

Leadership 1

Leaders need a right understanding of truth.

Leaders do what is right, not what is popular.

Leaders need to know what they believe and why, and be able to communicate this with others.

Leaders need to be a model to their team, based on their understanding of truth.

1. A class is given the responsibility of choosing a fundraising activity. The majority of the class want to sell junk food but a few think that this is not a good idea. As class captain, how would you handle this situation?
2. A youth leader chooses not to take the youth group to a showing popular movie that involved bad language. What would his reasons be and how would he explain it to the youth group?
3. List some key parts of the Bible that give us an understanding of truth, and principles to live by.
4. Governments that base their laws on the Ten Commandments have a justice system based on truth.
 - a) Write some laws that are based on the Ten Commandments
 - b) What would happen if the majority of the society decided they didn't want these laws?



Leadership 2

Leaders need to have a definite goal.

Leaders need to know *why* they want to achieve their goal.

They must check whether motives are right. Is the goal for personal gain or benefit of others?

Leaders need to know the right timing for the different parts of the project to be put into place.

Leaders must be able to explain the goal clearly to the team and inspire the team to work towards the goal. They must work out strategies which involve all team members in reaching the goal, and not just use certain people who have specific talents.

Imagine that you are a leader of a team that is going to clean up your town or city, and prevent littering in the future.

1. Choose a city or town, and decide how big your team will be. Describe the age-range of your team members.
2. How would you explain your goal to your team? Include the 'why'.
3. Make a project plan, outlining the steps you would take over a 6-month period.
4. How will you involve your team members?
5. How will you choose leaders and what will their leadership roles be?

Specific
Measurable
Appropriate
Realistic
Time-Bound
GOALS

Leadership 3

Leaders need to know themselves.

Leaders need to know their own strengths and engage them. They need to know their weakness and work on them.

Imagine you are a leader of a team that is going to make a difference to your school. Your whole class is the team and you are the team leader. The project could be:

- To build a school garden
 - To raise money for the school
 - To fix up broken desks
 - To help children who can't read
 - Or any project you like
1. Choose your project according to the gifts and talents YOU have.
 2. How will you organize your team? Make a plan.
 3. What areas of weakness might you need to work on personally to help you be a better leader?



Leadership 4

Leaders need to know and understand their team.

Leaders need to know the strengths of their team members and engage them. Leaders have the responsibility of encouraging the followers to use their gifts (Eph 4:11-12).

Leaders also need to help develop good character in team members. Leaders need to know the fears, frustrations, dreams and identity needs of their team. These are important and should not be overlooked.

Leaders need to inspire the team and enable them to act. Leaders can do this by being positive and energetic.

Imagine you are leader of a mission trip to an African country where there is war, famine and people are dying due to lack of medical help. Many are living in tents because their homes have been destroyed.

1. What might some of the fears of your team members be? How would you encourage them not to be afraid?
2. How could you prepare your team to be better equipped, before setting off?
3. Outline the different abilities of team members that could be utilized. How would you organize them into smaller teams?



Leadership 7

Leaders need to train up new leaders.

If you are a leader, don't try to do all the work yourself, even if you think you can do the job better. Give your team freedom and control to make decisions.

There should be clear roles of leaders and team members. Team members should know who their leaders are and respect them. This is team work.

A leader can choose and train new leaders who can be responsible for different areas of the project. The new leaders can lead smaller teams, each with a specific task. This is called 'delegating' responsibility.

Imagine that your church is running an after-school kid's club program. You have been put in charge. Ten people have volunteered to help run the program.

1. Draw up a survey form for the ten volunteers to find out in what areas they think they could help.
2. Make a list of ten imaginary people and next to their names write their skills that could be useful in running a kid's club.
3. If you have three people who like to do arts and crafts, how would you organize their involvement?
4. What is the meaning of the word 'delegate'?



Leadership 8

Leaders need to encourage their team.

