

The World's Greatest Leader

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First printing: December 2020

ISBN-13: 979-8576516933

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will
establish your plans.
Proverbs 16:3

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Introduction

The vision, decisions, and communication of a leader can make a large difference in an organization, business, school, or sports team. Being an impactful leader is not an easy task. Those who pursue leadership positions can spend their entire lifetime learning how to be a great leader and still have more to learn.

Leaders can provide support, encouragement, guidance, stability, and calmness. Great leaders can also instill a sense of pride, purpose, and passion. Learning more about how to be a great leader is an important topic. It is vital that people look in the right place for answers.

God is the world's greatest leader! God is inspiring, knowledgeable, passionate, empathetic, consistent, honest, and a great communicator as well as many more qualities. One of the best ways to learn how to be a great leader is by studying and discussing God's Word in the Bible. God's Word has endless wisdom and can help us understand what true leadership entails.

Sometimes those in leadership positions can have large egos. These people tend to put their own needs first

through self-centered behavior. They feel they are the most important part of a team or group. A right view of the word, EGO, provides insight into being a great leader. The letters in EGO can stand for “Edge God Out” or “Exalt God Only.” Those who seek self-glorification are looking to edge God out. These type of leaders feel that they should get all the credit and admiration. Leaders who have their foundation on God’s Word seek to glorify God in everything. People are seen as valued and important because Godly leaders want to show God’s love to others because of the great love that God has shown them.

It is interesting that the term, leader, is mentioned only six times in the King James version of the Bible. The term, servant, is mentioned more than 900 times. Jesus demonstrated true leadership by seeking to serve and glorify God in all His words and actions. Jesus knew that the greatest leader is God. When we let God lead us in life, we will have purpose and a strong foundation that will support and sustain us.

A few years ago there was flooding in the state of Louisiana. There is a story of a family that found

encouragement and hope in the midst of the difficulty of the floods. This family's home was flooded and it required all the water-damaged sheet rock to be removed. As the sheet rock was being removed, writing was found at the top of each doorframe. When the home was first built, Bible verses were written at the top of each doorframe. The verses included timely advice when dealing with setbacks. *"Be still, and know that I am God."* Psalm 46:10. *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.* Hebrews. 10:23. *But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!* Joshua 24:15.

The family found the Bible verses to be a real blessing in the midst of difficulty. They shared photos of the door frames on social media and encouraged those who were building or rebuilding homes to include Bible verses on the door frames.

When God's Word is the firm foundation of our life we will have wisdom and guidance for all moments of life. Proverbs 16:3 states this promise. *Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.* God is all-knowing and all-powerful. There is no one greater than God. There is no

greater leader than God. We should strive to let Him lead our lives.

What does it take to be a great leader? There can be differing responses to this question. Being able to communicate well with others is an important quality. John D. Rockefeller, successful businessman and philanthropist, noted the value of this. “The ability to deal with people is as purchasable a commodity as sugar or coffee...And I will pay more for that ability than for any other under the sun.”

Excellent leaders inspire others through their words and actions. President Dwight D. Eisenhower stated, “Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he or she wants to do it.” Impactful leaders get people to see the benefit of proceeding with the plan. They motivate others to believe in a positive outcome.

Knowing when to speak and when to listen is another important part of being a good leader. Winston Churchill, prime minister of the United Kingdom during World War II, describes this knowledge. “Courage is what it

takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

A leader has a lot of responsibility and must be up to the task. If they do not know this, it is likely they will be told it. General Omar Bradley, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, boarded a plane and sat down in his seat. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the highest ranking officer in the military. General Bradley was not in uniform and was wearing a suit. The man who was sitting next to him sought to strike up a conversation, “I bet you are a business man.”

General Bradley replied quickly in order to not carry on a conversation because he had some work to do. “I am the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.”

The man next to General Bradley paused for a moment and then replied, “That is a big job, you better not blow it.” Leaders must be up to the task and responsibility for others is a big part of being a leader.

Great leaders can motivate people by being passionate about their purpose. Tony Dungy, author and former NFL coach, describes a vision of leadership based on

his Christian faith. “Mentor leadership is all about shaping, nurturing, empowering, and growing. It’s all about relationships, integrity, and perpetual learning. Success is measured in changed lives, strong character, and eternal values rather than in material gain, temporal achievement, or status...it is primarily concerned with building and adding value to the lives of people in the process. It’s about changing lives”¹

Dungy guides his decisions in life with the following question: “What can I do to make other people better, to make them all that God created them to be?” When we let God lead our lives, this enables us to show God’s love to others. We can encourage, uplift, and motivate others!

There are three key questions people want to know about their leader.

- Do you care about me?
- Can I trust you?
- Do you want to help me?

God is the world’s greatest leader because we can answer these questions with a resounding yes! God cares for us! We can trust God! God wants to help us! This book will explore

these important points that make God the greatest leader. You will be encouraged, strengthened, and uplifted as you read about how God cares for you, is trustworthy, and wants to help you!

Chapter 1: God cares for you

Do you care about me? This is an important question for a leader. People want to know that their leader cares about them. Some leaders go out of their way to focus on and care for those who are most in need. For these leaders there is no doubt that they care for those they serve. George Müller was a missionary in the nineteenth century. He felt called by God to help homeless children in England. He started the Ashley Down orphanage in Bristol, England.

He took no salary or compensation for his work and relied on God to supply the money and food needed to support the homeless children. At times, Müller did not know how God would provide, but always trusted that He would supply the orphanage with what it needed. The following example highlights this well.

One morning the housemother of the orphanage informed George Müller, "The children are dressed and ready for school. But there is no food for them to eat." George proceeded to task her to take the 300 children into the dining room and have them sit at the tables. He said a prayer thanking God for the food and then waited. George

was confident that God would provide food for the children as He always did.

Within minutes a baker knocked on the door. “Mr. Müller,” he said, “last night I could not sleep. Somehow I knew that you would need bread this morning. I got up and baked three batches for you. I will bring it in.”

