

Leadership Launch

Facilitator's Guide

LeaderTreks

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Introduction

God's plan in building His Kingdom requires fully developed student leaders ready to assume real leadership roles in the present. Students are not merely the "leaders of tomorrow." God wants to use student leaders today. God uses leaders to change the world, and students can have a measurable impact on the Kingdom right now.

The pursuit of leadership is a lifelong endeavor. Each day new opportunities will arise for you to exercise leadership skills. As you gain knowledge and experience, you will learn more and more about what it means to be a leader. Remember, the best leaders are learners. But Jesus warned us to count the cost before we begin anything.

Leadership is about tough decisions. It's about making the best use of people and resources, setting good goals and evaluating the progress. The success of a leader depends upon the decisions that he or she makes. These decisions are never easy, but always significant. Learning leadership principles, combined with real-life leadership experience, will help you make better leadership decisions.

A true leader is defined by action. Our actions truly do speak louder than words. When the chance comes to stand for the truth no matter the cost, it is the true leader who is the first to rise to the challenge. Ultimately, leadership is far more than action; true leaders are defined by godly character that allows them to meet whatever challenges they face.

It is a sacrifice to possess the mantle of leadership. It is hard work. Leaders are exposed to criticism and rejection. It is much safer to remain on the sidelines, away from the scrutiny that leadership brings. Leadership requires taking risks. Some students today are worried about making mistakes. They are so focused on doing things right that they are unwilling to take a risk. To be a leader is to be a risk taker.

Leaders are risk takers with big dreams. To be a big dreamer you need to set goals. Goals are a map to the life that God has always wanted you to have. Too many people go through life simply allowing things to happen to them, and they never fulfill any of their dreams. Leaders live out their dreams by taking risks to achieve their goals. So take risks, set goals, and above all else, DREAM BIG!

We hope that Leadership Launch will excite you about the prospect of growing in your leadership knowledge and ability. By applying the principles you will learn in this book, you can impact your world for God's Kingdom - now! So be prepared for difficult challenges and tough times, but know that the sacrifice is worth it. God has big plans for you. You need to be ready to lead.

What Is Leadership Launch About?

So what makes this textbook different from other textbooks? It is one of the few textbooks written for students on the topic of leadership development. Leadership Launch sets the standard for student leadership development in a biblical context.

Leadership Launch teaches basic leadership principles for you to put into practice during the class period. Each lesson offers opportunities for you to sharpen your leadership skills through team building initiatives, role playing, simulations, problem-solving, or assessments. You will learn to lead by leading. The formula is simple:

Leadership Principles + Leadership Experience = Transformational Leadership

This textbook is also biblically based. The Bible is the best textbook on leadership ever written. Jesus was the greatest leader who ever lived. It makes sense to learn to lead like Jesus and to follow biblical principles of leadership. The world is in desperate need of godly leaders – men and women whose conduct and character reflect the life of Jesus Christ.

Leadership Launch is based on three key beliefs:

- Leadership can be learned.

Leadership is not something some students are just born with, like a personality trait, but it is a teachable skill. Anyone, at anytime, can exercise leadership when the proper principles are applied.

- Everyone can benefit from learning about leadership.

Do you want to be a leader? You may not be sure. Do you want to become a better person? Most everyone would answer, "Yes." Learning about leadership, even if you don't want to be in a prominent leadership role, will help you identify areas of your life that need improvement. Better still, it will motivate you to make the necessary changes.

- Leadership changes everything.

Think about the major events that have shaped our world. People looked toward leaders who stood tall in the midst of uncertainty. Leaders have a profound effect on those around them.

You are a leader. You may not see yourself this way; nevertheless, it is true. In some area of life – in your home, school, church, workplace or community – you are a leader. Throughout your life God will put you in situations where you will lead others. Ephesians 5:15-16 states, "Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." Learn to be a leader, and lead wisely so others will see Christ in you and be drawn to Him.

Who Should Use Leadership Launch?

This textbook can be used in a variety of contexts:

- In a classroom during a semester course
- With existing leadership teams at school or church
- As part of an existing weekly program
- In a small group of key students

Students in the study will also want to talk about what they are learning with their family and other friends. Often, others can see qualities in your leadership abilities that you cannot. Learn from each other.

