

Lesson VII

The Difficulties of Leadership

Goal: To introduce students to the difficult parts of leadership

Objective: Students will be able to practice leadership qualities and identify which ones work best in certain situations.

Time: 1 hour

Leader's Note: Explain to the class that they are going to divide themselves into two groups; boss' and employees. Each boss will be given the opportunity to either fire or keep an employee based on what the employee has done. Explain to the class that some leaders must make hard decisions that they would rather not make but it is a responsibility that comes with being a leader.

Ask the leaders to come sit in front of the class and the employees to sit in front of one of the bosses. Explain to the pair that they are to act out this specific scenario:

Your employee has just used all of the company's paper because he/she did not know how to use the copy machine. Determine whether or not you will fire them or not.

Leader's Note: Ask each boss if they will fire or keep the employee. Why or why not? Give each boss time to explain why they would keep or let go of the employee. Finally ask the employees if they feel they should be fired or kept. Why or why not? Finally discuss that if the boss decided to keep the employee, they could avoid this mistake by showing the employee how to use the copy machine and save paper.

Have the bosses and employees switch roles. Tell them that they will act out this next scenario and determine whether or not they will fire or keep their employee.

Your employees have been caught stealing equipment. Two printers, a laptop computer, and a paper shredder have been stolen. Will you keep your employees or fire them? Why or why not.

Leader's note: Allow each boss to explain why they will keep or fire their employee.

Have the pairs switch roles again and have them act out this specific scenario. Tell them to decide whether or not they will fire or keep the employee.

Your employees have worked with the company for three years. Their job is to make sure the other employees get paid the right amount of money. However, they always make mistakes and some employees do not get the right amount of money in their checks. The other employees begin to complain. Will you fire them or keep them? Why or why not?

Leader's note: Allow each boss to explain why they will keep or fire their employee.

Have the pairs switch roles again and have them act out this specific scenario. Tell them to decide whether or not they will fire or keep the employee.

Your employees have missed a few days of work because their son is sick with the flu. They have to attend another Doctor's appointment but you have work that needs to be done. Will you keep them or fire them, why or why not?

Leader's Note: After acting out the scenario, allow each boss to explain why they will keep or fire their employee.

Have the pairs switch roles again and have them act out this specific scenario. Tell them to decide whether or not they will fire or keep the employee:

Your employees have come to work with a bad odor. The customers that come into your store have complained. Will you keep them or fire them? Why or why not?

Leader's note: After acting out the scenario:

Allow each boss to explain why they will keep or fire their employee.

Ask each member if they have ever done something that they feel they should have or should not have been given another chance. Allow each person to speak on this matter.