

NOVEMBER 10, 2019 • DAVID SMITH

# Influence First

As Christ-followers, we don't just show the way, we lead the way. But what does it look like for all of us to lead? How do we lead from where God has us right now? Let's look at some real-life examples from the Bible and learn how it's done.



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## INTRODUCTION

In today's sermon, Pastor David discussed how we can lead through our influence on others. And by examining a story about Joshua, Pastor David explained how influence begins with the ability to lead yourself well.

## STARTER QUESTION

We began with the idea of being a follower-leader. Does anyone find that confusing? How would you explain the meaning? How has your leadership developed through being a good follower?

## INTO THE WORD

Read John 15:16. How does knowing that God chose and appointed *you* impact how you view your influence?

In Joshua 9, Joshua and the Israelites fail to check with God before making an irreversible decision. Discuss the consequences of this poor decision making. Pastor David gave us steps on how to make good decisions. Discuss some steps you can take to improve your own decision making.

What do you consider to be the biggest cost to Joshua's decision to make a treaty with the Gibeonites? How did this impact his relationship with God? Discuss how Joshua maintained his integrity in the face of his mistake.

## APPLICATION

We all have an influence on the world around us, and we often don't realize it. Take a moment to think about and discuss the different areas (people, places, ways, etc.) in which you have an influence.

One of the ways of leading yourself well is to move away from spiritual passivity. What steps can we take to energize ourselves with God's power and motivation in order to love his people and do more for his kingdom?

## PRAYER

Ask for God's help this week in being a godly influence in all of the areas in which he's placed you. Pray about making good decisions with God's wisdom, maintaining integrity, and moving away from spiritual passivity so that you can lead yourself well and influence others.