

Another kev characteristic that sets apart ordinary men from real leaders is that LEADERS TAKE ACTION.

They are not spectators, sitting on the sidelines and wondering what went wrong, who was at fault, or what will happen next. They choose the be on the front-lines, making a difference and making things right.

Leaders either PRESS AGAINST **ADVERSITY**—, conflict and crisis, or they PRESS FORWARD with **INITIATIVE**— to start the things that need to be started.

**ADVERSITY~** can be any kind of hardship that stands in the path between you and your goals. It may be that you struggle with school, have conflicts with your family, or you may think you've had too much trouble in your past for God to make you into a great

Some of the greatest men in history had to PRESS AGAINST these kinds of challenges. Some It's a burning in your heart were even persecuted, cut off from their families, or become total something to make things outcasts. Many were poor, fatherless, or even them right, without being orphaned. Many were told told what to do or how to that just because of the color of their skin or the low status of their family, won't let you sit still until that they could never achieve what they wanted make it happen. to achieve.

They became great men because they knew that God had BIG plans for them, and refused to listen to what mere men had to say about their destiny.

"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU." DECLARES THE LORD. "PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU. PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE." (JEREMIAH 29:11)

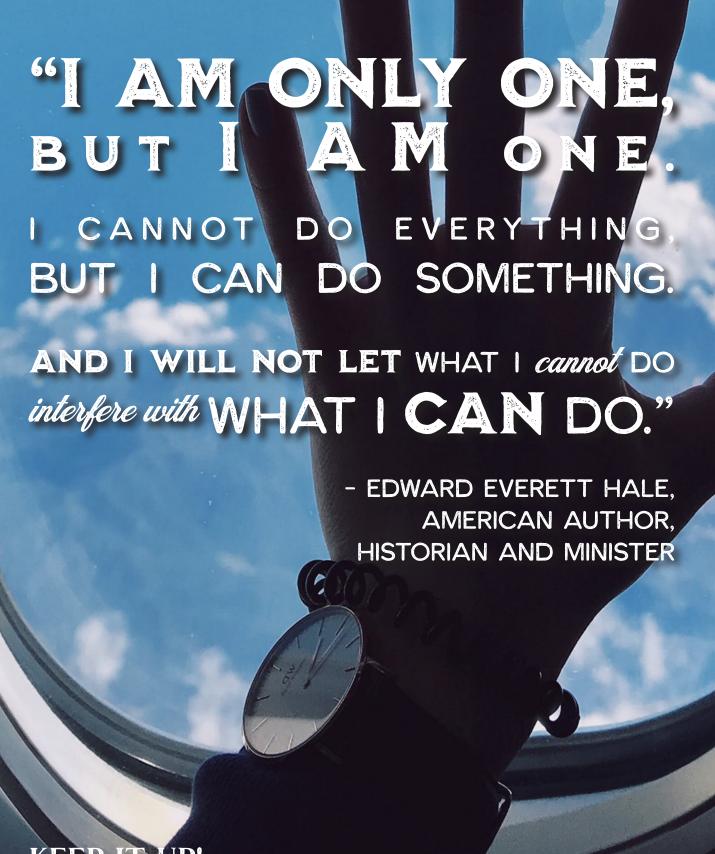
They took initiative, and sometimes literally fought to build inner strength their way through those obstacles to become great men, even though all the odds were against them.

#### **INITIATIVE~** is

something that comes from a spark deep within. that compels you (forces you) to get up and DO better, and even to make do it. You just HAVE to do something! Initiative just you've figured out how to

#### Either way, LEADERS **ALWAYS PRESS.**

In section one, we talked about building physical, mental and spiritual strength through selfdiscipline and constant training. Regular running and exercise will build your physical stamina -the kind of strength that makes your endure and keep going. In the same way, constantly pressing forward will build the kind of stamina it takes -- emotional and spiritual strength -- to endure all these kinds of challenges you will face with pursuing personal growth.



# KEEP IT UP!

Remember, one of your new goals is to COMMUNICATE LIKE A LEADER! Every time you see the symbol, stop and look up the key word. Write a short definition in the space provided, then write a sentence using word. Finally, make it a point to use it a couple of times in conversation until your comfortable with it.

