



## LEAD THE WAY!

“The greatest among you must be a servant.”

MATTHEW 23:11 NLT

**C**limbing to the top of Mount Everest, one of the tallest mountains in the world, takes weeks of being out in the ice and snow. There are falling rocks, avalanches, 200-mile-an-hour winds, and jumping spiders! *What?!* The climb is incredibly difficult to navigate, and there are no “walk this way” signs to help you. So how do you get to the top? You need someone to lead the way. You need a Sherpa!

Sherpas are people who live in the mountainous region of Nepal near Mount Everest. (We say *SHER-puh*, but the Sherpa people say *SHER-wa*). They’re known for their epic climbing skills. Not only do they know which path to take up the mountain, but they also know what you’ll need to get there—and they’ll even help you carry it.

The Sherpas haven’t always climbed mountains, though. In fact, they started out farming, raising cattle, and spinning wool. But when people began climbing Mount Everest, Sherpas were hired to lead the way because they knew the area. The Sherpas *learned* to be leaders. And you can too.

To be a great leader, remember this: Leading isn’t about being the boss or telling everyone what to do. It’s about helping others find their way. That might mean showing a new kid how to find the lunchroom and inviting them to your table, helping an old friend figure out how to tell their parents they messed up, or pointing someone to Jesus.

Jesus came to lead us all the way home to heaven, but He did it by helping and serving the people around Him. Let’s follow His example and learn to be leaders who serve.

*God, I want to be like Jesus and lead others to You. Show me who I can serve today and how I can help them find their way. Amen.*

### EXPLORE THE WONDER

Thousands of people have tried to climb Mount Everest, and they’ve left behind a lot of junk! Empty oxygen bottles, tents, lost equipment, and just plain old garbage. In 2019, Sherpas and others cleaned up 11 tons of trash from the mountain. Whenever you go out in nature—or even just across town—be sure you don’t leave anything behind!

