

## Lessons Learned from a Great Leader

<b><u>Activity:</u></b>	<b><u>Duration:</u></b>
Dinner and Fellowship	<b>60 minutes</b>
JMen present from their selected biography	<b>150 minutes</b>
Prayer Time	<b>30 minutes</b>

### ***Leader Notes:***

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1. There is no **Lesson** for you to teach. Each of the JMen selects a **biography of a great leader**. (This is their book for the month)
2. The year of leadership development has moved in a progression from you as the primary teacher, mentor, and coach, to where the men have this opportunity to present to each other from the biography of their choice.
  - a. Ask them to make this personal by sharing insights that impacted them from the biography and how they plan to put that into practice in their own life. This could be, for example, their three-five biggest takeaways and action plan.

Ask them to dig deep, maybe something they realized about themselves or their leadership. Maybe something that inspired them. Perhaps what might stretch their faith or drive them to keep learning and growing. This is not a surface or academic book report!

- b. Give them the list of biographies to select from. Of course, feel free to edit the list. Add or delete as you like! If you want to have all your guys read from just two or three choices, that's fine! If you prefer to have, every guy read a different biography, that works great too.
- c. Each guy will have about 15-20 minutes, including interaction and any questions you may add as the leader.
- d. Ask them to write some clear and thoughtful notes to present from. The purpose of them writing down their thoughts is to find much more clarity in their thinking by writing it down rather than just winging it.

- e. Reading the moment carefully, here are some good questions you can use as they share their thoughts to ensure they are leaning into how they will grow, not just what they learned. Or you can ask some of these questions after the guys are done presenting.
- If someone was reading your biography, what essential life principles and leadership practices would you hope they learn? (You can connect this to purpose.)
  - Of the people that know you well, what would they say drives you from a place deep with your core convictions?
  - How might your life be inspiring to others?
  - Do you have a sense that you are writing your biography each day of your life?
- f. The ultimate goal is for each man to be enriched by what he has learned, improve his leadership by what he will put into practice, and live a life pleasing to God and of value to others around him.

3. **Special project for Month 11.** Ask the guys to **interview a leader!**

The leader can be a pastor, business owner, politician, school administrator, or anyone who is clearly in a leadership role. But here's the catch, they can't interview someone they already know. Instead, they must find and interview a leader who is new to them.

Give the guys these guidelines:

- a. Keep the interview short, 25 – 40 minutes.
  - b. Prepare written questions that are very specific, not general in nature.
  - c. It's OK to ask personal questions such as: "What is one of the most difficult staffing decisions you have made as a leader in the past year and why?"
  - d. If the leader is a non-Christian, it's appropriate for you to ask first, and if given permission, pray a short prayer of God's blessing over him and wisdom in the conversation.
  - e. An in-person interview is the best, but a zoom call can work only if necessary.
  - f. Write a short thank you note following your interview.
  - g. Next month each of you will give a brief update on how your interview went and one or two things you learned. (5 minutes.)
4. Hand out copies of the last book for the year, *The Next Generation Leader*, by Andy Stanley, with the **Application Guide**.

## Preparation for Biography Presentations

Your project for our month 10 meeting is to read a **biography** of a great leader. (This is your book for the month.)

The purpose is to gain insights from their story and prayerfully discover great takeaways that impacted you and that you will apply to your life and leadership. Also, you will share the insights you found with your group.

(It should be about 15-20 minutes, including the interaction your group leader helps create.)

### How to prepare:

1. Select your biography from the list provided. Ask your group leader about any special instructions he may have for how you select, if you can add a book not on the list, or if he has more specific ideas about the selection process.
2. Read and study the biography and make lots of notes in the book's margins! Interact with the story! What jumps out at you? Why? What did you learn?
3. Make this a personal rather than an "academic" project. **It's not a book report.** For example, what are the 3 – 5 most significant takeaways from the book that impacted you and you plan to apply and practice in your own life? Tell why they had such an impact. What did you learn about yourself? How did this biography inspire you? Etc.
4. Write clear and thoughtful notes to organize your thoughts for the group. These notes are just for you, but you will sharpen and clarify your thinking by writing them down.

**Selected Titles of Biographies**

Several of these biographies are lengthy but don't shy away because they're long. You may not need to finish it in a month and still have read more than enough to accomplish the purpose.

Again, ask your group leader if he has any special instructions for the book you select.

1. *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret*, by Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor
2. *The Autobiography of George Muller*, (Whitaker House; Updated edition, February 1, 1996)
3. *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*, by Eric Metaxas
4. *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery*, by Eric Metaxas
5. *A Passion for Souls: The Life of D.L. Moody*, by Lyle Dorsett
6. *Forgotten Founding Father: The Heroic Legacy of George Whitfield*, by Stephen Mansfield
7. *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom*, by Catherine Clinton
8. *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*, by Laura Hillenbrand (Louie Zamperini--a juvenile delinquent-turned-Olympic runner-turned-Army hero.)  
(The original adult version – There is also a young adult adaptation.)
9. *Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, and Priorities of a Winning Life*, by Tony Dungy
10. *Mother Teresa: An Authorized Biography*, (Revised Edition) by Katheryn Spink
11. *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, by Clayborne Carson (Editor)
12. *Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World*, by Eric Metaxas

13. *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz*, by Erik Larson
14. *Never Give In: The Extraordinary Character of Winston Churchill*, by Stephen Mansfield
15. *Lincoln's Battle with God: A President's Struggle with Faith and What It Meant for America*, by Stephen Mansfield
16. *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin
17. *No Ordinary Time, Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt -The Home Front in World War II*, by Doris Kearns Goodwin (Pulitzer Prize Winner)
18. *John Adams*, by David McCullough (Pulitzer Prize Winner)
19. *Margaret Thatcher: The Authorized Biography: Vol 1: From Grantham to the Falklands*, by Charles Moore
20. *Lincoln on Leadership: Executive Strategies for Tough Times*, by Donald T. Phillips
21. *Martin Luther King, Jr., on Leadership: Inspiration and Wisdom for Challenging Times*, by Donald T. Phillips