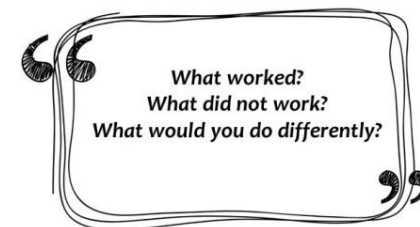
A leader should give the team feedback. Feedback can be positive or negative.

Positive feedback is praise for an effort well done. People like to be thanked for their efforts, and like to be told that they have done a good job. After an event, it is good to have a discussion on how everyone thinks the project went. A leader can encourage discussion.

Sometimes negative feedback might be necessary concerning particular issues. A leader will give information on what needs improvement. The leader should allow the team to give their ideas and opinions on how the direction of the work on the project could have been improved.

Allowing the team to talk about their successes and failure is better than straight out criticism from the leader. This only puts people on the defensive and they won't open up. If things go wrong, it's better to talk to team members and find out *why* things went wrong, rather than just "dumping" criticism on them.

1. You are the director of a dance performance. The performance has been a great success. What will you do to encourage your dance group?
2. You are the captain of a sports team that has lost three games in a row. What will you do?



What worked?
What did not work?
What would you do differently?

Leadership 9

A leader has to show humility.

Jesus washed the disciples' feet. He walked on dusty roads from town to town, healing people and helping people. As a leader, He was an example to the disciples and us. He didn't make Himself great, even though He was.

A leader is a servant. The leader aims to reach the goal God's way, as a service to God. He wants to reach the goal by encouraging the gifts, knowledge and skills of the whole team. The goal for the leader is not to make himself look great, but to serve God and others. The leader must be willing to do the lowly jobs, the hard jobs, the jobs that no one notices.

A leader must have the courage to take risks, even if it means he doesn't look good if he fails. He must admit when he is wrong and be open and honest with his team. This is humility.

1. Write out this Bible verse: Matthew 20:26.
2. If you are leading a group of young people on a camping trip, what are some of the serving jobs you might have to do?
3. Why might you have to do some of these jobs?
4. When might a leader have to take a risk?
5. What should a leader do if the project fails?



Leadership 10

A leader must prioritize.

To prioritize means to do the most important things first and the least important things last. It could also mean to use most of the money on the most important things and less money on the least important things. This is good management.

A leader must look at the big picture and think about which jobs are most important, which jobs should take up the most time, money and energy. A leader should put first things first and not get bogged down in the less important details.

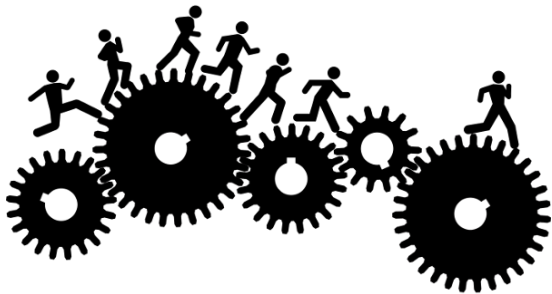
1. If you were prime minister, list 5 areas that you would see as being most important for spending taxpayer's money.
2. Your family is expecting visitors for dinner in half an hour. The house is a mess. There are children's toys on the floor, dishes unwashed, dinner unprepared, the baby is crying and your three-year old has tipped out the cat food and is eating it. Mum has asked you to take care of everything except for the dinner which she is about to cook. There is only you and your sister to do the work. Make a list of the jobs, starting from the most important to the least important, and who will do them.



Leadership 11

Attributes of a good leader

- Modeling (by example)
 - Instructing
 - Encouraging
 - Evaluating
 - Developing gifts of team members
 - Humility
1. List these attributes. After each one, explain how a good leader would put the attributes into practice.
 2. Read Phil 2:5-11. What does this tell us about the leadership of Jesus?



Leadership 12

Seven things a leader should not do

- Dominate
 - Put others down
 - Threaten (*"if you don't do this I will..."*)
 - Avoid an issue that needs discussion
 - Compete with others
 - Treat people like objects
 - Show favouritism
1. Make a list of the seven. After each one, explain why a good leader would not do these things.
 2. Name a leader in history that practiced these things and brought about disaster. What were the consequences?

