LEADING THE WAY

Identify past and present women leaders of their governments from the following descriptions.

___ 1. First female prime minister of Israel.  
   A. Corazon Aquino
   B. Benazir Bhutto
___ 3. First female chancellor of Germany.  
   C. Deborah
___ 4. Prime minister of India for three terms until she was assassinated.  
   D. Indira Gandhi
___ 5. The United Kingdom’s first woman prime minister.  
   E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf
___ 6. First woman to become prime minister of a Muslim state (Pakistan).  
   F. Golda Meir
___ 7. Took control as President of the Philippines when a revolt ousted Ferdinand Marcos.  
   G. Angela Merkel
___ 8. Africa’s first popularly elected woman head of state.  
   H. Queen Elizabeth I
___ 9. This head of state holds the record for longevity and influence with 60+ years.  
   I. Queen Elizabeth II
___ 10. The only female judge in the book of Judges; she also was a prophetess.  
   J. Margaret Thatcher

WHAT’S HOLDING YOU BACK?

Because of his reluctance, Barak missed out on the honor of killing his enemy, Sisera. Instead, the woman Jael, killed him (see Judges 4:21). Identify one of the following areas where something is holding you back. Then write a pep talk to yourself (include Scripture verses and truths) to help you overcome your fears.

A. Greeting new people at church  D. Witnessing to others about your faith
B. Praying in public    E. Teaching a class
C. Participating in a choir or worship team  F. Starting a small group in your home

Pep Talk

[Space for personal pep talk]

• Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 1, “Deborah and Barak” (Judges 4:1-10, KJV) •

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What Are the Odds?

We may think of something one might like to happen, but the odds are against it. Put these unlikely events in order from least likely to happen to most likely to happen for the average person. By the way, the odds are against you guessing them all correctly!

___ A. Become a billionaire
___ B. Become a movie star
___ C. Be elected president of the United States
___ D. Win some jackpot prize (as little as a few dollars)
___ E. Date a supermodel
___ F. Win 1 million dollars in a fast food franchise board game

What's Your Excuse?

We often make excuses for not living a victorious life in Jesus. Below, pick an excuse that you find yourself using and memorize the corresponding verse this week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excuse</th>
<th>Verse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I'm too weak.</td>
<td>2 Corinthians 12:9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm tired.</td>
<td>Matthew 11:28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't know what to say.</td>
<td>Matthew 10:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can't do it alone.</td>
<td>Hebrews 13:6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone is against me.</td>
<td>Romans 8:31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nobody cares about me.</td>
<td>1 Peter 5:7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This world is changing so fast!</td>
<td>Hebrews 13:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satan is making my life miserable.</td>
<td>James 4:7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I just feel lost.</td>
<td>Psalm 119:105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can't do anything right!</td>
<td>Philippians 4:13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Imperfect Leaders**

Not even the greatest leaders were perfect. How many of these effective, but flawed, leaders can you identify from these brief descriptions?

1. This Great Emancipator once wrote, “If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it.”

2. Though he led India to independence, he opposed the adoption of modern technology that would have helped his nation become more prosperous.

3. This minister and civil rights leader was known to have engaged in numerous extramarital affairs.

4. A tech genius responsible for many innovations, he was known at times in his life for eccentricities such as odd diets and an outright refusal to bathe.

5. He was an automotive pioneer, but he sponsored a weekly newspaper that published strongly anti-Semitic views.

6. Though he built up the morale of his nation during World War II, he himself suffered from bouts of deep depression.

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**All Is in Order**

The following events took place in Jephthah’s life. Refer to the Judges 11:1-11; 29-31 and put them in chronological order.