Soon after this, there was another knock at the door. It was the milkman. His cart had broken down in front of the orphanage. The milk would go bad by the time his cart could be fixed. He asked George if he could use some free milk. George smiled and noted he could put the milk to good use. The milkman brought in ten large cans of milk, which was just enough for 300 children!

Müller’s faith guided all his decisions. He kept his motto for life on his desk for many years. It brought him strength, comfort, and encouragement. It read, “It matters to Him about you.” Müller felt that these words captured well the meaning of 1 Peter 5:7. *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.* He testified at the end of his life that God had never failed to supply all his needs. The love that Müller was able to show to thousands of homeless children through the

orphanage was a result of the great love of God shown to Müller.

George was not always a person of strong faith. As a young boy he often stole money from his dad. He was put in jail once for sneaking out of a hotel without paying. In his college years, he liked to drink, gamble, and be the life of the party. He would make fun of people for being Christians.

One day, a friend invited George to a Bible study. He went, thinking he would make fun of what occurred at the Bible study. To his surprise, he really liked the Bible study. For the first time, he saw people who really knew and loved God. He attended the Bible study each evening for a week. At the end of the week, he knelt at his bed and asked God to forgive him his sins.

Those who knew George saw a change in him immediately. He no longer went to bars or made fun of people. He spent a lot of time reading and discussing God's Word. George eventually became a pastor and then felt called to minister to children through an orphanage. George prayed to God to provide a building, furniture, money for food and clothing, and people to work at the orphanage.

God answered his prayers and the needs of the orphanage were met each day.

George knew the importance of living by God's Word and trusted that if someone did that, then God would provide them with what they needed. When each child at the orphanage became old enough to live on his or her own, George would pray with the child. He would put a Bible in the child's right hand and a coin in the child's left hand. George would explain to the young person that if you hold onto what is in your right hand, God would always make sure there was something in your left hand.

George felt God's great care and love during his life and let God lead his life. God is a great leader that cares for every child, every human, and cares for you. Let's look further at a few of the many ways that God shows that He cares for you!

Listens

Great leaders know when to listen and are available if anyone wants to talk. This shows that a leader cares about the people he or she leads. When a new leaders starts, it is often a common practice to go on a listening tour. This is

when a leader meets with people or a group of people to hear from them about what has been working well and what could be improved. It is a chance to begin to build relationships and get insight into the team or group.

Listening is important and is not a passive activity. Good listening is like tuning into a radio station. For the best results, you listen to only one radio station at a time. If you are looking at your phone while trying to have a conversation with someone, it is likely that good listening is not occurring.

Pastor and author, Charles Swindoll, was reminded about an important lesson on listening when he once found himself with too many commitments. He describes the impact when he felt like he was trying to do too much. "I was snapping at my wife and our children, choking down my food at mealtimes, and feeling irritated at those unexpected interruptions through the day." Before too long Swindoll's family started to all feel the stress.

Swindoll recounts the conversation that made him slow down and focus more on intently listening. "I distinctly remember after supper one evening, the words of our

younger daughter, Colleen. She wanted to tell me something important that had happened to her at school that day. She began hurriedly, ‘Daddy, I wanna tell you somethin’ and I’ll tell you really fast.’”

“Suddenly realizing her frustration, I answered, ‘Honey you can tell me—and you don’t have to tell me really fast. Say it slowly.’”

“I’ll never forget her answer: ‘Then listen slowly.’”²

God is always present, has time for us, and He listens to us. Humans have limitations on what we can listen to at one time. God has no limitations. He can listen to everyone in the world at the same time. God hears our prayers. Psalm 66:19 and 1 John 5:14 reassures of us this. *But God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. Psalm 66:19. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14.*

Through prayer, we can share any frustrations, difficulties, or celebrations. God cares about each one of us deeply and wants us to know that He is always with us. *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7. We*

can have great confidence that God cares for us and listens when we pray!

Genuine interest

Excellent leaders show genuine interest in others because they care for others. They want everyone to enjoy the work that they do and want the best for everyone in their personal lives as well. Each person is important because they see everyone as valued.

There is a story of a farmer and his workers who had just finished harvesting a truck load of sugar beets. They had a full load and the route to the refinery was a bumpy dirt road. While en route, several of the beets fell off the truck. Most farmers would have continued the journey and not thought much about the few beets that had fallen off the truck.

However, this farmer was different. He pulled over to the side of the road and instructed his workers to retrieve the fallen beets. The workers looked surprised. The farmer explained that there was just as much sugar in each beet that fell off the truck as those that remained. The farmer knew that each beet had value.

A great motto for a group or organization is, “People of value who value people.” Every person has vital abilities and ideas he or she can contribute. When everyone takes this mindset to value others, great care and genuine interest is shown not just to colleagues but to all people.

Like the farmer that showed interest in each sugar beet, God cares for us and has genuine interest in each of us. God is the creator of all things and because of this there is no one in which God is not interested. He cares for each of us with a great love and wants the best for us. *Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.* Psalm 55:22.

When someone important is genuinely interested in us it makes us feel good. Everyone wants to know that they are valued and are appreciated as an individual. God is the most important. He is interested in each of us and works to bring us to saving faith in Him. *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming*

ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:4-7. We matter because God cares for us! The all-powerful God knows us and loves us! Because of God's love and interest in us, we can be empowered to live each day with boldness by being witnesses of God's great love and care in our lives through our words and actions.

Empathy

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. This is a very vital aspect of demonstrating that you care for someone. When people know that their leader understands them and is empathetic to any difficulties or pain it makes a big difference to feel that care.

Pastor and author, Philip Yancey, provides insight into God's empathetic care for us. "I know of only one way to answer the question, Does God care? And for me it has proved decisive: Jesus is the answer. Jesus never attempted a philosophical answer to the problem of pain, yet he did give an existential answer. Although I cannot learn from him why a particular bad thing occurs, I can learn how God feels

about it. Jesus gives God a face, and that face is streaked with tears.”

