

PURE PASSION

AN ATHLETE STUDY

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

“With great power comes great responsibility.” These dying words from Uncle Ben (or in one series, Aunt May—spoiler alert), became the motivating proverb for the newly empowered Peter Parker. And, while Spider-Man may be a fictional character, this quote rings very true. Jesus said it this way, “*Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required*” (Luke 12:48).

In God’s unfolding plan, some of us will be called as leaders. Some of us will bear responsibility because of the gifts and abilities God has granted, but our status must not be a source of pride.)

Humility involves maintaining an accurate perspective of who we are in light of who God is. Today, we will see Jesus model this perspective as the One most worthy of honor, teaching that great leaders must first be great servants.

MATTHEW

26:20

MARK

14:17

LUKE

22:14–20,
24–27

JOHN



LUKE 22:14–20, 24–27

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.”

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

“Leadership is an influence process. We’re all influencing each other all the time. So everybody is a leader in every part of their lives.” It doesn’t matter how young or how old a person is—everyone has influence. How are you using that influence? Scan the QR code to watch a 3-minute video on servant leadership. In this video leadership guru, Ken Blanchard, gives rapid-fire lessons on leadership that we can all apply right now.



DISCUSSION

What characteristics or qualities do you think make for a great leader?

ICEBREAKER

1. What did Jesus know would follow this Passover meal? (15)

2. What two elements did Jesus prescribe to remember him and what did they symbolize? (19-20)

OBSERVATION

3. What leadership example did Jesus model that he commanded the disciples to follow? (26-27)

4. Knowing what lies ahead, why do you think Jesus desired to eat Passover with them?

INTERPRETATION

5. As leaders on your team, what do you think it looks like to be an example of servant leadership?

APPLICATION

If you have any questions about Jesus, or what he has accomplished for you, don’t wait. Talk to your coach as soon as possible.

PURE PASSION

WEEK 3

AN ATHLETE STUDY

STUDY NOTES PASSOVER

Leonardo Da Vinci's, *Last Supper*, might be the most famous painting ever created. However, Da Vinci didn't even try to accurately capture Jesus' final Passover. It's just a painting after all. The one thing he did get right was that Jesus is the center of the Passover celebration.

Passover annually commemorated God's deliverance of Israel during the Exodus—the most significant event recorded in the Old Testament. Passover has been celebrated the same way for thousands of years. Attending a Passover Seder today would be very similar to the experience of Jesus and the apostles during his lifetime. However, as Jesus celebrated Passover for the last time, he began showing his followers how every component of the Passover pointed to him and what he came to accomplish.

Luke began by noting **the hour**. Passover must be eaten after sundown. In Jerusalem, that's about 6 pm. Unlike Da Vinci's painting, where everyone sat in chairs on the same side of a table, **Jesus reclined and the apostles with him**. Who knows what went through the apostle's minds as they gathered for Passover. In the last week they had seen Jesus ride into Jerusalem to the praise of the people. They had seen him clear out the temple and chase off the money-changers. What they certainly did not know is that within 24 hours, Jesus would be dead from crucifixion and placed in a tomb.

Because Jesus knew his time was running short, **he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."** We can imagine those last three words shocking eleven of the twelve apostles. They probably looked at him with eyes and mouths open, while the twelfth looked down at his wine glass—feeling the weight of 30 pieces of silver in his pocket, his payment for selling out Jesus.

Jesus informed the stunned audience that he would not eat or drink the bread or the wine **until the kingdom of God comes**. Instead, just like the Exodus pointed Israel back to God's deliverance from Egypt, Jesus presently explained that the breaking of bread and the drinking of the cup was to be done, **"in remembrance of me."** In this final Passover celebration Jesus instituted "The Lord's Supper." Although the true meaning of these elements were yet to happen, they represented his **body which is given for you**, and his blood **poured out for you in the new covenant**.

GODLY PASSION KNOWS & LIVES GOD'S TRUTH

As Jesus used the bread and wine to describe his suffering, it seemed the apostles weren't getting it. They began to **dispute...which of them was to be regarded as the greatest** in his kingdom.

Like a team fist fighting over who gets to hold the championship trophy on the first day of spring training, the disciples were embroiled in a battle of foolishness. Changing topics, Jesus seized this "teachable moment." Sure, Jesus would bring a **new kingdom and covenant**, but also a new standard for leadership.

Jesus started with an example everyone could agree on—**"the kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over"** their subjects. The Jews hated their Roman **benefactors**. Yet, here were the apostles seeking the very same arrangement that their Gentile overlords had. This didn't reflect God's heart of leadership and Jesus bluntly rebutted, **"Not so with you."**

Jesus, once again, shared with his disciples that leadership begins with service. They had already heard him teach that **"even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"** (Mk. 10:45). If they were to be like Jesus, then **the one who is greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader as one who serves**.

GOD'S TRUTH MUST HUMBLE US

We all like the idea of being the team captain. After hearing Jesus' words we have to ask ourselves, "What does that mean?" Leadership brings with it visibility and recognition, but not entitlement. Leaders in God's kingdom don't sit at the top of a pyramid, held up by those they lead. Instead, they're at the bottom of an upside down pyramid, leading through service.

If you want to lead, your focus should be in serving your team in every practice, every rep, and every drop of sweat. In 1 Timothy 4:12, the Apostle Paul encouraged his younger disciple, **"Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."** You're never too young to follow Jesus' model of humility in servant leadership.

Remember, this was Jesus' last night with his apostles during his earthly life. In the few moments he had left, this is where he started. Just like the apostles, we need to wake up and realize how important this really is. You're never too young to lead because you're never too young to serve others in humility.