# LEADERS INITIATE ~

### "IF IT'S TO BE, IT'S UP TO ME!"

A true leader has the courage, readiness and knowhow to take action where action is needed, without waiting for someone to ask or direct him to do it. That's called taking initiative.

Taking initiative will set you apart from everyone else and distinguish you not only as a leader, but also as a person bound for success.

Taking initiative in the classroom involves checking up on your grades and actively pursuing

ways to improve them. Taking initiative on the field as an athlete means looking for new workouts or drills to improve your skills and stamina, without your coach pressing you on. Taking initiative in your life includes goal-setting, studying books that will help you grow personally and spiritually, and constantly re-evaluating your life to make improvements.

Taking initiative on the job keeps you striving for excellence and beyond, finding ways to improve

processes and products, going the extra mile to make your employer look good. It's the people who take initiative that get the raises, promotions and positive attention.

If, instead of thinking, that's not my job/not my problem/not my mess, you find ways to leave the world a better place than you found it, you'll not only win the favor of your boss, coach, and teachers. You'll have God's favor on your life!

# LEADERS TAKE UP THE SWORD

#### "ALWAYS BE BATTLE-READY."

Look ahead at your life, and the opportunities that might lie ahead. Then consider what skills and knowledge you might need in order to be successful. It may take some research to determine these things, but, once you do, it is YOUR responsibility to equip yourself for the future.

You not only want to have access to the right tools; you should be trained and equipped to use

them. That involves training, what you know.

Whatever path your life may take, knowing God's word will equip you for it. How you handle every single challenge, decision, experience, job, victory and defeat will depend on how deeply ingrained God's way of thinking is into your mind. When you're feeling unsure, his word

says "When I am weak, then I knowledge and willingness to use am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:10) When you are wondering which way to go, it tells you, "Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me in a smooth path..." (Psalm 27:11)

> There is more wisdom, strength and encouragement in God's word than you could even finish discovering. But don't just find it, use it!

# LEADERS PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE

#### "ANYTHING WORTH DOING IS WORTH DOING WELL!"

What would people say -- the people you respect and care about -- if everything you ever did was shown to them? Would you be embarrassed or proud of what they see?

Have you given everything your "ALL?" Have you presented yourself as a person who does his best, and takes pride in his work, or someone who just does enough to get by?

Jesus was all about excellence. In his life, and even in his death, he went way beyond what was expected to deliver the very best that he had--all that he had.

When you look back on your life (even your school years), and you certainly will at some point, will you be able to say that you did the best that you could?

Regrets are hard enough to live

with, but the ones that you had control over are much harder.

Do your best, every day, with everyone, in everything you do. Remember that what you do is not for your own glory, but for God's glory.

Would he be proud of what you've accomplished?

INITIATE~ Noun. verb: IAKE INITIATIVE	
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Some examples of how YOU can	
cake INITIATIVE:	_

"A SLACK HAND CAUSES POVERTY, BUT THE HAND OF THE DILIGENT MAKES RICH." (PROVERBS 10:4)

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Probably one of the most critical elements of your character, as you grow into a leader, is self-discipline. Strengthening your self-discipline is not something you can do overnight, nor does it ever really end. Every stage of life will bring a new set of challenges to overcome in order to fulfill your duties and responsibilities, in addition to making time for personal and spiritual, as well as professional growth.

"No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way." (Hebrews 12:11 NLT)

So, self-discipline is not enjoyable, but it's rewarding.

Something you should make a daily habit, in order to strengthen your self-discipline, is to do the thing you dread the MOST first. This method works well for some of the most successful people. Not only does it force you to face and tackle your responsibilities before the day gets away from you, it also makes the rest of your day more enjoyable -- because you are not dreading that one thing all day

long. Because you get it done first, you won't find an excuse to procrastinate and push it to the next day.

Procrastination is the arch enemy of productivity. It tricks you into delaying things to the point that your workload is doubled, or your work is late, adding to your stress, inconveniencing others, and sometimes even damaging your reputation. It's certainly no friend to your work ethic, either. If you begin to build a habit of putting things off, you will find that more things go UNdone than done.

What are some of the tasks you dread the most?	Next, think about whether any of those issues are things you can change. Jot down your thoughts for each one.
Now, look at each of the tasks above and number them. Then, ask yourself WHY you dread these tasks. Be brutally honest with yourself. If you're having trouble figuring out the answer, ask someone who knows you well. Then, list the reasons below, numbered to match the items above.	
	Finally, if it's something that you cannot easily change, resolve to "power through" them the FIRST thing each day. Circle those "dread the most" things on your list. Then, resolve to keep tackling them first thing until you learn how to better power through them, or at least get used to getting them out of the way.
	<ul> <li>Getting these dreaded things</li> <li>done will boost your mood and productivity for the rest of the day,</li> <li>because you've got the worst of it behind you!</li> </ul>



# The BRAMBLE TREE Story

There is a story told in the Old Testament book of Judaes that describes the importance of Men of Honor to take places of leadership at every opportunity they find. Whether in school, community, or country, a man of honor is the best candidate to lead. If we don't take places of leadership in the world, there are plenty of unfit "bramble bush leaders" that would be glad to take over and lead, The unfortunate results have been in the past and will continue, unless we step up, that bad leaders will hurt rather than help. Please read the following story and see if you can identify good and bad leadership.

Once the trees went forth to anoint a king over them, and they said to the olive tree, "Reign over us!"

But the olive tree said to them, "Shall I leave my fatness with which God and men are honored, and go to wave over the trees?"

Then the trees said to the fig tree, "You come, reign over us!"

But the fig tree said to them, "Shall I leave my sweetness and my good fruit, and go to wave over the trees?"

Then the trees said to the vine, "You come, reign over us!"

But the vine said to them, "Shall I leave my new wine, which cheers God and men, and go to wave over the trees?"

Finally all the trees said to the bramble, "You come, reign over us!"

The bramble said to the trees, "If in truth you are anointing me as king over you, come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, may fire come out from the bramble and consume the cedars of Lebanon." (Judges 9:8-15, NASB)

The olive tree had fatness to share that brought honor to God and man.

The fig tree had sweetness and good fruit.

The vine had new wine, which brought cheer to God and men.

All the bramble bush had was shade, which did not have substance, but a shadow, and threats of violence.

As a man of honor, you have many things to share with others as a leader. You have character, wisdom, love, concern for others, and God's blessing.

All bad leaders and dictators throughout time have been bramble bush leaders that threaten, manipulate, and offer no good thing for the people.

When Men of Honor refuse to take places of leadership, public service, and office as an elected official, they allow room for bramble bush leaders to take over and bring destruction. DON'T TAKE
PLACES OF
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STEP UP, LEADER!

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God created you for dominion. When he made Adam and placed him in the garden, God assigned not only his ROLE, but his RANK in the scheme of creation. He gave Adam dominion over all living things, that is, he put him in charge of and gave him authority over all other creatures. In this way, God completely fulfilled making mankind in his image.

"3 When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place—4 what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? 5 Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. 6 You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority— 7 the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals, 8 the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents." (Psalm 8:3-8)

With authority comes responsibility. As God uses his authority in a righteous way, we, as Christ's followers, must do the same.

"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne. Unfailing love and truth walk before you as attendants." (Psalm 89:14)

"This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Judge fairly, and show mercy and kindness to one another. Do not oppress widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor. And do not scheme against each other." (Zechariah 7:9-10)

Abraham was chosen to be the father of many nations-the father of all God's chosen people. He pursued righteousness in everything that he did, and found favor with God.

Genesis chapter 12 details how, when God called him to follow his purpose, he packed up and left his homeland. God promised to make him into a "great nation," but didn't tell him where he was going. But Abraham hit the road, fully trusting God to lead him as he prepared to lead others. Eventually, he was given dominion over a great land and many descendants.

David, an unlikely choice as the

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youngest of all his brothers, was later chosen to be king of that great nation of descendants. God grew him into a mighty warrior and one of the most remarkable kings in ancient history. His son Solomon would be even greater, amassing huge amounts of wealth, but most famous for his incredible knowledge and wisdom.

Neither of these men was perfect. In fact, David failed to keep dominion over a few things in his life that were extremely destructive. Sometimes he made mistakes because of his pride. Even a lowly thing like lust derailed him at least once, costing him much grief and shame. But he humbled himself before God and grew from the experience. Because of that kind of humility and love for God--his strong desire to please God--David was called "a man after God's own heart."