Risk, dream, dare, and most of all, think throughout this journey – think about what God wants you to learn about yourself and your ability to influence those around you.

How Does It Work?

"5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1 ... We have ignition ... and liftoff ..."

Anyone who has witnessed a space launch will never forget it. Your eyes are momentarily blinded by an expanding fireball in shades of red, orange, and yellow. Your nostrils are flooded with the acrid smell of liquid oxygen emanating from the thick, billowing clouds of smoke. The pungent residue of liquid hydrogen saturates your taste buds as chemicals combust in a flash. Your eardrums ache from the deafening roar of rocket engines piercing the silence at ear-shattering decibels. Your body is jolted as the ground continuously vibrates with cascading waves of motion.

Out of this simultaneous assault on your five senses, you watch in awe as the spacecraft rises majestically from the launch pad. It travels higher and higher; faster and faster; smaller and smaller into the bright blue upper atmosphere. You involuntarily applaud and audibly gasp as the vessel hurtles into the vast unknown of space.

We intentionally chose a space flight as the organizing framework for this textbook. Like a rocket launch, our goal is for this textbook to fuel your own leadership launch. We dream of you rising above the ordinary to extraordinary heights. We envision the power that will be unleashed as you harness key leadership principles for God's Kingdom. We imagine the glory that God will receive because of your faithful service as a leader. We visualize you becoming fully equipped as a leader, ready to meet any opportunity that God provides in your school, church, workplace, and community. Finally, we rejoice at the mental picture of you standing before the Lord and hearing Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Content

The content covers a wide variety of basic leadership principles.

Launch

The term *Launch* in this textbook refers to a unit of study. Participants will launch into the exploration of a specific leadership theme. For example, the first unit, or *Launch One*, focuses on the theme of *Leadership Basics*.

Mission

The term *Mission* in this textbook refers to a specific lesson. The purpose, or mission, of each lesson is for participants to know and experience a specific leadership principle. For example, *Mission 1* is entitled "*What is leadership?*" and requires participants to write their own definition of leadership. Each Mission, or lesson, includes 9 sections. The sections correspond to the 9 phases of a NASA space flight, each with a specific purpose in accomplishing the *Mission*.

Launch Outline

1. Preflight: In this phase NASA personnel run through a pre-flight checklist to ensure that all systems are “go” for the mission. Similarly, classroom personnel review a Mission Profile that provides an overview of the upcoming lesson activities.

2. Countdown: The 10-second countdown triggers anticipation for liftoff. Likewise, each lesson has a countdown of 5 quotations or Bible verses intended to generate enthusiasm for the lesson’s launch.

3. Ignition: Rocket engines suddenly come alive with a fury. Huge clamps momentarily hold down the spacecraft as momentum builds for the launch. In the same way, the lesson ignites through stories, illustrations, problems, quotations, or startling statistics and builds momentum for the lesson.

4. Propulsion: The two Solid Rocket Boosters (SRBs) provide 71% percent of liftoff thrust. In 2 minutes the SRBs propel the shuttle 28 miles skyward at a speed of 3,000 mph. Correspondingly, the lesson’s main thrust is propelled through definitions, descriptions, and explanations of the specific leadership principle.

5. Acceleration: Once the SRBs are jettisoned, the shuttle uses its 3 main engines supplied by an external fuel tank. After 6 minutes the shuttle is 60 miles high accelerating to 17,500 mph. In the same way, the lesson accelerates and goes deeper into the leadership principle through real-life stories and biblical examples.

6. Orbit: After 8 minutes the fuel tank is discarded, the craft levels off after traveling 250 miles, now moving 18,000 mph, and circles the earth in orbit. Likewise, students will orbit around the leadership principle by experiencing team building initiatives, simulations, role-playing, problem solving, or assessments.

7. Reentry: Reentry is the most challenging phase of the mission. The shuttle must slow down to reenter the earth’s atmosphere. If the angle is too steep, the craft will burn up in the earth’s atmosphere; if the angle is too shallow, the craft will skip like a stone into outer space. Similarly, this phase injects a challenge into the lesson through restrictions, obstacles, or a changed environment.