“Whenever I read straight through the Bible, a huge difference between the Old and New Testament comes to light. In the Old Testament I can find many expressions of doubt and disappointment. Whole books— Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Job— center on the theme. As I have said, almost half of the psalms have a dark, brooding tone about them. In striking contrast, the New Testament Epistles contain little of this type of anguish. The problem of pain has surely not gone away: James 1, Romans 5 and 8, the entire book of 1 Peter, and much of Revelation deal with the subject in detail. Nevertheless, nowhere do I find the piercing question, Does God care?”³

Yancey goes on to explain the reason for the change. Jesus answered the question if God cares. Anyone who wonders how God feels about the suffering on this groaning planet need only look to Jesus. The disciples saw Jesus’ compassion and empathy firsthand in how He responded to a grieving centurion, a widow’s dead son, an old blind man, the death of a friend Lazarus, and many more examples.

Jesus knows what it is like to experience pain. Martin Luther described Jesus time in the garden of Gethsemane and on the cross at Calvary as “God struggling with God.” Jesus himself asked the question that can come to mind from pain and suffering. Does God care? In Matthew 27:46 Jesus states, “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*” When Jesus faced pain, He responded much as anyone else does. He experienced sorrow, fear, and felt abandoned. Jesus was willing to suffer because of His great love for all people.

The writers of the New Testament knew that earthly pain still exists, but God’s care and love makes all the difference. Because of Jesus, we can trust that God truly understands our condition. We can trust that we matter to God and that God cares. If you ever begin to doubt if God cares, turn your focus back to Jesus to see the compassionate love of God. God knows your feelings and your situation. He is always with you and works for you, even in the midst of pain. Keep in mind the great words of Isaiah 43:2 to always remember that God cares and will bring you safely home to heaven when your time on earth is done. God gives us strength for this life to life everlasting in heaven! *When*

you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. Isaiah 43:2.

Provide opportunities

God cares for us and provides us opportunities to show His love by caring for others. A mark of a good leader is to encourage others to make a difference. A leader instills the needed knowledge and guidance in others and then this understanding is implemented.

A wise leader can make all the difference. A pastor led a workshop on witnessing. During the workshop a young man shared about the struggle he had in witnessing to a co-worker who was going through a difficult time. "I tried to tell him about Jesus. I tried to tell him about the love Jesus had for him. I tried to tell him that Jesus was interested in helping him with the burdens he was carrying. I couldn't get through to him though."

The pastor responded with this short illustration. "I am a poor old man and must stagger under this load of firewood that I had so much trouble in cutting. I can feel

nothing of the love of God. I can feel nothing of God caring my burdens. I can feel nothing of His grace for me.” The young man was not sure how this related to what he had shared.

The pastor could see the man’s confusion and explained, “Think about how you would help the man in this illustration. Now relating back to your co-worker, if you had offered to carry his ‘load of wood’ for him, he would have more likely believed in your words. Not only would he have heard about the love of God for him, but he would have experienced it as well.”⁴

God does not just love us with words, but actively seeks to help us. God has the most wisdom ever and knows all things. When we read, meditate, and discuss God’s Word we will be better attuned to how we can show God’s care and love to others. There are many people in this world in need of God’s love and hope in their lives.

Keanon Lowe, a coach at a high school in Portland, Oregon, showed care to a student with a powerful action. The student had walked into a classroom with a shotgun intending to use it to take his own life. Lowe saw the student

enter the classroom and went in after the student. Students began to run out of the classroom when seeing the gun. Thankfully, Lowe was able to get the shotgun away from the student with no one getting hurt. Reports came out later that day that the coach had tackled the student. That was not the case though.

The student had loaded the shotgun with one round and pointed at himself. He pulled the trigger but the gun did not fire. The coach was able to stay calm and get the student to give him the shotgun. School surveillance video showed what happened next.

On the video Lowe is seen backing out the classroom, with the shotgun in his right hand. With his other arm, Lowe holds the student at arm's length. Another staff member comes to Lowe and takes the gun. With the situation now under control, coach Lowe chose to respond with care and not anger. Lowe wrapped the student in his arms and gave him a hug. Later, as they waited for the police to arrive, Lowe and the student sat on the floor together and talked. Lowe explained the emotional moment. "In that time, I felt

compassion for him. A lot of times, especially when you're young, you don't realize what you're doing until it's over."⁵

When an investigation was complete, it became clear that the student did not intend to hurt anyone other than himself that day at the school. The student had made suicidal statements to another student and had given up on life. Going forward the student was able to receive help in the form of counseling and mental health treatment. Thanks to coach Lowe, the student also now knew that people cared about him.

A great leader shows genuine care and concern and that is what God does for us. Life can be difficult which makes showing others the care we receive from God so important. We never need to doubt about God's love and care in our lives. Nana Hayes has a wonderful poem that describes God's care in our lives. We can draw comfort and strength from these words and seek to provide care for others as well.

He cares for you

When times are hard and the way is rough
When all your dreams are in the dust
God cares for you like no one can.

His are the footprints in the sand
He carries you when you can't go on
When all your hope and strength is gone.

When the road ahead you cannot see
He says, "Rest, My child. Rest in Me
Soon you'll see what I've got planned
All good gifts are from My hand."

So if you're feeling just that way
Let Him comfort you today
His arms outstretched, He's there for you
He wants to lift and carry you too.*

God shows His care for us not only in comforting us but also in providing us many blessings. In the Old Testament God shared the blessing that is used at the end of many church services. *"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."* Numbers 6: 24-26. We are blessed in this life because God is always with us and He provides us with hope, joy, peace, guidance, strength, and many more blessings!

"The Blessing" is a great song that can help us remember God's loving care for our lives and that God works for our good. The lyrics of the song are all based on Bible verses and are truths that we can keep in mind our whole life.

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His Face toward you
And give you peace

Amen

May His favor be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family
And your children
And their children
And their children

May His presence go before you
And behind you
And beside you
All around you
And within you
He is with you
He is with you

In the morning
In the evening
In your coming
And your going
In your weeping
And rejoicing
He is for you
He is for you
He is for you

From generation to generation God shows His love to us. *"But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands."* Exodus 20:6. The reassuring words in Romans 8:31 let us know that God will

do what He promises and is working for us. *What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?* Romans 8:31. Because of God's great care and love, we are given great strength and perseverance. *Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.* Lamentations 3:22-23. Never forget that our great leader God cares for you!

