



Jesus is the greatest leader in world history.

- No human being has had more followers than Jesus.
- No one has had a greater influence on the world for good than Jesus.
- No one has been honored more than Jesus.

We are all leaders. If you want to become a successful leader, you need to learn from the greatest leader in world history.

What was it about Jesus that made Him the greatest leader of all time?

1. **Jesus was a servant leader.**

Jesus was God. He had unlimited power. He had unlimited resources. He had unlimited knowledge.

Instead of using His power, resources, and knowledge to serve Himself, He used these things to serve others.

He emptied Himself to make others successful. He sacrificed Himself to serve the needs of others.



2. **Jesus was a forgiving leader.**
3. **Jesus was a courageous leader.**
4. **Jesus was a faithful leader.**
5. **Jesus was a compassionate leader.**
6. **Jesus was a truthful leader.**
7. **Jesus was a prayerful leader.**

Luke 5:16

16 So He (Jesus) Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.
NKJV

Prayer was very important to Jesus as a leader. His prayer life was observed by all His disciples. This verse is a testament to that.

His disciples were impressed enough by what they saw prayer do for Jesus that they asked Jesus to teach them to pray.

[Luke 11:1-4](#)

[11 Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."](#)

As future leaders, it is interesting to me that His disciples did not ask Jesus to teach them how to best communicate or how to run an organization. They asked Jesus to teach them to pray.

Why did they ask Jesus this?

- They saw Jesus pray and then make wise decisions.
- They saw Jesus pray and then experience supernatural power.
- They saw Jesus pray and then teach them some important truth.

They asked Jesus to teach them to pray because they saw the difference that prayer made in His life.

In their request, they mentioned John the Baptist. Apparently, what they had either seen or heard prayer did for John had left an impression on them.

John the Baptist was the last prophet of the Old Covenant that introduced Jesus to the world. He was chosen to be a prophet before he was conceived. He was a "miracle baby," filled with the Holy Spirit before he was born. He was called to introduce the Messiah to Israel. He was the greatest of the prophets (Luke 7:28). But it was well known to these men what prayer had done for John and John's disciples, so they mentioned John in their request to Jesus, teach us to pray as John also taught His disciples to pray.

There are many verses in scripture that stress the importance of prayer.

[Isaiah 56:7](#)

[7 Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."](#)

NKJV

[2 Chronicles 7:14](#)

[14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. NKJV](#)

Jeremiah 33:3

3 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

NKJV

Psalms 50:15

15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

NKJV

Luke 11:9-13

9 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?

12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

NKJV

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

NKJV

But have you ever seen the difference that prayer has made in someone's life and because of that difference, you asked them, teach me to pray?

Has anyone ever asked you to teach them to pray because of the difference they saw prayer making in your life?

Perhaps we need to learn how to pray!

Here is what Jesus taught His disciples.

Luke 11:2-4

2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

NKJV

We can make discipleship so complicated. You would have thought Jesus would have said, "good question, let's host a three-day conference on prayer." Jesus did not approach discipleship that way.

Jesus thought discipleship was better caught than taught.

We say it this way.

The strategy that Jesus used to make disciples required...

1. An intentional leader
2. A relational environment
3. A reproducible process

The mission of our small groups is to make disciples that make disciples the way Jesus made disciples.

Jesus preached to the multitudes. Preaching is a way to get the truth to a larger amount of people in a smaller amount of time. But the main strategy that Jesus used to make disciples was what He did with the 12.

So, Jesus did not hold a conference on prayer to teach His disciples to pray. He used only about 40 Greek words to teach them this lesson. If they had questions about what He taught them, He would answer them later.

Here is what Jesus taught them.

[Luke 11:2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.](#)

Prayer has traditionally been called one of the spiritual disciplines by the church. The word discipline is not a word that creates a great deal of enthusiasm in me. We would all agree that we need more discipline in various ways but developing a discipline is not something we look forward to.

- Discipline means pain.
- Discipline means pushing yourself to do something that is good for you; Self-control.
- Discipline means putting something on a list and then checking it off.

When we think about more discipline we think about diet, exercise, and money management.

Many immature believers feel this way about prayer.

Jesus did not feel this way about prayer. Prayer was a delight to Jesus. He often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer because prayer was a delight to Him.

Psalms 27:4

4 One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.
NKJV

Psalms 84:1-2

84 How lovely is your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts!
2 My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
NKJV

Psalms 84:10

10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside.
NASU

The reasons that Jesus delighted in prayer are revealed in the way He taught His disciples to pray. He found delight in prayer for these reasons.

1. Prayer was a delight to Jesus because it was about a loving relationship with His Heavenly Father.

Jesus prayed, Our Father!

Have you ever started a group conversation with your Dad by saying Our Father? If my children ever did that to me, I would just pass out. Our Father says so much.

- It says I respect you.
- It says I need you.
- It says I appreciate you.
- It says I trust you.
- It says I know I am loved.
- It says I know I am your child.

Prayer for Jesus was about being alone with someone that He deeply loved and giving Him His full attention. Jesus delighted in prayer because prayer was all about a loving relationship that He enjoyed with His heavenly Father.

