

LEADING THROUGH LEADING

THREE ESSENTIALS FOR NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY

Leading Through: Clarity

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 to make a simple, liberating admission: we don't have all the answers. 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, because successfully navigating uncertainty requires an ability to communicate with clarity. Because while you'll never be able to provide people with the certainty they desire, you can give them the next best thing: clarity, and a plan to move forward.

Start Talking

1. When you think about clarity in the middle of a crisis, what thoughts, images, or people come to mind? Why?
2. What's the best speech you've ever heard? (This could come from some world leader, or even just your 8th grade basketball coach.) Why did it resonate with you so strongly?

Looking Back

1. When did you forgo the temptation to claim what you "deserve" this past week, in order to better serve and lead the people around you? When did you miss opportunities to do so?
2. Did you ever find yourself letting anger detract from your moral authority as a leader? How did you approach the recovery process?
3. Last week, Andy laid out three aspects of interior life that good leaders should pay attention to: our moral authority, sense of entitlement, and the imaginary conversations that play out in our minds. Which of these did you have the easiest time with? Which was most challenging?
4. Were you able to pray for the courage to do what's right no matter the cost each morning? How did you find it affecting your day-to-day experience of leading?



What About You?

1. Has anyone ever promised you certainty that you knew they couldn't deliver on? Have you ever made this kind of promise, yourself? What happened?
2. It's hard to be honest and clear and hopeful all at the same time in a leadership role. So let's interrogate each element of that trio, one at a time. What do you think the main difference is between honesty and cynicism? Clarity and arrogance? Hopefulness and naïveté?
3. Why is it so challenging for people in a position of leadership to admit what we don't know? What are the dangers of pretending there's no gap in our knowledge?
4. How do you feel when you realize someone is pretending to know more than they do?
5. What makes it so hard to be clear when we're uncertain? Why is this such a delicate balance?

Look It Up

Read the following passage before answering the questions below: Joshua 1: 9–11. Matthew 28: 16–20.

1. What's the basis of Joshua's courage in this passage? Why is it important to identify the source from which we draw courage in tough situations?
2. How do we see the dynamic of clarity in the face of uncertainty playing out in the rhetoric of Jesus, here?
3. Of Joshua?
4. How would you describe the balance between clarity, honesty, and hopefulness in the instruction they give? Where do you see each of these elements in what they say to those in their charge?
5. What evidence does Jesus provide in order to inspire courage in his followers?

Putting It All Together

1. Who do you feel responsible for during this season of uncertainty? Who is looking to you for reassurance?
2. What can you do to create more clarity for these people in the midst of the current uncertainty?
3. Where do you fall on the continuum of "unbridled optimism" versus "the-sky-is-falling-ism?" How does this impact your messaging to those looking to you for direction and hope?



4. What's going to be your primary temptation this week as you communicate: to be cynical, to be baselessly optimistic, or to pretend you have more certainty than you do? How can you prepare yourself to resist these urges?
5. What would it look like for you to pray for humility and balance as you lead this week? What daily reminders could you leave yourself in order to make this happen?

