

Summer of Personal Worship

WEEK 9 THEME

Leaders

As we close this 9-week journey we hope it has challenged you to examine your relationship with Jesus and with those around you. Through the summer your MCF leaders have prayed that this has been more than a personal journey; one that has caused you to consider your interactions with others. We have prayed that you sensed God's presence as you took time to reflect, meditate and pray. God has been with us all summer and will not abandon us when this week ends. He has been encouraging us forward with these devotionals, with the people we have encountered, and with the prayers of others who have had us in mind.

Our journey ends this week as we look at the topic of leaders and our role in supporting them. Jesus led a group of men and women on a journey that brought them to His cross and then to an empty tomb. The training, encouragement, empowerment and hope He gave them brought His vision and mission to our doorsteps. We have been asked to continue and take His message to all the world, regardless of race, cultural differences, or what the world thinks. We do this by following and supporting leaders and by taking up leadership roles. As disciples we must choose to bring Jesus' truth of harmonious relationship to others so that life on earth can reflect what is in heaven.

Our music video this week comes from a worship and praise tradition that I dare say many of us have not experienced. As singer Greg O'Quin sings in a gospel genre known as Black Gospel, the congregation responds to the words and music with dance, worship gestures and tears; not unlike King David when the Ark finally found a home. Oh that we could allow our hearts the freedom to express our faith in a way that says, "*Jesus is leading me*".

In this document, we have also included a list of *Canadian Leaders* (2017) who we should pray for and *Prayers for our leaders*, contains suggested prayers and scripture we can use when praying for those in authority. It is fitting that we end this journey talking about leading and being led so that the Gospel continues to be spread to the far corners of the earth.

Day 1

The material below, (scripture, reflection video, praise song and prayer) are designed to prepare you for the upcoming week of prayer, reflection and action. Take some time to listen watch or read each piece. Consider revisiting them from time to time during the week as they can help keep us pointed in the right direction. Consider conducting the spiritual practice of self-examination (see attachment EXAMEN) at the end of each day looking for times God has spoken to you about ministry or any other matter.

SCRIPTURE - Mark Chapter 1 (New International Version)

Take some time to read chapter 1 of Mark looking for leadership characteristics as shown by Jesus.

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REFLECTION VIDEO – *More than a saviour*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0hcDC3INgA>

PRAISE SONG – *Lead me Jesus*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EASY5FJl-Cs>

PRAYER - Read and reflect on this prayer while asking God to help you express your faith.

*Wonderful God, today I bring you the rulers of the nations – Kings, Queens, Presidents, Prime Ministers – all who are in positions of leadership. I know I may be can be quick to criticize. I know that on most issue I have the luxury of withholding judgment, of not committing myself, of sitting on the fence. Even when I have an opinion it has little influence and seldom any consequence. I know this is not so with our leaders. O God, help them in the loneliness of their decisions. Put wise counsellors around them. Help them see how good right decisions are and where decisions must be made that are not in their own interest, deepen their sense of duty. Continue to draw them to your light and then give them then give them the courage to walk in that light. Amen (Modified from a Richard Foster prayer found in his book *Prayers from the heart)**

Day 2 - Jesus as leader

All gospels provide us with an insight as to Jesus the leader. He is the ideal role model for those in leadership positions or considering taking on a role. Jesus' call to make disciples was not only given to pastors or ministry leaders but to all of us. These characteristics are useful to all regardless of the role we will play in spreading the gospel and as such we all should reflect on how they can aide us.

Mark's gospel provides 9 characteristics of a Christian leader as modeled by Jesus. The characteristics below were a constant trait of Jesus' earthly ministry and should be part of ours:

1. Not self-promoting – Mark 1:11;
2. Obedient to the Holy Spirit – Mark 1:12-13;
3. Vision casting with clarity, simplicity, and directness – Mark 1:15;
4. Strategic team builder – Mark 1:17;
5. Relationship builder – Mark 1:19;
6. Express control and authority when required – Mark 1:23-25;
7. Address crisis – Mark 1:30-31;
8. Pray daily – Mark 1:35; and
9. Empower others – Mark 1:40-45.