Chapter 2: You can trust God

Can I trust you? This is a vital question for a leader.

Trust makes all the difference in the climate and culture of a group or organization. When trust is established, people are freed up to do their best work and there is a sense of community. Our great leader, God, is trustworthy and we can always have confidence in His Word. God wants nothing less than the best for all of us and for us to trust in His will for our lives.

A few of the most well-known Bible verses about placing our trust in God are Proverbs 3:5-6. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.* Trust in God does not mean that our lives will be free from difficulty but that God will lead us through any bumps and setbacks in our lives. We will have peace and hope no matter what life brings when we wholeheartedly seek His will for our lives.

Trust from a leader is often established over many different interactions, but it can take just one interaction to cause doubt. A newly promoted colonel had just moved into

his makeshift office during the Gulf war. He was getting organized when he saw a private coming towards him, carrying a tool box. The colonel wanted to seem important, so he quickly picked up the phone and said loud enough for the private to hear. "Yes, General Schwarzkopf, yes, yes of course, I think that's an excellent plan. You've got my support on it. Thanks for checking with me. Let's touch base again soon, Norm. Goodbye." He turned around and then asked the private, "What can I do for you?" The private responded, "Umm, I'm just here to hook up your phone."¹

God will never be untruthful with us. Those who have been Christians for many years can look back on their lives for how God has sustained and carried them. The Bible provides further evidence of God's great faithfulness. Trust is built over multiple interactions and God's truth is for all time. We can trust God! He cares for us and loves us! Throughout our lives we can keep in mind to trust God in the difficult times, trust God without limits, and trust God for all time!

Trust in the difficult times

Trust during difficult times can be the true measure of trust. It is often easier to trust when things are going well. There can be less doubt and questions. When difficulties arise people may begin to doubt if their leader is wise and can wonder if the future will be bleak.

God never leaves us and during our difficult times, we can seek to spend more time in prayer and in God's Word. *Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.* Psalm 62:8. God hears you and offers hope and strength. God desires to help us and when we keep our focus on Him, we will be more likely to have strong faith and sustained trust in God.

I attended a conference in Germany several years ago and one presentation provided a great illustration of looking for God's presence in all things. A presentation by several Japanese researchers described looking for mathematics in art. One of the examples that was given was Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper painting. In the painting an equilateral triangle can be made around Jesus. The presenters connected this to the Holy Trinity.

At the Last Supper, Jesus knew that a difficult time was approaching but kept His trust in God that He would see Him through. In our lives, we can trust that the Holy Spirit is within us to guide us. Jesus' great love comforts us and strengthens us. It also provides great hope and joy for the blessed promise of life everlasting in heaven. The Word of God can provide us with guidance and wisdom to persevere through difficulty.

Another great lesson from this painting is that Jesus is right there in front of us in the painting, but there is often more going on than we might know. The equilateral triangle might be missed if we only give a passing glance. When we keep our focus on Jesus, there is often more that we can understand that God wants to share with us. God can be working for good in the lives of others or for future events through difficulty that we experience.

Pastor and author, Oswald Chambers, has an excellent quote for us to keep in mind in order to trust in God through challenging times. "Sometimes it looks like God is missing the mark, because we're too short sighted to see what He's aiming for." We can keep in mind the words

of Psalm 56:3 whenever fear or doubt comes in our minds.

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

The story of Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, is a great example that we can trust God no matter what comes our way in life. King Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon during this time and had a golden statue built. Everyone was commanded to bow down to worship the statue when the music was played. Anyone who did not bow down would be killed by being put into a fiery furnace.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship the golden statue even when the king threatened them with death. Nebuchadnezzar became angry and threw them into the fiery furnace. The three friends were confident that God would protect them and stated that even if death was the result, they would not waver in their faith in the one true God.

The furnace was raised to the highest temperature possible, but Nebuchadnezzar was quite surprised to see four people walking in the furnace unharmed. An angel had come to protect the three friends and they came out of the

furnace unharmed. Because of God's great power at work, Nebuchadnezzar came to know and believe in the true God. He stated, *Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.* Daniel 3:28. In an extremely difficult time the three friends kept their trust in God and God brought good out of it.

When we experience fire, heat, and pressure in our lives from trying experiences we can always know that there is another in the fire with us. God is always near and longs for us to know that He is guiding and protecting us. God works through His divine power, the Holy Spirit within us, and also uses others to reinforce that we can trust Him.

Dogs can be great friends and companions. They offer encouragement and energy. The following true story describes how God used one dog to provide much more than that for its owner. Linda Baker adopted her dog, Rudy, just days before he was going to be euthanized at the animal shelter. For ten years Linda enjoyed having Rudy as a

trusted companion. Every night they would have a little bedtime snack together. Then Linda would get into bed and Rudy would get into his doggy bed.

After ten years, suddenly Rudy did not want to do the routine. Every night he started to lick Linda's face, even though he knew he was not supposed to. Then, Rudy started to jump on Linda's lap every time she sat down and would lick her face.

Linda describes what her thought process was next and what she came to realize. "I was considering taking him to obedience school when it suddenly dawned on me that he was licking the same spot on my jaw over and over again. I felt my jaw and it seemed okay and I didn't have any pain but it was so out of character for my dog that I decided to just trust him. I made an appointment with the doctor and felt silly telling her why I came in but she agreed to do some tests. Well, it turns out I had osteosarcoma—bone cancer—with a tumor in my jaw. It couldn't be felt from the outside but somehow Rudy knew it was there. I just finished chemo and radiation and I'm doing much better now but the doctors said if I'd waited until the tumor was big enough to

be felt, it likely would have been fatal. I saved my dog's life and now he's saved mine!"²

God is at work in our lives. He is working to use others to remind us that we can trust Him. God can also use our challenging times for His name to be glorified. Stay strong in the faith during difficult times because we can trust that God will strengthen us!

Trust without limits

There is nothing that God cannot do. God's wisdom and power is beyond our understanding. Because of this, we can trust that God can do amazing things and more than we could expect or imagine.

