

# ACCEPTANCE, LOYALTY, HUMILITY

*Inside Out—Session 3*

*Servant leaders loyally serve God and others by accepting people and circumstances with humility and grace.*

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**Before the session:** *Read chapters 7, 8 & 9 of Inside Out by Rich and Robyn Wilkerson*

## **Introduction:**

*Begin by discussing the following question together.*

- *Which is easier for you—serving family members or people outside your home?*
- *Acceptance, loyalty, or humility—which of these traits do you think is least common among Christians? Why did you choose your answer?*

Today we'll look at how these three traits are valuable for servant leaders.

**Video:** Let's watch this session's video from Rich and Robyn Wilkerson.

- What is one thing that stood out to you in the video?

## **ACCEPTANCE**

Authors Rich and Robyn Wilkerson acknowledge that acceptance is one of the most challenging things we face. They identify four forms of acceptance:

1. Accept ourselves, both our gifts and our shortcomings
2. Accept the outcomes of our decisions
3. Accept what others bring to us, both the good and the bad
4. Accept the situations and circumstances that come into our lives as our training ground

Each of these can be difficult to master as we face adversity. Maybe that's why Rich and Robyn challenge us to begin by serving at home. They state, "If you can't discover how to lead and serve the people closest to you—in your home and family—don't count on making much of an impact anywhere else" (p. 69).

- Turn to page 69, and read the three basic principles of acceptance that Rich and Robyn learned from serving at home. Which of these statements is most difficult for you to accept?

Facing adversity is a difficult process. In this chapter, Rich and Robyn share a moving example of their son's illness. They remind us that we can't anticipate all the circumstances we'll face, but we can choose the power of acceptance.

- What is one example of how your life changed for the better after you dealt with the situation and learned from it? Did you move toward a better situation?

**Reflection:** Think of situations when you faced adversity in your life, personal and professional. How do you usually react? Do you fight back, rail about the injustice of it, or are you able to embrace the adversity, learn from it, and move on?

### LOYALTY

In this chapter, Rich and Robyn share the Bible examples of David and his friend Jonathan who both demonstrate loyalty even in times when no one would expect them to. They show us that loyalty is

Not self-serving

Enduring

Love in action

As we become servant leaders, we need to show each of these in our life too. You may already have servant leaders in your life who demonstrate one or more of these qualities.

- What do you see in their lives that let you know they have the trait of loyalty? Write your answers in the space below and then share with your group.

## HUMILITY

What does it take to be an effective servant leader? We might think it's impossible to truly influence others without power, wealth, and other areas of significance. Leadership is about being in charge. After all, isn't that how leading is defined? But that's how servant leadership is different. Rich and Robyn remind us that influencing one person is just as valuable as being a famous philanthropist or world leader.

- Read Matthew 25:31–46. What does Jesus teach us about the importance of serving the “least of these”?

One challenge to serving “the least of these” is that we often have to forego recognition for our serving. We may struggle with the temptation of recognition. Becoming a servant leader means choosing humility.

**Reflection:** Pause and honestly reflect on humility in your life. Do you struggle with the need for recognition?

## INSIDE GOD'S WORD

Ruth—Acceptance, loyalty, and humility in action

*But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her (Ruth 1:16–18).*

Ruth was from Moab, a region near Israel. As a young woman, she faced tremendous loss and became a widow at the same time her mother-in-law, Naomi, lost her own husband. Naomi made plans to go back to her home in Israel, and she encouraged Ruth to go back to her own people and remarry. As the passage above makes clear, Ruth politely but definitively refused. What inspired such loyalty from Ruth? The key to answering this question is found in the midst of her declaration to Naomi: *Your God will be my God.*

When people see the impact of a Spirit-filled life, it has a natural attraction for them. If they spend enough time in its presence, it transforms them. This

transformation will inspire uncommon loyalty. It's where we get the saying, "There is no zealot like a convert."

Ruth's life included adversity. Death and famine played key roles in a drama that ultimately had the happiest of endings. Because Ruth chose to be loyal, God blessed her with a new home, food for her table, and a new husband and family.

Through humility, Ruth and Naomi both found joy and security after pressing through some pretty miserable times. If that's not enough, Ruth became the great-grandmother of David, king of Israel. She was even personally mentioned by name in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus.

- What can we learn about servant leadership from this example?

### RESPONSE

**Reflection:** Jesus, the ultimate servant leader who shows us how to live and lead inside out, faced adversity too. Review how He accepted His fate on p. 76. He chose to be put to death for us. Reflect on how Jesus's acceptance has impacted your life. Then pray and thank Him.

**Leading Inside Out:** Think about loyalty as a gift, a highly prized and longed for gift. Who do you give this gift to? Who do you receive it from? Talk to those people, and let them know how precious their loyalty is to you.

To grow the trait of humility in your life, choose one or more ways you can anonymously serve "the least of these."

### PRAYER

Close in prayer. Record prayer requests here and continue to pray for these needs throughout the week.