8. Touchdown: Like a plane landing at an airport, the shuttle glides home to an extended touchdown. In an identical manner, the lesson glides to its conclusion through a Mission Summary that reviews the main points of the lesson.

9. Debrief: Once the space shuttle rolls to a stop, the astronauts debrief what they have learned and how they have performed during the mission. In the same vein, the lesson concludes with students personally applying the leadership principle to their lives or evaluating the effectiveness of their team.



Launch Two: *What Leaders Believe*

MISSION 5:

Leadership Can Be Learned

PREFLIGHT - Mission Profile

- Use a graphic organizer as a planning tool for learning about leadership.
- Learn the fundamental formula and essential skills in leadership development.
- Consider the leadership development of Joshua.
- Participate in a team discussion concerning learned abilities.
- Teach a skill to the team.
- Complete the last column of the graphic organizer.

COUNTDOWN

- 5 – “Leadership cannot really be taught. It can only be learned.” *Harold Geneen*
- 4 – “Good leaders develop through a never-ending process of self-study, education, training, and experience.” *Manual on military leadership*
- 3 – “Leaders aren’t born; they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that’s the price we’ll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal.” *Vince Lombardi*
- 2 – “The most dangerous leadership myth is that leaders are born -- that there is a genetic factor to leadership. This myth asserts that people simply either have certain charismatic qualities or not. That’s nonsense; in fact, the opposite is true. Leaders are made rather than born.” *Warren G. Bennis*
- 1 – “Let the wonderful kindness and the understanding that come from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ help you to keep on growing. Praise Jesus now and forever! Amen.” *2 Peter 3:18 (CEV)*

Objectives

Know: Leadership is a set of skills that can be learned and developed.

Do: Research and write answers to group questions about leadership.

Preflight

Write this question on the board: *What do I want to learn about leadership that I don’t already know?*

Countdown

Focus on the quote by Warren G. Bennis. Ask students: *Why is it dangerous to believe that leaders are born, not made?*

Possible answers:

- Only a few people can be leaders
- Could be an excuse not to lead
- Focuses on personality rather than character
- Makes leadership seem rare and unattainable

Teacher’s Notes

Ignition

This exercise is called *K-W-H-L*. The initials stand for:

Know?

Want to know?

How to find out?

Learned?

After reading the directions in the text, give students 3 minutes to complete the first 3 columns individually.

As students prepare their charts, draw this chart on the board. After 3 minutes, select one student to be the recorder at the board. Ask students: *"What is one item you listed in the first column?"* The recorder should write the entry on the board in the appropriate column for other students to copy. Limit the list to a total of 5 entries. Then complete the second and third columns in the same manner.

Key Point

We know a great deal about leadership individually, but the power of everyone is always greater than the power of one.

IGNITION

Launch One focused on the basics of leadership. This information provided a strong foundation to build on as you continue to learn more about leadership. However, you know more about leadership than you think you know. Throughout your life you have assimilated bits of knowledge about this topic, organized the information internally, and stored it in your mind for later use. God designed our intellect to work this way without us even being aware of the process.

When we combine our resources, we will discover that we have a large pool of information on the subject. The chart below asks you to list about leadership: "What we know," "What we want to know," and "How we can find the answers." In the next 3 minutes please complete at least two entries in each of these 3 columns. For now leave the fourth column, labeled "What we learned," blank.

What we Know about Leadership	What we Want to know about Leadership	How we can find the answer about leadership	What we Learned about leadership

Teacher's Notes

PROPULSION

Leadership can be learned. Leaders are made, not born.

Many students are under the false assumption that leaders are born, not made. In fact, a major study by George Barna once found that while 85% of business leaders believe that leadership can be learned, 85% of students believe that you are born a leader.

Leadership is not a quality some students are just born with and others aren't. There is no leadership gene that some students have and others don't. Being a leader is not genetic or hereditary. It is a learned behavior.

