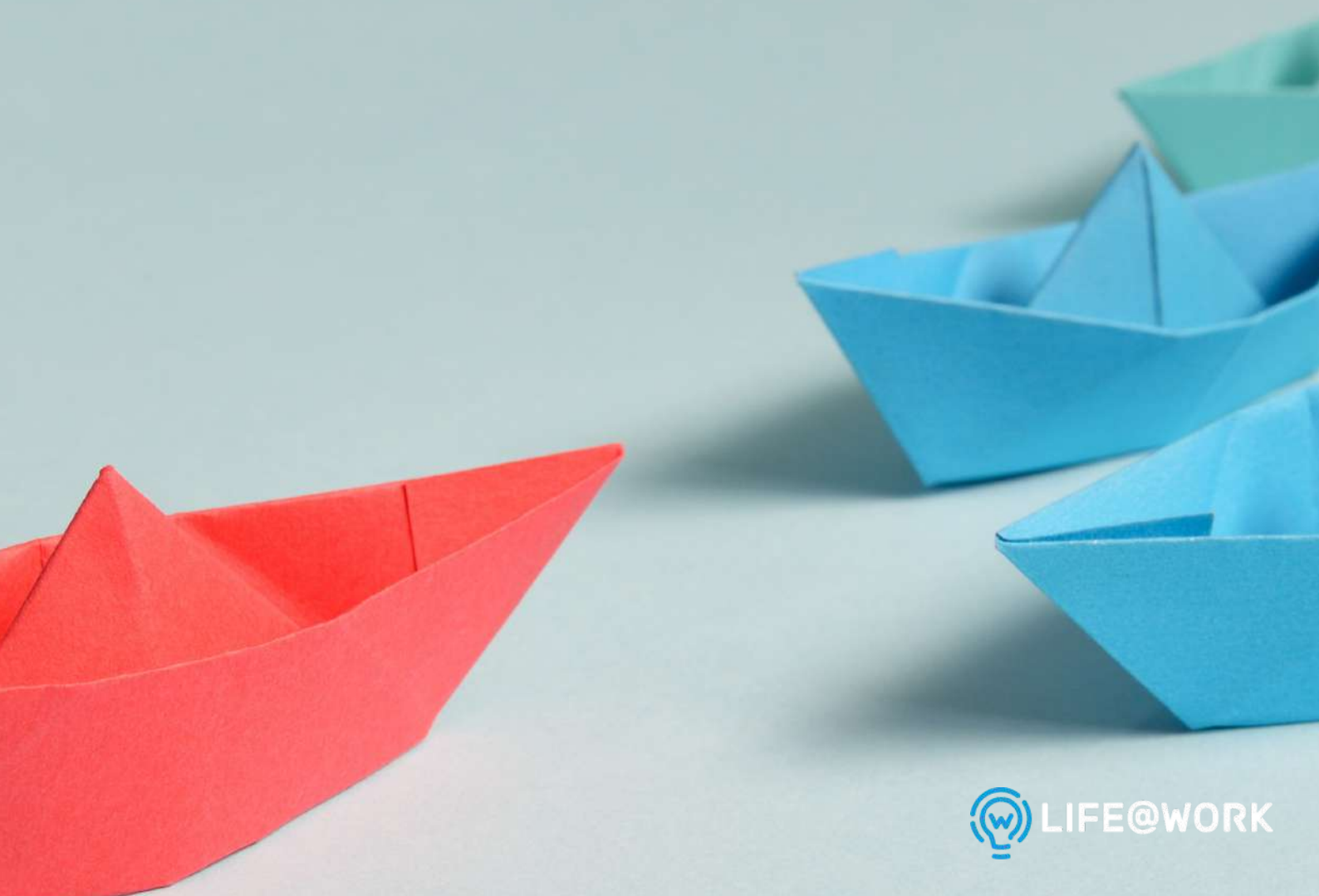


# Leadership

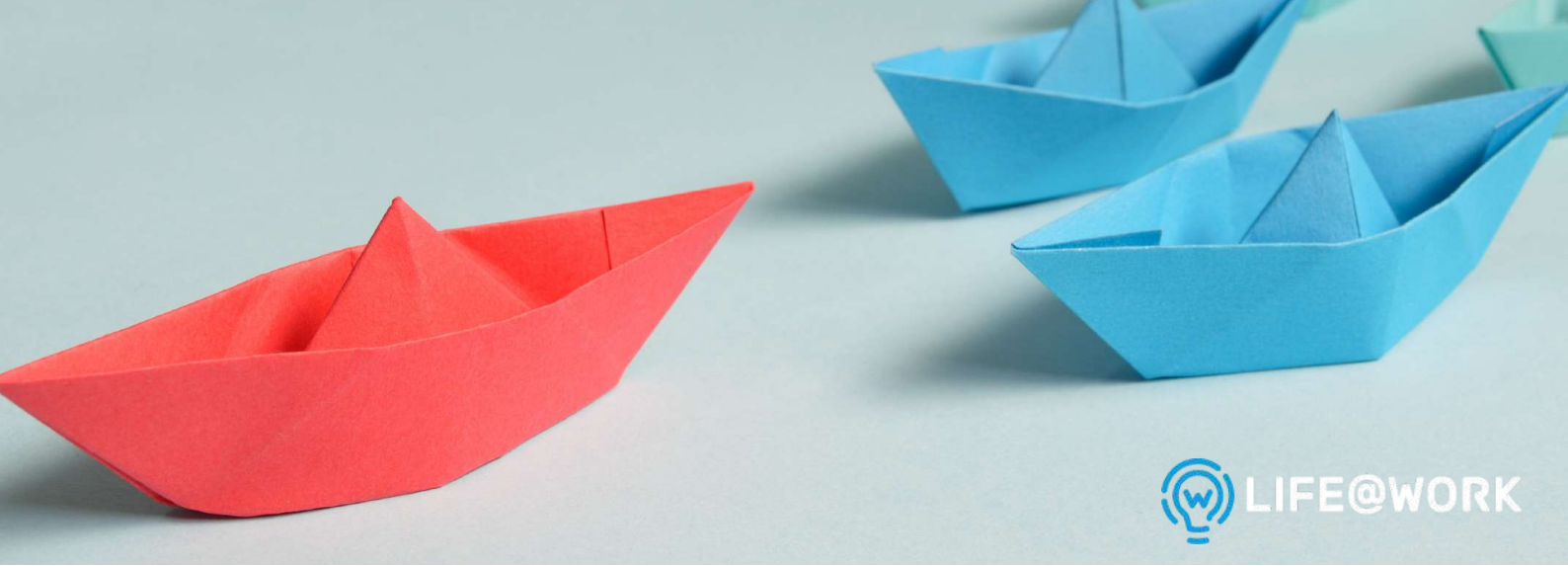
Doing it well, surviving when its bad



 LIFE@WORK



This booklet was created by  
City Bible Forum 2020



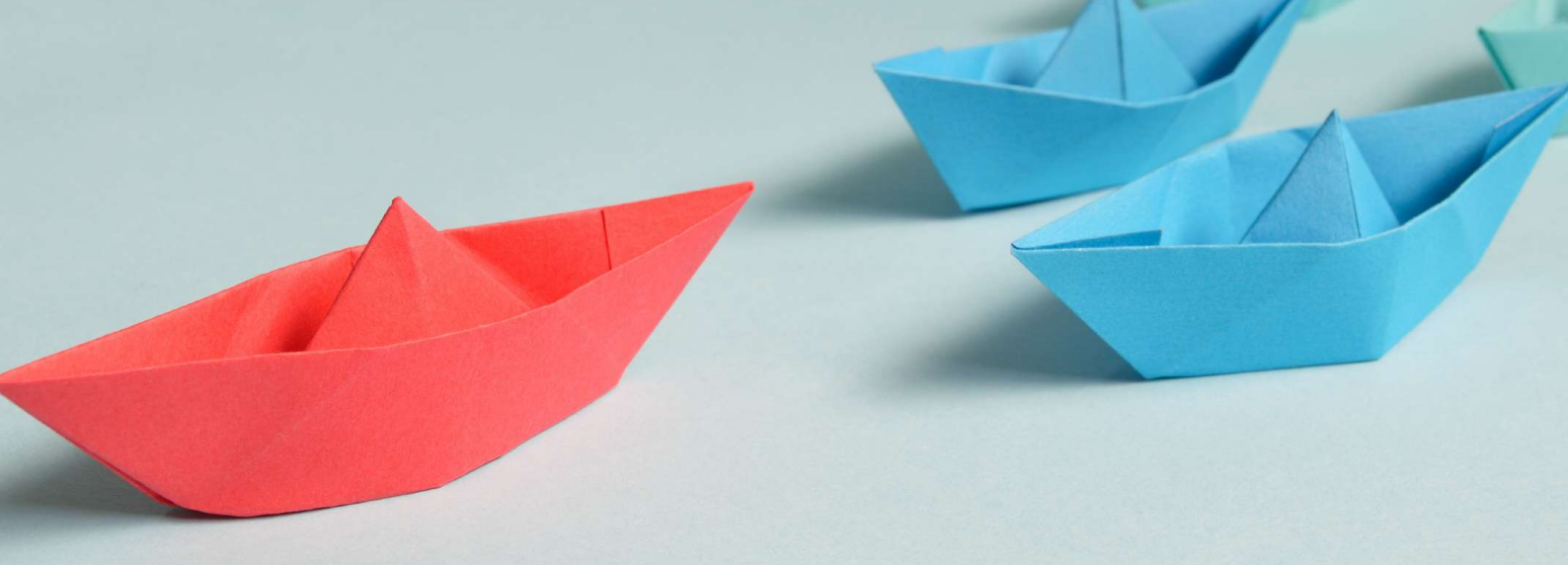
The top can be a lonely place. Marked by uncertainty. Insecurity. The feeling that you're only ever as good as your last success.

It's not always easy to respect the one at the top. When their decisions are self-serving. Their judgements are poor. A failure to truly lead, motivate and inspire.

How does the Gospel reframe leadership? How does it define true success? What hope does it provide in the face of failed leadership?



Page 1



## CONTENTS

Week 1	Service or self-interest.	3
Week 2	Mean what you say	5
Week 3	One worth following	7
Week 4	In the way of harm	9

## HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE



This study guide explores issues of leadership from Life@Work, the studies include a bible reading, questions and links to talks by Andrew Laird, Jenny George, Jennie Pakula, Graham Hooper and Allan Bulman.



