

Term 3 Leadership

Leadership is something we often think of in big ways, school captains, sporting legends, prime ministers, world leaders. But leadership is actually much closer to us than we realise. It's not just about standing in front of a crowd or wearing a badge. It's about the small, everyday choices we make. Each of us leads in different ways, in the classroom, on the bus, in the playground, or even within our group of friends.

When we talk about Jesus and leadership, the idea of servant leadership comes up again and again. That phrase might sound strange at first. When we think of a leader, we often picture someone giving instructions, being in control, or standing above others. But Jesus turned this upside down. He showed that true leadership isn't about being served, it's about serving others.

Think for a moment about the people who have served you most in your life. For many of us, it's our parents, carers, or guardians. They lead through sacrifice, through giving their time and energy to support us. We respect them, not because they demand authority, but because of the way they put others first. And that's what servant leadership is all about.

The Bible gives us a really clear picture of this at the Last Supper. When no one wanted to do the job of washing feet, a task usually done by servants, Jesus quietly stood up, took a towel, and did it himself. His disciples were shocked. But Jesus was teaching them that leadership is not about power, but about humility and service. And that's a message we can bring into our own lives.

So how does this fit into our school life and the Emmaus Project? Each year group has been given a Gospel passage that connects to leadership in different ways:

- Year 7 is reminded to love one another and bear fruit. Leadership starts with love, showing patience, kindness, and support so that good fruit grows in our community.
- Year 8 is told not to worry about appearance, clothing, or status. Leaders look deeper. They notice the people who are often overlooked and choose to include them.
- Year 9 is challenged to go further than loving just their friends. Real leadership means showing respect and kindness even to those who may not treat us well in return. That's not easy, but it's powerful.
- Year 10 is encouraged to put others before themselves. Leaders step back from selfishness and make room for others to grow. That simple act can change how a whole group works together.
- Year 11 hears the story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Jesus used what seemed like a small offering and turned it into something great. Leadership is often like that, using what you have, no matter how small, to make a difference.
- Year 12 is called to let your light shine before others. Servant leadership means using your gifts in a way that inspires and lifts people up, not for recognition, but to bring out the best in others.

And finally, for our staff, the focus on the Lost Sheep reminds all leaders to look out for those who feel left behind or forgotten. True leadership pays attention to the most vulnerable and makes sure nobody is overlooked.

So what does this mean for us, here and now? Leadership is not just about titles, speeches, or positions of power. It's about the way we live. It's about choosing to step up when help is needed. It's about being willing to serve, to put others before ourselves, and to see the value in every single person.

Jesus showed us that greatness isn't measured by how many people serve you, but by how faithfully you serve others. That's the kind of leadership we are all called to.

So I'll leave you with this: How will you show leadership, not only today, but this week, this term, and beyond? What will your example inspire in others?

Makaylah Beatty and Chayton Chang