



Name

Date

CONTENT MODULE SUMMARY SHEET

A Leader Follows First

INTRODUCTION

Bruce Witt is the Facilitator of Iron Forums Cobb. He is also the President of Leadership Revolution, where for over a dozen years he has offered personalized coaching and leadership roundtables to key executives to help them with professional and personal growth. Today's leadership methods of training and equipping are not working. Leaders are losing influence and impact in the business world, in marriages and in the home. A 2016 Gallup poll said only 18% of managers demonstrate a high level of talent for leading — which means 82% of managers aren't very good at leading people. Leaders simply suffer from inflated views of their abilities. Today we'll learn what we as business owners can do to improve our leadership skills.

SCRIPTURE

If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

— Luke 9:23-24

(57) As they were going along the road, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow You wherever You go." **(58)** And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." **(59)** And Jesus said to another, "Follow Me." But the man said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." **(60)** Jesus said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." **(61)** Another man said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." **(62)** But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

— Luke 9:57-62

CONTENT

This is just an outline. Be sure to add your thoughts and listen to the Holy Spirit to see what He may be speaking to you about this topic.

How do we know leadership and development is not working:

Over 50% of all marriages end in divorce and it is no better in the Christian community.

Over 30 million children in the USA do not have a father living with them.

Our leadership training, processes, and models are flawed.

The problem is not a need for more man-centered leadership, business tips and techniques – it is a spiritual problem.

Jesus tells us very clearly in **Luke 9: 23-24** that we need to be followers **FIRST**.

To lead you have to follow! To lead with impact, you have to **follow first** with **commitment**.

Jesus teaches 3 principles of following that are the basis of spiritual leadership in Luke 9:57-62

The 1st Principle of Following: (Luke 9:57-58)

There is Only One Leader Jesus Christ. We have the role of leadership yet Christ is the source of power.

Your Commitment:

Do not try to lead using your limited strength and abilities. Let Christ live and lead through you.

How to Practice it:

Don't ask the Lord to bless your business, put Him first in business and you will experience His blessing.

The 2nd Principle of Following: (Luke 9:59-60)

The power of leadership is released through us by brokenness and surrender.

Your Commitment:

The practice of dying to self and surrendering is not a one-time event—it is an ongoing process.

How to Practice it:

Become a Steward of your business, your people, and your leadership — because they belong to the Lord.

The 3rd Principle of Following: (Luke 9:61-62)

The depth of our loving Christ will determine the breadth and impact of our leadership. Intimacy determines outcome. You take care of the depth of your walk and the Lord will take care of the breadth of your impact.

Your Commitment:

Seek First the Kingdom of God. Don't let your business and your leadership become your first love.

How to Practice it:

When we love the Lord, we can fully serve others. We can give ourselves to others because our needs are met in Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Take a look at the passage of Scripture that Bruce references: Luke 9:57-62. What stands out to you, and why do you think Jesus answered these requests to follow him the way that He did?
2. Why does allowing Christ to lead us and our businesses feel like a sacrifice in the beginning?
3. Do you truly believe that your business belongs to the Lord?
If you do, who else knows it? Who else should know it?
4. Have you ever had an experience, where you have put God first (in your giving, in a decision you made, or with your time) and He has done more with it than you ever could have?