

TAKE CHARGE

HERE AM I! *Send someone else, Lord!*
I'll take the ball and run with it!

Why me??? *I'm not gifted in that area.*
 Hold everything! Let's talk about this.

*Not now . . . maybe later . . .
 when I'm ready.*

WHO . . . ME??? **FOLLOW MY EXAMPLE!**



TOOLBOX

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAINSTORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA
- CROSSROAD

AGREE OR DISAGREE

- Leaders are made, not born.
- Leaders lead more by influence than by position.
- Leaders will always have followers.

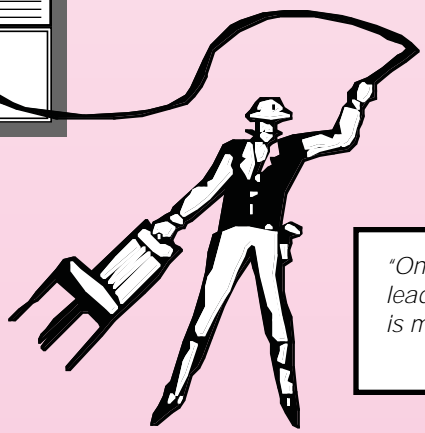
Leadership is:

DISCUSS

Why do we need leaders?

THOUGHT

Recent studies show that every one of us will, in some way, shape or form, influence people over a lifetime. We will, for good or bad, help shape the opinions, experiences, and lives of literally hundreds of people. A leader is simply someone who influences with purpose.



LEAD, FOLLOW, OR GET OUT OF THE WAY.
 —bumper sticker

"One who thinks he is a leader, but has no followers, is merely taking a walk."
 —E. V. Hill

"If you can't run with the big dogs, stay on the porch."
 —Big Dog

CONSIDER

Who do you influence?

What kind of leader are you?



I TIMOTHY 4:12-16



I TIMOTHY 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and purity.



CONTEXT

Timothy was the disciple that Paul had appointed to give leadership to the church in Ephesus. He was probably much younger than many of those he was asked to shepherd and, seemed to be, by nature, rather timid and reserved (2 Timothy 1:6-8)—hardly natural qualifications for a leader. Paul wrote Timothy practical instructions regarding the wide variety of situations he was facing—handling false teachers, leading worship, choosing deacons and elders, ministering to widows, slaves, the rich and poor. Most importantly, however, he included a section on what kind of person Timothy needed to be in order to lead this diverse congregation.



DISCUSS

What words might you substitute for the word "young" that could be seen as a hindrance to effective leadership? "Because you are . . ."



DICTIONARY

What does it mean to be an example in these areas?

Speech: _____

Life: _____

Love: _____

Faith: _____

Purity: _____



"A strong example is a powerful teacher."

—Ann Abler

"Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing."

—Albert Schweitzer

"Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ."

—the Apostle Paul
1 Corinthians 11:1

"A student . . . will be like his teacher."

—Jesus of Nazareth
Luke 6:40

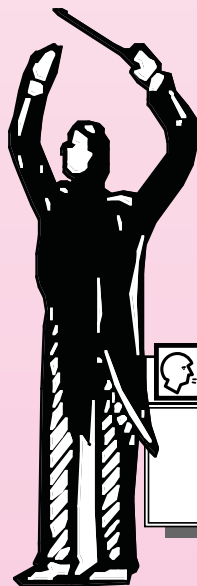
"You cannot give away what you do not possess."

—Howard Hendricks



A PRINCIPLE

A principle is "a succinct statement of a universal truth." —Howard Hendricks



PRINCIPLE #1



I TIMOTHY 4:13

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.



DISCUSS

Compare and contrast public reading of Scripture, preaching, and teaching.



CONSIDER

How does devotion to reading, preaching and teaching the Scripture relate to effective spiritual leadership?

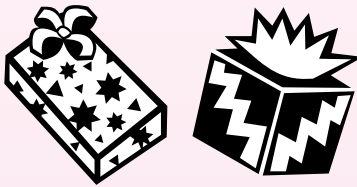


PRINCIPLE #2



I TIMOTHY 4:14

Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.



PRINCIPLE #3

Blank space for writing principle #3.



WHAT IS YOUR "GIFT"?

What is the gift that Paul refers to? Although every passage has one intended meaning, it's not always easy to discover what that meaning is. *Gift* can have either of two meanings.

Gift = ability or skill: "A spiritual gift is an ability or skill, given by God, which enables a believer to perform a function in the body of Christ with ease and effectiveness." Spiritual gifts include wisdom, knowledge, teaching, leading, mercy, helps, service, exhortation, etc. For listings of some of the spiritual gifts, see Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and 12:28; Romans 12:6-8. In this sense, Paul was exhorting Timothy to lead from the unique gifts that had been given to him by the Holy Spirit.

Gift = Holy Spirit: Some scholars suggest that the gift was the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 1:6,7) since this was the first gift given to all believers (Acts 1:4,5 and 11:16,17). In this sense, Paul was exhorting Timothy to lead in the power and wisdom of the Spirit.

What would you say *gift* means here? Why?



OBSERVE

What are the commands?

What ideas are communicated by these commands?

Why are these important?



I TIMOTHY 4:15,16

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.



DISCUSS

Why do you think Paul wanted everyone to see Timothy's progress?



NOTE

In the New Testament, the concept "to be saved" and "salvation" can denote three distinct ideas. We *have been saved* from the penalty of sin (Ephesians 2:8,9). We *are being saved* as we grow in Christ-likeness (Philippians 2:12,13) and one day we *will be saved* from this world as we go to be with Christ in heaven (1 Peter 1:5).

What do you think "save" means in this context? Why?



PRINCIPLE #4

Blank space for writing principle #4.



TO GO OR NOT TO GO?

It was my senior year in college. I was planning on going to the upcoming fall retreat and taking the women in my Bible study with me. Conferences and retreats were two of the things that I enjoyed most because I saw them as opportunities for me to learn and grow in my walk with God. It *never* occurred to me that my going or not going would affect others and their decision to go.

As the retreat approached, I discovered that a friend of mine was coming to town. I was faced with a choice: Should I go on the retreat, or should I spend the weekend with my friend? I decided that I should spend the time with my friend since I didn't get to see her often, and my decision would only affect me.

After that weekend, I heard from one of the staff women on my campus that when the women in study heard I wasn't going on the retreat, they all decided to stay home, too. I never realized how my actions affected other people! Through that situation, I learned an important lesson: Because I was viewed as a leader in my movement, my actions communicated to others what was important to me. When my girls found out I wasn't going, they decided it wasn't important enough for them to go either. My absence had influenced the girls in my group . . . to *not* go on the retreat!

To become an effective spiritual leader requires diligence on our part to apply these principles, but, most importantly, it requires a willingness and yieldedness to allow the Holy Spirit to develop us as people of influence.



Leadership is:



HOW AM I DOING?



What has changed/will change in my . . .

	Understanding	Attitude	Action
Being an example:			
Devoting myself to God's Word:			
Leading from God's resources:			
Being diligent in the above:			

FOR FURTHER STUDY: Learn more about leadership by studying these people in the Bible: Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Deborah, Priscilla and Aquilla

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the *New International Version*, ©1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Published by Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan.