

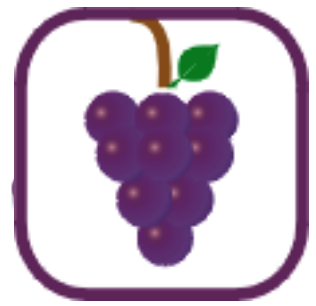
Every leader will face a time when they reach a point of exhaustion. During that humbling moment, they will truly discover what type of leader they are and how they are regarded by those under their charge.

When you become overwhelmed, will your team be at your aid to support you? Or will they shake their heads in derision and watch you as you grow weary?

Leadership Insights

Do Your People Care About You?

**8 ACTIONS TO BUILDING A
BOND WITH YOUR TEAM**



Do Your People Care About You?

Once there was an emperor, strong and mighty. Seemingly invincible, he conquered many nations and acquired their wealth. The people of the land were proud to be its citizens. They enjoyed the prosperity of the nation and followed their leader's command to intimidate and conquer. After years of dethroning other nations, the emperor finally met his first humiliating defeat -- but his loss to battle would not compare to his ultimate downfall, which was shockingly at the hands of those he trusted most. His people secretly despised him and when he was most vulnerable, they took advantage of his fragility.

Do your people care about you?

Allow me to introduce a second leader whose experience was quite the contrary. He was commissioned by his Chief to direct one of the largest relocation initiatives in history. Six hundred thousand men and their families would travel across the country with everything they owned. And if that doesn't sound intimidating enough, let me add that the move was to be made simultaneously, and they would have to trek through unfamiliar territory before arriving at their destination. As you can imagine, this was an enormous assignment – often aggravating and seeming impossible!

As they traveled across the country, they encountered opposition. They had never been in a combat situation, and the nation they faced was massive and skilled. They mustered their faith and courage to battle against the established army, as their leader stood at the top of the hill with two of his aids, directing the valiant effort. As long as the leader maintained his position, the people miraculously had the advantage over their adversary. But as their leader grew weary and was no longer able to maintain his stance, the enemy gained control.

There will be times when you and your team have unbelievable feats to conquer. As the leader, you will take your position directing the crusade, encouraging your team, building their confidence and providing emotional support. However, it is during these times when you will find that being the backbone of the operation can be arduous. You may become overwhelmed and reach your point of exhaustion. When that occurs, what will become of your team? What will become of you?

The leader's fatigue escalated and he was unable to maintain his stance. At that moment, the people in his charge came to his aid. They did not seize the opportunity to dethrone their chief and overtake his position, or simply watch him in distress; but they sat him on a stone and supported his hands high and steady until the fighting ceased. The troop's confidence soared as they saw their leader and his assistants uphold their position of victory ... and they triumphed over their assailants! They did not abandon their leader, because they cared about him.

Do your people care about you?

8 ACTIONS TO BUILD A BOND

Refuse
Choose
Sacrifice
Look
Stand
Discern
Remain
Command

Eight Actions to Building a Bond with Your Team

Why were the results of leader number two, different from that of leader number one? The leader whose team supported him was a great leader, but he was not perfect. He often grew impatient and complained to his Chief about having to endure the responsibility of leading people who did not seem to appreciate anything, but grumbled about everything.

Leader number one was a potent communicator. He used choice words to intimidate other kings, debilitate their confidence and weaken their fighting spirits. On the other hand, leader number two was not a good speaker. He described himself as being “slow in speech and slow of tongue;” yet he was able to command the attention and gain the respect of those he led.

There are many other differences between these leaders; but one of the essential distinctions regards the relationships they had with the people they led. Leader number two began building these relationships even before he was commissioned to lead.

You have heard the old adage, “Actions speak louder than words.” Leader Two lived by these words, since he did not possess the finesse for speech. His actions established credibility with the people and he formed a unique bond that was built on a solid Rock of principles, respect and genuine concern.

Here are eight actions that portray the quality of this leader. In subsequent articles, we will dissect each act and consider ways to apply them, so we may build stronger bonds with those who put their trust in our hands.

- Refuse:** He **refused** to accept preferential treatment, although he was raised in the palace;
- Choose:** He **chose** to roll up his sleeves and work alongside those he would eventually lead;
- Sacrifice:** He **sacrificed** wealth and prominence, without hesitation, in order to serve his Chief;
- Look:** He **looked** ahead. He knew there was more to offer than the present;
- Stand:** He **stood** up for his beliefs, no matter what the price;
- Discern:** He **discerned** when to walk away from a bad situation, he was not afraid of losing the battle to win the war;
- Remain:** He **remained** focused on his mission and remained loyal to his Chief;
- Command:** He **commanded** with instruction and explanation. He made sure the people understood the “why” as well as the “what”.

The great leader referenced in this article is Moses. The battle against the Amalekite army can be found in [Exodus 17:8-16](#). The eight actions of Moses are outlined as great examples of faith in [Hebrews 11:23-29](#).

The despised leader is Emperor Sennacherib. His sons killed him after he was defeated in battle ([2 Kings 19:35-37](#); [2 Chronicles 32:21](#); [Isaiah 37:36-38](#).)