

# **Avalanche**

## **Unstoppable Leadership**

Volume One  
Adult Facilitator's Guide

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A Leader is...

## Magnetic

“Leadership is not magnetic personality that can just as well be a glib tongue... Leadership is lifting a person’s vision to higher sights...” -Peter Drucker

### Leader Intro:

Leaders are not stereotypical. In any group of students, you will have a wide variety of leader types. In this lesson, you will:

- Teach students to focus on what’s inside of them, rather than their outward personality or presence
- Equip students to draw people as Jesus did-through Christlike character traits and sacrifice.
- Challenge students’ errant perceptions of the ideal leader

Unstoppable leaders draw followers to them in spite of personality flaws or personal shyness because of their God-confidence, inner joy and sense of direction. Sometimes we adopt the world’s ideal of a leader-popular, attractive, extroverted. However, God’s Word is full of unlikely, reluctant leaders who surrendered to God’s call on their lives and accomplished great things. The living Spirit of Jesus inside of your students will draw others to them as they shine their light for His glory.

### Activity: The Most Amazing Person

Purpose--This open discussion will help your students process what it means to be an empowered and magnetic leader.

#### Discussion Guides:

- Ask students, “Who is the most amazing person you’ve ever met and why?” Probe for attributes and actions that make a person appealing.
- Summarize the characteristics that the group finds magnetic in leaders.
- How many of these characteristics are personality-driven? How many are/can be a result of the indwelling Spirit of God?
- Discuss at least three ways to apply these attributes as student leaders.

#### Option:

Have a stranger come to the meeting and act in an awkward repelling way. Have the students discuss what makes someone magnetic.

## Video Clip:

*A Walk to Remember*, based on the book by Nicholas Sparks, illustrates how the greatest impact can come from the most surprising of sources. Jamie Sullivan (Mandy Moore) is the daughter of a widowed minister in a small, North Carolina, town. Although the "party crowd" at the local high school scoffs her conservative appearance and values, Jamie uses her quiet, inner strength to impact the entire community (especially one young man named Landon) in unforgettable ways.

Elapsed time: This scene begins at 01:07:00 and lasts about 2 minutes.

Content: Rated PG for language and some sensual elements

*A Walk to Remember* (Warner Brothers, 2002)

Opening Scene - Landon encounters his mom (Daryl Hannah) on the back deck early one morning after being out with Jamie all night looking at stars. After warning him about their relationship, his mother pulls a folded sheet of paper from a folder on the patio table. "I was doing laundry the other day, and I found this," she says, unfolding the notebook paper...a list of life goals Landon had written.

Closing Scene - After reading them aloud, his mother starts to say how unrealistic the goals are for someone like him, but she catches herself and simply adds, "You're going to have to work really hard." "I can do that!" Landon insists. He then looks to the ground and begins to smile. "Mom," he says, "Jamie has faith in me. You know? She makes me want to be different-better!"

### *Discussion Questions:*

- What effect did Jamie have on Landon?
- How does a leader make others want to be different, better?
- Why was Jamie an unusual leader?

## Additional Resources:

*The Next Generation Leader* by Andy Stanley

*A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders* by Reggie McNeal

Lesson Five

A Leader is...  
**Magnetic!**

Leaders become powerful forces when they leverage their God-confidence for His purposes. A leader does not have to be an extrovert or have a flamboyant personality; in fact, many leaders are naturally shy deep down. However, they surrender to the undeniable call on their lives and do what needs to be done. People are attracted to the "x-factor" that makes them leaders. Others want what they see leaders have!

Eleanor's deep-seated insecurity plagued her throughout her life. She was an orphan at the age of ten, losing her mother to diphtheria and her father to alcohol. She spent her adolescence in boarding school across the Atlantic. She was a non-descript wallflower. Her teeth needed straightening and her voice often soared uncontrollably to piercing notes whenever she was nervous.

As an adult, she was insecure in social gatherings. She hated the superficial small talk that dominated the high society circles she was obligated to frequent because of her husband's role. Shyness swept over her whenever she faced a crowd and she became extremely self-conscious. However, despite her nervous giggles, she had an undeniable gift for politics and communication.

In time, Eleanor grew to become one of the most influential female leaders of her time and transformed the role of the First Lady from hostess to political diplomat. Audiences became riveted by Eleanor Roosevelt's eloquent speeches, soon devoid of any nervousness. People were in awe of her ideas from women's rights to improved working conditions, civil rights and her most important contribution, the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Who would have guessed that over her lifetime of service to America and the world, the shy woman who thought she would "never utter a word in public" became an influential writer, public speaker, diplomat and seasoned politician?

"You must do the thing you think you cannot do."  
-Eleanor Roosevelt-

5. What personality trait, past event, family upbringing, etc. must you overcome in order to develop more God-confidence?

