

▲ Foundations of Leadership, Part 1 ▲

Objectives: LEAD participants will understand that the foundation of Leadership is personal character and be motivated to develop their own character.

Plan ahead:

- Time required: 50 minutes
- Copy the Handouts (4 copies) - one for each group
- Ensure Articles and Worksheets are either copied or in the LEADs' notebooks
- Be familiar with the discussion points and take-aways

Before this lesson, LEADs must:

- Read *What Does It Take To Be A Great Leader?* article

Supplies:

- Handouts and pens/pencils
- Blank paper
- Dictionary or handout with a variety of definitions on it
- Newsprint pad or white board and markers

Accompanying documents:

- Article: *What Does It Take To Be A Great Leader?* (Separate file)
 - Learning Task handout (Page 7 of this file)
 - Observation worksheet (Page 8 of this file)
-

Instructor notes: The Foundations Lesson is split into three lessons so that LEADs may learn the basics then have the chance to put them into practice during their time at camp. This first lesson teaches the importance of personal character. The second teaches HOW to build that character. The third teaches the importance of purpose. Thus this lesson's goal is information and motivation. Practical application is in the next lesson.

❖ **Get Started (hook, 10 min)**

What is Leadership? (Review your definition from the LEAD Overview as you hand out blank paper, one sheet to each LEAD. Ask the following questions. Have them write their own answers, then share in groups of 2-3. Then have each group share with the big group. These are not big discussion questions. They are short answer, just to get them thinking.)

What do you think? Are leaders born or can anyone become a leader?

Who in your life do you follow, or who would you be most likely to follow? Why?

What are some qualities in that person that make you want / willing to follow them?

❖ **Learn / observe (book / look, 5 min + 20 min learning task)**

People who have spent their lives studying leaders say that people can become leaders by developing some key qualities.

Look at the article in your LEAD notebook: **What Does It Take To Be A Great Leader?**

What are the foundational qualities of a great leaders? (write the 5 qualities on the board.)

1. AUTHENTIC. Someone one who knows who he is (self-aware), and who actually *is* who he presents himself to be, and that presentation isn't influenced by external factors. He is solidly himself, and he knows who that self is.

2. PROACTIVE. Someone who takes appropriate responsibility for the past, acts deliberately in the present and moves intentionally toward the future.

3. COMMITTED TO A PURPOSE BIGGER THAN ONESELF. Someone who knows what they are here on Earth for and is committed to fulfilling that purpose.

4. HAVE INTEGRITY. Someone who is whole and complete, and therefore, efficient and reliable. Someone who knows and does the right thing whether no one or everyone is watching.

5. HUMBLE. Someone who considers others more than themselves, and this is demonstrated in a combination of selflessness, caring and emotional intelligence.

Do you agree? Anything you'd add or take away? (Discuss a little) Are they biblical? We will talk about this later.

In another article, one leadership expert says, *today's business requirements demand 24/7 Leadership as a natural state of being...*

Does this sound like something else in your life? What? (Let them answer.)

What about your relationship with Jesus, your "walk" as a Christian, as it is SUPPOSED to be?

Does Jesus ask for just *some* of us? No, He asks for ALL of us, 24/7. ¹*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live...* We are "dead" to ourselves and dead is 24/7, not alive sometimes. ²*Love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, soul, mind, and strength.* ³*Seek the Lord with ALL your heart...*

How much is ALL?

(¹Galatians 2:20; ²Deuteronomy 6:5; ³Jeremiah 29:13)

Being "dead to self" encompasses all of us, all the time. Loving and seeking God with ALL we are encompasses ALL our time, and ALL of us. It is a 24/7 commitment. Therefore, biblically, we are already called to 24/7 character and commitment. Hence if we are following what God says in the Bible, then we as believers are already set up for success as leaders!

Let's go back to the five characteristics that are foundational for Leaders to display 24/7: Authenticity, Proactiveness, Purpose, Integrity, and Humility. Are these BIBLICAL?

Let's start with Purpose. What does it mean to have a Purpose larger than yourself? Purpose is being crystal clear on the larger goal that we are trying to reach and highly motivated to get there.