As you pursue your purpose, and even rise in favor and rank, keep dominion over your pride. As a true follower of Christ, you are directed to "crucify our flesh daily, take up your cross, and follow me." By denying yourself, you become more Christlike

leaders, worthy of the authority he gives you over all things.

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each ESTEEM other better than themselves." (Philippians 2:3)

By giving Jesus full dominion over your heart and life, you become more capable of using your dominion over everything else in a way that pleases God.

# GUIDE, GUARD, GOVERN

Keep your guard up. Govern your thoughts and habits, and God will guide you to guide others in a way that will bring blessings on your life.

There are several **REALMS** of your life where failure to keep your guard up can be dangerous to your ability to use and maintain the dominion God has given you.

At all times, you must be guided by the Holy Spirit, so you can GUIDE others in the way that is right and pleasing to God. You must also GUARD against temptation and distractions. Finally, you must GOVERN--that is, take charge of--every aspect of your life to maintain control over it, taking ownership of your actions and consequences, and putting winning strategies in place to keep you from going off track.

#### SPIRITUAL REALM

As a spiritual leader, it's important that you not only hold fast to your core values, but also drive yourself to grow spiritually. It is up to you to become the man God intended you to be. The more time you spend one-on-one with God, the closer you'll get to him. The closer you get to him, the more you'll grow and begin to realize your place and your purpose. As you grow, you must keep your guard up. Do everything you can to live a life that pleases God -- a righteous life. You must exercise self-discipline to steer yourself clear from temptation, whatever that may be. Finally, you must recognize that whenever something goes wrong--whenever you miss the target --vou have to be man

enough to own it, to repent, to do what you can to make it right, and do better next time.

"So a church leader must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise selfcontrol, live wisely, and have a good reputation..." (I Timothy 3:2)

#### POLITICAL REALM

Don't waste your voice and your influence on political attacks and arguments. Instead, use it to echo God's words. Your actions should exemplify his ways, and your interactions should show his love at all times.

Men of God are called to be leaders in their communities, but always guard the things you say and do to ensure that you are bringing glory to God, not yourself.

"In every place of worship, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from anger and controversy." (I Timothy 2:8)

(Continued on next page)

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# DOMINION... CONTINUED

#### FINANCIAL REALM

All that we have belongs to God, and we owe him, at least, a tenth of everything we earn. Jesus said that we must "give to God what belongs to God," so be careful to guard the gifts and resources he has entrusted to you. Don't become trapped by debt or fall in love with money and wealth. Wealth should not be your pursuit; it's only a fruit of your life--a result of successfully fulfilling your purpose. Money, like our other gifts and abilities, are intended to be used to glorify God and fulfill your purpose.

#### SOCIAL REALM

"WE DIDN'T COME TO WIMP OUT WE DIDN'T COME TO LIMP OUT WE CAME TO TAKE OVER!"

- A Man of Honor saying

You were made to take dominion. When you come into a room, it's not just you entering the room; you bring with you the Kingdom of God. You are an ambassador of Heaven and you carry Jesus in your heart. So walk with your head up, confident and strong.

The Bible says that you are the head and not the tail, above and not beneath. (Deuteronomy Chapter 28)

Be strong, yet humble, determined, optimistic, and smile. Doing this, you will automatically become

WINSOME and attractive to others in your personality. Be friendly, but don't feel like you have to please others and make them like you. Just be yourself and be awesome!

money to market their products to young people and spend huge amounts because they know that if they are successful in deceiving the youth, they can increase their profits regardless of the effect on the healt of youth. You are secure in your identity and don't need to endange

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night." (Psalm 1:1-2)

#### PHYSICAL REALM

The moment you start taking drugs, you stop maturing and your health and your morals start declining. Addiction will take you in the opposite direction of God, your dreams, and everything that's good. Drugs are a lie. They promise pleasure, but in the end only deliver pain, poverty, addiction and death.