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At a minimum, review and meditate on the list and ask how you or your leaders aligns with Jesus' example. In areas where you note a possible shortfall, speak with God about them for both you and those leading you.

To get even more out of today's notes take a few minutes to look up each verse and identify how the trait is present, and ask God to reveal how you can adopt them into your life.

Day 3 - Being lead

In Patrick Lencioni's book *The Ideal Team Player*, he offers some good tips to leaders about finding ideal team players. In his situation the leader is involved in selecting team members but how can that work in a church environment? Church leaders do undergo some sort of scrutiny by either the lead pastor or the board interviewing a pastor. However most of those on church teams are volunteers who show up with a heart, some skills and often not much more than that.

Lencioni identifies three attributes of an *Ideal Team Player*. They are worth examining in light of whatever role we play in a church. While doing so we can look at each attribute and ask ourselves how, as a team player, can we be led and contribute.

- **Humble:** Ideal team players are humble. They lack excessive ego or concerns about status. Humble people are quick to point out the contributions of others and slow to seek attention for their own. They share credit, emphasize team over self and define success collectively rather than individually.
- **Hungry:** Ideal team players are hungry. They are always looking for more. More things to do. More to learn. More responsibility to take on. Hungry people almost never have to be pushed by a manager to work harder because they are self-motivated and diligent. They are constantly thinking about the next step and the next opportunity.
- **(People) Smart:** Ideal team players are smart. They have common sense about people. Smart people tend to know what is happening in a group situation and how to deal with others in the most effective way. They have good judgment and intuition around the subtleties of group dynamics and the impact of their words and actions.

These attributes are within reach of all of us because of God's transforming graces. Read the scripture below and talk with God about your team player qualities.

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Ephesians 4:15-16

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Day 4 - All lives matter

The world's history of enslaving fellow humans is deplorable. Our treatment of peoples from African nations came about because evil craved wealth above everything. These slave traders did not remember that God created all people from every nation, background and race to become partakers of His divine nature. They forgot, or did not accept, that all men and women are created in the image of God. Although our sin has tarnished our image, Jesus taught the way to become the people God created us to be; to be saved from the evil that prevents us from seeing each other through God's eyes. Jesus' message and gift of salvation is meant for everyone and believers have been chosen to share it.

Evil has a strong foothold in this world, but Jesus overcame it and asks us to lead others to His truth. It has been shown on the streets of so called free cities such as Charlottesville Virginia. It manifests itself in many homes where men and women are increasingly becoming obsessed and addicted to pornography, damaging relationships. And it is evident in our culture, where we suggest we are imperfect and must do and spend all we can to look, smell and dress beautifully.

This week we must pray for our leaders, so that they realize their policies, attitudes, and complacency have contributed to the moral decline of the western world and only with God's help can they turn it around. We must also pray that our religious leaders preach love and salvation. Teach that God's love crosses cultural, gender, age and denomination. We must also pray that we can be spiritual leaders in our homes, offices or anywhere we gather with others.

We must express our faith so that we become witnesses to the message God gives and Jesus showed us how to live. Read this verse and talk with God about how you love Him and others with all your being.

“The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7 NIV)

Day 5 - Being a disciple leader

Jesus called those who believed and accepted His message His disciples. He shared that a disciple loves God with everything they have and by God's grace, will become more and more like Him, living through a life of faith and obedience. Jesus expected His disciples to be disciple makers; people willing to share the Good News with others and inspire them to consider Jesus. Discipleship is a leadership role but not in the sense we tend to think of leaders. Leaders have a vision and inspire others to engage it with them. God's vision is the disciple's vision and we are called to lead others to it.

Some points to consider as a disciple leader:

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To be humble - be dependent on the Lord, knowing that you can do nothing of lasting worth without Him. He will prepare the hearts of those to be disciples and will draw them to Him. As a leader you;

To be word-fed – disciples need to have their hearts, minds, and wills nourished by God’s Word. It is the source of our inspiration that helps us lead others to Jesus;

To be spirit-led – knowing the word and living by the word are not the same. God has given us His Spirit to *always* be with us. He can influence our daily actions and outlook. God wants us to go beyond our abilities in the Spirit’s wisdom.

