

spiritual adult

# DISCIPLE ME

## TRACK 2: DEVELOPING OTHERS

## HUMBLE LEADERSHIP

### ICEBREAKER: LEADERS OF THE ABSURD

Sometimes the easiest way to explore what leadership looks like is to imagine being “in charge” of something completely ridiculous. Think for a moment about something silly or absurd that you could easily be the leader of. Use one of the responses below or come up with something unique to you.

Captain of the Leftover Pizza Committee 🍕

CEO of Group Chat Overthinking 📱

Commissioner of Fantasy Football Regret 🏈

Head Coach of Overreacting to Minor Injuries 😞

Founder of the “*I Thought That Was Next Week*” Club 📅

President of Napping 😴

Director of Snacks at Every Meeting 🍪

Supreme Ruler of Losing TV Remotes 📺

Mayor of Awkward Small Talk 🗣️

Chief Executive of Hitting Snooze 5 times 🕒

- If you had to pick one completely random or ridiculous thing to be in charge of, what would it be?

### STUDY: A DIFFERENT KIND OF LEADER

Even in something completely ridiculous, leadership still carries weight. If you’re the “Captain” or the “CEO,” people are looking to you. Your decisions matter. Your attitude sets the tone. Influence follows position - even in silly scenarios. But here’s the real question: What does leadership look like when it actually matters?

The world defines leadership by position, power, and recognition. But in Philippians 2, Paul gives us a completely different picture. He points us to a leader who had ultimate authority - and yet chose humility. A leader who didn’t cling to status - but emptied Himself. If we want to understand what humble leadership really looks like - and how to move from being influenced to becoming an influence - we have to look at Jesus.

### READ Philippians 2:1-11

- What stands out to you most in this passage - and why?
- How does Paul describe humility in verses 3–4? What does that practically look like?
- What specific actions of Jesus in verses 6–8 demonstrate true humility?

- Why do you think Paul connects unity (v.1–4) with the example of Jesus (v.5–11)?
- What does it mean that Jesus “emptied Himself”? What did He give up - and what did He keep?

Philippians 2 doesn't just redefine leadership - it confronts our instincts about power, recognition, and control. To discover the same humility Jesus had, we must be honest about where we naturally gravitate and where we need to grow. Humble leadership isn't theoretical - it's deeply personal.

- Why do we naturally associate leadership with authority and titles?
- What makes humility difficult once someone gains influence?
- What part of Philippians 2 challenges you the most?
- How does humility actually increase influence rather than decrease it?

### ACTIVITY: PRIDE VS. HUMILITY

Take a moment and slowly read through both lists below. Circle the statements you often say out loud, regularly think internally, or instinctively agree with. Be honest - this isn't about shame; it's about awareness. After you've circled your responses, notice which column has more marks and consider where pride tends to show up most in your life. Humility begins with awareness, and influence grows from there.

Pride	Humility
"I deserve more credit than I'm getting." "If I don't control this, it'll fall apart." "I already know that." "Why should I have to apologize first?" "That's not my job." "I would've done it better." "I don't need help." "I need to make sure people know what I contributed."	"How can I help?" "I might be wrong." "Teach me." "I'm sorry." "That was a team effort." "What do you think?" "I'm still learning." "I trust God with recognition."

### CHALLENGE: CHOOSE THE LOWER PLACE

This week, identify one place where you typically assert control, seek recognition, or naturally step into the spotlight. It could be at work, at home, in a ministry setting, or even in conversations with friends. Then, intentionally choose the servant posture instead. Take the lower place. Serve quietly. Don't announce it. Don't hint at it. Don't look for credit. At the end of the week, take time to reflect: What happened in others because of your choice? And what happened in you? Humble leadership isn't proven in theory - it's formed in practice.