

Lesson IV

Fixing Bad habits in Leadership

Goal: To introduce students to bad habits in leadership.

Objective: By the end of this lesson students will be able to:

1. Identify bad habits in leadership
2. Find ways to correct bad habits in leadership

Materials: Index cards, Pencils

Time: 1 hour

Leader's note: Give each participant an index card. Ask everyone to fold the index card so that the left side of the card meets the right side of the card. Tell them to unfold the card so that there is a crease down the middle of the card. On the left side of the index card at the top, the participants are to write down "bad habits." On the right side of the index card at the top, the participants are to write, "what is missing."

Break the class into four groups. Each group will act out a scenario below. Each scenario should take no longer than five to seven minutes.

Tell the participants to read the different scenarios of leadership gone badly. The rest of the class must identify what the bad leadership qualities are and what can be done to fix the problem. Explain to the class that leaders must be able to exhibit these things:

- Communication
- Collaboration/Working together
- Negotiation
- Planning
- Persistence/ Not giving up easily
- Respect

Read scenario one: Bill is the director of a summer camp. Bill gives his worker Tim, a piece of paper with a sticky note on top. The sticky note reads, "Send." At the bottom of the paper is a circle in red ink around a line. Tim is not sure what he should do with the paper so he places it in a pile. A few days later Bill receives an angry call from a mother. She wants to know why the camp form she was supposed to sign was never faxed to her. Bill stormed into Tim's office and yelled at him for not faxing the paper.

Leader's Note: Ask the following questions to the class:

- Why didn't Tim understand what to do with the paper?
 - What could Bill have done to make sure Tim understood what to do with the paper?
 - What could Tim have done to make sure he understood what to do?
1. What leadership skill is missing? (Answer: Communication)

Tell the class to write on the left side of the index card what Bill did wrong. On the right side of the index card the class should write down what quality they think was missing.

Leader's note: Explain to the class that Bill could have explained to Tim what he wanted him to do instead of leaving the sticky note. Sometimes simple directions are the best way to lead someone. Tim could have asked Bill what he wanted him to do if he did not understand. Also explain to the class that the missing leadership quality was communication. Finally ask the students if they have ever had someone they consider a leader give them a task they did not understand. If so, how did they complete the task?

Read Scenario two: In Beth's cooking class, she was the leader of the Cookie Club. Her job was to make sure the right amount of ingredients went into the cookie dough. This day, Beth did not feel like reading the directions, instead she told her group to put in more flour than they were supposed. Also, there were not enough eggs put into the dough. When the cookies were done baking they came out hard and unsweetened. The Cookie Club did not get to sell their cookies for the bake sale.

Ask the class:

- Why do you think the Cookie Club did a bad job with their cookies?
- What could Beth have done to make sure the Cookie club's cookies were perfect?
- What leadership quality do you think is missing? (answer: Planning) Tell the class to write down on the left side of the index card what Beth did wrong and on the right side of the index card the class should write what quality was missing. Collaboration and Planning are the answers.

Leader's Note: Explain to the class that because Beth did not read the directions. She did not plan well and was unprepared. This is a bad leadership quality. Leaders should always be prepared and have a plan when leading others. Finally ask the class if they have ever followed instructions or directions from someone who was not prepared or if they have ever been unprepared to lead someone.

Read Scenario Three: Paul was the leader of his school science fair project. He had three other group members; Kim, Amanda and James. Paul insisted that he knew the most about building volcanoes. When Kim and Amanda tried to help, Paul stated that girls should not try and build volcanoes. When James tried to help, