

To Lead Others, Figure Out How to Lead Yourself

with Kyle Jackson



FOCUS VERSE

He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

Acts 10:2

DISCUSSION

- 1. When you were young, did you see or hear about either of your parents—particularly your father—do anything that really disappointed you?**
 - a. How did that action or incident damage the image you had of that parent as an admirable and trustworthy person?
 - b. Did it cause you to act out or put less effort into leading an upstanding life?
- 2. What was the period in your life when you were most resistant to pursuing a spiritual life or a relationship with God?**
 - a. What was the source of that opposition?
 - b. Who or what prompted you to re-evaluate that opposition and make your spirituality a higher priority?

- 3. Talk about the two big misconceptions that Kyle says deter people from pursuing ministry work: "What I've done is too bad for God to ever use me at that level" and "I'm just not educated enough to do it."**
- a. Have you ever found yourself thinking those negative thoughts about something in your life you really wanted to do or achieve but didn't think you were good enough?
 - b. Did you find Kyle's responses to those negative thoughts reassuring or emboldening in any way?
- 4. Did it surprise you to hear Kyle, a pastor, say that building deep relationships with spiritually strong people was even more important to being an effective minister and leader than reading the Bible or attending sermons? (See [Matthew 22:37](#).)**
- a. Do you feel that you're blessed with any such relationships right now? Talk about those relationships and the value that those people bring to your life.
- 5. When you encounter an obstacle, disappointment, or tragedy in your life, do you "live in the moment" and confront it head-on, as Kyle advises, or are you more likely to "compartmentalize" it and only deal with it later—or maybe not at all?**
- a. If the latter, can you discern any ways in which that compartmentalization or avoidance has affected you negatively or held you back from growing as a person?
- 6. Is God your "daily bread," or is He more like your "weekly" or "monthly bread," or the "bread" you only turn to when you're in crisis? (See [John 6:31](#).)**
- a. What are some things you could do to make Him a more regular part of your life?
- 7. Do you have any talents or skills that other people have said you're great at, but that you've minimized ("Oh, everyone's good at that" or "It's not that big a deal")? (See [Ephesians 2:10](#).)**
- a. Why do you think you devalue your talents in that way? Are there any ways in which you could be using those talents to help people or "pay it forward"?