



As You Go

Small Group Material

Leader Guide

Part 3 - "Influence Requires You"

August 28th, 2017

Bottom Line: *When we extend ourselves, we offer ourselves to another.*

Study Verses: *1 Corinthians 10:23-24, 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1, Colossians 4:5-6, Numbers 6:24-27*

Define The Win: *Participants would understand that empathy is required for leadership. They would recognize that in order to love someone you must see them as part of yourself. Group members would pinpoint where they might be allowing their talent to outpace their character.*

Key Points

- *Blessing is the act of our soul extending toward another in love.*
- *The freedom to trust requires a foundation of love.*
- *The focus shifts from trust to being a person who is trustworthy.*
- *"As you go" leadership is a way of thinking about influence without having to be someone else or somewhere else.*
- *Sometimes a right response is better than a right answer.*
- *To love someone is to see another person as part of yourself.*
- *Don't allow your talent to outpace your character.*
- *Live your life with an eye on God's purpose.*
- *Discipleship is training myself and others to be trained by Christ.*

- *It is not about us, but it requires all of us to show up with our whole heart.*
- *Character is what keeps your drive in check.*
- *What if the idea of influence was ensuring people felt loved?*

ENCOUNTER

- **What compels you to respond to a need or an injustice and help another individual?**
- **Why is empathy required for true leadership to occur? How does one see another person as part of themselves?**
- **What's the danger in allowing your talent to outpace your character? What are some signs when this is occurring in your own life?**

FORMATION

- **Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 and 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1. How should the way we live compel others to imitate us while understanding more of who Christ is?**
- **Read Colossians 4:5-6. What does it mean to "make the most of every opportunity"? How does this speak to "as you go" leadership? Why is a right response sometimes better than a right answer?**
- **Read Numbers 6:24-27. In what ways did Christ set an example of leadership fueled by love? Why are the blessings we experience always for the benefit of another person and Christ's love to be seen?**

EXPRESSION

- **Find your REV score. How would you rate your drive on a scale of 1 (indifference) to 10 (love). What makes you answer in the way that you do?**
- **Find your REFLECTION score. How would you rate your desire on who is seen through your actions and words on a scale of 1 (my image) and 10 (God's image). What makes you answer in the way that you do?**
- **Are there places where you are enabling your talent to outpace your character?**
- **Where do you need to bring your whole heart to an issue or situation that has grabbed your attention? What would it look like to have empathy for those that are in need?**

LEADER INSIGHT: *When the topic of influence is brought up often times the focus remains on sharpening our leadership skills. Without even knowing it, this mindset places us on shaky ground. If our attention is solely directed on our own ability, pride begins to creep in. We become the one who is solely responsible for change.*

We start to reason that if we have enough talent, charisma and drive that we can accomplish any goal and we will ensure this happens by any means necessary. Suddenly, our talent is outpacing our character. Our motives for influencing others becomes murky at best. We can very easily shift towards manipulation and coercion in our relationships with others. It's our image and recognition that matters above all else.

Drive is what moves and compels us. Yet, it is our character what keeps our drive in check and on the right road. Even though furthering our leadership ability is important, our competency will be of little value if we aren't trustworthy. Relationships, and the ability to lead, require trust. The freedom to trust is built on a foundation of love. We must bring ourselves fully to our leadership so that our influence is the result of trust and not fear.

"As you go" leadership is a way of thinking about influence without having to be someone else or somewhere else. It involves living one's life with an eye on God's purpose. It's focused not on the blessings we receive, but rather seeking out ways to be a blessing for someone else. Blessing is the act of our soul extending toward another in love.

To love someone is to see another person as part of yourself and this requires empathy. When we extend ourselves, we offer ourselves to another. Leadership is not about us, but it requires that we bring our whole heart and all of ourselves to every opportunity that is presented to us.