DRINKING: When you drink excessively you give away control of your mind. You allow the very worst parts of you to come out. Drunkenness opens the door to violence, sex, and wrong decisions. Many drink to forget their problems, only to find the problems are still there when they sober up and they've added new problems by drinking and losing control. Scripture gives us the wise path:

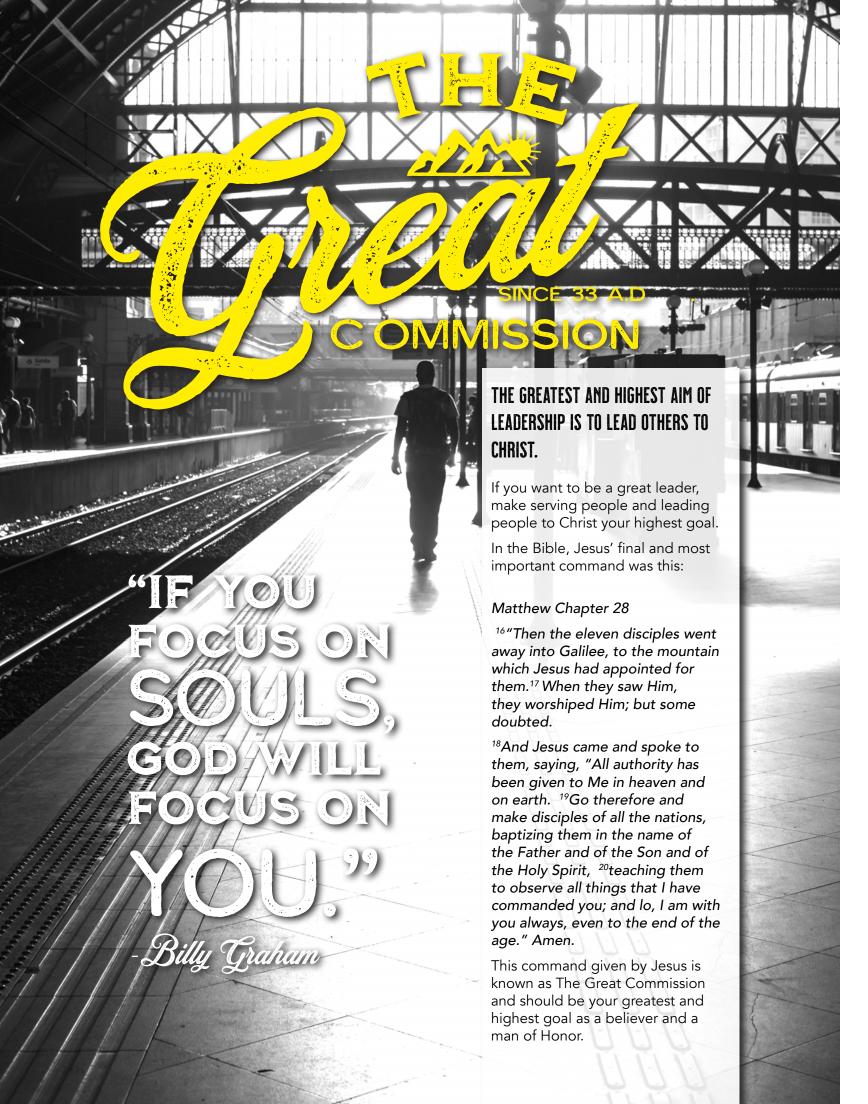
"Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Ephesians 5:18 NLT)

**SMOKING & VAPING:** Smoking is generally started by those with low self esteem who want to look cool, but actually are deceived into looking foolish and endangering their health. The tobacco and vaping companies pay large amounts of money to market their products to young people and spend huge amounts because they know that if youth, they can increase their profits, regardless of the effect on the health of youth. You are secure in your identity and don't need to endanger your health to make people like you. God calls us to a higher standard by protecting our health and bodies:

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)

(Continued on page 78)





# \*LEADERSHIP TASK #4: LEAD OTHERS TO CHRIST

Think about, pray about, and plan for opportunities to lead others to Christ.

Is there a place you regularly go, where you could talk to new people and share with them about God's love?

What about people you already know? How could you connect them to seeing their need for Jesus in their lives?

Here are some tools to help you be more effective in talking to people about Jesus.

# THE ROMANS ROAD TO SALVATION

One of your requirements for commissioning is to memorize the Romans Road to Salvation, found on page 8 in this magazine. The Romans Road to salvation is a series of scriptures from the book of Romans in the Bible that help us to lead someone to a right relationship with God. When you succeed in memorizing them, they give you an extremely effective tool to use to fulfill the great commission.

It's important that you not only memorize them, but understand them well enough to explain them and answer questions about them, too.

