

LEAD TODAY

LEADERSHIP TRAINING GUIDE



INFLUENCE • INTEGRITY • ATTITUDE

Welcome, friend!

Whether you are a leader who is just beginning your journey or you have walked the leadership road for many years, this guide offers three foundational leadership lessons on influence, integrity, and attitude that are critical for a leader to grasp in order to lead others effectively.

This guide was created in partnership between One-Hope and John C. Maxwell's EQUIP. It originates from a 15-unit youth leadership development program called Lead Today, which shares leadership lessons through biblical examples and directs leaders to foster positive change in every stage of life.

We're excited to share this useful resource with you as you take the next step in your leadership journey!

Enjoy!



TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN YOUR JOURNEY
OF LEADERSHIP WITH LESSONS ON
Influence, Integrity, and Attitude!





David Influence

Read: 1 Samuel 16, 18 

Leadership is influence. A leader who has influence has the ability to persuade people to work together for a greater goal. People can always accomplish more when they work together. No matter what your goals are or what you want to accomplish in life, you can accomplish them faster, more efficiently, and with a longer lasting impact, if you can get others to work with you. Everyone has influence with others. If your life connects with other people in any way, you have the potential to be a leader. And you can use your leadership ability to make the world a better place.

Stop and Think 

- 1. What kinds of actions by others have had a positive influence on your life?**
- 2. Whom do you have an opportunity to influence? Make a list.**

The influence you have is not equal with every person. Think about it. Do you influence your parents or other adults in the same way you influence your friends? Influence takes a variety of forms and develops in different stages. The best part is that you can grow your influence and become a better leader.



Read the story of David and note the following 

3. **Underline** what happens after God chooses David to be the next king of Israel.
4. **Circle** the thing that God looks for when choosing a leader.

The Lord asked Samuel, a prophet of the Lord, to find the one who would be the new king. Samuel visited Jesse, as the Lord told him to do. Samuel looked over all of Jesse's sons, and picked the most strong and handsome.

But God told Samuel not to look at appearances. Instead, it was the heart of a person that was most important. When Samuel asked Jesse if these were all of his sons, Jesse explained that he had one more son. But he was just a shepherd boy. "Send for him at once," Samuel said.

So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And the Lord said, "This is the one; anoint him." Alongside his brothers, Samuel anointed David with oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on. At that time, Israel faced the Philistines in war.

Now the Philistines had a mighty warrior, named Goliath. He was a giant.

Goliath taunted the Israelites, "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "Choose one man to come down here and fight me!"

"I'll fight him!" David told Saul.

"Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. You're only a boy, and he's a warrior!"

But David persisted.

Goliath attacked. David ran towards him, He put a rock in his sling and swung it around by the straps. David hurled the rock with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath fell face down on the ground.

So David defeated Goliath with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.

After defeating Goliath, David met with King Saul. From then on, Saul kept David with him. Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully.

Did you know?

David went on to become one of the greatest kings in Israel's history. He was a mighty warrior, but he was also dedicated to serving God. He was known as a man after God's own heart. You can read some of the songs and poems David wrote about God in the book of Psalms. *Taken from 1 Samuel 16 and 18*

Dig Deeper into the Story

No one expected David to be the next king of Israel—even his own father. The story of David proves that great leaders sometimes come from small and unexpected places. God chose to anoint David as king instead of his brothers, and God's Spirit rested on him. David was not the strongest, smartest, or most powerful, but his commitment to doing the right thing made him great. God gave David victory over the giant, and David became the most influential man in Israel.

Authority and power are sometimes given, but influence is earned. David earned his influence and became a great military leader. Other brave and mighty soldiers followed him and fought bravely for him. They were willing to do anything for him.

