.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

What do you need to change or work on so that what you have read is real in your life? Be specific—your application should tell who, what, and when.

"HE MUST INCREASE, BUT I MUST DECREASE."

—JOHN 3:30

DAY 5 - *My Leadership Opportunity*

Here's your challenge for the day: identify one area of your daily life where godly leadership could influence a needed change. This is your leadership opportunity.

Now take some time to pray over your leadership opportunity, using the **ACTS prayer method** to help you ask God to work through you and accomplish his vision. Don't rush it.

ADORATION

Remind yourself of who God is by spending time with God talking about his character. For example, if you are terrified of your leadership opportunity, allow God to remind you that he promises to be a fortress of protection for his people.

God, you are...

CONFESSION

Take time to confess the sin in your life. Not only may our sin hinder our ability to lead, but it's what separates us from God. But the good news is that God's forgiveness and grace doesn't just qualify us to be part of his family, it qualifies us to lead for him as well.

God, forgive me for...

THANKSGIVING

You could fill a million journals with this section. Take time to thank God for who he is and what he has done. When we learn to see where God is already at work and praise him for it, we are more able to identify his leading as we follow him.

God, thank you for...

SUPPLICATION

This part isn't left to the end because it's the least important—Jesus frequently commands us to tell him what we need. It's last because we often limit our prayers to just this part. Ask God for what you need as you seek to take the leadership opportunity he's given you.

God, please help me...

Note: This prayer method is one that you can use to give a framework or focus to your prayers. It's especially helpful to write out the ACTS method in a prayer journal.

Before you go, come up with a way to remind yourself of your leadership opportunity every day. You could make a sign to put above your door, a phone background, or even a small bookmark for this book. Whatever it is, make sure it goes where you will see it every day.

MENTOR PAGE - *Leadership Is...*

This page is designed for you to use in relationship with a mentor. If you don't have a mentor, skip it for now, but seriously consider finding one. Start by praying, and then ask someone (like a youth worker) to recommend a person who would be a good fit. Or if you know someone with a deep faith and the kind of character traits and faith you want to develop, ask them to mentor you. Most people will be more than thrilled and truly honored to mentor someone.