As you read through these passages and the comments below them, add your own comments--what does each verse mean in YOUR life?

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God."

If we have broken any of God's commandments, then we are guilty of breaking God's law. When we stand before God, we will be judged guilty and sentenced to eternity separated from God in hell.

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the [a]gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

By sinning, we earn eternal punishment, but God made a way for us to avoid the judgment and separation from God.

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

God made the first step toward us and proving he really loves us by sending his own son to pay the price for our sins by dying on a cross and raising again from the dead three days later.



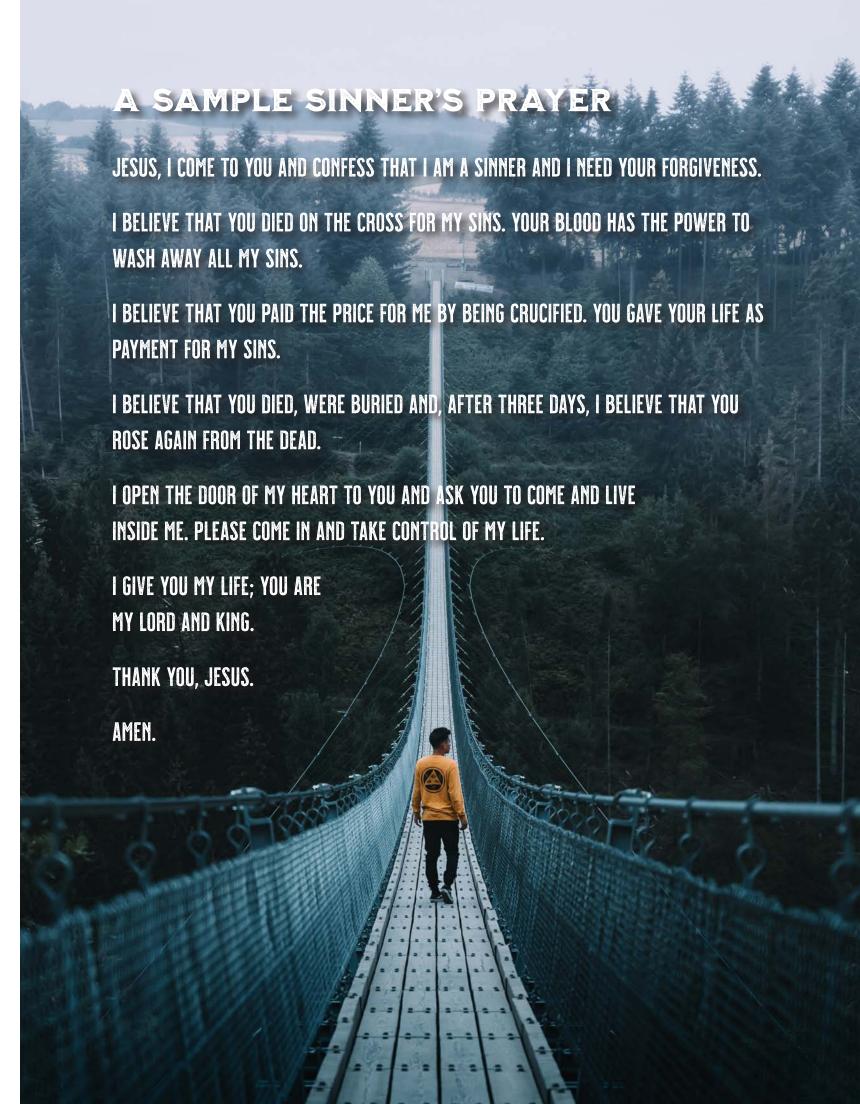
# **LEADERSHIP TASK #4:** LEAD OTHERS TO CHRIST

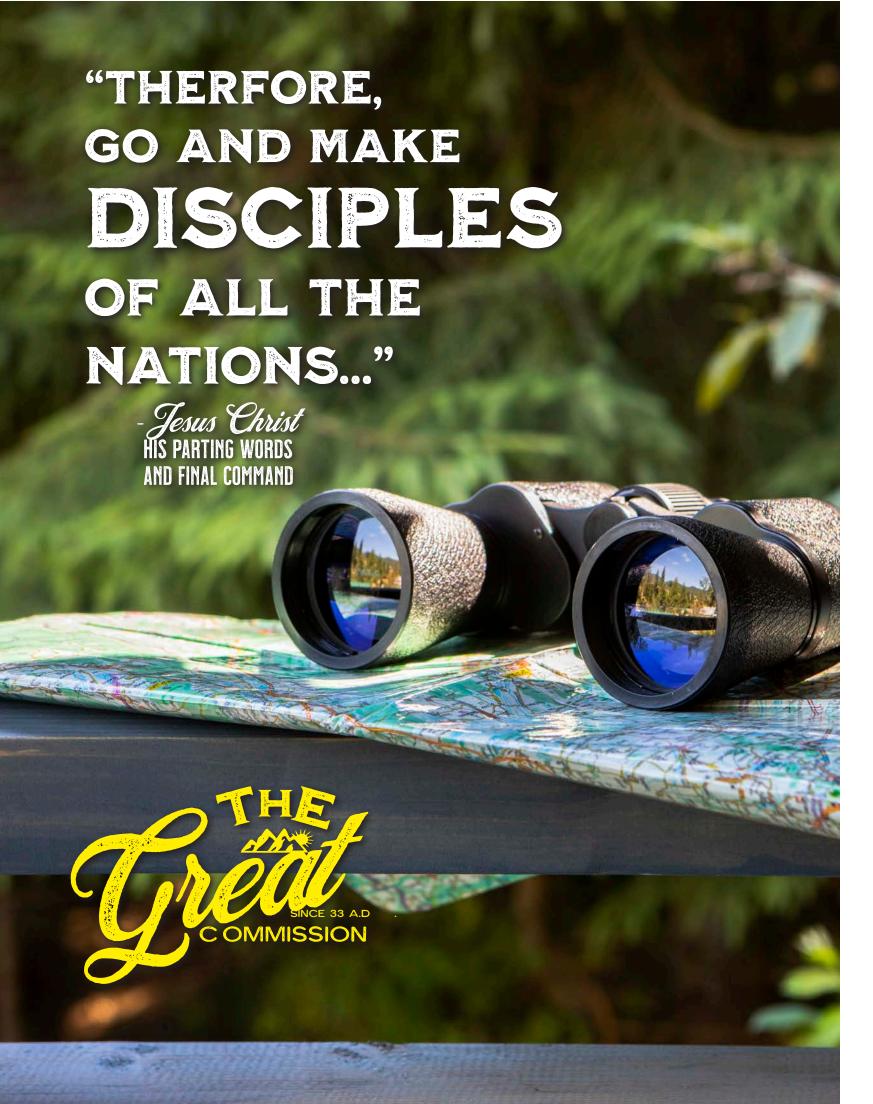
Romans 10: 9 & 10 "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has

n your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10: For with	Pray this prayer to receive Christ or pray with others to lead them to Christ.	
the heart one believes unto ighteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.	"Jesus, I come to you and confess that I am a sinner and I need your forgiveness.	
By believing in what Jesus did for us and receiving it by confessing that he is now our Lord and standing up for him	I believe that you died on the cross for my sins. Your blood has the power to wash away all my sins.	
unashamedly, we will be saved!	I believe that you paid the price for me by being crucified. You gave your life as payment for my sins.	
	I believe that you died, were buried and, after three days, I believe that you rose again from the dead.	
	I open the door of my heart to you and ask you to come and live inside me. Please come in and take control of my life.	
Romans 10:13 For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."	I give you my life; you are my Lord and King.	
God is no respecter of persons and calls all men and women,	Thank you, Jesus. Amen."	
ooys and girls to be saved. He will never reject anyone that comes to him.	ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS:	

PRAYER FOR

SALVATION/NEW LIFE





A person's last words are often the most important. When someone is dying, we gather around to hear what the last thing is they have to say. Jesus' final command to us that follow him is to:	
"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19	
As believers, we must make every effort to fulfill our Lord and commander's final command. When we fulfill this directive, which is also to referred to as the "Great Commission," we help people avoid death and hell. We populate heaven and	
"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise."	
WRITE YOUR PLEDGE TO THE LORD,	
TO FULFILL THIS FINAL COMMAND. Describe what you think it means to "MAKE DISCIPLES" of others, based on Jesus' model as a leader.	