

Danny Anderson

Nothing ever changes for the better without **leadership**.

You are a leader because you have _____ **influence** _____.

Leadership is using your influence to rally others to achieve something you can't do alone.

Leaders must be _____ **optimistic** _____.

"We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces. But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there...!" *Numbers 13:27-28*

"Let's go at once to take the land... We can certainly conquer it."
Numbers 13:30

"We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!" So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: "The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. We even saw giants there... Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!" *Numbers 13:31-33*

The pessimism of the leaders _____ **spread** _____ to all the people.

"Why is the Lord taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?" Then they plotted among themselves, "Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!" *Numbers 14:3-4*

Dad _____ comes home.

Then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared to all the Israelites at the Tabernacle. And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? Will they never believe me, even after all the miraculous signs I have done among them? I will disown them and destroy them with a plague." *Numbers 14:10-12*

For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child. *Hebrews 12:6*

It was the _____ **perspective** _____ of the leaders that caused an entire generation to miss God's destination.

Where does the leader's optimism come from?

The leader's optimism is rooted in **God's ability** not his or her own.

"And if the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us." *Numbers 14:8*

"Do not rebel against the Lord, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the Lord is with us! Don't be afraid of them!" *Numbers 14:9*

What would happen if you stepped into your role as an optimistic leader?

"The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to **strengthen** those whose hearts are fully committed to him." *2 Chronicles 16:9*

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY John 18:1-27	MONDAY John 18:28-19:16	TUESDAY John 19:17-42
this week	june 5	june 6	june 7
WEDNESDAY John 20:1-31	THURSDAY John 21:1-25	FRIDAY Acts 1:1-26	SATURDAY Acts 2:1-42
june 8	june 9	june 10	june 11
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE 2 Chronicles 16:9			

go first.



For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Check-in

Last Week's Action Step

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

Introduction

Leadership is powerful when optimism is at its core. As Joshua and Caleb attempted to lead their people to fulfill God's will in taking possession of the Promised Land, they were met with opposition and pessimism. The pessimistic attitude of the people kept them from getting them to where God wanted them to go, and if we aren't careful, pessimism can easily lead to the same result in our lives.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you lean toward a pessimistic or optimistic view in life? Why? How can a pessimistic attitude keep you from getting to where God wants you to go?

2. Read Numbers 13:25-14:8. Joshua and Caleb responded with optimism, while the others countered with pessimism. Discuss a time you were required to lead with optimism when others around you chose to be pessimistic instead. How did it make you feel?

When it comes to leading in your own life, what are you afraid of? What's holding you back?

3. Read Numbers 14:9 and Philippians 2:13. Optimism is rooted in God and not in our own ability. How do we apply the same optimism to our burden? What are some ways we can grow in our confidence of God's ability and not ours?

Read 2 Chronicles 16:9. What does it look like to be "fully committed," and how does that shape how we become optimistic about our role as a leader?

Small Group Questions Continued

4. What steps will you take this week to place your confidence in God's ability and not your own?

How will you use your growing confidence in God to lead others and attack your burden?

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are _____

My memory verse is _____

This coming week, I'm praying for:

Outreach: Groups in Action

OUR CHURCH

Do you have a passion for guests that are making decisions during our services to walk with God? We need volunteers that are willing to help after the services to pass out Bibles and encourage our guests in their walk with Christ. Contact AJ Mamot at amamot@eclife.org or 317-535-9673 ext. 228.

OUR COMMUNITY

Shepherd Community serves hundreds of kids during the summer. Sign up to serve lunch this summer during their daycamp. Please contact Phil Merki at philm@shepherdcommunity.org.

OUR WORLD

Hope Road Nicaragua, one of our missions partners, is currently raising funds to build a well and a school in one of their supported communities, El Conejo. The children in this area do not have access to clean water or education so every \$1 donated goes a long way to meet their practical needs. Also, we are looking for notes of encouragement to the Pastors and Pastoras of that community. These can be dropped off at the outreach or information counters - to the attention of Kerry Jones. Please visit hoperoadnicaragua.org and click 'Give Now' to help financially with this project (individually or as a group collection).