Leading From Three Directions

November 12, 2026

BIG IDEA: Leadership requires the wisdom to _____, the courage to_____, and the discernment to_____.

Experience is most useful when it leads to _____rather than _____.

- Learn from the_____.
- Envision the_____.
- Respond wisely in the_____.

1. Leaders_____ _____and _____from experience.

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future. — Proverbs 19:20

Don't be a know-it-all; be a learn-it-all — Satya Nadella, CEO Microsoft

- The danger is that eventually we stop learning because we believe we've already seen this before.
- Yesterday's success can become today's assumptions.

2. Leaders_____ _____and _____ _____a preferred future.

- Envisioning demands that we humbly hold the future lightly.
- Vision is not prediction. Vision is direction.
- Not only "Where are we going?" but also "Who do I need to become to lead us there?"
- The future can suffocate the present when we become so focused on what could be that we become impatient with what is.

3. Leaders_____with discernment in the_____.

Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds. — Proverbs 27:23

- Neither the past nor the future should distract you from your present and current reality.

Culture, no matter how defined, is singularly persistent. — Peter Drucker

- _____: wisdom gained
- _____: plans envisioned
- _____: decisions made

Leadership_____happens in the present tense.

Leadership maturity is learning to resist the urge to solve_____problems with _____answers or_____ hopes.

Strong leaders lead from three directions: _____by the past,_____by the future, and_____ _____in the present.

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A MINISTRY OF BOCA RATON COMMUNITY CHURCH
470 NW 4th Ave | Boca Raton, FL 33432 | citylead.com/boca

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BIG IDEA: Leadership requires the wisdom to ***remember***, the courage to ***envision***, and the discernment to ***respond***.

Experience is most useful when it leads to ***wisdom*** rather than ***assumption***.

- Learn from the ***past***.
- Envision the ***future***.
- Respond wisely in the ***present***.

1. Leaders ***look*** ***back*** and ***learn*** from experience.

Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future. — Proverbs 19:20

Don't be a know-it-all; be a learn-it-all — Satya Nadella, CEO Microsoft

- The danger is that eventually we stop learning because we believe we've already seen this before.
- Yesterday's success can become today's assumptions.

2. Leaders ***look*** ***forward*** and ***lead*** ***towards*** a preferred future.

- Envisioning demands that we humbly hold the future lightly.
- Vision is not prediction. Vision is direction.
- Not only "Where are we going?" but also "Who do I need to become to lead us there?"
- The future can suffocate the present when we become so focused on what could be that we become impatient with what is.

3. Leaders ***respond*** with discernment in the ***present***.

Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds. — Proverbs 27:23

- Neither the past nor the future should distract you from your present and current reality.

Culture, no matter how defined, is singularly persistent. — Peter Drucker

- ***Past***: wisdom gained
- ***Future***: plans envisioned
- ***Present***: decisions made

Leadership ***always*** happens in the present tense.

Leadership maturity is learning to resist the urge to solve ***today's*** problems with ***yesterday's*** answers or ***tomorrow's*** hopes.

Strong leaders lead from three directions: ***shaped*** by the past, ***pulled*** by the future, and ***fully*** ***engaged*** in the present.

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