Trusting God without limits involves taking action or speaking up. The more we do this and follow God's will the stronger our trust will become. There is a cartoon that shows Jesus walking on the water and motioning for a person standing on a boat to join Him. The person standing on the boat is ready to step into the water, but there is not complete trust. The person is wearing a life jacket and an innertube around his waist. The caption of the cartoon reads, "Sometimes we just miss the point."

Trusting God without limits means being willing to step out in faith and believe in God's power and strength. It is likely that God will not ask us to walk on water, but God may ask us to do something that we feel is difficult. It is important that we are willing to take the first steps and see where God leads.

When the Israelites were on the verge of entering the Promised Land, they came to the Jordan River. The Jordan River was approximately two hundred feet wide. God told Joshua to, *"Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.'"* Notice that God did not part the Jordan River before the Israelites stepped into the river.

Most of us would like God to do the miracle and then we can do our part. The priests were willing to step in the river trusting that God would provide safe passage. God did indeed part the river and the Israelites were able to cross. The Israelites had been in the wilderness for forty years and were so close to the fulfillment of God's promise. In our lives, we may have God-given dreams but we are waiting for God to make a big move. If we are willing to take a few

initial steps, we may be amazed at what can occur. When we are willing to take action, God can show us His power by multiplying our efforts.

Abraham trusted God even though he did not what would come next. Hebrews 11:8 states, *By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.* Abraham did not know the final destination, but he was willing to take the first step in the journey. Great leaders inspire action and build trust that they will provide any needed guidance.

If we wait until we feel we are ready, then it is likely that little will be done. Many people don't feel totally prepared to get married, have kids, start a new job, or move. It can take faith and hard work to ensure that relationships go well and new ventures go smoothly. Through any change, God wants us to rely on Him and draw courage and strength that He has a plan.

Instead of ready, set, go; sometimes we just need to go and trust that God will be with us as we work diligently to follow His will. If we spend too much time getting ready,

then this can lead to inaction. It can be paralysis by analysis. We have God as the best leader of all time and when our decisions are aligned with His Word, then great things will occur!

That does not mean we will not have doubts at times and get impatient when things are not happening as quickly as we would like. Take Abraham for example. Abraham is in the hall of fame for trust and faith in God. He trusted in God's promises and followed God's leading. Even Abraham struggled with doubt at times though and so did his wife Sarah.

God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. Yet, Abraham was approaching 100 years old and Sarah 90 years old and they had no children. When God shared that Sarah would become pregnant, Abraham and Sarah both doubted God. They felt they were too old for this to occur. God kept His promise and Sarah gave birth to a son, Isaac, at the age of 90!

Both Sarah and Abraham trusted God and had a close relationship with Him, yet they put limits on what they thought God could do. When a child was not born in the

anticipated time frame, doubts crept in. In our lives, if we feel God is leading us down a path and we are not seeing results, we need not lose trust in God. In these times it is more important to communicate with God through prayer and spend time in His Word. God longs to reassure us and wants us to communicate honestly with Him. Always remember that with God all things are possible!

Trust for all time

God desires us to trust Him our whole lives into life everlasting in heaven. If you are wondering if you can trust God, then look no further than Jesus. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him, shall not perish but have eternal life.”* John 3:16. This is God’s ultimate will, that everyone who looks to Jesus and believes in Him shall have eternal life!

Experience can make all the difference between an average and exceptional leader. God was at the beginning of all time, throughout all history, is with us today, and will be with us for all time. There has never been a situation that God does not have wisdom for and He knows all that is to come. That knowledge and genuine care can keep us strong

in the faith, even when we feel weak or tired. There is a great poem by an unknown author that extols the reasons for trusting God.

Trust Him when dark doubts assail thee,
Trust Him when thy strength is small,
Trust Him when to simply trust Him
Seems the hardest thing of all.
Trust Him, He is ever faithful,
Trust Him, for his will is best,
Trust Him, for the heart of Jesus
Is the only place of rest.

This earthly life can be difficult and we need people we can trust. There is no one more trustworthy than God. God is loving. God is dependable. God is good. He is good because of who He is and He does not change.

We know that bad things happen because we live in a broken world, but this does not change the goodness of God. God is just as good to the family who loses their home in a fire as He is to the family whose house doesn't burn down. God is just as good to the person who lost their job as He is to the person who gets a promotion. God is just as good to the person who dies of cancer as He is to the person who survives cancer. God is just as good to the children with parents as to the children in an orphanage.

God's goodness does not depend on our circumstances. When we talk about God's goodness, it does not just have to be in the good times. God's goodness is seen as He provides comfort and support to those in mourning or need. God's goodness is seen as He offers strength and encouragement when we feel weak. In the midst of difficulties in life, God is always with us. He doesn't leave! He never quits! He will never let go of us and holds us up in His strong loving arms!

Jenn Johnson wrote a powerful song called, "Goodness of God," that captures how we can trust in God our whole lives. The words for the song came to her as she was driving on a long country road. Johnson and her husband were in the process of adopting a son. The words came from an overflowing of her heart reflecting on the faithfulness and kindness of God.

I love You, Lord
For Your mercy never fails me
All my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
And in darkest night You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father
I've known You as a Friend
And I have lived in the goodness of God^b

We never need to doubt God's goodness and love.

We can trust in God and that He is with us. He is working to help us and uses us to help others as well. There is a big difference in a team or organization that is built on trust.

Consider the following scenario of two rooms.

In one room there was a large round table and in the middle of the table was a large pot of stew that smelled delicious. However, the people around the table were thin and sickly, and they seemed to be very hungry. Each person had very long spoons tied to their hands. It was possible for everyone to reach out and get the food from the pan, but because the spoons were longer than their arms, they could not bring the spoons to their mouths.

In the next room, the setup was exactly the same as the first one, with a large round table with a large pot of

stew in the middle. The people also had the same long spoons attached to their arms, but these people were well nourished and healthy. They were having fun, laughing, and talking to each other. What is the difference in the two groups of people? It's pretty simple, you only need to know one thing. The people in the second room, learned to feed each other, while the people in the first room did not trust each other.

