FOUNDATIONS OF LEADERSHIP
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Lesson 1
WHAT IS LEADERSHIP, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Leadership is the ability to see the future, gather human, financial and material resources, and accomplish a task.

WORKERS, MANAGERS AND LEADERS

Workers, managers and leaders are different. They have different roles and different skills. Every person can develop their skills to lead at least at one level.

THE STORY OF THE BAKER

- The worker had to learn to become a manager
- The manager had to learn to become a leader

1. The Worker – Does the work
2. The Manager – Managers the work
3. The Leader – Sees the future and leads the way
4. The Worker – Focuses on his work
5. The Manager – Focuses on the Process
6. The Leader – Focuses on the Future
7. The Worker – Follows policy and creates the good quality product
8. The Manager – Creates Systems and Structure
9. The Leader – Inspires, Creates Vision and Delegates Authority
EVERYBODY HAS POTENTIAL TO LEAD

As we shall see in the next lesson, there are at least Five Levels of Leadership. Every human being has potential and can develop that potential to be a leader at least at one level.

FIVE EXCUSES WHY WE DON’T LEAD

1. Insecurity
   - We are insecure about our family, our education, our experience, our position in life, our economic level. We don’t value ourselves. Others blame us. We have failed and don’t have self-confidence.

2. We don’t know ourselves
   - We don’t know our potential. We don’t know our desires. We don’t know our skills.

3. Fear of failure
   - Most people fear failure. Most people don’t want to be rejected. We don’t know if people will follow us or not.

4. Lack ability
   - We have no or only a little experience leading. We have a low education. We’ve never led at a high level. We lack so many skills.

5. Cannot communicate
   - We don’t know how to speak publically. We can’t persuade people. We’ve never cast a vision or asked for money for a business.

There are solutions to all of these excuses and obstacles:

1. Understand that each person has value and hidden potential and ability. Associate with people who believe in you, not people who don’t believe in you.
2. Think about who you are. Evaluate your heart and what you dream about. Make a list of your skills. Consult with someone who can help you think through your strengths and potential.

3. We must try. Start small so if you fail, it’s not do dangerous. Everybody fails and everybody who has been successful fails. Make a plan and consult people who have success.

4. Develop your ability. Take classes. Find a mentor (a mentor is someone who has done what you want to do). Read books. Listen to lessons on YouTube or iTunes.

5. Practice speaking. Pay attention to good communicators. What are they doing that you like? Learn new words. Practice speaking. You must try!

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What experience do you have at leading (positive or negative experience)?
2. Who would you say is a good leader you know, and why are they a good leader?
3. What is your heart’s desire? What do you like to do? What are your skills? What do you want to be doing ten years from now?
4. Which of the excuses above do you make as to why you don’t lead?
5. What is your biggest fear about leading?
6. What skills must you develop to lead?