

# LEADING THROUGH LEADING

## THREE ESSENTIALS FOR NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY

### Part One: Heaven Rules

In a world that is throwing as much uncertainty at its inhabitants as this one is right now, it's important for anybody in charge of anything to make a simple, liberating admission: we don't have all the answers for what to do next. In fact, it's these kinds of uncertain conditions that actually make leadership necessary. So whether you find yourself leading your family, spouse, coworkers, or an even broader group of people during this season, it's worth taking a look at what the scriptures have to say about leadership, namely that it's a position we always acquire on loan, and one for which we'll have to account for our decisions after the fact. But don't let that scare you; a healthy dose of humility goes a long way.

#### Start Talking

1. When you think of humble, helpful leadership, who/what comes to mind?
2. Who was the first leader you ever admired? Why did this person's leadership stick with you?

#### Looking Back

1. Last week, Stuart Hall mentioned that he believes our culture idolizes certainty, especially in troubled times. How did you do with that struggle over the past week? Talk about your experience navigating the difficulties of the unknown.
2. When did you have an opportunity to practice the kind of selfless love Stuart experienced during his time with COVID? How did you respond?
3. What outcomes didn't go your way in recent days? How would you describe your response?
4. What steps were you able to take in order to actively and practically care about the people around you as the virus causes so much trouble? What steps do you wish you would've taken?



## What About You?

1. Do you remember the first time you ever realized there were no “adults in the room,” and in fact, *you* were in charge? How did it feel? Why do you think you reacted the way you did?
2. When it comes to leveraging influence and authority, think about the context of your personal experience. Who have you seen get this right? Wrong? Explain.
3. Time for some radical honesty: when have you mentally claimed complete credit for a success, ignoring the “loaned,” temporary nature of everything we accomplish on Earth? How did it affect your thinking? Your behavior?
4. Why do you think human beings have such a hard time in situations in which we don’t have all the answers?
5. How do you tend to respond in these kinds of circumstances?

## Look It Up

*Read the following passage before answering the questions below: Daniel 4:4-5, 15-17, 19, 26-27, 29-35, 37.*

1. Andy argued that Nebuchadnezzar confused progress for greatness, and lost his understanding that all leadership is temporary and loaned. Where do you see this playing out in the narrative? What are the consequences? Why do you think things happen the way they do, here?
2. The text says that, “the most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of the Earth, gives them to anyone He wishes, and sets over them the lowliest people.” What do you take this to mean? How does it play out in the context of these stories?
3. What is required of Nebuchadnezzar when it comes to repentance (think back on Daniel’s original interpretation of the dream, and the warning he issues to the king)? What does it tell us about how to live in the world? What does it indicate about the nature of God?
4. How do we see this dynamic playing out in the rule of Belshazzar? When do his worst decisions occur?
5. How would you describe Daniel’s behavior in these scenes? What thoughts or principles seem to guide him?

## Putting It All Together

1. If what the book of Daniel says about how God doles out authority is true, what are the implications for those of us who have any degree of leadership or influence? How should we lead?
2. If greatness in leadership is more than mere progress, what defines greatness, at least according to Daniel’s recounting of the words of God?



3. Read Mark 10:42-45. What are the qualifications for anyone who, in Jesus' words, "...wants to become great?"
4. As you consider your personal sphere of influence, which of these three descriptors do you find most challenging or inspiring and why: stewardship, temporary, or accountable?
5. What would it look like for you to start each day this coming week knowing that your position is a result of stewardship, that it is temporary, and that you will be accountable for your decisions and how they affect other people? What can you do to remind yourself of this?

