



The 4 Essentials of Missionary Leadership

This study is designed to help us and our co-workers discover the Biblical model of missionary leadership. The missionary role in the New Testament is the root of our identity as sent ones. As we develop leaders, we expect those leaders to follow the path laid out by our biblical predecessors. This study, then, focuses on issues particular to those who lead out in the core missionary task. Our goal is to cast the role of Strategy Leader or Team Leader in the mold of New Testament missionary leadership.


In the study we focus on the passages where: a) the Lord Jesus or the Apostle Paul address their own leadership or b) they interact with their leaders, as opposed to a broader group of listeners. Four primary activities of missionary leaders emerge, based on the examples of Jesus and Paul.

Missionary leaders are those who exemplify the work and the Christian life, equip others to do the work through teaching and training, encourage those they lead through loving accountability, and entrust the missionary task to other leaders.

These four activities—exemplifying, equipping, encouraging, and entrusting—form the backbone of the New Testament missionary leader. As we pursue the missionary task together, we hope to see these activities infused into the lives of all of our leaders.

As you study the passages below, note how they apply to your current work and how you could follow the leadership path laid out by Jesus and Paul. We have supplied questions to help guide your study, but feel free to go beyond these questions and, as needed, to draw from other passages as well.

We pray that this study leads you further down the path of missionary leadership. Our task demands that we steward this gift of leadership with great care and with great hope, and we trust in Him to fulfill those hopes among us.



A missionary leader is one who exemplifies the lives of the Lord Jesus and Paul; equips workers in the task; encourages the team, partners, disciples, and churches; and entrusts the work to faithful leaders who will do the same.

Read the following passages to study the characteristics and competencies of a missionary leader from the lives of the Lord Jesus and Paul:


1. John 13:1-17; 14:1-18; 16:4-14 or Luke 8, 9, and 10
2. Acts 20:17-35

Answer these questions as you read:

1. What did the Lord Jesus and Paul say about themselves?
2. What did the Lord Jesus and Paul say about or to their disciples?
3. What did the Lord Jesus and Paul expect their disciples to do?

Summary questions:

1. What are the main ways that Jesus and Paul exemplified the work and the Christian life? Which of these are reflected in your leadership? Which are missing?
2. How did Jesus and Paul equip their leaders through teaching and mentoring? How are you equipping leaders in your ministry? What does your teaching cycle look like?
3. What are the primary ways that Jesus and Paul encouraged leaders and new churches? Which of these are reflected in your leadership? Which of these are a part of your training cycle?
4. How does entrusting play a role in your leadership? What works are you actively giving away to others?



[Suggested application: Foot-washing with your leaders]

Additional passages for each E:

Exemplify:

John 1:43

1 Cor. 4:16-17; 9:19-23; 10:31-11:1

Phil. 3:17; 4:9

1 Thess. 1:6; 2:8-10; 4:12

2 Tim. 4:2-3

1 Pet. 5:3

Equip:

Matthew 24

Mark 4:10-20

Luke 10:17-24

Ephesians 4:11-16

1 Tim. 3:1-13

Titus 3

Encourage:

Acts 15:30-32, 41; 16:5, 40; 18:23

Eph. 6:22

Col. 2:1-2; 4:8

1 Thess. 5:11

2 Tim. 4:2



Entrust:

Acts 14:23

1 Cor. 9:16-17

1 Tim. 1:3, 18; 4:6-16; 5:21; 6:13

2 Tim. 2:1-2, 24-25; 4:1-5

