

LEADERS

Introductory information for the team member:

This talk is given by a student team member. Its purpose is twofold: to draw together the points of the previous talks and help the retreatant convert the ideas into meaningful action and to show that the individual can be a leader within his environment.

We are concerned with moving the individual into action. However, the speaker must be careful not to get into the “Love In Action” talk.

Examples from the speaker’s personal experience are extremely valuable in showing the retreatants concrete ways to live the ideas presented during the retreat.

The speaker should emphasize that all of us will fail as we attempt to be good leaders, but the important part of failing is learning from the failure and then going on with life.

Special emphasis should be placed on Christian leadership.

Outline for talk:

Introduction:

Before I begin my talk, I would like everyone to write down a few things in your notebooks.

1. First, please write three or four qualities which you believe are part of being a leader.
2. Next, write the names of any three people whom you consider to be leaders.
3. Finally, please write the names of three people in this room, other than the team members, whom you consider to be leaders.

Now, would everyone please put your head down on the table (wait until done). Raise your hand if you consider yourself to be a leader, (Count the number of hands raised and write it down so that you can use it later in your talk.)

And what is a leader? Perhaps the President of the United States, the All-Star football player, the president or headmaster of our school, or does a member of the Student Council come to mind? These people are leaders, but there are a lot more leaders than these obvious ones.

A leader is one who influences others by his actions and thoughts, whether he knows it or not. (Write)

Body of talk:

There are three types of leaders, and I would like you take them down in your notebooks: The Everyday Leader, The Community Leader, and The Christian Leader.

I. The Everyday Leader

A. The most common form of leadership influence.

B. We influence and are influenced by people every day of our lives.

1. Parents
2. Family
3. Friends
4. Strangers

(Give personal examples of ways in which you have influenced others and have been influenced by others.)

C. Some influence is negative.

1. Each person is responsible to every other person and sometimes we don't live up to our responsibilities as leaders in our daily actions. (Give an example of a time when you were a bad influence on someone; such as, you didn't feel like going to Mass.)
2. Negative influence can also be a lack of action or a compromise of conviction. (Give an example of a time when you exerted negative influence because you did nothing at all or you did not stand up for your values and beliefs.)

D. Most influence is positive.

1. Leadership often consists of little things. (Give examples.)
2. Some of the best leaders are the ones who go unnoticed. (Give an example of a time someone influenced you without you or they being aware of it at the time.)

- E. All of us are everyday leaders. Only _____ (give # you counted at the beginning of talk) of you raised your hand earlier when I asked if you consider yourself a leader. Believe and remember that everyone here is an everyday leader.

II. The Community Leader

- A. We each belong to many different communities.
1. Family
 2. School
 3. Sport's team
 4. Parish or Church Community
 5. this KAIROS retreat group
- B. A community leader loves the community so much that he is willing to dedicate himself, his time, his energy, and his efforts to doing that which is best for the community. (Write)
- C. Community leadership can take many different forms, depending on the specific community.
1. Involvement in the various organizations
 2. Working for or serving the needs of the community
- D. Anyone can be a community leader. All that is required is willingness to get Involved.

III. The Christian Leader

- A. Each Christian is called to be a leader. Christ do not ask us to do anything that He did not do himself. Those who follow Christ are Christian leaders. (Write)
- B. A real Christian leader is natural, courageous and truly dedicated to others. (Write)
- C. I am going to give you a list of characteristics of a Christian leader. Please take them down in your notebooks, leaving space for notes between each one: a lover, an example, a thinker, a realist, an initiator, an adaptor, a failure.
1. A lover---he loves God, others and himself. (For this characteristic and for the ones that follow, try to give a brief example, preferably of someone they know.)

2. An example---he isn't the one who talks about being a Christian, but the tone who is Christian in the way he lives his daily life. To be a Christian leader you must do more than go around loving people---you must bring God to them by the manner in which you live. You bring people to God by letting them see God alive in you.
 3. A thinker---he has the knowledge to back up his beliefs and opinions; much of this knowledge is found in the Gospels.
 4. A realist---he must accept things and others as they are and adjust to them, but not compromise his own values and beliefs.
 5. An initiator---he is willing to take the 'first step', willing to take a risk. He isn't ruled by fear of rejection or failure.
 6. An adaptor---he isn't completely formed by his environment; he realizes that he, as an individual, can make a difference. (You will soon be going home, and you will have the opportunity to live out what we have talked about here.)
 7. A failure---being a Christian leader in an ideal we set for ourselves, but none of us will ever succeed all of the time---the important thing is not to give up---the only real mistakes are the ones from which we learn nothing.
- D. To be a Christian leader means to be identified with Christ. The person who follows Christ this way will sooner or later experience Christ's sufferings and death AND His resurrection. This will happen through disappointments, frustrations and personal inconveniences; this will also happen through moments of triumph and victory.
- E. Reasons for wanting to be a Christian leader---it is never easy, but it is always worthwhile.
1. The Christian leader has the satisfaction of knowing that what he is doing is important and valuable.
 2. Being a Christian leader is a joyful experience. There is happiness in following Christ and helping others to follow Him too. (Give examples from your own experience.)

Conclusion:

(Give this bride summary): A good leader leads by example and leads not only others, but leads himself. All of us are everyday leaders. All of us can be community leaders if we are willing to get involved. All of us can be Christian leaders if we will follow Christ and live according to his example---if we are willing to trust Christ completely.

I have a challenge for you as you go home tomorrow. I want you to try to be the best leader you can be. You don't have to be obvious---you can lead by example, through your words and actions---however small your action might be. I want you to prove to yourself that you are a leader, whether an everyday, community or Christian leader. Ideally, you are a combination of all three.

Start your closing song, leave, change to informal clothes and join your group in the main room for the table discussion.

The Rector now takes over:

Announce that there will now be group table discussions led by the student leaders and that when a group is finished, the members may leave quietly. Emphasize that there is going to be a long sleep during this time because we have a long night ahead of us. Tell everyone to be in the chapel at 3:33 p.m.

LEAD-IN QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS

Introductory information for the tama member:

These questions are offered as a help in initiating discussion. Leaders should be sensitive to adapt to the situation of the small group and the ideas of the speaker. The key to a successful discussion is 'catch the spirit' of the talk and the group and to proceed from there.

Questions fro discussion following the Leaders talk:

1. What qualities did you put down as important for a leader to have? Why?
2. Which people or who did you write down as leaders? Why?
3. Which people or who did you write down as examples of leaders who are your own age? Why?
4. Relate an incident o r experience when you believe you acted as a leader. What did it feel like to lead?