2. Prayer was a delight to Jesus because the purpose of prayer was greater than Himself.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray, our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Again, have you ever started a group conversation with your Dad by saying Our Father, hallowed by your name? If my children ever do this to me, I would just fall over dead and go to heaven. Praying hallowed be your name means my life is not about me, but it is about your reputation.

Those things that bring us the greatest delight are those things that involve a purpose greater than ourselves.

Certainly, there is not a greater purpose to live for than the glory and reputation of God. So, Jesus said, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Prayer was a delight to Jesus because the purpose of prayer was greater than Himself.

3. Prayer was a delight to Jesus because Jesus enjoyed celebrating the name of His Father.

To Jesus, praying our Father, hallowed be your name, also meant something even more than having a purpose greater than Himself. Jesus knew that His Heavenly Father chose to reveal Himself to Israel through names.

When God wanted the Jews to know something significant about His nature and who He was to them, He would choose to rename Himself.

Names for God		
Hebrew Name	English Meaning	Scripture
El-Elyon	God Most High	Gen. 14:18,22
El-Kanna	Jealous	Exod. 34:14
El-Olam	Eternal God	Gen. 21:33
El-Shaddai	God Almighty	Gen. 17:1
Jehovah (YHWH)	The Lord	Exod. 6:2-3
Jehovah-Adon Kai Ha'aretz	Lord of All the Earth	Josh. 3:13
Jehovah-Bara	Creator	Isa. 40:28
Jehovah-Chereb	Glorious Sword	Deut. 32:29
Jehovah-Eli	My God	Ps. 18:2
Jehovah-Elohanu	Our God	Exod. 8:10
Jehovah-Gibbor M'chamah	Mighty in Battle	Ps. 24:8
Jehovah-Gal	Redeemer	Isa. 45:20; 50:16
Jehovah-Hamelech	The King	Ps. 88:9
Jehovah-Hashkafet	The Judge	Judg. 11:27
Jehovah-Hosh'ah	The Lord Who Saves	Ps. 20:9
Jehovah-Tza' Gibbor	Strong and Mighty	Ps. 24:8
Jehovah-Jireh	The Lord Will Provide	Gen. 22:14
Jehovah-Kabodhi	My Glory	Ps. 3:3
Jehovah-Keren-Yash'i	Horn of My Salvation	Ps. 18:2
Jehovah-Machal	My Refuge	Ps. 91:9
Jehovah-Magen	The Shield	Deut. 32:29
Jehovah-Makeh	The Lord Who Strikes You	Ezek. 7:9
Jehovah-Matzit	My Fortress	Jer. 16:19
Jehovah-Mekoddshem	The Lord Who Makes You Holy	Exod. 31:13
Jehovah-Melech 'Olam	King Forever	Ps. 10:16
Jehovah-Mephatti	My Deliverer	Ps. 18:2
Jehovah-Mosh'ach	Your Savior	Isa. 49:26; 60:16
Jehovah-Nir	My Banner	Exod. 17:15
Jehovah-Oi	My Light	Ps. 27:1
Jehovah-Rohi	My Shepherd	Ps. 23:1
Jehovah-Rophe	The Lord Who Heals You	Exod. 15:26
Jehovah-Sabbath	The Lord of Hosts	1 Sam. 1:3
Jehovah-Seli	My Rock	Ps. 18:2
Jehovah-Tsidkenu	Our Righteousness	Jer. 32:6
Jehovah-Uzi	My Strength	Ps. 20:7

Praying our Heavenly Father, hallowed be your name means I am celebrating who you are and who you are to me.

If I was a multimillionaire, it would be like my children getting together and delighting in their inheritance. They would be delighting in the fact that they are a Wells! Sorry children.

This is what Jesus did and wanted His disciples to do when they prayed. He wanted them to take time to celebrate who their heavenly Father is and who they were to Him.

Jesus delighted in prayer and He wanted His disciples to delight in prayer because...

- Prayer was about having a loving relationship with their heavenly Father
- Prayer was about having a purpose greater than themselves
- Prayer was about celebrating who their heavenly Father is and who He was to them

If you can grow to a place in your spiritual life where you delight in prayer for these reasons, it will change everything else in your life.

How do we become a prayerful leader like Jesus? How do we become such an example to others in prayer that they would ask us, teach me to pray?

1. Salvation

You must know the Father and be in a loving relationship with Him in order to delight in prayer and become a prayerful leader.

If you repent of your sins and trust Jesus to save you from your sins, Jesus will forgive your sins and you will experience His resurrection power. He will send His Spirit to live in you. His Spirit will change your heart and you will desire to be in a loving relationship with God.

2. Surround

Surround yourself with people that are saved who are in a loving relationship with God the Father.

Salvation is a process of change that begins with your conversion to Christ and continues for the rest of your life. That process is called sanctification. It is a process of growing in love and in faith. It is a process that does not occur in isolation. You must surround yourself with people who have surrendered to these truths.

Proverbs 13:20

20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.
NKJV

3. Space

You must create margins in your life for prayer. You need to budget your time.

Just start with, my heavenly Father, hallowed by thy name.

