



Written by  
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## “Follow the Leader”

**Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 2: 11, 12

*“For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting, and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into His kingdom and glory.”*

**Dramatic Category:** Skit

**NOTE:** This is the third of three skits on the topic of leadership. The entire “series” of leadership skits includes:

1. “Follow the Leader” (Skit #S9)
2. “The Dream Team” (Skit #S10)
3. “The Three-strand Cord” (Skit #S11)

**Topic:** The difference between “power” and “authority” in leadership

**Performance Time:** 3 minutes

**Number of Players:** 2 men

**Objective:**

To present the superiority of “authority” over “power” as a leadership style.

**Synopsis:**

Joe is a contractor, hired by the church to build a playground. He isn’t enjoying much cooperation from the task force who volunteered to help him because he is using “power” techniques to complete the project. He learns that there is another way to lead people, by “earning the right to be heard,” and thus gaining “authority” over them.

**Cast:**

Joe: *A confident contractor who leads by pushing his weight around.*

Paul: *His friend who shares with him that there is another way to get things done.*

**Props:**

A rolled up set of plans

A table to roll the plans out on

## The Script:

### NOTE:

The papers that Joe carries include the script for this skit, to assist him, if needed.

*(Joe enters, obviously upset, throws his papers on the desk. He sits down and wearily holds his head in his hands. His friend, Paul follows close behind.)*

**Joe:** That meeting could not have been a bigger disaster.

**Paul:** Amen to that!

**Joe:** I can't do this.

**Paul:** You have too. You're the Boss.

**Joe:** I've got the vision, and I know God wants this playground built. Our kids are all over the street, and one of these days we're going to lose one. But, we're never going to get this thing built.

I may be the leader, but I don't feel like I have any influence. Did you hear what they were saying when I walked in?

**Paul:** *(He puts his hand on Joe's shoulder)*  
So, all you have is power, huh? No authority?

**Joe:** What?

**Paul:** You've got the power to force these people to do what you want, But that doesn't get you very far.

**Joe:** I'm lost.

**Paul:** Power is what you have when you are with the people you lead. Authority is what gets the job done when you're gone.

**Joe:** Still lost.

**Paul:** Look at it this way: "Power is taken, and authority is given."

**Joe:** *(Trying to make sense of this)* Okay.

**Paul:** You've been given authority by the senior pastor to lead this committee to get this playground built, but the team hasn't given you any authority yet; all you have over them is power. See, your power runs out the minute you walk off the site; only your authority has "staying power."

**Joe:** How do I take authority?

**Paul:** You don't.

**Joe:** Great!

**Paul:** Authority is "given"; it can't be taken.

**Joe:** All right then, how do I get them to give me authority over them?

**Paul:** Same way Jesus did it.

**Joe:** *(showing genuine interest)* I'm listening.

**Paul:** Authority is earned through sacrifice.  
Maybe you should quit flashing your badge and climb up on the cross for a while.

**Joe:** I'm supposed to bleed for these people?

**Paul:** Indirectly, yes.  
Look, the Old Testament is filled with displays of God's power;  
and a whole lot of it turned in to a tug-of-war between God and the Jews,  
but in the New Testament, we see a different side of a very powerful God:  
The God who comes down to man's level and not only gives value to sinners,  
but impacts all people with God's vision for the world.  
  
Then, to top it all off, He stands in the gap between life and death on Calvary.  
When we see such love on our behalf, God doesn't need to show His power  
because we gladly give Him authority over our whole lives.

**Joe:** So, I need to earn some authority with my team.

**Paul:** Yeah, some people call it "The right to be heard."

**Joe:** I get that. I've got a vision, and I know it's from God.

**Paul:** You've got a team, too, a powerful team.

**Joe:** Maybe, I'll let them be powerful, and I'll start working on the authority.  
  
*(They exit together.)*

**The End**