

General Leadership Principles

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

Course description: General Leadership Principles Part 4

This course deals with the power of our influence as leaders. This is the first of four lessons designed to consider the influences in history, biblical influences, influences in our lives personally, and how we can improve in our ability to influence others. These lessons follow the Dale Carnegie lessons on “How to Influence People to our Way of Thinking.”

Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:

- A. Listed a minimum of ten people in history who demonstrated great influence on the direction of their country or the world.
- B. Listed a minimum of ten people in the Bible who also demonstrated great influence during their generation.
- C. Described how each of these people were influential in their generation.

Outline of the class:

- A. Divide the class into groups of four and ask each group to spend 10 minutes to make a list of five to six people in history who demonstrated great influence in their country or the world and describe why they were so influential. Remind the class that these people may have demonstrated either good or bad influence.
- B. Once they complete the task, ask each group to share one person and make a list on the whiteboard of these individuals. Also, ask the group to share why that person was influential. Go around the room until you have at least ten people listed. A few examples are below:
 - 1. Napoleon
 - 2. Hitler
 - 3. Stalin
 - 4. Mussolini
 - 5. Mother Teresa
 - 6. George Washington
 - 7. Abraham Lincoln
 - 8. Charles Darwin
 - 9. Albert Einstein
 - 10. Nelson Mandela

11. Leonardo da Vinci
12. Mahatma Gandhi
13. Bill Gates
14. Malcolm X
15. Jesse Owens

- C. Then ask each group to spend about 5 minutes to make a list of five to six people in the Bible who demonstrated great influence during their generation and describe why they were so influential. Remind the class that they cannot use Jesus (too easy), but these people may have demonstrated either good or bad influence.
- D. Once they complete the task, ask each group to share one person and make a list on the whiteboard of these individuals. Also, ask the group to share why that person was influential. Go around the room until you have at least ten people listed. A few examples are below:

1. Adam and Eve
2. Noah
3. Abraham
4. Moses
5. Joshua and Caleb
6. David
7. Solomon
8. Samson
9. Ahab
10. Jereboam
11. Hezekiah
12. Jeremiah
13. Isaiah
14. John the Baptist
15. Peter
16. Paul
17. Andrew

18. James
19. Luke
20. John

Conclusion:

- A. What we've seen through listing these individuals from history and the Bible is the powerful influence even one person can have on a country, world, or generation.
- B. One of the most significant principles about leadership is influence. We must learn about the nature of our influence, when we have the strongest amount of influence, and how to use our influence in the ways God desires.
- C. Next week, we will consider the people who have personally influenced our lives and several biblical texts that discuss the powerful influence of God's people in this world.

Recommending Reading:

Maxwell, John. *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*