One of the sentences in the Lord's prayer is, "*Give us today our daily bread.*" Matthew 6:11. No prayer, no sentence more summarizes our relationship with God then this sentence. It is a prayer of trust. We trust that God will provide what we need in this life and sustain us to life everlasting in heaven.

It is important to note that the Lord's prayer does not begin with us asking for things. We call God our Father and we praise Him. We are reminded that God is holy and good. We submit to His will because He is all knowing.

We can trust that God wants to care for us. He has things that He wants us to do. Each day God places people in our lives that we can encourage and show His love to.

God knows that He made us for community. When we have Christian fellowship with each other, we are reminded of the goodness of God and His love.

Trust God for all time. He knows what we need and will take care of us. We really don't know what we need. We think we do, but God knows best. At any time we are only a prayer away from communicating with God. Psalm 121 wonderfully describes why we can always trust God. You can trust God our great leader!

*I lift my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.*

*He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The Lord watches over you —
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

*The Lord will keep you from all harm —
he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.*

Psalm 121

Chapter 3: God wants to help you

Do you want to help me? This is an essential question for a leader. People want to follow a leader that wants to help them. If a leader does not show genuine concern and care, then people will likely have less satisfaction and not be committed to the cause for the long-term.

With God as our leader, we know without a doubt that God wants to help us! This empowers us to live our lives in service to Him in response to His amazing love. *The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.* Psalm 28:7. When we focus on God's will for our lives, we will be more aware of how God is helping us and we in turn can be better prepared to help others.

A long time faculty member at a seminary led an orientation for new students seeking to become pastors. He explained to the students, "You need to take care of yourselves as pastors. If my mom was dying, I would want my mom's pastor to be able to run up ten flights of stairs at the hospital if the elevator was out. The pastor should then

be able to get to my mom's hospital room not even out of breath to provide comfort before she died." God wants to help us and one way He can do that is through each of us supporting and encouraging each other.

God helps us in many other ways as well. Life can be tough and it is much more manageable lived with God as our guide and leader. *Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.* Psalm 54:4. It is amazing that the all-powerful creator God cares about us!

Let's take a closer look at a few of the ways that God sustains us with His help. God may provide an immediate solution to a problem. God gives us the Holy Spirit within us for wisdom, purpose, and direction. When problems persist, God gives us the patience and strength we need to endure them.

Immediate solutions

In some cases, God provides an immediate solution when He helps us. We can be given peace of mind with a decision that we are going to make. God may provide healing. God may help us through another person providing

assistance or sharing with us the right words that we need to hear.

God may also intervene directly to help us. In Acts 16 we read that Paul and Silas were arrested, beaten, and thrown into prison. This could not shake their faith though. They kept focused on God's love for them. *Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.* Acts 16:25.

God then intervened to bring them to safety and also to use them as witnesses to bring more people into the saving faith. *Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.* Acts 16:26. The jailor thought he would be blamed for the prisoners being released from their chains and was going to kill himself. Paul stopped the jailor and let him know that all the prisoners were still in the jail. The jailor was so moved by this, that he took Paul and Silas home and cared for their wounds. He and his entire household were then baptized.

God does not always intervene immediately when we need help. Other times that Paul was imprisoned, he

endured lengthy prison terms. No matter what, we can trust that God is working to help us and that He can work good out of any situation. When good things happen we know it is all God's work.

Recently a German university offered three scholarships for students to do absolutely nothing. The scholarship application asked applicants to think about an activity they do not want to do, how long they don't want to do it for, why it is important to not do the specific thing in question, and why they are the right person not to do it.

At first glance this scholarship idea seems quite strange, but the idea is that refraining from doing something may actually benefit others. Others could be impacted by the negative consequences of an action. The scholarship idea came in the midst of the current Coronavirus pandemic, in which there has been an emphasis on the importance of staying home and refraining from some activities for the greater good of all.

Friedrich Von Borries, a professor at the university, notes, "We all live every day in contradictions between what we do, what we want to do, and what we know would be

better to do. We have to learn to deal with these contradictions, instead of simply denying them.”¹

Whether God provides a solution quickly or not to our problems, there are things that we can avoid doing. In the prison, Paul and Silas prayed to God and sang songs of praise. They did not become despondent or question if God still cared for them. They also did not let a bad situation become worse by making poor decisions.

In our own lives we can keep in mind to avoid negative thinking and making poor decisions because something has gone wrong. We can actively seek to do things that we know are ways that God provides us help. We can pray to God, spend time in His Word, and remember all the blessings that He provides us. We can always remember that God is seeking to help us!

Wisdom, purpose, and direction

God helps us by offering wisdom, purpose, and direction for our lives. He reminds us that we are not alone and that we have the Holy Spirit within us to guide us. He has wisdom for any situation. *Oh, the depth of the riches of the*

wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Romans 11:33.

When we follow God's Word for our lives, we will have help in our times of need. Consider the following story. A baker and a farmer had an agreement, the baker got butter from the farmer and the farmer got bread from the baker. After a while the baker noticed that the pieces of butter from the farmer, that should weigh three pounds, became lighter and his scales agreed with him.

The baker got angry and went to court to complain about this butter supplier. "The baker claims your pieces of butter do not have the required weight," the judge said to the farmer, "this piece of butter should weigh three pounds, but it weighs much less."

"That's impossible, Mr. Judge," the farmer said, "I checked the weight every time." The judge then responded, "Maybe your weights are incorrect!" The farmer was confused by this statement. "My weights? I do not have any weights, I never use weights."

The judge replied, "So if you do not have weights, how do you check the weight of the butter?" The farmer

said, "Quite simply, I get my bread from the baker and he gets butter from me. A loaf of bread weighs three pounds so I put my butter on the left scale and the bread on the right side!"

At any time in life, we are better off by listening to God's guidance and living according to His Word. The knowledge that comes from God is priceless. We can seek this all of our days and we will always have a great source of guidance. *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.* Philippians 1:9-10.