What is the goal? What are we here for? We'll talk more about Purpose in Foundations Part 3 later, but consider Martin Luther King, Jr. What was his purpose? In 1963, he said, "I have a dream" and today we still know his dream. What was it? (Racial equality.) His purpose was far bigger than himself and it drove him.

Is purpose biblical? Jesus came for the purpose of going to the cross, and He made it all the way there despite all the opposition. To us, the Bible gives us an example: ⁴*Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us...* and, ⁵*Forgetting what is behind and striving toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal...* Having purpose matters. Purpose it is at the core of a good Leader and yes, we see it in the Bible. That is a very quick overview of our purpose. We will talk about this much more in Foundations 3.

(⁴Hebrews 12:1; ⁵Philippians 3:13-14)

LEARNING TASK (20 min): Now it's your turn. Break into 4 groups. Each take a quality (Authenticity,

Proactiveness, Integrity and Humility) and bring the answers to these questions back to the group. You'll have about 2 minutes to give your answer:

1. What is this quality? Define it in one short sentence. Give a quick example if necessary. Use the article to help, if you need to.
2. Does the Bible speak **in support of** this -- or -- **against** this -- or -- **not at all** about this? Use the verses listed and any others you can come up with.

(Work through these questions for 10 minutes, then give each group 2 minutes to give their summary. See Instructor Notes for points to cover.)

❖ **Get Practical (took, 5 min)**

So to be a better Leader, we need to increase our Authenticity, Proactiveness, Purpose, Integrity and Humility so that these qualities become part of the fabric of who we are, all the time.

If someone displayed these qualities, what would we call them? A person of _____ (character, among other things).

What is character anyway? (Webster: "attributes or features that make up and distinguish an individual", or *who a person IS*)

Think again of the Leaders you know. How would you describe their character? Strong? Weak? Are they easily swayed and wishy washy? Or are they very solidly *who they are*?

So it is essentially our character that we want to develop. It is the core of *who we are*.

Other sources agree. Look at the beginning of the article you read before class. In Great and Godly Leadership, Mike Bonem writes, [Where should I begin to improve my Leadership?] *Begin by looking in the mirror... The specifics [of your Leadership] are not nearly as important as the core of WHO YOU ARE.* He goes on to quote another great Christian author, Reggie McNeal when he says that, "*Self understanding is the most important information you will need as a Leader and then [McNeal] adds an important qualifier that self-understanding begins and ends with God.*"

If these men are right, then what are some ways we can develop our character? (Let them offer some answers and affirm what answers they give.) It's hard to come up with ways, isn't it? You guys thought of some good ones, but wouldn't it be helpful to maybe break it down some? That's exactly what we'll do tomorrow in Foundations Part 2. So hold all those great ideas and we'll talk more tomorrow!

❖ **Homework (follow up assignment)**

During the rest of today or tomorrow morning, intentionally observe two activities or events and write down your observations on the Observation page (briefly review the page). These can be your own activities or divisional events or Bible Ex or any other event lead by a staff member. Bring this to class tomorrow. What questions do you have?

INSTRUCTOR NOTES on each quality:

Authenticity - What is Authenticity? The dictionary uses words like, genuine, sincere, of proven origin, real, not false or copied, not counterfeit or fake. You can't FAKE authenticity. You must BE it. It is *who you are*.

Therefore, in order to be authentic, you must learn to be *who you really are*, away from the influence of pressure of peers or teachers or parents. You must know and develop your *self*.

Is Authenticity biblical?

If **the opposite of being authentic is being deceitful**, putting on a front or presenting a different "you" to different people...

Psalms 32:2 *Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

Acts 24:16 *So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.*

God searches out who we are, and **will call us to account**:

Jeremiah 17:9-10 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? 10 "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."*

Hebrews 4:12-13 *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

If God fully knows us, and will ask us to "give an account" to Him, then is it now wise to take a look at what He will look at? Is it not wise to look into *who we are* and do some evaluation, and maybe even some fixing, before we have to give that account?

James 1:23-25 *For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

Psalms 139:23-24 *Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*

God knows who we really are. He tells us to reflect on who we are, to ask for His help in the discovery process, and to change as necessary. He will lead us into the way He created us to be, if we follow Him. And becoming who He created us to be will give us the ability to lead better. Is authenticity biblical? YES!

