



## BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS OF LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

**Abstract:** Leadership equals influence. And the Gospel is our highest and deepest value to influence others with. As portrayed and taught by Jesus Christ, servanthood is the essence of Spiritual Leadership. The church's need for biblically-based servant leadership is urgent and continuous. The Spiritual Leader's primary task is to build faith in others. Using Jesus' principles of leadership and comparing/contrasting the leadership of Nehemiah & Ezra and also Paul & Peter, this Forum topic will explore and apply a church leader's character traits, their outputs fulfilling leadership responsibilities, consider sustainment activities that leaders must possess for effectiveness and endurance, and actions leaders take to reproduce in others this vital skill.

**To whom do we belong?**  
The Doctrine of the Church



**Topic**  
Theological Bucket

### Learning Objectives:

- Define biblical-based servant leadership and contrast it with secular leadership.
- Describe leadership qualities and actions that build faith in others.
- By evaluating several bible leaders, list character traits and actions that promote effectiveness and sustain a church leader.

### Forum Schedule

- 8:00** | Welcome
- 8:15** | Opening Presentation (Presenter)  
"Characteristics of the Leadership of Nehemiah"
- 8:45** | Theological Discussion (Moderator-Led)
- 10:00** | How might we obey what we have learned?  
Personal & Church Applications
- 10:45** | Closing Prayer Time

**Forum Date:** *Saturday, Sept. 12th | 8-11AM*

### Discussion Questions

- Why are spiritual leaders in short supply? What functions of the NT church today suffer from perceived weak leadership?
- How would you describe 'servant leadership' to a YouTube influencer that just became a Christian?
- How is natural leadership transformed into spiritual leadership?
- Do we aspire leadership, or does it come find us? What ambitions for leadership do you need to restrain?
- How do leaders tell the difference between promptings of the Holy Spirit and inclinations of ourselves?

### Pre-Forum Study Resources

**6-Week Individual Study**  
Release Date: August 1, 2026

Primary Reading | **LEAD** 224pgs. (assigned chapters) - Paul David Tripp

- Book | **Spiritual Leadership** 256pgs. - J. Oswald Sanders
- Book | **Expositional Leadership** 160pgs. - Scott Pace & Jim Shaddix
- Video | **The Rewards of a Life of Integrity: Lessons from the legacy of Howard Hendricks** | DTS 37min- Charles Swindoll  
<https://youtu.be/jf060oUeUyE?si>
- Article | **The Leadership Model** - CRU Blog  
<https://www.cru.org/us/en/blog/leadership/the-leadership-model.html>
- Video Lecture | **The Work: Leading and Healing** - Alexander Strauch  
<https://tinyurl.com/52r2f228>
- Video | **The Leader Your Church Really Needs** 43min- Trevin Wax  
<https://youtu.be/q1BrnmE7A-k?si>
- Book | **Small Group Leaders' Handbook (IVP)** Chapters 10&11; 29pages

### Post-Forum Assignment

**One week:** Write a clear assessment of your weakest leadership quality or spiritual discipline(s) that must improve to advance your spiritual leadership. Spend time in prayer to confess this and renew your hope in Christ's promised provision in you.

Complete by: Sept 20, 2026

**One month:** Study the book of **Nehemiah** noting 7-10 lessons on biblical leadership. Sign up to sit with a church leader to discuss your Bible study findings and where your leadership influence can expand in our church. Be ready to assess your leadership gaps that need honing to honorably fill a new role.

Complete by: Oct 11, 2026

**One quarter:** Deepen your sacrificial love for some church member within your influence through two planned dedicated times. Determine and provide one tangible need in their church walk.

Complete by: Nov 15, 2026

**Presenter**

**Moderator**