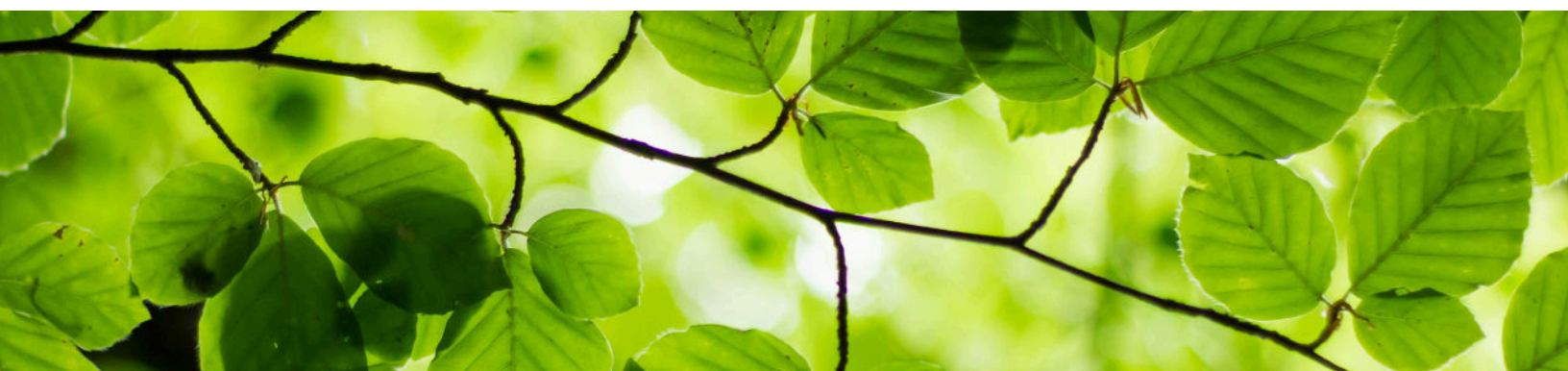
Influence is a choice. We can choose to care about people, be inclusive, be positive, work with others, and try to positively influence them to improve our family, workplace, and community. If we choose to try to influence people, we can lead from anywhere.

Start by setting the right example. Others may doubt what you say, but they almost always believe what you do. Oftentimes, they will follow your example. And if you help them succeed, they will follow you.

Stop and Think

5. **How can you work to increase your influence with someone from your list over the next few weeks?**

6. **What are three specific actions you could take this week to positively influence someone else?**





Memorize

"Whoever works to do good will find love and loyalty. It is a mistake to work at doing evil."
Proverbs 14:22 (ERV)

Leadership is influence. You can increase your leadership ability by growing in your influence.

Start this week by being a positive influence for someone in your life. By growing as a leader, you can make a positive impact on those around you. But you cannot do this without recognizing that you need God's help, just like David did.

Pray

Pray this prayer every day for the next week.
"Lord, bring people of positive influence into my life. Help me to be a better influence on others. Increase our leadership so that we can help others and make the world better. Thank you for the opportunities you give us to influence others. Help us to work hard to always do the right thing. We know we can do this with your help. Amen."


- According to what you've read here, what is Leadership?
- How can I increase my Leadership ability?

Answers

- Underline what happens after God chooses David to be the next king of Israel.
The Spirit of God rests on him.
- Circle the thing that God looks for when choosing a leader.
The heart
- According to what you've read here, what is Leadership?
Leadership is influence
- How can I increase my Leadership ability?
By growing my influence



Joseph Integrity

Read: Genesis 25. 32. 37. 39 

Developing your leadership ability requires a number of different ingredients. The most important ingredient by far is integrity. It is impossible to truly develop as a leader without also becoming a person of integrity.


A person with integrity is someone whose words and actions match one another. Many people say they believe something, and then act in a way that says otherwise. Those people are hypocrites. Unlike the hypocrite, a person of integrity acts in a way that is constant with his or her beliefs. People are more likely to follow you if you are true to your word. Integrity builds trust with those around you.

Stop and Think 

- 1. Is there someone in your life whom you would consider a person of integrity?**
- 2. What does that person do that makes you believe they have integrity?**

History is full of examples of leaders who have lost their influence because they lacked integrity. It is also rife with inspiration from people who have gone from being overlooked and dismissed to having great influence because they were people of integrity.



