

Leadership Launch

Student Textbook

LeaderTieks™

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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.



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)*

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

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.

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 _____

I lead. A situation where I lead is _____

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

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."