

SALT & LIGHT

Build character and stand up for what you believe

LEADERSHIP

So you've never run for class president or even secretary. That doesn't mean that you're not a leader. Often, when we think of leaders, we think of monarchs or elected officials. We think of the special perks and privileges that are associated with the title of leader. Sometimes leaders and leadership status seem unattainable. Sometimes people act proudly because they don't want anyone—including themselves—to see their imperfections. Others brag because they want to find acceptance. But leaders can be right under your nose. They come in all types of packages with different styles of operating. Leadership doesn't just mean ordering someone around. Many times it means providing an example that can be modeled and followed. It means setting a standard and working or living according to it.

Know Yourself

When you think of a leader, what comes to mind? What does it take to be a great leader? Who in your life has been a wonderful leader? Why? Would you categorize yourself as a great leader? Why or why not?

Know the Word

Read: 1 Timothy 3.1-13

1. What are some of the qualities a good leader should have?
2. Why do you think this passage is so detailed about the leadership in the church?
3. How can these leadership "requirements" benefit the group?

Remember It! *"That's why officials must have a good reputation and be faithful in marriage. They must be self-controlled, sensible, well-behaved, friendly to strangers, and able to teach. They must not be heavy drinkers or troublemakers. Instead, they must be kind and gentle and not love money."* 1 Timothy 3.2-3 (CEV)

Read More! (if you dare): Proverbs 17.7; Proverbs 28.2, 15-16

Know Others

"It [his success] didn't just happen. It wasn't like everything has always been great. I've had some times where I had to struggle through some things, and I think now the Lord used that to keep me humble. I know it's not all roses. If you lose sight of what's more important, you can very easily be where I was five years ago and not where I am now. It's not just stepping on a football field, but it's how it affects people's lives for Jesus. I think that's what helps me stay grounded—that I know I'm here to do the Lord's work. Although there's obviously great blessings that the Lord has given me, I'm here to make a difference for Him." —Kurt Warner, St. Louis Rams

(Source: *SportsSpectrum*, christianitytoday.com/sports. Views of the publication do not necessarily reflect those of American Bible Society.)

The Choice Is Yours

Is there something that interests you and your friends that doesn't have an official club status at your school? Try turning that interest into a leadership opportunity for you all. Find out what it takes to become "official," and see what kind of leadership skills you develop. Ask God to open your eyes to see the areas in which you are excelling as a leader and those that need improving. Then keep a journal documenting the experience.