

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

1. TWO OPTIONS:

Option 1: Use this in a Group Setting

In this Facilitator Guide, you will find instructions, time frames, and extra notes just for you. The student guide is in a separate file; be sure to make copies for each student in your group.

Option 2: Use this in a Mentoring Relationship, or for an individual student

Just make a copy of the Student Guide and give it (or send it) to the student (all the instructions they need are already there). If you are mentoring a student, make an extra copy of the Student Guide for yourself and walk alongside the student as he/she goes through this study.

WAIT! WHAT IF WE DON'T HAVE A STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM?

Starting a student leadership team is hard, and honestly, it's okay if you don't have one. LeaderTreks wants to help you get started and walk the road with you. If you don't have student leaders, try using this resource with a group of 2 or 3 students to start with (refer to Option 2).

2. **YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY:** Each leadership lesson contains a different leadership growth module. They're designed to help you guide your students as they explore their own leadership skills and prepare them to make real-life applications. Spend a few minutes walking through the prompts and helping your students discover the next steps in their leadership journey.
3. **APPLY IT:** Challenge students to get specific. Growth happens when we make a plan, then ask others to keep us accountable. Make a plan to follow-up with your students individually.

DEEP DISCIPLESHIP: ENCOUNTERS

How God's Story Connects With Our Everyday Lives

Introducing our newest addition to the Deep Discipleship family, *Encounters*! A year-long curriculum (52 lessons) that challenges students to move past simply knowing the Word to living God's truth.

Check it out:

leadertreks.org/deep-discipleship



OBJECTIVE

One of the most misunderstood aspects of being a Christian is prayer. Prayer is meant to be a daily conversation between God about life, love, faith, and us. We get caught up in lofty words and often turn the whole thing into a wish list. Then when our prayers are “not answered,” we assume God either isn’t there or doesn’t care. But that’s the farthest thing from the truth. As a new school year starts and the future still seems uncertain, your students don’t need a wish list; they need a daily relationship with the father, which comes through prayer.

OPENING QUESTION

2–3 minutes

- What is one thing you want to accomplish this school year?

FACILITATOR NOTE: If your group of students is small enough, you can have each person share their answer. Otherwise, for a larger group, have them pair and share to answer these questions.

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT

10–15 minutes

Read the following together:

If you have ever taken the time to read through the Gospels (*TIP: you should definitely take the time!*), you will notice Jesus prays a lot. He does it enough that his disciples ask him, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1). **Stop now and read Luke 11:1–13** to see what Jesus told his disciples about prayer.

First, did you notice how Jesus didn’t use fancy words or get all wordy? Instead, He recognized that God provides all things, and that we need God’s support to overcome our sins and stay path focused on him. Prayer is a simple conversation with a God who loves you. He wants to talk to you about life, love, and faith. Like Jesus, God wants you to talk to him often.

Second, Jesus says, “ask, and it will be given to you....” These verses are often twisted into the wish list version of prayer. But that’s not the intent. The understanding is that because you’re in a relationship, God the Father knows what you need. He will always give you what’s best, even when we don’t actually know what’s best for us.

As Christians, we often make prayer too complicated or turn it into a wish list of things we want from God. Then we get frustrated with God when he doesn’t seem to show up on our terms. As Student Leaders, you have an opportunity to model a better way. This year, as you lead in your homes and schools, chase hard after God in prayer. Talk to him about the everyday things of life, love, and faith. And ask him to provide what you need instead of demanding what you want. As you do this, people will notice something is different about you—that’s because you and God will be more connected and unified.

DISCUSS

- What does your prayer life look like right now?
- Why is it so easy to treat God like Santa?
- What are some of your roadblocks to prayer?
- Who in your life are you regularly praying for?

YOUR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

10–15 minutes

Leadership is a journey, and great leaders are constantly pushing themselves to grow. Work through the following activity to help you grow as a leader in general, and focusing specifically on the leadership principle you've just studied.

FACILITATOR NOTE: Guide your students through the leadership growth module below. Talk through the prompts, then give students a few minutes on their own or in pairs to work through the activity. If you have time, before moving on to the Apply It section, ask students to share some of their answers with the group.

STEP-BY-STEP GOALS

Where do you want your prayer life to be one year from now?

STEP 1: Write down your goal in the WHERE I WANT TO BE box.

STEP 2: Write down how you're currently doing in the WHERE I AM NOW box.

STEP 3: Write down steps you need to take/things you may need to give up to reach your goal in the TODAY, THIS WEEK, and THIS MONTH boxes.

WHERE I AM NOW	HERE'S WHAT I NEED TO DO...			WHERE I WANT TO BE
	TODAY	THIS WEEK	THIS MONTH	

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