# WEEK 1

## Service or Self interest



### DISCUSS

1. Think of the best boss you have ever had. What was it you liked about them?
2. Think of the worst boss you have ever had. What was it you disliked about them?



### READ MARK 10:42-45 AND DANIEL 7:13-15

42 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 43 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

13 “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, [a] coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.



### [WATCH: SERVICE OR SELF INTEREST](#)

Andrew Laird (National Product Manager Life@Work) addresses how to be a servant hearted leader, and how to respond to a self-interested boss.

A photograph of several paper boats on a light blue surface. One boat in the foreground is red, while the others in the background are blue. The boats are simple, rectangular in shape with a pointed prow and a flat deck.

# WEEK 1

## Service or Self interest



### DISCUSS

3. What is the context of Jesus' statement regarding His service (see Mark 10:35-41)? How does that context make His statement even more extraordinary?
4. What are some of the features of the authority of the "one like a son of man" (Daniel 7:13)? What would you expect such a leader to be like in person?
5. John Dickson\* writes about the aesthetics of virtue, the way that service looks beautiful. How have you been struck by the beauty of Jesus' service, especially in light of His authority as the Son of Man?
6. What makes it difficult to be a servant-hearted leader (or employee) in the workplace?
7. What are some practical acts of service you can do in the week ahead? "Do you have big ambitions for yourself or big aspirations for the people on your team?"\*\*



### [WATCH: SERVICE OR SELF INTEREST](#)

Jennie Pakula (Manager, Assessment & Resolutions at VLSBC) addresses how to be a servant hearted leader, and how to respond to a self-interested boss.

