

## Lesson

### Lead with Courage!

*Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Joshua 1:6–7*

### The Truth about Courage

1. Courage is not the absence of fear.
2. Courage is not reserved for the highly gifted and talented.
3. Courage turns dreams into reality.
4. Courage is found in everyday matters, not only in heroic moments.

### Five Demonstrations of Courage to Strengthen Your Leadership

#### 1. The courage to accept your \_\_\_\_\_.

*Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. II Corinthians 12:8–10*

*Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20–21*

- Submission prevents a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_.
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**2. The courage to face \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"A leader's first responsibility is to define reality."  
Max Dupree — Leadership Is An Art*

- Give those close to you permission, to be honest.
- Do you have people who can be honest with you?
- Don't pretend that everything is great when it is not.
- Don't look the other way when you know there is a problem.
- Be courageous and ask the tough questions
- Don't exaggerate the positive to cover the negative.
- Embrace the truth as an opportunity for growth, not a personal attack.
- Seek God's wisdom and write your plan to change your reality.

*Confront the brutal facts.  
Jim Collins — Good to Great*

**3. The courage to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- The courage to make \_\_\_\_\_.
- The courage to \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Opportunity does not equal obligation."  
Andy Stanley — The Next Generation Leader*

Learning focus is essential.

*"Most of us lead busy, but undisciplined lives. We have ever-expanding 'to-do' lists, trying to build momentum by doing, doing, doing — and doing more. And it rarely works. Those*

*who built the good-to-great companies, however, made as much use of 'stop doing' lists as the to-do lists. They displayed a remarkable discipline to unplug all sorts of extraneous junk... they displayed remarkable courage to channel their resources into only one or a few arenas."*

*Jim Collins — Good to Great*

- The courage to \_\_\_\_\_ before anyone else does.

**4. The courage to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- Sometimes it takes courage to never give up in the \_\_\_\_\_ for the goal.
- Sometimes it takes courage to never give up in the \_\_\_\_\_ for God's timing.

*When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him (Moses)."*  
Exodus 32:1

- Sometimes it takes courage to never give up in your willingness to be \_\_\_\_\_ when required.

**5. The courage to take \_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of progress.**

Fear is conquered when you take the first step.

**What step does God want you to take?**

*The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy.*

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

The question is not: "How do I eliminate fear?"  
But: "How do I possess the courage God has for me?"

## Application Guide

### Next Generation Leader

*Andy Stanley*

#### Section 1 Competence — Do Less, Accomplish More

1. Do you lean toward achieving balance in your life or mastering focus? Why? Do you attempt to achieve both? Is this working? Do you think achieving both is possible?

It's long been said and well understood that leaders control their schedules rather than letting others control it.

Let's establish some context for understanding. As a younger leader, or a leader new to a company or type of business, you rarely have the privilege of focusing only on the lanes of work within your passion and gifting. Unless you own your own business, you have a boss, and they will direct much of your time. (If you own your own business and remember the early days, you likely didn't have freedom then to do only what your passions and giftings focused on either. )

If you serve well in the areas you have been given, your gifts, strengths, and passions will be noticed, and over time you'll get to do what you're really passionate about. Don't get frustrated by the journey.

Here's some advice that will serve you well. **First, build** (grow it, make it better) the area you have been given, and **enjoy** your work! Learn and grow as a leader, figure out what your lanes are (your sweet spot of productive strengths), and work toward that. It takes

many years, can be decades, to fully get there. (If you work for a boss who doesn't care or in an unhealthy culture, make a change.)

Remember, even a seasoned leader, working almost exclusively in their sweet spot, will have requirements of their time. The point is to head in the right direction, the direction of your lanes of gifting and passion that God designed within you -- the work in which you are most productive and have the greatest joy.

2. What percentage would you say you are working in your sweet spot, and do you feel you are on pace in this process with your level of experience in your field of business? (explain)

3. What do you need to do to move a little closer to your lane(s) of passion and gifting? (this is not a quick-fix question or answer)

4. Is the environment you work in conducive to your growth as a leader, and does it allow you to eventually lead according to your strengths?



### **Section 3 Clarity — Uncertainty Demands Clarity**

1. Great Chapter! How true it is when Andy said: "The more responsibility you assume as a leader, the more uncertainty you will be expected to manage."

And this quote is true as well: "This is the tension every good leader lives with: negotiating uncertain terrain while casting a clear and compelling vision." *Andy Stanley*

Give a brief illustration of a leader you have chosen to follow who does a good job managing this tension of being clear in direction while negotiating uncertain terrain.

2. "As leaders, we can afford to be uncertain, but we cannot afford to be unclear." *Andy Stanley*

Can you give an illustration of your leadership at home or work that shows you mastering this leadership principle? Jot down a brief note — and tell us about it.

3. "Uncertainty exposes a lack of knowledge. Pretending exposes a lack of character."  
*Andy Stanley*

Do you permit yourself to admit what you don't know? (Describe)

"Coaches measure their success by the number of points on the scoreboard, not the number of plays they successfully execute." *Andy Stanley*

Keep your eyes on the big picture. Of the big picture wins below, circle the ones you are doing well in and make a brief note of action where you need to improve.

Home:

- Love and serve your wife
- Confident and emotionally healthy kids
- Family knows & loves Jesus
- Family enjoys time together (especially you and your wife.)
- Solve conflict well

Work:

- Success and advancement
- Great relationships with co-workers
- Servant leadership
- Leading staff well
- Direction and strategy are clear

Ministry:

- Demonstrate a servant's heart
- Using my spiritual gifts
- Good team player
- Enjoy my ministry
- Seeing changed lives

## **Section 4 Coaching — Coaching Enables a Leader to Go Farther, Faster**

1. Answer these two questions from your work environment.

- Who is (are) your coach(es)? What are you learning, and how are you improving?
  
- Who are you coaching? How is this person growing?

2. Ask your wife these questions. (Just a conversation with your wife)

- Am I teachable?
- Do I listen well?
- Do I put into practice what I learn?

3. (Back to you) Good coaches observe, instruct, and inspire. Which of these three is your strength, and which is your weakness? Briefly describe.

## **Section 5 Character — Character Determines the Leader's Legacy**

1. One more question to ask your wife.

In what ways do you respect my character?

- 2.** In refusing to compromise, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego gained moral authority and influence with the king.

As we draw near the end of our year together, it's wise to ask a tough question: Is there anything in your life that, if continued (or lack thereof), will cause your moral authority to be in jeopardy? If so, what?

- 3.** What is your personal definition of success?

As a leader, what legacy are you determined to leave behind?