Read the story of Joseph and note the following 

3. Underline Underline the places where you see Joseph being rewarded for his integrity

Isaac grew up, married and had two sons of his own, Esau and Jacob. When Jacob grew up, he also married and had many, many sons. Joseph was just one of Jacob's sons.

Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them.

One day, Joseph went out to meet his brothers. When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance.

So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Then...they looked up and saw a caravan of camels in the distance coming towards them. It was a group of Midianite traders.

Joseph's brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty

pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt. The Midianite traders arrived in Egypt, where they sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Potiphar was captain of the palace guard.

The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master.

Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned.

Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, and Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come and sleep with me," she demanded. But Joseph refused. One day she came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, "Come on, sleep with me!" Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house.

Taken from Genesis 25, 32, 37 and 39

Dig Deeper into the Story 🔍

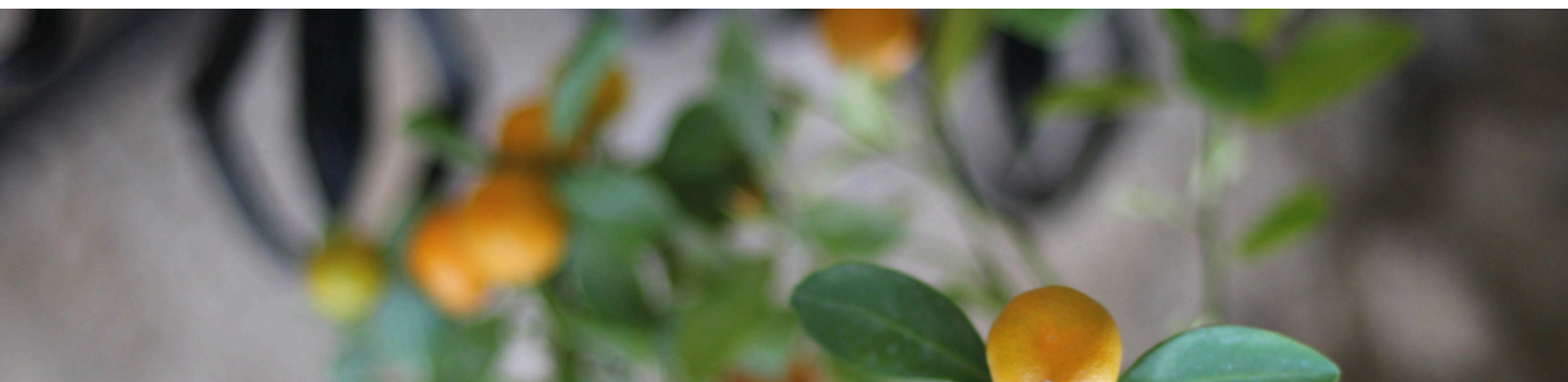
Joseph's story shows us he was a man who had integrity. Joseph was sold into slavery and forced to serve a master in Egypt, yet he did everything he was asked to do. Joseph worked hard, and God blessed Joseph. Potiphar recognized that God was with Joseph because of his character. As a result of Joseph's growing into a man of integrity, Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his entire household!

Joseph's influence increased because of his integrity. However, his integrity was ultimately put to the test when Potiphar's wife tried to tempt him to sleep with her. But even in the middle of temptation, Joseph did the right thing and refused to give in to temptation. As a result, Potiphar's wife became angry and had Joseph thrown in prison by lying about him, but God continued to bless Joseph.

Integrity can be difficult to develop. We have to be committed to doing the right thing, even if it means losing something important. The good news is that God knows our heart, and he is pleased when we strive to maintain our integrity.

Stop and Think 💭

4. How well do I treat people when I know I will not get anything in return?
5. Am I the same person in front of others that I am when I'm alone?
6. Do I quickly admit it when I've done something wrong without being told to do so by someone else?
7. Am I willing to be accountable to other people for what I do?





Memorize

*"People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed."
Proverbs 10:9 (NLT)*

Integrity is being truthful and undivided—living in a way that matches your actions and words.