Leadership is a set of skills that can be taught and can be learned. Anyone at anytime can exercise leadership if the proper principles are applied. Leadership is a process that is habitual and situational.

There is a set of leadership principles that when applied allow normal people to do extraordinary things. Some of these principles include communication, problem solving, focus, risk taking, conflict resolution, and navigating obstacles. A great place to start in leadership is to learn how to use these principles effectively.

It is not enough, however, to just learn principles of leadership. Knowledge by itself doesn't make a person an effective leader. Practical experience is where leadership principles come to life. You learn to be a leader by leading. Leadership development occurs when you apply leadership principles to specific situations. This process is summarized in the following simple formula:

Leadership Principles + Leadership Experience = Transformational Leadership

Transformational leadership takes place when the leader's influence brings positive and needed change to individuals and organizations. This formula is a powerful and effective leadership approach that can be learned by everyone.

Propulsion

1. Leadership can be learned.
2. Leaders are made, not born.
3. Leadership is a set of skills or principles.
4. The first step to becoming a leader is to learn these skills or principles.
5. You learn to lead by leading.
6. Principles + Experience = Transformational Leadership

Teacher's Notes

Acceleration

Listed below are suggested leadership principles from the passage.

1. Joshua served as Moses' aide.
2. Joshua witnessed God's work through Moses.
3. Joshua experienced what Moses experienced.

Orbit

Decide in advance the composition of the teams. Eventually each student will work with every other student.

After reformulating the teams, give each team 30 seconds to choose a timekeeper. Ask for a show of hands of the timekeepers.

Give students 3 minutes to answer the fill-in-the-blanks. Here are some examples of skills they can teach in class:

Phrases in another language...like, hello, goodbye
Simple memory tools...like ROY G BIV for colors of a rainbow
Signals from a coach to a batter...like pulling the ear means bunt the ball

ACCELERATION

Read the following passages from Exodus 24. Look for leadership principles that God used to prepare Joshua to succeed Moses as the leader of Israel.

12 The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction." 13 Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. 14 He said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them. When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, 16 and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. 17 To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. 18 Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights."

ORBIT

Get into teams of 5-6 people. Everyone has learned skills. During your lifetime you have learned to do many things. A big part of growing up is learning the skills you need. Spend 3 minutes answering the following fill-in-the-blanks:

I learn. Something I learned about leadership is _____

I read. A book I recommend to others is _____

I play. A game or sport I enjoy is _____

I dream. One dream in my life is _____

Teacher's Notes

I lead. A situation where I lead is _____

I teach. A skill I can teach others in class is _____

Orbit (cont.)

Converting numbers from decimals to fractions
Simple ways to draw a person's face
Spelling out words phonetically
Spelling hard words

REENTRY

- Stay in your same group.
- Through this exercise you have learned new information about team members.
- One thing you learned about others is that they have a skill that can be taught in class.
- Everyone in your team has 2 minutes to teach their skill to the rest of the team. Once again, the time-keeper will call "Time" at the end of 2 minutes, and the next person will begin teaching their skill to the team.

TOUCHDOWN - Mission Summary:

- Leadership can be learned.
- The first step is to learn key leadership principles.
- Leadership principles come alive through leadership experience.
- Leadership Principles + Leadership Experience = Transformational Leadership

DEBRIEF

- Look back to the K-W-H-L chart located in the Ignition section on page 24.
- For each of the 5 entries that the class listed on the board, complete the column labeled "What we Learned about leadership."
- To complete this Debrief, begin by working on the first item listed in the column labeled "What we Want to know about leadership."
- Now follow the suggestion for that item in the column labeled "How we can find the answer about leadership."
- Finally, write your answer in the column labeled "What we Learned about leadership."

Key Point

Everyone has learned various skills that can be taught to others. Similarly, leadership can be learned.

Note

Set clear ground rules for this exercise. Teams should have fun without being disorderly or disruptive.

Touchdown

We were created by God to be learners. Everyone can learn to lead by learning and applying a set of skills or principles.

Debrief

Complete the first of the 5 items in class as an example on how to complete the exercise. The remaining 4 items can be done either in class or as a homework assignment.

Teacher's Notes