Proactiveness - What does it mean to be proactive? As we are using it, it means taking appropriate responsibility for the past, acting deliberately in the present and moving intentionally toward the future.

Does the Bible speak about taking responsibility?

1John 1:8-9 *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Proverbs 28:13 *Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*

Matthew 6:14-15 *For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses*

Nowhere does the Bible "let people off the hook" for what has happened to them, as our culture does by claiming that we are victims. Rather, it tells us to apologize to God for whatever we have done wrong, and to forgive those who have wronged us. And then, for everyone, whether or not we have had an active role in bringing about the situation we find ourselves in, we are to seek wisdom and discernment for today's decisions.

Does the Bible talk about making wise decisions that intentionally move in positive directions?

James 1:5-6 *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.*

Galatians 6:7-9 *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

2Peter 1:5-10 *For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.*

So the Bible speaks a good bit about taking responsibility, forgiving instead of being victimized, intentionally considering and making wise decisions. Taken together, these comprise our definition of being proactive, and the Bible does support it.

Integrity - Integrity is the quality of being whole and complete. It results in being reliable and timely, which means doing the right thing, whether no one or the entire world is watching. The integrity of a structure will make it stand or fall. A structure with damaged integrity is not safe to be in. A person with poor integrity is not fit for Leadership.

Does the Bible speak about integrity?

Proverbs 28:6 *Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.*

Psalms 7:8 *The LORD judges the peoples; judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and according to the integrity that is in me.*

Does it speak about reliability?

James 5:12 *But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.*

Does the Bible speak about doing the right thing? Of course! Doing the right thing is called "righteousness". But we do need to be careful because the term "righteousness" has two meanings in the Bible. One is the right standing that we already have before God, because of Jesus' death on the cross for us. The other is the practice or choice to do right consistently. The verses listed in this exercise speak of *doing right*.

For example, **Romans 1:16-17** uses the meaning "right standing before God": *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."* That is, "In the Gospel, the 'right standing before God that comes from God' is revealed..." Whereas **1John 3:10** uses the meaning "to do right" (some translations translate it that way, too): *By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.* And we actually see **both** uses in **1 John 3:7**, *Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.* That is, "whoever does what is right shows that he has a right standing before God, just as Jesus has that right standing before God." (We know "he" means Jesus from the context.)

1John 3:10 *By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.*

1John 3:7 *Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as [Jesus] is righteous.*

Yes, the Bible places high value on integrity, both as "integrity" and in the sense that integrity brings about being a reliable person who does the right thing.

Humility - Humility is thinking of yourself less. It includes having an accurate concept of yourself, so that you are free to care for others and work well with them.

Isaiah 66:2 *All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.*

Romans 12:3 *For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*

Philippians 2:3-4 *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

1Peter 5:5-7 *Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*

Foundations of Leadership, Part 1, Learning Task Handout

1. What is this quality? Define it in one short sentence. Give a quick example if necessary.
2. Does the Bible speak **in support of** this -- or -- **against** this -- or -- **not at all** about this? Use the verses listed and any others you can come up with.

Authenticity -

Psalm 32:2

Acts 24:16

Jeremiah 17:9-10

Hebrews 4:12-13

James 1:23-25

Psalm 139:23-24

Proactiveness -

1John 1:8-9

Proverbs 28:13

Matthew 6:14-15

James 1:5-6

Galatians 6:7-9

2Peter 1:5-10

Integrity -

Proverbs 28:6

Psalm 7:8

James 5:12

1John 3:10

1John 3:7

Humility -

Isaiah 66:2

Romans 12:3

Philippians 2:3-4

1Peter 5:5-7

▲ Foundations of Leadership, Part 1 ▲

Activity/Event 1: _____

Your name: _____

Date: _____

Counselor / Instructor: _____

1. Did you see the Leader demonstrate (circle one)

Authenticity

Proactiveness

Purpose

Integrity

Humility

2. How did she display this quality / these qualities?

3. What else did you observe about her Leadership?

Activity/Event 2: _____

Date: _____

Counselor / Instructor: _____

1. Did you see the Leader demonstrate (circle one)

Authenticity

Proactiveness

Purpose

Integrity

Humility

2. How did she display this quality / these qualities?

3. What else did you observe about her Leadership?