"The Heart of Leadership: Qualities of a Leader"

Gabbing about Life (Icebreaker)

Who is a leader that you admire and what quality/qualities about him/her do you respect most?

Reading from the Book of Life (the Bible)

Proverbs 4:23-27

Grappling with Life's Issues (Questions)

Leadership is more than what you say – it is who you are. Character is the core of leadership. Character is always in the center of the heart of leadership. The following are some qualities of a leader and verses about these qualities. This is not an exhaustive list, but one to trigger your thinking. Feel free to add more verses and/or qualities as the discussion progresses. Let's examine the qualities of a leader:

1. Discipline – 1 Corinthians 14:40. You can lead others effectively when you have been able to conquer areas of your own life. What results is a connection between disciples and discipline as they come from the same root word. Are you in disciplined in spiritual practices?

2. Vision – Proverbs 29:18. If you don't know where you are going then any road will get you there. Vision is critical and propels a leader. Vision includes optimism and hope. One of the qualities of great leaders is that they can look beyond where people are at and see where they are going – they see potential. Is your vision large enough to lead others?

3. Wisdom – Acts 6:3. Wisdom is more than just knowledge – it is implementing discernment and judgment. What are you doing with what you know?

4. Decisive – Proverbs 16:33. Inactivity comes from a variety of reasons. One of these is the paralysis of analysis. Being analytical is a tremendous strength, but at some point you have to make a decision. Be sure of the will of God and GO FOR IT!!!

5. Courageous – 2 Timothy 1:7. When you are doing the Lord's work the enemy hits you hard. This is when you need to stand firm. What helps is to have people around you, like the life group, who can encourage you – who can help put courage in you.

6. Humble – Matthew 20:25-27. Humility is not saying, "I am nothing," or being soft-spoken. It is refusing to use one's strength when one has the ability to. Humility is not weakness. Rather it is controlling one's strength.

7. Humor – Proverbs 17:22. Humor gives you resilience. With all the pressures in life, laughter is the best medicine. What makes you laugh? When was the last time you laughed until your stomach hurt?

8. Righteous anger – John 2:15-17. There is such a thing as righteous wrath. Righteous anger is not settling for sin in your life. You can be angry at things that aren't right.

9. Patient – 2 Peter 1:6; Psalm 63. Patience is a virtue that takes a while to develop. Without patience it is easy to lose focus. Patience is a decision that we can make, and it is decision we make – when we want to. Men will be more than patient when they are out fly-fishing and trying to lure the giant trout. Women are willing to wait until they find the perfect outfit when they make their excursions to the mall. Why is it that when you put men and women together patience disappears? Patience is a choice – choose it.

10. Friendships – John 13:1. Jesus loved the people and they all loved him. It seems like everywhere he went there was a party or gathering. He constantly had compassion on them and for that they loved him. Do you see others with Christ's eyes and heart?

Final Thought: The qualities of a leader are many. Don't be intimidated by them because no one possesses all of the qualities in abundance. Work on developing character in your life. As long as you are breathing you have time.

Praying through Life's Challenges

Pick out one trait that you need God's help with and have someone agree with you in prayer as you allow God to develop that quality.

"For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world…"

John 18:37 (NKJV)