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## Leadership Principles from Nehemiah

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### Characteristics of a Spiritual Leader (Demonstrate Core Values)

Reflect on the characteristics of a spiritual leader that Nehemiah demonstrated.

- (1) Faced Reality: Nehemiah didn't ignore the problem [[Neh 1:4](#)]
- (2) Personally Cared: Nehemiah had a cushy circumstance, but he cared about his people. When he heard the bad news, he sat down and cried [[Neh 1:4](#)]. He mourned for several days.
- (3) Brought the Need to God First: Nehemiah didn't rush off to fix the problem on his own. What he did immediately was pray. [Of course, temper this with the urgency of the situation. No doubt, you can pray while you act.] Notice how he began his prayer by telling God how awesome He is [[Neh 1:5](#)]
- (4) Knew God's Promises: Nehemiah knew God's promises well enough to admit where he and the people had gone wrong and also claim the promises that God had made to them [[Neh 1:6-9](#)].
- (5) Was Available for God to Use: Nehemiah let God know that He was there and ready to do what God desired regarding the problem [[Neh 1:10-11](#)].

Do you face reality, personally care, bring needs to God first, know His promises, and make yourself available for God to use?

### Pause First (Lay a Path)

Nehemiah waited three days before he took his first action related to what God had put in his heart to do [[Neh 2:11-12](#)]. Do you pause before beginning a task God has put in your heart to do? In what ways can a pause be helpful?

- [Mark 6:30-32](#)
- [Mat 14:23](#)
- [Luke 6:12-13](#)

### Identify the Needs (Lay a Path)

Nehemiah's first action was to see where the walls needed repair [[Neh 2:13-16](#)]. When creating a plan what are some of the things you consider? How do you make certain you have identified the needs?

### Tell How God is Working (Lay a Path)

When speaking to the people, Nehemiah told them how God was directing him and how He had softened the king's heart to support the repair of the walls [[Neh 2:17-18](#)]. When you present the vision for a task, what would make it more likely for people to rise up and work?

## **Begin at the Sheep Gate (Lay a Path)**

When Nehemiah rebuilt the walls, work began at the Sheep Gate [**Neh 3:1**]. This provided for the sacrifices for the sins of the people. In what way does this indicate our first priority [**Mat 6:33**]? How can we be sure we set and keep the right priorities?

## **Diverse, Yet Unified (Engage Others)**

Notice the variety of people that Nehemiah called to the work [**Neh 3**]. Think of ways to engage volunteers who are diverse, yet unified in the work [**Eph 4:11-13**].

## **Overcome Discouragement (Engage Others)**

What can a leader do to help people overcome discouragement? Here are some tips adapted from Charles Swindoll's "*Hand Me Another Brick*."

1. Unify people around a meaningful goal [**Neh 4:13-14**].
2. Point people toward God [**Neh 4:14** and **Php 4:6**].
3. Encourage people to get back into balance [**Neh 4:16-17**].
4. Provide a rallying point for people. They need to know they are not alone [**Neh 4:20**].
5. Occupy people in serving to increase morale and confidence [**Neh 4:21-23**].

## **Read It, Do it, Rejoice! (Demonstrate Core Values)**

Consider this leadership lesson adapted from Charles Swindoll's "*Hand Me Another Brick*."

- No life is complete without spiritual dimension [**Neh 8:8**].
- No spiritual dimension is complete without input from Scripture [**Mat 4:4** and **Deu 8:3**].
- No input from Scripture is complete without personal obedience [**Jas 1:22**].
- No personal obedience is complete without rejoicing [**Neh 8:10-12**].