

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – January 15, 2023**

**Theme: Servant Leadership Topic: Young and Old Can be Effective Leaders**

**Main Texts: Jeremiah 1:4-8 & 1 Timothy 4:1-16**

**Key verse: 1 Timothy 4: 12** – *‘Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.’* (NKJV)

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**INTRODUCTION:** So far in our quarter series on servant leadership, we have come to learn consistently that this model of leadership that Jesus taught and exemplified is counter-cultural, and different from the worldly type of leadership. Last Sunday’s topic was **servant leadership starts with me**. This means that servant leadership is not restricted to only a certain group or type of Christians. For most of us, that thought holds true until it is our responsibility to lead. Jeremiah must have thought so until God called him to lead., and he goes, *‘I’m too young and inexperienced to speak for You’* (Jeremiah 1:6 Voice). Each of us is called to lead. But like Prophet Jeremiah, we may hesitate out of fear or out of consideration for our youth and scope of experience. These fears and concerns are not peculiar to the young only. The old also hesitate when called to lead and serve. Nevertheless, this Sunday’s topic challenges us to see that both **‘young and old can be effective leaders.’** But for me to be able to effectively serve, I must allow God to allay my fears and concerns, as He did for Jeremiah and Timothy in our texts today.

1. **Read Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Timothy 4:14. (a) What is the basis on which Jeremiah or Timothy was required to serve? (b) How did Jeremiah find he had what it took to be effective in the call to serve? (c) From the forging, what is the role of God’s word in leading effectively in God’s kingdom service?**

Jeremiah’s ministry was during a difficult and trying period in Israel’s history. But through God’s word, he discovered what God’s mandate was for his life. But like so many of us who feel inadequate for God’s use for one reason or the other, Jeremiah felt inadequate. He felt that he was too young, and inexperienced for such a task, and in such a society, to such stiff-necked people (Jeremiah 7:26). As a young man, Timothy also found himself called to lead a Church. Moses, Joshua came into leadership at a more mature age, yet they felt inadequate. The Bible has other instances of both young and old, who for one reason or the other, felt inadequate or over-adequate to serve in the role God was calling them into.

2. **Read Exodus 3:9-14; 4:1, 10-12; Jeremiah 1:6-7; 1 Timothy 4:12 (a) Age, lack of capacity, and fear of failure are the excuses these men cited when called to lead. Let participants share other reasons or excuses we give for not answering the call to serve. (b) What was God’s response to these excuses? (c) What does God’s answer to the excuses we give say about what the real issue is?**

Our excuses, when allowed to settle in our minds, become huge obstacles which limits our effectiveness in our service to God and His kingdom. Jeremiah and Moses were two obvious examples of where fear ruled, even though they knew God was clearly calling them to service. Often the root of these fears is traceable to comparing ourselves to others who may have served in a similar role. And we forget the God who is calling us and the gifts and talents He has deposited in us. Timothy must have found such a huge responsibility daunting, especially at such a youthful age, in an infant church with diverse needs. It was so much that Paul had to encourage him not to be intimidated. He was not just to be the bishop but was also to choose and appoint leaders for other churches in his province. As Paul admonished him, overcoming these obstacles will also require work, efforts, and sacrifices on our own part.

3. **(a) What leadership challenges do we see in Jeremiah 1:6-9 and 1 Timothy 4:1-5? What can happen if these issues are not addressed properly in a leader? (b) In 1 Timothy 4:6-16, Apostle Paul listed ingredients for effective leadership. Let participants discuss how to imbibe these. (c) What are the benefits of effective servant leadership to both the leader and the led (the church)? See 1 Timothy 4: 6, 8, 16**

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**Prayer:** *Father, thank You for revealing to us through Your word that You have given each one of us gifts and grace and have called us to serve in Your body. Help us to be diligent to train ourselves spiritually so we can be effective in Your call upon our lives. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*