People love to follow someone who does the right thing. Others will follow you if they know you are trustworthy. Being a person of integrity builds trust in your relationships. And building trust increases your influence and allows you to grow as a leader. Sometimes having integrity can be hard, but if you work to have integrity in your life, you will be rewarded for it. Integrity is important because integrity builds trust with others and increases influence.

Pray

Pray this prayer every day for the next week.

"Lord, sometimes my actions and words don't line up the way they should. I'm sorry for the mistakes I have made. Help me to become a person of integrity. I want to treat other people well, even when they can't give me anything in return because that's how you treat me. You love me even when I haven't done anything to deserve it. Help me to love others that way too. Amen."

- According to what you've read here, what is Integrity?
- Why is integrity important?

Answers

- According to what you've read here, what is Integrity?
Being truthful and undivided; Living in a way that matches your actions and words
- Why is integrity important?
Because integrity builds trust with others and increases influence



Joseph Attitude

Read: Genesis 39 


Attitude can make a great difference in your life because it impacts your ability to lead yourself and others well.


Attitude is a feeling expressed by behavior. Your attitude colors every aspect of your life. It is like the mind's paintbrush. It can paint everything in bright, vibrant colors to create a masterpiece. Or it can make everything dark and dreary. Your attitude might be affected by everything from your personality to your experiences to your family and friends, but one thing is clear: your attitude affects everything.

Stop and Think 

1. Is there anyone in your life who consistently has a good attitude?
2. How has having a bad attitude affected you in the past?

Attitude is a choice. There are going to be times in your life when you don't feel like being happy or kind, but you can still choose to be. There will be times when you don't want to be positive, but you can still choose to be. Remember the story of Joseph? Joseph refused to give in to temptation with Potiphar's wife. Notice how Joseph



Read the story of Joseph and note the following 

3. **Go back** through the story of Joseph and put a **star** by all the things that could have given Joseph a bad attitude.
4. **Fill in the blanks:**
Attitude is a _____ expressed by a _____.

She kept the cloak with her until her husband came home. Then she lied to him. "That Hebrew slave you've brought into our house tried to come in and fool around with me," she said. "But when I screamed, he ran outside, leaving his cloak with me!"

Potiphar was furious. So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison. But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison.

Did you know?

Joseph saw his brothers again, and when he saw them he forgave them for what they did to him. He could have had them all sent to prison or killed, but instead Joseph forgave them because he knew it was the right thing to do.

Now God had given Joseph the ability to interpret dreams. After Joseph had been in prison for two years, Pharaoh had a dream that made him scared.

Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream last night, and no one here can tell me what it means. But I have heard that when you hear about a dream you can interpret it."

"It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied. "But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease."

So Joseph interpreted the dream. It was about a famine coming into the land.

Joseph also told Pharaoh how he could prepare for the famine so his people would not die. Joseph's suggestions were well received by Pharaoh and his officials. So Pharaoh asked his officials, "Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are.

You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours."

Taken from Genesis 39

Dig Deeper into the Story

If anybody was put in a situation where they would be expected to have a bad attitude, it was Joseph. His brothers threw him in a pit, sold him into slavery, and lied about his death. Then, just when things were starting to look up for Joseph and he was put in charge of Potiphar's household, he was thrown in prison for something he did not do. Talk about a pretty bad situation!

However, the Bible says, "But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him His faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden," (Genesis 39:21).

Even in prison, God continued to show Joseph favor, and Joseph continued to grow in influence. God's faithful love enabled Joseph to have a good attitude. Joseph continued working hard, believing that God would be pleased with him, and God rewarded him for it by making him the second most powerful person in all of Egypt!