1. The elders of Gilead asked Jephthah to be their captain to war against the Ammonites.

2. Jephthah made a vow to the Lord in exchange for victory in battle.

3. Jephthah moved from Gilead to Tob.

4. The Spirit of the Lord came on Jephthah as he headed for war against the Ammonites.

5. Jephthah questioned the sincerity of the elders of Gilead.

6. The people of Gilead made Jephthah their captain.

7. Jephthah’s brothers rejected him.

8. The Ammonites went to war against Israel.
CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

Good parents make lasting memories. Choose one or more of the categories below and think of a lasting childhood memory in that category. Be prepared to share the memory with the group and tell why you still recall it after all of these years.

- Best vacation
- Favorite meal you had growing up
- Wisest advice
- Most-hated rule you had to follow
- Funniest incident
- Greatest gift your parents gave you
- Top family activity
- Most memorable family tradition

CHILDHOOD RULES

Part of being a parent is enforcing rules of behavior. Some limitations that Samson’s parents placed on his life as he was growing up were given before Samson was born. In the puzzle below, find eight things that Samson was not allowed to have anything to do with. Read Numbers 6 for clues.

Ch U V F E Q Z S W X
S U W H L F W U N I R
S T R O N G D R I N K
P S U Q V F Z R S E U
Z R I C U I A C I H U
V V R E R G N C A B C
T I W N E I F E R W L
K C Y N N L A A S Y F
S U I H N W D H H Y V
B V I K G R A P E S O
S E I D O B D A E D L

1. No ____________________  5. No ____________________
2. No ____________________  6. No ____________________
3. No ____________________  7. No ____________________
4. No ____________________  8. No ____________________
It’ll Never Happen

History is filled with those who look at a situation, person, or proposal and say, “No way!” Match these statements with people who were monumentally wrong in saying them.

___ 1. “We don’t like their sound. Groups of guitars are on the way out.”
___ 2. “Television won’t matter in your lifetime or mine.”
___ 3. “There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home.”
___ 4. “You’d better learn secretarial skills or else get married.”
___ 5. “That rainbow song’s no good. Take it out.”

A. Admiral William Leahy, U.S. Atomic Bomb Project
B. Decca records executive, 1962, after turning down the Beatles
C. Modeling agency, rejecting Marilyn Monroe in 1944
D. MGM memo after first showing of The Wizard of Oz
E. Ken Olson, president of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977
F. Radio Times editor Rex Lambert, 1936

Who Am I That . . . ?

Moses’ first response to God’s call to service was to make excuses! His claim was that he was not qualified to answer God’s call. How many times have we answered God’s call by saying, “I can’t” in one way or another? Below is a list of excuses people give for not answering God’s call to service. Mark two or three of them and resolve not to use these excuses any more when God calls.

___ I just don’t have time.
___ I am not qualified.
___ That just isn’t my gift.
___ My health is not what it used to be.
___ It is difficult for me to get out in bad weather.
___ I’m serving in other ways outside of church.
___ Surely there are others who could do a better job.
___ I’m married to an unbeliever who doesn’t like it when I am gone too much.
___ I don’t want to commit to anything in addition to attending at regular service times.
___ I live too far away to get too involved.
___ Everything seems under control—I’m not needed.
___ That conflicts with activities my children/grandchildren are involved in.

- Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 5, “Moses” (Exodus 3:1-12, KJV) -
**Alphabet Soup**

In order to be considered qualified to do certain jobs, an official certificate from a qualifying agency is required. Unscramble the words in the following “alphabet soup” acronyms to discover the full title of each certifying group.

1. AAERT—American Association of Electronic Reporters and BARNTICSERRS issues certificates to those wanting to be court reporters.

2. ISACA—Information Systems UTIDA and Control Association issues certificates to those wanting to work in the information technology field.

3. HRCI—NUHAM Resources Certifications Institute offers six certifications for HR professionals around the world.

4. CTHA—Certified HEPARTY Horse Association establishes standards and guidelines for people utilizing horses in counseling.

5. NCCA—National ICONMIMOSS for Certifying Agencies certifies agencies that issue certification.

**Keeping It Clean**

God had big plans for Isaiah, but before He could entrust them to him, Isaiah’s heart needed some deep cleaning. Remember: cleaning isn’t just a matter of vanity or showiness—uncleanness can be detrimental to us! Consider the examples below: Why do we clean these things? What would happen if we didn’t?

Dishes

Clothes

Furniture

Bathtub

How might an unclean heart be similar? What deep cleaning might God need to perform to empower you to more effectively spread God’s Word?

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When I Grow Up

Kids are often asked what they want to be when they grow up. Their answers are remarkably consistent.

Listed below are 10 encoded occupations that are regularly mentioned by kids who are asked this question. The same code is used for the entire list. Vowels have already been added to get you started.

I Want to Be . . .

Jeremiah protested that he was not mature enough to be God’s servant. That seems like a protest we could all make. Note, however, God’s solution—God put His words in Jeremiah’s mouth!

That solution is also ours. God’s Word can be in our mouths when we commit it to memory. Below are some characteristics that describe what God wants us to be as we mature in Him. Select a characteristic you need, look up the cited verse, and commit it to memory this week.

1. Holy (Leviticus 20:7)
2. Unafraid (Deuteronomy 20:3)
3. Strong (2 Chronicles 15:7)
4. Saved (Isaiah 45:22)
5. Glad (Isaiah 65:18)
6. Perfect (Matthew 5:48)
7. Merciful (Luke 6:36)
9. Transformed (Romans 12:2)
10. Kind (Ephesians 4:32)

H N X Y N P  O  O  J W B P J W B V R Y J P
M Y R G J Y J  E  E  I X B J Q Y B U Y
Y J M X R J P  E  A  E  U O B X B M Q
H M Q X J P  A  E  U  I A
L N G B X J  O  I  E  U  E
W B P J W B V R Y J P  O  I  E  E
M Y R G J Y J  E  E  I
Y J M X R J P  E  A  E  U O B X B M Q
H M Q X J P  A  E  U  I A
L N G B X J  O  I  E  U  E

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GOURMET OR GARBAGE?

Below is a list of foods considered delicacies in some parts of the world. See if you can match the name with a description of the disgusting dish.

___ 1. Escamoles  A. sheep milk cheese riddled with live insect larvae
___ 2. Lutefisk  B. whitefish cooked with lye
___ 3. Kumis  C. partially digested coffee beans harvested from animal feces
___ 4. Casu Marzu  D. larvae of ants
___ 5. Kopi Luwak  E. fermented horse milk

ROCK SOLID

Ezekiel—as does every messenger of God’s grace and expectations—meets the resistance of hardheaded antagonism. God predicts that stubborn refusal to listen, but He also says He has made Ezekiel’s head just as hard. Read Ezekiel 3:7-9. Rate yourself (and your forehead) when being “head butted” by an enemy of God’s truth.

Soft as Talc                            Hard as Diamond

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

1. _____ Someone who uses the name of God without meaning
2. _____ Someone who claims the Bible is only a collection of thoughts and principles of people
3. _____ Someone who refuses to believe Jesus is the only way to salvation
4. _____ Someone who criticizes the church as just a bunch of hypocrites
5. _____ Someone who says people are the ultimate moral decision makers
SORT OF

Sort these words into two columns according to their meanings. One word will be used twice. Which one?

Assertion
Business
Career
Declaration
Job
Occupation
Proclamation
Profession
Statement
Testimony
Work

PROPHET AND PROFIT

Amos says of himself, “I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet’s son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit: And the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel” (Amos 7:14, 15). He found himself in verbal combat with one who was called priest, though from God’s perspective, of a false and worthless religion. How could you describe yourself in similar terms?

“I am not a __________ or a __________, but rather a __________.

God has commanded me to __________ to __________.”

How could/would you explain your faith to someone who avows a commitment to:

1. a cultic view of Christianity?

2. a world religion such as Islam or Buddhism?

3. atheism?

4. a materialistic lifestyle?
**INVENTED BY ACCIDENT**

Some inventions were made totally by accident. Try to guess the invention from the description of its accidental discovery.

1. While inspecting a magnetron (a tube that releases energy to power radar equipment), scientist Percy Spencer noticed that the candy bar in his pocket melted. This led to the invention of the **m**__________

2. Electrical engineer George De Mestral took his dog for a walk and ended up with cockleburs on himself and his canine companion. This led to the invention of **V**__________.

3. Cleo McVicker created a pliable goo that he successfully marketed as a way to remove coal dust from wallpaper. Demand for the substance decreased when fewer and fewer homes were heated with coal. McVicker’s son discovered that children liked to play with the smelly, gooey stuff, leading to the invention of **P**__________ **D**__________.

4. Researcher Constantine Fahlberg was trying to find new uses for coal tar. After a long day at work, he returned home to his wife baking biscuits. Eating one before washing his hands, Fahlberg notice that the biscuit tasted sweet. This led to the invention of **s**__________.

**PUT THEM IN ORDER**

Read Acts 6:1-8. Then try to put the following 10 events in the order they happened.

___A. Rapid church growth
___B. Church meeting called
___C. Dispute along ethnic lines
___D. More church growth
___E. New leaders chosen
___F. New leaders take on expanded tasks
___G. Priorities explained
___H. Problem distributing resources
___I. Solution proposed
___J. Some Jewish leaders accept Jesus
TAKE A GUESS!

Here are some ethnic customs that may seem strange to us. Make your best guess as to the definition of each one.

1. Polterabend
   a) A German pre-wedding party for smashing dishes or
   b) Another name for Halloween in Sweden?

2. Ded Moroz
   a) One who gives presents to Russian children on New Year’s Day
   b) One who weeps for the groom during a Lebanese wedding?

3. Gurning
   a) An Irish game for dogs or
   b) A British face-making competition?

4. Caganer
   a) A Portuguese lucky coin or
   b) A Spanish figurine hidden in Nativity scenes?

5. Krampus
   a) An Austrian name for Santa Claus’s evil twin or
   b) A Slavic folk dance?

PEACE CHILD

Consider this missionary story:

In the 1960s, Don and Carol Richardson went to live as missionaries among the Sawi people in New Guinea. The Sawis were known to be cannibalistic headhunters who saw deception and betrayal as positive values. When Richardson began to teach the Sawis about Jesus, he was shocked that they saw Judas as the hero of the Gospels and viewed Jesus as his foolish prey!

Richardson discovered a cultural practice of the tribes in that area that changed everything. When warring tribes wanted to ensure peace with each other, each tribe would exchange a child with the opposing tribe. Richardson began to explain the substitutionary atonement of Jesus using this cultural analogy. God loved humankind that had declared war on Him so much that He sent His Peace Child, Jesus. As a result, many Sawis came to Christ.

Richardson later trained missionaries to go into difficult mission fields. He encouraged them to look for what he called “redemptive analogies” in cultures that could help those cultures understand who Jesus is and what He did for them.

1. Think of some difficult mission fields that may be very close to you such as gangs, the incarcerated, unchurched so-called “millennials” (today’s young adults), the very rich, drug users, etc. Add to this list as you find necessary.

2. How would you go about finding a “redemptive analogy” in one of these groups? __________
**NOT MY JOB!**

Here are some real, but unusual jobs. Pick one and list some reasons why you would never want to do it!

- Pet Food Taster—Sampling pet food in a factory to ensure quality
- Bird Deterrent—Waving flags to chase birds from statues and monuments
- Chimney Sweep—Cleaning ashes, soot, and creosote from chimneys
- Odor Tester—Using one’s sense of smell to determine the effectiveness of deodorants and deodorizers
- Golf Ball Diver—Going into water traps in golf courses to retrieve balls left there
- Mascot—Wearing a heavy costume in all sorts of weather to represent a sports team

**FAITH GREATER THAN FEAR**

Ananias feared Saul because he had heard about what Saul had done to the people in Jerusalem and what he planned to do in Damascus. His faith in the Lord overcame that fear. Under the word *fear*, list the fears you have in talking with others about Jesus. Under the word *faith*, list the beliefs you have in Christ that can help you overcome your fears.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAITH</th>
<th>FEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE?