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**From the Source**

Jesus drew all kinds of people. Religious leaders were curious about Him. Sinners were magnetically drawn to His love. The disenfranchised people on the outskirts of society found a home alongside Him. However, He said about Himself: "But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself..." (John 12:32) He was describing His death on the cross—the most unusual and unexpected draw of all. Multitudes have been drawn to Him because of His sacrifice. Sometimes the most magnetic element of a leader is not the strength of his or her personality, but the strength of his or her character. Draw people to follow you because of who you are on the inside. Read John 12:23-33 to discover more about how the kind of person who draws people. Answer the following questions.

1. Why were people drawn to Jesus when He lived on earth?

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2. Why would His death draw more people than ever before?

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3. What kind of impact does Jesus say can come from sacrifice? (w.24-25)

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**Definition**

Unstoppable leaders draw followers to them in spite of personality flaws or personal shyness because of their God-confidence, inner joy and sense of peace.

**Discovery Questions**

1. What is your mental picture of the ideal leader? Consider his or her appearance, upbringing, personality, etc.

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2. How is that mental picture of the "perfect leader" limiting you from being the leader God wants you to be?

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3. What impresses you most about Eleanor Roosevelt's rise to leadership?

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4. Why do you think people follow you and/or are drawn to you?

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4. What happens when we "love" or "hate" our lives on this earth?

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5. How does Jesus' death on the cross draw you to Him?

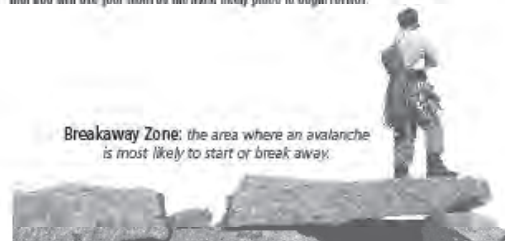
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**From the Heart**

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Is your team in the breakaway zone?  
Prayer is the most likely trigger for an avalanche of unstoppable leadership. Pray that God will use your team as the most likely place to begin revival.



**Breakaway Zone:** the area where an avalanche is most likely to start or break away.

### Action Steps

1. This week, spend some time in prayer, journaling and reflecting on how your life's events are shaping who you are becoming on the inside.

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2. Where can you shine your inner light this week to influence others for Christ?

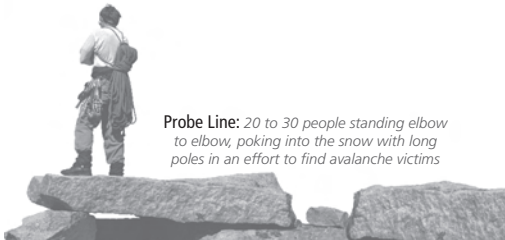
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**Probe Line:** 20 to 30 people standing elbow to elbow, poking into the snow with long poles in an effort to find avalanche victims

### Value Statement

Write out your personal value statement about being a magnetic leader.

*Example: I understand that I must draw followers from the inside out. I want to focus less on my outward appearance and personality, and more on my inner character through the choices and sacrifices I make.*

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## APPENDIX

### *Additional Resources*

While only sections of these books apply to the principles discussed in this guide, they represent useful resources to become familiar with as you lead your students through this series. Note that not all of these authors approach the topic of leadership from a Christian perspective.

*21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* by John Maxwell, Nelson Books, 1998.

*Awaken the Leader Within* by William Perkins, Zondervan Publishing Company, 2002.

*Becoming a Person of Influence* by John Maxwell, Nelson Books, 1997.

*Courageous Leadership* by Bill Hybels, Zondervan Publishing Company, 2002.

*Developing the Leaders Around You* by John Maxwell, Nelson Books, Revised edition, 2003.

*Next Generation Leader* by Andy Stanley, Multnomah, 2003.

*The Four Obsessions of an Extraordinary Executive* by Patrick Lencioni, Jossey-Bass, 2000.

*On Becoming a Leader* by Warren Bennis, Perseus Publishing, Revised edition, 2003.

## **Now What?**

Thanks for joining us on this journey of self-discovery and learning about leadership. We hope you have learned more about yourself as you have explored these topics of leadership.

The pursuit of leadership is a lifelong endeavor. Each day new opportunities will arise for you to exercise these new skills. As you grow, you will learn more and more about what it means to be a leader. Remember, the best leaders are learners.

Our hope for you is that the Becoming a Leader series will excite you about the prospect of growing in your leadership knowledge and abilities. By applying the principles you have learned in this book, you can impact your world for God's Kingdom. Be prepared for difficult challenges and tough times, but know that the sacrifice is worth it. God has big plans for you. You need to be ready to lead.