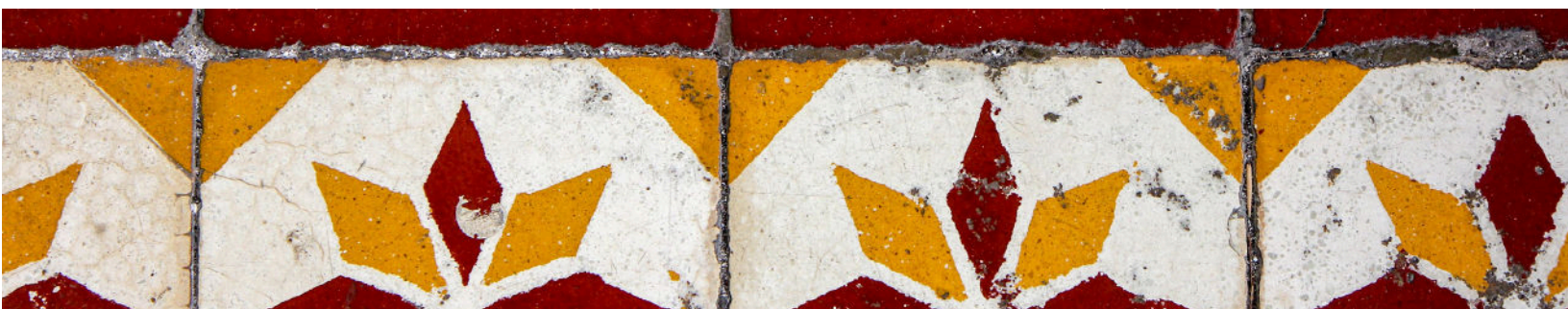
Sometimes, you might find yourself in difficult circumstances. Things may not be going your way, and the whole world might seem like it is against you. It is in those moments that you can find God's help and faithful love just as Joseph did.

Your attitude has a huge influence on the way you see the world, your work, and the people around you. Your attitude can sometimes make the biggest difference in terms of how you decide to act when things are not going well for you.

The best way to change your attitude is to change your thoughts. Just like Joseph, you can rest in knowing that God cares about you. He is committed to taking care of you, even when things go wrong. Walking in that truth every day can help to give you the attitude you need to grow as a leader.

Stop and Think

5. How can having a positive attitude help you become a better leader?
6. How can you work to change your attitude this week?
7. What worries and cares can you give to God because He cares for you?





Memorize

"Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding."

Proverbs 3:13 (NLT)

When things aren't going well for you, your attitude can become your most valuable asset. Luckily, attitude is a choice. When you have a positive attitude, it affects the way you work, the way you relate to other people, and how you treat them. Everyone loves to be around a person with a great attitude. If you want people to follow you, they have to enjoy being around you. No one likes being around people with bad attitudes.

I can change my attitude by changing how I think and by trusting in God.

Pray

Pray this prayer every day for the next week.

"Lord, thank you for caring about me and promising to watch over me. Help me to trust you more and more every day, and help me to have a better attitude about life.

Sometimes it is hard for me to feel joy, but I know you can help me. Amen."

- What is an attitude?
- How can I change my attitude?

Answers

- Attitude is a **feeling** expressed by **behavior**.
- What is an attitude?
An inward feeling express by outward behavior
- How can I change my attitude?
By changing how I think; By trusting in God.

About Lead Today

Lead Today was created in partnership between John Maxwell's organization, EQUIP, and OneHope. The program was first distributed in Ghana in 2016. Since then, it has been used in more than 80 nations around the globe, and young people have the opportunity to learn the content in a variety of settings. You'll often find *Lead Today* used in schools as values development curriculum, in after-school leadership development clubs, or in church settings. Trained facilitators guide learners through the content, engaging in group conversations as they go. Many young people around the world see leaders who corruptly use their influence to manipulate or take advantage of others. They need a better example to follow—Jesus! By the end of the program, each person knows how to take steps to be an honorable leader. *Lead Today* is currently available in over 25 translations worldwide. We look forward to seeing the program expand and continue to teach crucial leadership lessons!

If you'd like to invest in the next generation and donate toward the expansion of *Lead Today*, visit onehope.net/give. Three young people receive *Lead Today* for every dollar donated to this initiative.



EQUIP™

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