To be a servant – people know how we behave often before they hear what we say. When we serve people we will know whether we are dedicated to the Lord enough to give ourselves to His service no matter what rewards may come.

Read and reflect on the following verse. What leadership attributes can you take from this and apply to your own life. Talk with God about who you can lead to Him.

“Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple” Luke 14:27

Day 6 - Struggling leaders

All of us have probably seen a leader falter or downright fail. It’s rarely the result of one issue but often it is an accumulation of events. Thom Rainer offered some thoughts on significant struggles pastors face. Will you look at these asking yourselves the following questions?

1. Was I the cause of their issue?
2. Was I a contributing factor?
3. Did I reach out to help in any way?

Some common struggles include:

1. **Criticism and conflict** – there is an increasing struggle especially since the issues rarely have to do with doctrine and are likely to be about something trivial;
2. **Time management** – everyone wants a piece of the pastor for whatever reason and often expects them to be on call 24/7;
3. **Financial problems** - Most of the world hears about the few pastors who make huge salaries but the reality is that the majority of pastors struggle financially. Often congregations don’t contribute (tithe) financially to the operation of the church pushing boards to cut corners; and
4. **Stress** - The pastor’s life is one of emotional highs and lows. It includes critics and adoring fans. Expectations from church members can be unreasonable. The very nature of a pastor’s call into ministry can lend itself to seemingly unending stress.

We shouldn’t go to church to be a by-stander but as a person who will stand with those who lead us as well as those we worship alongside. All churches ask their congregations to prayfully

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consider how they can contribute to the church. This doesn't just cover areas of finance but includes attendance, service, spiritual support, and love.

Read and reflect on the verse below and then speak with God about areas where you may have fallen short supporting His church.

“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you” Hebrews 13:17

Day 7 - Supporting our leaders

Too often people who are not leaders believe that leadership is all about the position, perks, and power. Many want to climb up a corporate ladder because they believe that freedom, power and wealth are the prizes waiting at the top. John C Maxwell says the life of a leader can look glamorous to people on the outside, but the reality is that leadership requires sacrifices.

If someone desires to become the best leader they can be then they must be willing to make sacrifices in order to lead well. The hearts of leadership is putting others ahead of you. It's doing what is best for the team. Effective leaders sacrifice much to dedicate themselves to what is best. Jesus example as a sacrificial leader is known to us because He gave it all up so we could have it.

It is not easy being a leader because the followers and the world are constantly tugging at them. As we end our summer of personal worship let's consider those who in authority who have an impact on our lives. Let's remember and pray for our political leader whom, regardless on whether we voted for them or not, are in a position to make decisions that can affect our lives. Let's bring them before the ultimate authority, God, asking that He impact their lives so their morale decisions align with His. Let's also pray for those in our Christian community who bring out the best in us and keep us pointed in the right direction.

If you have not so already, print off the two documents that came with this week's email. They were *Canadian Leaders* and *Praying for people in authority*. Look them over and then commit to praying for all the leaders listed. You can do it all in one sitting but it would be best if you did it over a period of time so that you can reflect on the person, the prayer example and the associated scripture.

To use the lists, take a name from the leaders list and insert it in the places marked _____ on the prayer sample.

Prayer changes lives and it can also change countries. Pray for Canada and its leaders.

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Canadian Leaders

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Federal Political

Prime Minister: Justin, Trudeau

Sitting Federal Party Leaders:

- Christian Heritage Party - Mr. Rodney L. Taylor
- Conservative - Mr. Andrew Scheer
- New Democratic Party - The Hon. Thomas Mulcair

* Bloc Québécois- Mrs. Martine Ouellet

* Green Party - Ms. Elizabeth May

* in order to be considered a “recognized party” in parliament the group must hold 12 seats.

Provincial and Territorial Political Leaders (premiers)

(Alphabetically)

Alberta – Rachel Notley

British Columbia – John Horgan

Manitoba – Brian Pallister

New Brunswick – Brian Gallant

Newfoundland and Labrador – Dwight Ball

Nova Scotia – Stephen McNeil

Ontario – Kathleen Wynne

Prince Edward Island – Wade MacLauchlan

Quebec - Philippe Couillard,

Saskatchewan – seeding a new leader

Northwest Territories – Bob McLeod

Nunavut – Peter Taptuna

Yukon Sandy Silver

Other important leaders

Minister of National Defense - Harjit Sajjan

Chief of Defence Staff - General Johnathan Vance

Canadian Forces Chief Warrant Officer - CWO Alain Guimond

Chaplain General – Brigadier General Guy Chapdelaine

President of The Military Christian Fellowship of Canada – Colonel (Ret'd) Gerry Potter

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30 prayers for our leaders

1. I pray _____ is or becomes God fearing and recognizes that they are accountable to Him for each decision and act. (Prov. 9:10).
2. I pray _____ be granted wisdom, knowledge, and understanding (Jas. 1:5).
3. I pray _____ be presented with the gospel and a loving Christian witness (Ro. 10:14).
4. I pray that if _____ is unsaved, they be drawn to a saving encounter with Christ; if born-again, they be strengthened and encouraged in their faith (1 Tim. 2:4, Eph. 1:17-23).
5. I pray _____ recognizes their own inadequacy and prays and seeks the will of God (Prov. 3:5-8, Lk. 11:9-13).
6. I pray _____ be convicted of sin, transgression, and iniquity (Ps. 51:17, Jn. 8:9).
7. I pray _____ heed their conscience, confess their sins, and repent (Prov. 28:13, Jas. 4:8).
8. I pray _____ reads the Bible and attends prayer meetings and Bible studies (Ps. 119:11, Col. 3:2).
9. I pray _____ values and regards the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Christ (Ps. 19:7-11, Jn. 8:31-32).
10. I pray _____ respects and honour their own parents if living (Eph. 6:2-3).
11. I pray _____ also respects authority and practices accountability (Ro. 13:1-7).
12. I pray _____ be given godly counsel and God-fearing advisors (Prov. 24:6).
13. I pray _____ be honest and faithful to spouses and children (Mal. 2:15-16).
14. I pray _____ be practicing members of local congregations (Heb. 10:25).
15. I pray _____ desires purity and avoids debauchery, pornography, perversion, and drunkenness (1 Cor. 6:9-20, Titus 2:12).
16. I pray _____ timely, reliable, and dependable (Mt. 21:28-31).

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17. I pray _____ are honest in financial, tax, and ethical matters (1 Cor. 6:10, 1 Tim. 6:6-10).
18. I pray _____ seeks pastoral care and counsel when needed (Heb. 13:7).
19. I pray _____ seeks out and nurture godly friendships (Ps. 1:1-3).
20. I pray _____ has a thankful and teachable spirit (Ro. 1:21).
21. I pray _____ is generous and has a compassionate heart for the poor and needy (Ps. 112:9, Lk. 10:33-37).
22. I pray _____ redeems their time and know priorities (Eph. 5:15-17).
23. I pray _____ desires honesty, integrity, and loyalty (Psalm 26, Prov. 11:3).
24. I pray _____ has courage to resist manipulation, pressure, and the fear of man (Prov. 29:25, 2. Tim. 1:7).
25. I pray _____ be shielded from occultism, New Age cults, false religions, and secret societies (Is. 1:29, 2:6).
26. I pray _____ is presented with biblical worldviews and principles (Eph. 3:10).
27. I pray _____ would work to reverse the trends of humanism in our nation (1 Chron. 12:32, Is. 59:19).
28. I pray _____ endeavors to restore the sanctity of life, families, divine order, and morality in our nation (Eph. 5:22-6:4).
29. I pray _____ desires humility and meekness and be willing to serve and cooperate (Jn. 13:14, Titus 3:1-2).
30. I pray _____ is prepared to give account to Almighty God (Heb. 9:27).