

For Further Study: Leadership

Four characteristics of effective leadership from the lives of Moses, Aaron and Miriam

A. Focused Leadership

1. READ: Exodus 32:35; 33:1-3, 12-19; 34:6-10; 29
2. RESPOND:
 - Moses was a man focused not on others, not on self, but on God's Glory.
 - God described the people Moses was leading as stiff-necked.
 - Because of this, God's presence would not go with them.
 - Moses pleaded with God on the basis of God's covenant promise that they were his people.
 - God's response: "My presence will go with you and I will give you rest."
 - God's presence distinguished his people from all the other people on earth.
 - Moses asked to see God's glory, and God showed him his goodness.
 - Moses' response was to worship and to pray for the people he was to lead.
3. REFLECT:
 - What is my cry of leadership? Show me Your glory?
 - What distinguishes my life and leadership from those around me?
 - What words or phrases describe what radiates from my life and leadership?
 - Is my first response to worship and pray for those I am called to lead?

B. Submissive Leadership

1. READ: Exodus 14:30-15:21
2. RESPOND:
 - Miriam showed submission by actively pointing the women to Moses' voice and to his theology of God's goodness, greatness, and grace.
 - Moses' song exalted God.
 - He used the name LORD which was the Hebrew word Yahweh.
 - When Miriam took a tambourine, all the women followed her.
 - Miriam echoed Moses' song.
 - Miriam was doing what Paul later told Titus to equip the older women to do.
 - The older women are to take sound theology and make application to the lives of women.
 - Miriam was a true helper and she trained the women to follow Moses' leadership.
 - There was no self-promotion and she did not sneak in her own agenda.
 - This type of leadership nourishes unity in the community.

3. REFLECT:
 - What song are you singing as a leader?
 - How does it echo the song of the male leadership in your church?
 - In what concrete ways are you cultivating community and compassion through your leadership?
 - Describe your leadership strategy to encourage and equip women to fulfill their God-given design.

C. Humble Leadership

1. READ: Numbers 12:1–16
2. RESPOND:
 - Miriam was tripped up by pride.
 - Pride is so subtle and we are so susceptible.
 - “He must increase, and I must decrease.” John 3: 30
 - Pride caused Miriam to become a hinderer rather than a helper.
 - But there is great hope for the hinderer because of the gospel.
 - Her mediator prayed for her and she was brought back.
 - God uses true repentance to transform a hinderer into a helper whose leadership can take on a new dimension.
3. REFLECT:
 - Share an experience where the power of the gospel transformed you from being a hinderer to a helper.
 - List four or five potential leadership stallers or stoppers and make them a matter of prayer.
 - What is one way that you can lead others as the chief repenter?

D. Life Giving Leadership

1. READ: The Leadership chart on the next page.
2. RESPOND:
 - As leaders we are either LIFE-GIVING, breathing life in and fulfilling our helper design or we are LIFE-TAKING, sucking life out and impacting others as a hinderer.
3. REFLECT:
 - Circle one area you can celebrate an evidence of God’s grace.
 - Circle an area where you repent and can commit to prayer.
 - Circle any areas that could be potential blind spots.
 - Add your own leadership insights
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LIFE-GIVING LEADERSHIP CHART

	Life-Giving Leadership	Life-Hindering Leadership
Ultimate Goal	God's glory	Man's or institution's glory
Posture	Humble Transparent & approachable	Ambitious & proud Hypocritical & unapproachable
Mission	To lay down life and serve To encourage and equip others to fulfill their God-given design	To take life and to be served To conform others to a self-interested agenda
Seeks	Approval of God God's will	Approval of man My will
Orientation	Covenantal: "It's God's ministry"	Autonomous: "It's my ministry"
Assurance	Christ-confident	Self-confident
Reference Point	God's Word	The world
First Response	Pray Faith and belief	Demand Fear and unbelief
Heart Condition	Chief repenter	Quick to shift blame
Conflict	Peace-making is pursued	Covered and unresolved
Cultivates	Safe & secure environment	Unsafe & insecure environment
Ministry Motivations	Covenant driven	Consumer driven
Bottom Line	Impossible without God's strength	Possible in man's strength and gifts