

Keys to Leadership Activity

Start by reading the [scripture passage](#):

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

[Matthew 16:13-20](#)

Scenario Setting

- Divide participants into groups, ensuring a mix of personalities and backgrounds in each group. If your group is small, just run the activity as a single group.
- Assign each group a scenario related to leadership challenges that resonate with young minds.
- Create an engaging atmosphere by setting up comfortable seating arrangements and providing materials like whiteboards or flip charts for note-taking.

Scenario Examples

These are just examples. Feel free to use relevant examples related to what is happening in your community.

- **Team Building Dilemma:** The youth group is planning a team-building event. Some members want a physical challenge, while others prefer a creative workshop. The decision could affect team cohesion and engagement.
- **Social Justice Initiative:** The group is passionate about addressing a social issue. They must decide between organizing a peaceful protest or a community awareness campaign. This scenario delves into ethical decision-making and community impact.
- **Music Selection:** The youth group is responsible for selecting the music for Mass. They must choose between a traditional format and a contemporary approach. This scenario explores the balance between preserving tradition and embracing innovation.

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- **Charity Allocation Challenge:** The group has raised funds for charity and must decide which organization to support. Each charity serves a different cause, prompting participants to weigh the impact of their choice on different communities.
- **Youth Leadership Retreat:** The group is tasked with planning a leadership retreat for their peers. They must decide between a local retreat focusing on skill-building and a larger regional retreat centered on networking and inspiration.
- **Virtual Event Innovation:** The group wants to organize a virtual event. They need to choose between a traditional webinar-style event and an interactive virtual game night. This scenario navigates the challenges of engaging an online audience.
- **Eco-Friendly Initiative:** The group is enthusiastic about launching an eco-friendly initiative. They need to choose between implementing recycling programs or promoting sustainable practices. This scenario touches on responsible decision-making for the environment.
- **Community Service Focus:** The group aims to engage in community service. They must decide whether to focus on local needs, such as food drives, or broader issues, like international disaster relief. This scenario explores balancing local impact with global concerns.
- **Youth Group Leadership Structure:** The youth group is restructuring its leadership roles. They need to decide between a hierarchical structure and a more collaborative approach. This scenario delves into leadership styles and group dynamics.
- **Spiritual Retreat Theme:** The group is planning a spiritual retreat. They must choose between a theme of self-discovery and reflection or a theme of community and togetherness. This scenario delves into the deeper purpose of spiritual gatherings.

Group Discussions

- Instruct each group to thoroughly discuss the scenario assigned to them, considering the different options instead of just agreeing at once.
- Encourage participants to share their perspectives, thoughts, and ideas openly within their groups.
- Emphasize active listening and constructive communication, fostering an inclusive and respectful environment for discussions.

Key Takeaways

- After group discussions, reconvene as a larger group.
- Invite each group to share the main takeaways from their scenario discussions.
- Facilitate a guided conversation about the common themes and insights emerging from the various scenarios.
- Highlight the importance of collaboration, critical thinking, and empathy in making effective leadership decisions.

Tying it Back to Peter

As the activity unfolds and participants engage in lively discussions around the scenarios, it's essential to guide them in connecting their insights to the leadership journey of Peter as depicted in Matthew 16:13-20. This step solidifies the bridge between ancient wisdom and contemporary leadership challenges.

- **Foundation of Faith:** Encourage participants to recognize how Peter's declaration of Jesus as the Messiah laid the foundation for his leadership role within the early Church. Draw parallels to their own scenarios, where decisions made could impact the foundations of their communities. Just as Peter's faith anchored his leadership, their faith can guide their choices.
- **Keys of Authority:** Discuss how Jesus entrusting Peter with the "keys of the kingdom" symbolizes a transfer of authority and responsibility. Relate this to the scenarios where participants had to make decisions that would shape the course of events. Prompt them to consider the weight of their choices, echoing Peter's sense of responsibility.
- **Decision-making and Unity:** Emphasize how Peter's leadership involved making decisions that contributed to the unity of the Church. Relate this to scenarios where participants navigated differing opinions within their groups. Discuss the importance of consensus-building and the common good, mirroring Peter's efforts.
- **Humility and Growth:** Highlight Peter's journey of growth, from his initial declaration to his later moments of doubt and denial. Relate this to scenarios where participants might have had to reevaluate their choices based on new perspectives. Emphasize that effective leaders, like Peter, embrace humility and continuous learning.
- **Legacy and Impact:** Connect the lasting impact of Peter's leadership to the potential long-term effects of the decisions participants made in their scenarios. Discuss the idea that their leadership choices could resonate beyond the present, much like Peter's influence on the Church's history.

Closing Thoughts

- Conclude the activity by emphasizing the practical applicability of the scenarios and their relevance to participants' lives.
- Encourage participants to continue exploring the connection between scripture and leadership as they navigate their roles in various communities.
- Express appreciation for their engagement and willingness to dive into the depths of leadership lessons encapsulated in both ancient wisdom and contemporary challenges.