

Who Me? A Leader?
Leading from the Middle of the Pack
Discover Church
Mark Phillips
May 24, 2026

Leadership is **Influence**.

Developing the Mindset of a Middle Leader

- **Proactive Influence**

“David longed for water and said, “Oh, that someone would get me a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!” So the three mighty warriors broke through the Philistine lines, drew water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem and carried it back to David. But he refused to drink it; instead, he poured it out before the Lord. “Far be it from me, Lord, to do this!” he said. “Is it not the blood of men who went at the risk of their lives?” And David would not drink it.: 2 Samuel 23:15-17

- **Servant Leadership**

“So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.” Exodus 17:10-13

- **Cultural Stewardship**

We Exist as a Church is to Discover God - Discover Purpose - Discover Community

We have created a church with non-judgmental environments for people to DISCOVER who **God** is, DISCOVER their unique **Purpose** and DISCOVER authentic **Community**.

- **Resilience & Humility**

Leading from the Middle of the Pack

1. Leading "Up" through **Relational Chemistry**

“Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.” With these words David sharply rebuked his

men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.” 1 Samuel 24:5-7

“Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, “My lord the king!” When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. He said to Saul, “Why do you listen when men say, ‘David is bent on harming you’? This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, ‘I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord’s anointed.’ See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life.” 1 Samuel 24:8-11

“When David finished saying this, Saul asked, “Is that your voice, David my son?” And he wept aloud. “You are more righteous than I,” he said. “You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the Lord delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the Lord reward you well for the way you treated me today. I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. Now swear to me by the Lord that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father’s family.” So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.” 1 Samuel 24:16-22

- *Earning Trust*
- *Study the Leader*
- *Respect and Honor*
- *Actionable Steps*

2. Leading "Beside" through **Shared Vision**

“Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.” Nehemiah 2:17-18

- *The Power of Us*
- *Get in the Trashcan*
- *Bridge the Gap*
- *Beware of Dream Stealers*

3. Leading "Down" with a **Servant's Heart**

"To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." 1 Peter 5:1-6

- *Under-Shepherd*
- *Avoiding Dominance*
- *Empowerment*

4. The **Reward** of the Middle

- *The Crown of Glory*
- *Call to Action*

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- *Proactive* _____
- *Servant* _____
- *Cultural* _____

Discover God - Discover Purpose - Discover Community

- _____ & _____

Leading from the Middle of the Pack

1. Leading "Up" through _____
2. Leading "Beside" through _____
3. Leading "Down" with a _____
4. The _____ of the Middle

Scripture: 2 Samuel 23:15-17; Exodus 17:10-13; 1 Samuel 24:5-11; 1 Samuel 24:16-22;
Nehemiah 2:17-18; 1 Peter 5:1-6