If we do not trust our leader, we will want to go our own way. We know that we can trust God with our whole heart. This means we can have great confidence we will receive the support we need to follow where God leads. God will help us with what life brings when we actively seek His will for our lives. *Lord, I know that people's lives are not their own; it is not from them to direct their steps.* Jeremiah 10:23. If we put everything in God's hands then it is easy to see God's hand in everything! We will have a close relationship

with God and our thoughts, words, and deeds will be aligned with God's purpose for our lives!

A great leader is a person that people want to be around because they know they will benefit from their time together. Time spent communicating with God or about God's Word will always lead to a good outcome. Our heart's desire can be to know God better and His wisdom for our life. We will have great peace and contentment from this. *Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.* Psalm 37:4.

Patience and strength

When problems persist, God gives us the patience and strength we need to endure them. He provides strength when we feel that we have more than we can handle. Remember that even if problems continue God is always with you. He is working to help you, even in ways that may not be visible to you. Remember that God is fully aware and engaged, even when He seems unseen and silent.

Laurie Klein and her husband Bill had their first child while Bill was a student at Central Oregon Community College studying forest technology. Starting a family while

Bill was a student made for a difficult time for Laurie. She described that, "It was a dark time in my life. We had no extra money, no friends nearby, no church home and my husband was busy all of the time with his studies. I didn't drive, so I couldn't get away. We lived on a highway in a mobile home, so I couldn't even put the baby in a stroller and go for a walk. Our only neighbors were people long retired and tired of life. When I needed some encouragement there was no extra money for long distance calls to family or friends. I was lonely. The only thing I was committed to was trying to get up each morning before our baby, then a toddler, and spend some time with Jesus. I knew that was where the 'life' was."

One morning Laurie had gotten up early and was sitting with her Bible and guitar. She realized that she didn't have anything in her heart to sing to Jesus. She felt empty so she prayed to God and said, "Lord, if you want to hear me sing, would you give me something that you would like to hear?"

She began strumming on her guitar and found the words and melody came with absolutely no effort. She

wrote the words down so she would not forget them. She knew that the song was a gift from God to help her. The song, "I love you, Lord," is a popular song that has brought many people peace, hope, and joy.

I love you, Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship You
Oh, my soul, rejoice!

Take joy my King
In what You hear
Let it be a sweet, sweet, sound
In Your ear

This song changed everything for Laurie and still does today. She shared that, "When you are in a dark valley and the Lord gives you light, it makes all the difference, and you keep growing." Laurie knows that God has used the song to help many others as well.

In the fall of 2000, Laurie and her husband were at a discipleship training. Late one night, she heard a baby crying. She slipped down the hall to just outside of the door to pray for the baby, that it would be able to sleep. As she was praying, she heard the mother begin to sing the song, "I love you, Lord." While the mother was still singing, the baby stopped crying and fell asleep. The mother had no idea that

the person who wrote the song was just outside the door praying for her and the baby!¹

God is always fully aware and engaged to help us. This can occur in ways that we do not see or fully know. The greatest leader ever, our amazing God, works to help us. God may graciously give us an immediate solution to our problems. He can always provide us with wisdom, guidance, and purpose. In times when problems are long-lasting God gives us strength and patience.

Remember that in all things God works! Not only that but in all things God works for good for those who love Him! And there is even more! God works for good for those who love him, who have been called to serve Him according to His purpose!

Think of a leader that you admire. Imagine if this person were to call you on the phone to ask to meet with you to collaborate on an important project. This would be a joyful and inspiring conversation. This is a true scenario that all Christians can experience! God calls us with important tasks that He wants us to do. We get to work alongside the greatest leader ever and get to see firsthand His power at

work! God helps you at all times; when things are going well and when times are difficult. Always remember He will help you!

Chapter 4: The world's greatest leader

God is the world's greatest leader! He shows genuine care for you and wants to help you. You can always trust that He has your best interests in mind. There is an endless list of characteristics that describe why God is the ultimate leader. God is a great communicator, focused, generous, a quality listener, inspiring, is passionate, wise, has great vision, is an excellent teacher, and offers a better life!

A person who tries to be successful may work to find the right place for themselves. A leader that is successful finds the right place for others. God actively seeks to guide us in our lives so that He can use us to show His love to others and bring more people to saving faith in Him. God wants us to have peace and contentment. He works to help us feel that we are living out our purpose.

God designed our bodies and minds for this so that when we wholeheartedly seek to serve Him, we know that this is what we were made to do. *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.* Psalm 42:1. God alone can be our heart's desire. He gives us strength and protection and we can only experience real, fulfilling

purpose with Him as our guide. Let's take a closer look at a few of the ways that God is the greatest leader.

Passionate

Passion is a feeling of intense enthusiasm. It is sometimes alluded to as a raging fire. As fire can quickly ignite other things, so passionate people can spark enthusiasm and change in others.

God is an excellent leader because He has great passion for His people. Christian pastor and author, A.W. Tozer described what can be the result of God's passion in the lives of Christians. "God dwells in a state of perpetual enthusiasm. He is delighted with all that is good and lovingly concerned about all that is wrong. He pursues His labors always in a fullness of holy zeal. No wonder the Spirit came at Pentecost as a sound of a rushing mighty wind and sat in tongues of fire on every forehead...Whatever else happened at Pentecost, one thing that cannot be missed by the most casual observer was the sudden upsurging of moral enthusiasm. Those first disciples burned with a steady, inward fire. They were enthusiastic to the point of complete abandon."

God's passion for all that is good enables us to share the impact of His great love in our lives. In response to God's love we can strive for others to know His saving grace. When D. L. Moody was in London during one of his famous evangelistic tours, several British pastor visited him. They wanted to know how this American with little education was so effective in sharing the Gospel message.

Moody brought the pastors to the window of his hotel room and asked each one what he saw. One by one, the men described the things in the park below and the people in the park. The pastors then looked at Moody as he gazed out the window. Moody had tears rolling down his cheeks. "What do you see, Mr. Moody?" asked one of the clergymen. Moody responded, "I see countless souls that will one day spend eternity in hell if they do not find the Savior."

