

The Making of a Leader

As leaders of others we often hear that we are called to “reproduce ourselves in others.” How do we do that, and what are the realities of reproducing our flaws in them right along with the positive things? In this workshop, we will look at the life of David; his inward life, his challenges, and what it means to persevere and rebound from personal failure. We will see how God uses community, discipline, accountability, and transparency to mold a leader after God’s own heart. We will use principles of Scripture as the catalyst to have interaction all through the workshop to discuss the difficulties that come with our own leadership and what it is to help others grow in their leadership capabilities.

Ann Pritchard Blaser has two degrees in education and taught school in the public school system. She has been actively involved in Bible Study Fellowship for thirty years training leaders and teaching women to study the Bible. She taught the study of Scripture for twenty-two years with classes of as many as 650 women and leadership groups of over seventy. Ann's ministry has recently changed and now she is advising and shepherding other teaching leaders. In addition to BSF she has traveled overseas to do women's conferences where she helps women to learn how to study the Bible systematically and how to write lectures and teach others. Ann and her husband Bill have two grown children who are following Christ and two young grandsons.

I. I Samuel – David

- A. Youngest of several brothers – relegated to caring for sheep – lowest job
- B. God’s choice – leadership is a calling – we don’t volunteer

II. The Inward Life

- A. In the fields – solitude – for ourselves, our children – quiet in a noisy world
- B. Formation – psalms – worship

Quote: “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.” John Piper
Quote: “Worship is a way of gladly reflecting back the radiance of His worth. This cannot be done by mere acts of duty but can be done when spontaneous affections arise in our hearts.”

- C. Hymns, meditating on Scripture, memorizing it.
- D. The means of grace – ultimately – worship is God’s grace to us in order that we recognize His manifest presence.

Principle: The inward life with God is integral in the life of a leader.
Illustration:

Q. & A. and Discussion

III. Challenges – The bear and the lion

- A. I Samuel 17:33-37
- B. Training of self I Tim. 4:78...train yourself to be godly...
- C. Developing spiritual muscle – physical workouts – two kinds of training: strength and endurance. Strength comes from increased weight, endurance comes from more repetitions. Analogies.

Quote: “Godliness – the attitude of trust that leads to obedience.” Walt Kaiser
Quote: “Little denials of self can lead to self-denial when it would otherwise be impossible for us.”
- D. Training new STLs – summer of 2016 – greatest challenge for each one is delivering a lecture – their own personal lion/bear
- E. Stepping up to the challenge with courage – “God confidence”
- F. David’s confidence in facing Israel’s enemy - I Samuel 17:45-50

Principle: The believer faces challenges that, when rightly received, can develop spiritual muscle.

Illus. YRM group

Q. & A. and discussion

IV. Persevering Under Opposition

- A. David opposed by Saul
- B. I Sam 18:28-29, 18:7-9, 12-16
- C. Years of frustration
- D. Perseverance – defined – literally = “staying under” – picture a beach ball under water with pressure to pop up to the surface. To choose to “stay under” in spite of pressure is to persevere.
- E. How are leaders prepared to persevere? Discipline and self-mastery come from feeding the right things to ourselves.

Principle: The believer that stays put has been feeding the spiritual nature.

Illus.

Q. & A. and Discussion

V. Importance of Community/Accountability

- A. I. Samuel 20 – Jonathan
- B. II Samuel 23:8 – David’s mighty men
- C. Meaningful friendships – no one thrives alone

Quote: “The authorities’ greatest mistake was to keep us together, for together our determination was reinforced. We supported each other and gained strength from each other. Whatever we knew, whatever we learned we shared, and by sharing we multiplied whatever courage we had individually. That is not to say that we were all alike in our responses to the hardships we suffered. Men have different capacities and react differently to stress. But the stronger ones raised up the weaker ones, and both became stronger in the process.” Nelson Mandela

Principle: Community provides accountability that can make all the difference.
Illus.

Q. & A. and Discussion

VI. Rebounding From Personal Failure

- A. Adultery and Murder
- B. II Samuel 11
- C. Untamed quirks/habits left unchecked.
- D. “Respectable Sins”

Quote: “The barrier I have met is the almost total absence from the minds of my audience of any sense of sin.” C.S. Lewis

Quote: “The awareness of personal sin has effectively disappeared from their consciences. But it has not disappeared from the sight of God. Rather, all sin, both the so-called respectable sins of the saints, which we too often tolerate, and the flagrant sins of society, which we are quick to condemn, are a disregard for the law of God and are reprehensible in His sight. Both deserve the curse of God.” Jerry Bridges

- E. Subtle sins that lead to more
- F. The need for confession/transparency

Principle: The believer is called to ask God what sin needs to be confessed.
Illus.

Q. & A. and Discussion

VII. Living with Consequences and Brokenness to Finish Well

- A. May not be able to “build the temple” as you wanted
- B. I Chron. 22:6-10
- C. Willingness to face the pain
- D. Ps 86:11 An undivided heart
- E. A man after God’s own heart I Sam. 13:14

Principle: God alone decides His leaders’ accomplishments by His grace.
Illus.

Q. & A. and Discussion

Suggested Readings:

Respectable Sins, Jerry Bridges, Navpress

Long Walk to Freedom, Nelson Mandela, Little Grown and Co.

The Supremacy of God in Preaching, John Piper, Baker Books Publisher

Contending for Our All, John Piper, Crossway Books Publisher