



THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO LEAD YOUR STUDENTS

If we're going to be exceptional Switch leaders, we have to realize ***we can't lead someone somewhere we're unwilling to go ourselves***. And at Switch, we have a really important mission—leading students to become fully devoted followers of Christ. But we can't lead students to be fully devoted followers of Christ if we aren't taking daily steps toward becoming fully devoted ourselves.

So, how can you be an incredible Switch leader, and what's the most effective way to lead students? Lead by your example. Your actions speak way louder than your words, and if your students see you modeling what it looks like to follow Jesus, they're far more likely to follow Him, too. However, if your students see you saying one thing and living another—they're likely to show up at Switch one way and act differently at school, too.

The truth is, ***your students are looking to you to be a spiritual influencer in their life***. And while we won't be perfect or always get it right, we can and should strive to model what it looks like to have a growing relationship with Christ. So, how can you do that practically? Here's a few tips for taking your leadership to the next level.

1. **Follow first.** If you want to be a better leader, you've got to become a better follower. That looks like pursuing Jesus passionately through reading His Word, praying regularly, and surrounding yourself with people who will hold you accountable. If your Switch students see you seeking Jesus, they'll be much more likely to seek Him themselves.
2. **Lead from an overflow.** Just like a car can't run on empty, you can't run—much less lead—on spiritual fumes. When you're actively engaged in following Jesus, you can show up ready to pour into students. But if you're not actively seeking Jesus, you can't expect your students to either. Find a mentor or trusted relationships who pour into you so that you can pour out to others.
3. **Lead authentically.** Pastor Craig Groeschel says it this way, "People would rather follow a leader who's always real than one who's always right." This is especially true with students. Don't show up with a spiritual mask on. Be honest and authentic with your students. Show them that you're a normal person who also experiences doubts and struggles, and don't try to be like any other leader. God chose you to lead your Switch group, so embrace that, and lead like you.

Talk through these discussion questions with your fellow leaders and Switch team.

1. What are some ways you are growing your faith outside of Switch?
2. What does it look like for you to lead from the overflow?



3. What are some tips you have about leading your students authentically?
4. What questions do you have about leading your students by example?
5. What are some ways you can be a better spiritual influence in your students' lives?