D. L. Moody saw people differently than the average observer does. Because he saw eternal souls where others saw only people strolling in a park, he approached life with a different agenda. It is clear that Moody had a similar feeling as to the words of Psalm 84:2. *My soul yearns, even*

faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Moody desired that all would know the impact of the passionate love of God in their lives.

God is a great leader because he sees each one of us as His special creation. He has great passion because he wants each of us to spend eternity in heaven with Him. A sign of a great leader is that people follow the leader because of who they are and what they have done. God created all life and all creation. He is the one true God. When sin entered the world, God did not give up on His creation. He sent Jesus to earth to die on the cross to pay for the price of all of our sins. Jesus gloriously rose three days later and defeated death and the devil for all time!

When we seek God and His great wisdom, God's passion can ignite us to share His love with others. Everyone matters to God and God wants us to live our lives with this in mind. We can delight in what is good. God's passion for us, can ignite our passion to do His will.

Missionary Amy Carmichael has a great prayer that we can keep in mind as we follow God, our great leader.

Give me the love that leads the way,
The faith that nothing can dismay,
The hope no disappointments tire,
The passion that will burn like fire,
Let me not sink to be a clod:
Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.

Empathetic

God is a great leader because He understands us; our thoughts and feelings and our situations. God actively works to help us and encourage us in difficult times. We can always trust that we can turn to God for support and encouragement.

Several years ago the aunt and uncle of one of the pastors at my church had a disaster strike at their farm, but God's love and empathy was shown as He sustained them through the help of neighbors. The aunt and uncle, the Birkers, had their barn burn down at their farm. The milking parlor and holding area for the dairy cows was completely destroyed. Thankfully, none of the cows were hurt.

The cows needed shelter and to still be milked. That is when the neighbor farmers pitched in. "As soon as that word got out, people started showing up. Everybody stepped up big time," Birker said. Two famers agreed to let

the dairy cows be housed at their facilities. The cows were moved during tough conditions of wind and rain, but the farmers did not think twice about helping as they worked until dawn to complete the work.

One of the farmers, Jim Beatty, described his decision to help. "I said 'it's a no brainer, you got to help them,' You'd want somebody to do that for you." Sharon Corkery and her husband Tim also described the quick decision to help. "It was the right thing to do to help your fellow dairy farmer out," Tim said. "We're all in this together." Sharon added, "We just put ourselves in their shoes. We knew we'd want somebody to help us."¹

Like the helping farmers in the situation above, God is ready, willing and able to help us. He knows that when difficulty occurs, it can be hard to deal with it all on our own. God understands our thoughts and feelings and has words of encouragement and support that He can provide us.

God wants us to cast all of our problems and anxiety on Him because He cares for us. We in turn can follow our great leader and show concern for others. *Carry each other's*

burdens. Galatians 6:2a. As Christians, we are all in this together. We have a great team with God as our leader. With empathetic love we are strengthened and more people can come to know God's saving love!

Changes lives for the better

The true mark of a great leader is not what they do, but the impact they have on the lives of others. The best leaders change lives for the better. The goal is for people to be better off after an interaction with a leader. Leaders can provide wisdom, resources, direction, encouragement, compassion, and inspiration.

God is the world's greatest leader because He makes the biggest difference by far in our lives. When people come to know God, they are changed for eternity. God offers us a better earthly life and a wonderful everlasting life in heaven. God knows us better than we do and only wants the best for us. God provides us with what we need in life.

We are sinful people in need of a Savior. We should seek to find our identity, security, and meaning in God. When we keep our focus on God, it changes our whole outlook on life. Martin Luther described this, "When I look

at myself I don't see how I could be saved. When I look at God I don't see how I could be lost." Our great Leader inspires us to know that we do not need to focus on our mistakes. We can look to God's great forgiveness and strive to serve Him in all that we do.

The wisdom and direction of a leader provides assurance and confidence. Anyone who has ever visited a new city, knows the benefit of having a friend as a local guide. Letting someone with knowledge and experience show you around is much more relaxing and enjoyable. Someone who knows what to expect and can answer any questions is a great blessing.

God is our friend who knows all things and can give us direction. When we go through our lives with Him as our guide, life is more manageable and enjoyable. God can prepare us for all moments of life.

God changes our lives for the better. When we draw strength and wisdom from God, we can make an impact in the lives of others. God cares for others and we in turn can follow God's leadership to care and help others in our lives.

When we do this, trust is developed and there are greater opportunities to share God's love.

The following is a poem that I wrote about being a great leader. If we focus too much on ourselves, we will miss the mark. To be a great leader means to spend less time thinking about ourselves and more time seeking to know how God can use us to help others. It is not about what you can accomplish, but about the impact that God can make on other people through you. Equipped by God and His loving leadership, God can use you to improve the lives of others. Never forget that God cares for you! You can trust God! God wants to help you! God is the world's greatest leader!

I went on a search to be a leader great,
Searching high and low with a determined gait

I spoke with authority that I remember,
But none would follow, not one member

"Why should we trust you?" they did ask,
"What have you done to achieve the task?"

Focusing on myself is what I did wrong,
Then I rolled up my sleeves and worked right along

Shoulder to shoulder we got things done,
We worked side by side, all were one

A mate of mine stumbled, I stooped to assist,
My hand he did grab, a smile did persist

One was lost, didn't know what to do,
I showed her how to achieve something new

I praised them one and all for their consistence,
All were unique and I encouraged persistence

When the task was done, they did shout
"You're a great leader!" they all did tout

"Without you there to support our plight,
Lost would we be with no end in sight."

"No thanks to me is due," I responded
"A true leader I discovered and that is why we bonded.

Care, trust, and help He offers to all
With Him in your life you will stand tall

God is my leader true
All that He taught me came through

God deserves all the praise
Never forget this wonderful phrase.

God's love and wisdom He offers free
Following His example is the key

To lead by God's wisdom is the true treasure,
The secret of servant leadership, in one simple measure."

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Bears and Baseball

The Dog Interview

Bears and Baseball: Battling the

You Can Do Math! I Can Do

Injury Bug

Math!

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