

Leadership Group Guide /

for the Leadership Podcast
with Pastor Gilbert Foliente

Better Together

WORD

(20 MINUTES)

"No longer do I call you servants . . . but I have called you friends . . ." JOHN 15:15

But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. PHILIPPIANS 2:22

Jesus, during the last supper, told His disciples that the greatest way to show friendship is by laying down [one's] *life for his friends* (John 15:13). Jesus continued: *No longer do I call you servants, but I have called you friends*. In his epistles, Paul calls Timothy his *son*, various churches his *children* (Galatians 4:19), and even calls himself a *nursing mother* (1 Thessalonians 2:7) in the way he cared for them. These are all relational terms that describe strong bonds of family and friendship. Jesus and Paul use these terms to refer to relational leadership. Relational leadership builds trust, and trust is the currency of leadership. No leader can be effective without the trust of fellow leaders and of those he or she leads.

This does not mean changing our personalities or looking like photocopies of the same page. Relational leadership means valuing people the way God values them. When we value people, we make time for them. We make sure we can be with them even without an event, pray with them in thanksgiving or need, and be there for them at their highest and lowest points. As we intentionally continue and strengthen our relationships, this means interacting with humility, communicating kindly, and learning to forgive. Proverbs 19:11 says it is to our *glory to overlook an offense*. This also means resolving conflict because when one of us falls, we *lift* each other up. *A man might prevail against one who is alone, [but] two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken* (Ecclesiastes 4:10,12). We are stronger and better together.

DISCUSSION

(50 MINUTES)

1. How does your understanding of what Jesus did for you on the cross affect how you relate with others? What's one thing you need to do differently to become a more relational leader?
2. How have you learned to respond to correction and confrontation? Choose a potential leader in your Victory group. How can you show him or her how to respond better to conflict or confrontation?
3. What should you do to guard against disunity or discord in your sphere of influence (e.g. at home, in your Victory group, in this leadership group, in your congregation and church)?

PRAYER

(20 MINUTES)

1. Pray for grace and humility to overlook offense. Pray that you would love others as Christ has loved you.
2. Pray that you and those you lead would be more like Christ. Pray that you would be known for valuing people in increasing measure.



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This guide is designed to be used in leadership groups, for Victory group leaders to grow in discipleship and leadership development. The goal of these ninety-minute leadership group meetings is a discussion of the Word and its practical application as leaders.