

## Lesson

### The Prayer Life of a Leader

When you come face to face with God in prayer, you will be changed.

#### I. Aaron reacted to the pressure of the people.

<sup>1</sup> When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him." <sup>2</sup> Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." <sup>3</sup> So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." Exodus 32:1-4

*The soil in which the prayer of faith takes root is a life of unbroken communion with God, a life in which the windows of the soul are always open towards the City of Rest.*

*David Martin M' Intyre*

*The ones who have most fully illustrated Christ in their character, and have most powerfully affected the world for Him, have been those who spend so much time with God as to make it a notable feature in their lives.*

*E.M. Bounds*

The prayerless leader is \_\_\_\_\_ by the flesh.

A. The prayerless leader lets the people \_\_\_\_\_ him/her.

<sup>1</sup> When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him." Exodus 32:1

B. The prayerless leader \_\_\_\_\_ the people.

<sup>22</sup> "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil." <sup>23</sup> They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses

*who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' Exodus 32:22-23*

C. The prayer-less leader won't take \_\_\_\_\_.

*<sup>24</sup> "So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!" Exodus 32:24*

*There is no power like that of prevailing prayer... It turns ordinary mortals into men and women of power. It brings power. It brings fire. It brings rain. It brings life. It brings God.  
Samuel Chadwick*

## II. Moses responded to the problem with the people

A. Moses responded with \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Moses \_\_\_\_\_.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ identified the problem — the people had corrupted themselves.

*<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. <sup>8</sup> They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'" "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses "and they are a stiff-necked people." Exodus 32:7-9*

God gave Moses the opportunity to respond when he said:

*<sup>10</sup> Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation." Exodus 32:10*

Prayer... God wants us to engage.

D. Moses returned to the people after interceding for them and took God's \_\_\_\_\_ (anger).

*<sup>19</sup> When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned, and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. Exodus 32:19*

- E.** Moses \_\_\_\_\_ Aaron.

*<sup>19</sup> When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned, and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. <sup>20</sup> And he took the calf they had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water, and made the Israelites drink it. <sup>21</sup> He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?" Exodus 32:19-21*

Moses — Courage, conviction, and confidence came from God. " \_\_\_\_\_ led them into such great sin!"

- F.** Moses \_\_\_\_\_ his heart with the heart of God.

*<sup>32</sup> "But now, please forgive their sin – but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written." <sup>33</sup> The LORD replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. <sup>34</sup> Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin." <sup>35</sup> And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made. Exodus 32:32-35*

### **III. Insights and Principles on Prayer**

- A.** Prayer is a dialogue based upon our \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

*<sup>12</sup> Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' <sup>13</sup> If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people." <sup>14</sup> The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Exodus 33:12-14*

What do your prayers reveal about what you know and believe about God? (You pray as big as your God is.)

- B.** Prayer is a \_\_\_\_\_ over time.

- C. A person of prayer doesn't always accept the \_\_\_\_\_ answer.  
*<sup>10</sup> Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation." Exodus 32:10*

- D. Prayer tests our \_\_\_\_\_.

*God is too good to be unkind,  
He is too wise to be confused,  
If I cannot trace his hand,  
I can always trust his heart.  
D. H. Spurgeon*

What will you ask (believe) God for? Specifically, what are you asking?

- E. Prayer \_\_\_\_\_ the person who prays.  
*<sup>29</sup> When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. Exodus 34:29*

You cannot come face-to-face with God and remain unchanged.

*Leaders lead in prayer long before they lead in public.*

# Application Guide

## Celebration of Discipline

Richard Foster

### INTRODUCTION

#### Chapter 1 The Spiritual Disciplines: Door to Liberation

1. How did Jesus demonstrate spiritual discipline? (*Explain beyond "He prayed..." – include attitude, lifestyle, priorities, did He always follow conventional religion? etc.*)
  
2. What is the purpose of spiritual discipline?
  
3. What happens when you lose sight of the real purpose of spiritual disciplines or they are taken to extremes?
  
4. How would you rate yourself in the overall consistency of spiritual disciplines?

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

Can't Find  
My Bible

God Often Asks  
My Opinion



**4.** Rate the consistency and vibrancy of your prayer life:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Easter & Christmas				Holes in the knees of my pants			

What could you do to strengthen your prayer life?

**Chapter 4 The Discipline of Fasting**

**1.** What is the primary purpose of fasting?

**2.** What will always be revealed when you fast?

**3.** What did you learn the last time you fasted?

## **Chapter 5 The Discipline of Study**

1. Study requires more humility and discipline than intellect. Briefly describe why in your own words.
  
2. As a leader, you must continually invest in yourself (personal growth) to be effective—rate (and describe) your habit of this kind of investment.

## PART II: THE OUTWARD DISCIPLINES

### **Chapter 6 The Discipline of Simplicity**

1. Describe how simplicity and freedom are so closely connected.
  
2. Would you describe your life as more "simple" or more "hectic?" Why?
  
3. What one or two things could you do to simplify your life?





3. What is the value of written confession? (Try it this month)

### **Chapter 11 The Discipline of Worship**

1. What is your personal definition of worship? Why do you worship?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Where, when, and how do you experience your "best" worship?

### **Chapter 12 The Discipline of Guidance**

1. How do you see **Joshua's Men** fitting into the discipline of guidance?