Put a + by each of the words below that you consider to be a positive trait and a − by each that you consider to be negative.

+adamant  −steadfast
+determined  −tenacious
+dogged  −unshakable
+headstrong  −bullheaded
+inflexible  −firm
+intractable  −fixed
+persistent  −hardheaded
+rebellious  −mulish
+rigid  −opinionated
+single-minded  −pigheaded

Each of these words is considered to be a synonym for stubborn. Can stubbornness be both a positive and negative trait? Explain.

SURPRISED OR EXPECTED?

How do people with strong convictions behave when those convictions are challenged? Below are some of the events described in Acts 10. Think about each one and mark it as either something you found surprising (S) or something you would expect to happen (E). Be ready to explain your choices.

+God told Peter to accompany without hesitation three men who were looking for him.
+The Jews respected Cornelius, a Roman military man.
+Peter invited three Gentiles to be guests in the house in which he was staying.
+Cornelius bowed reverently before Peter.
+Peter made it clear that he was just a man, no different from Cornelius.
+Peter made it clear that Jewish law forbade Jews to have close contact with Gentiles.
+Peter understood his vision to mean that he should not call anyone “unclean.”
+Peter ordered a Roman soldier to tell him why he sent for him.
+Cornelius prayed and fasted according to Jewish regulations.
+An angel appeared to Cornelius.
+God accepted the prayers and offerings of a Roman military man.
+Cornelius and his associates were ready to listen to whatever Peter had to say.

• Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 13, “Called to Be Inclusive” (Acts 10:19-33, KJV) •

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Lesson 1
Answers to Leading the Way. 1=F, 2=H, 3=G, 4=D, 5=J, 6=B, 7=A, 8=E, 9=I, 10=C.

Lesson 2
Answers to What Are the Odds? A=3 (one in 7 million), B=4 (one in 1.5 million), C=2 (one in 10 million), D=6 (one in 32), E=5 (1 in 88,000), F=1 (one in 3.5 billion).

Lesson 3
Answers to Imperfect Leaders. 1=Abraham Lincoln, 2=Mahatma Gandhi, 3=Martin Luther King Jr., 4=Steve Jobs, 5=Henry Ford, 6=Winston Churchill.
Answers to All Is in Order. 1=4, 2=8, 3=2, 4=7, 5=5, 6=6, 7=1, 8=3.

Lesson 4
Answer to Childhood Rules. 1=dead bodies, 2=grapes, 3=haircuts, 4=raisins, 5=strong drink, 6=vinegar, 7=vines, 8=wine.
Answer grid to Childhood Rules.

Lesson 5
Answer to It’ll Never Happen. 1=B, 2=F, 3=E, 4=C, 5=D, 6=A.

Lesson 6
Answers to Alphabet Soup. 1=transcribers, 2=audit, 3=human, 4=therapy, 5=commission.

Lesson 7
Answers for When I Grow Up. 1=doctor, 2=athlete, 3=teacher, 4=dancer, 5=policeman, 6=firefighter, 7=scientist, 8=musician, 9=actor, 10=nurse.

Lesson 8
Answers to Gourmet or Garbage. 1=D, 2=B, 3=E, 4=A, 5=C.

Lesson 9
Answer to Sort of. “Profession” can mean both a line of work and a declaration of truth.
Line of work—business, career, job, occupation, work, PROFESSION
Declaration of truth—assertion, declaration, proclamation, statement, testimony, PROFESSION

Lesson 10
Answers to Invented by Accident. 1=microwave oven, 2=Velcro, 3=Play Doh, 4=saccharine.

Lesson 11
Answers to Take a Guess! 1=a, 2=a, 3=b, 4=b, 5=a.