

Series: Christmas

Session Title: Fit To Be King

Date and Time: _____

Number of Students: _____

Materials Needed:

- ☐ One double-sided photocopy of pages A66-67 for every student
- ☐ Pens

Lesson Objectives:

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to...

- State important characteristics of a top quality leader.
- Recognize that different people have different expectations of leaders making leadership a very difficult task.
- Identify some of the characteristics that make Jesus an ideal and unique leader of people.
- Recognize that Jesus was a leader who was both strong and compassionate.

Pastoral Objectives:

Lead In:

Consider showing the students three to four quick clips of prototypical leaders from Hollywood movies and ask them to choose the one they would most like to follow and the one they would least like to follow. Some characters might include Aragorn (*Lord of the Rings*); Harry S. Stamper (*Armageddon*; see the scene at the end where he sacrifices his life for the team/world); Maximus (*Gladiator*; see beginning of the movie); Miss Stacey (*Anne of Green Gables*); Mulan (*Mulan*); Queen Amidala (*Star Wars*); Rambo (*Rambo*); Yoda (*Star Wars*); etc. Find out who the most popular leader was and the least popular.

Characteristics of a Leader:

Ask students to break into pairs or small groups and give them double-sided copies of pages A66-67 as well as pens. The handouts have instructions. You could introduce the handout by saying something like this:

Leadership is one of those funny words that everybody uses differently. Tonight we are going to try to come up with a working definition of “a leader” and we are going to identify some important traits that leaders should have. Take a look at the statements printed on the first page of your handout decide as a group whether they are true or false. Then use the bottom space to write your group’s definition of a leader. Go!

Once the groups have completed the task take some time to hear from each one. Allow students to share their definitions of a leader and as they do have other students decide the differences between the various definitions. Guide the students with appropriate feedback. N. B. male groups will often highlight the military and sport versions of leadership whereas female groups will often value the parental and educational models. Be sure to value both as you review in large group.

Jesus Christ – Fit to be King:

Instruct the students to turn over the handout and follow the instructions printed there.

Once the groups have completed the task take some time to hear from each one. Note how the various values of leadership were incorporated into the leadership persona of Jesus. He was a times strong and determinative and at other times compassionate and inclusive. This is what makes Jesus so unique!

Conclusion:

Consider wrapping up the evening by saying something like this:

At Christmas we celebrate the coming of the King and there truly has never been anyone more suited to leadership of the human race than Jesus Christ. If tonight we have demonstrated that Jesus is fit to be king than each of us must ask what we need to do to become a true follower of his leadership. Many of us are stubbornly independent because we have had bad experiences with leaders in the past. We may need to learn again how to follow now that one who is fit to lead has been revealed to us. The King of Humanity is not looking for fans. Your approval is not highly valuable to him. He is looking for followers. Are you one?