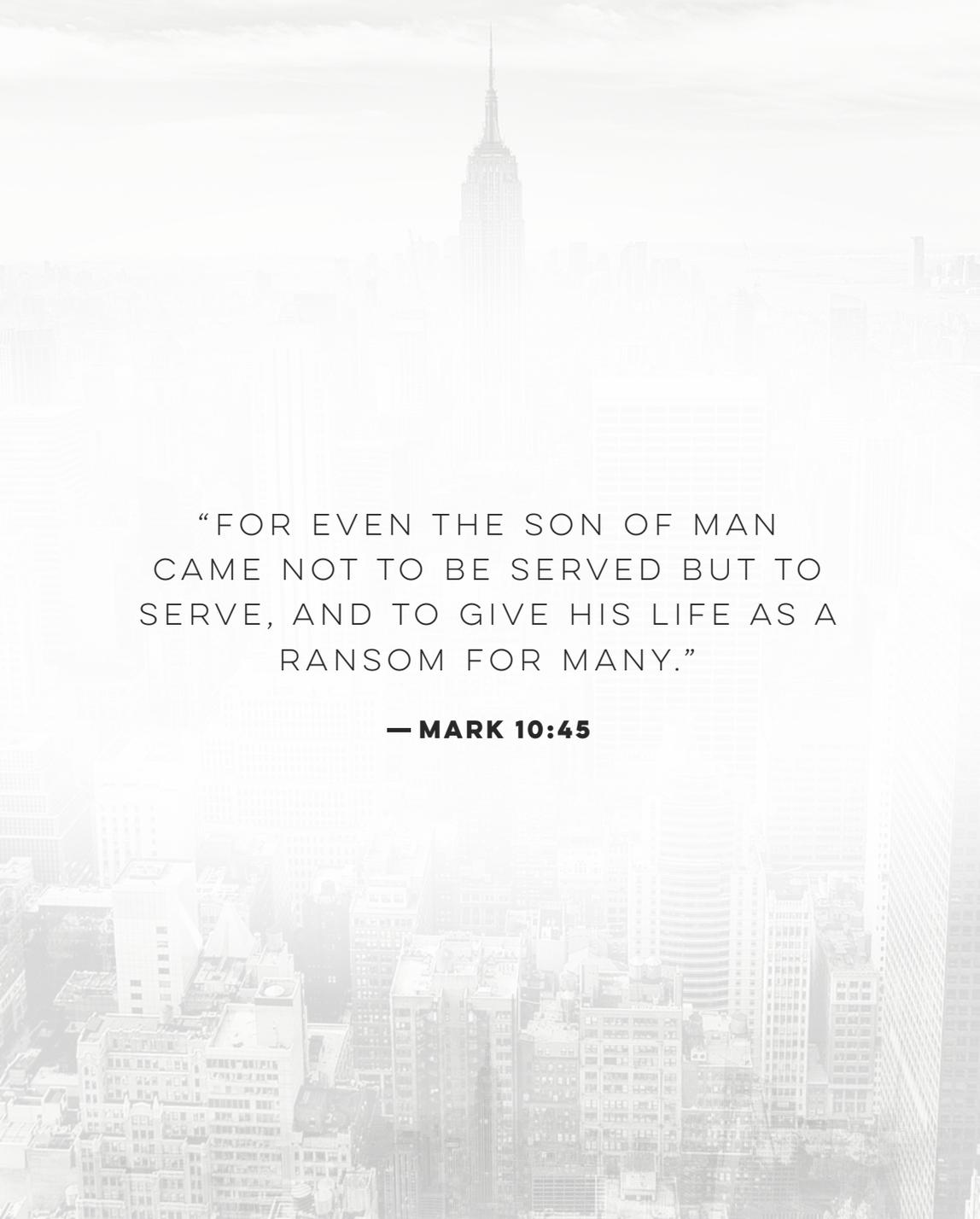
Questions to go through with your mentor:

1. How ready are you to be a leader? Think back to Day 1, when you rated your openness to being a leader. What do you hope God changes through your leadership?
2. On Days 2 and 4, you made some very specific life applications in your Bible study. What were they? Did you follow through on them? Do you need someone to keep you accountable?
3. Ask your mentor when they first realized they were a leader. What gifts has God given them to use in leadership? What leadership gifts do you believe he has given you?
4. On Day 5, you identified a specific leadership opportunity in your life. Share that decision with your mentor. How have you tried to remind yourself of that leadership opportunity? Where do you need to grow and what do you need to do to accomplish it?

Until your next meeting:

Take a minute to figure out when you and your mentor will get together next.
My mentor and I will meet: _____ (when) at _____ (where).

Are there any specific ways your mentor can pray for you until then?

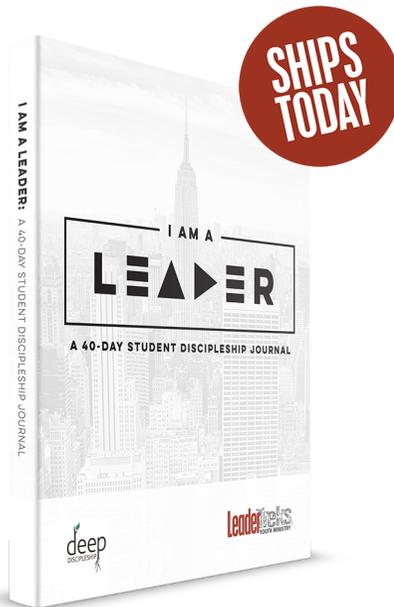
A high-angle, hazy view of a city skyline, likely New York City, with the Empire State Building as the central focus. The image is monochromatic and serves as a background for the text.

“FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN
CAME NOT TO BE SERVED BUT TO
SERVE, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A
RANSOM FOR MANY.”

— **MARK 10:45**

YOU ARE A LEADER!

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