\* John Dickson, *Humilitas: A lost key to life, love, and leadership*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011) 69

\*\*Cheryl Bachelder, *Dare to serve: How to drive superior results by serving others*. (Oakland: BK Publishers, 2015) 11

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## WEEK 2

### Mean what you say



#### DISCUSS

1. What are some examples of poor communication in your workplace? (For example, over-promising, lying etc.)
2. What do you think lies behind many of the workplace word problems we encounter?



#### READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-10

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.[b] 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.



#### [WATCH: MEAN WHAT YOU SAY](#)

Andrew Laird (National Product Manager Life@Work) addresses communication, pride and honesty in the workplace.

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## WEEK 2

### Mean what you say



#### DISCUSS

3. To what extent do you think pride lies behind some of the workplace word problems you listed in question one?

4. What other “heart issues” might lie behind problems with our speech?

5. What practical ways can you remind yourself and others of your status (starting first with status before considering speech)?

6. How might being sure of your status affect not just how you speak but also how you listen?\*

“You’ll mean what you say when you know who you are.” (Andrew Laird)



#### [WATCH: MEAN WHAT YOU SAY](#)

Jenny George (CEO Converge International) addresses how to be a boss who communicates well, and how to respond when your boss doesn't.

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## WEEK 3

### One worth following



#### DISCUSS

1. Think of a workplace leader who has had a positive impact upon you. What words would you use to describe them?
2. What matters more to you in a workplace leader – someone who is very competent at their role, or someone of impressive character? Why?



#### READ MATTHEW 23:1-11, 25-28

1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: 2 “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. 3 So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. 4 They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. 5 “Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; 6 they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; 7 they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by others. 8 “But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. 10 Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah. 11 The greatest among you will be your servant. 12 For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.



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## WEEK 3

### One worth following



[READ MATTHEW 23:1-11, 25-28](#)

25 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. 27 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. 11 The greatest among you will be your servant. 12 For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.



[WATCH: ONE WORTH FOLLOWING](#)

Andrew Laird (National Product Manager Life@Work)) addresses how to be a workplace leader worth following, and how to respond when your boss isn't.

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## WEEK 3

### One worth following



#### DISCUSS

3. What might it look like in your workplace to be a leader who “puts heavy loads on people’s shoulders” and “does everything for people to see” (v4-5)?
4. What things do you do in the workplace that might reflect an unhealthy concern with your outside? What inner aspects of your character may instead need attention?
5. Our inside is ultimately not changed by our own striving or effort alone, but by the work of the Holy Spirit. Take a moment now to pray about those inner aspects.
6. For those who have a leader not worth following, practically what might it look like to “be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do” (v2)?



#### [WATCH: ONE WORTH FOLLOWING](#)

Graham Hooper (Author and former senior executive) addresses how to be a workplace leader worth following, and how to respond when your boss isn't.

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# WEEK 4

## In the way of harm



### DISCUSS

1. Have you ever had someone protect you from a difficult situation in the workplace? Or have you ever had someone shift responsibility for a problem onto you?
2. Why might it be uncommon for people to take responsibility for others' faults, or bear pain for the sake of others in the workplace?



### READ PSALM 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not slumber;
- 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The LORD watches over you—  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- 6 the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD will keep you from all harm —  
he will watch over your life;
- 8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.

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## WEEK 4

### In the way of harm



[WATCH: IN THE WAY OF HARM](#)

Andrew Laird (National Product Manager Life@Work) addresses how to be a workplace leader who "takes a hit" for their team.



### DISCUSS

3. Which aspect of God's help in Psalm 121 do you find most extraordinary? Why?
4. How would you explain the idea of God standing in the way of harm to others?
5. What is a simple way that you might be able to stand in the way of harm for your colleagues?
6. How does this passage help us respond when we experience the opposite in the workplace, a leader who inflicts harm upon us?

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# WEEK 4

## In the way of harm



[WATCH: ONE WORTH FOLLOWING](#)

Graham Hooper (Author and former senior executive) addresses how to be a workplace leader worth following, and how to respond when your boss isn't.

How does the Gospel reframe leadership?  
How can we redeem leadership from  
crushing failure and false success?



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 CITY BIBLE  
**FORUM+**  
Ask the bigger questions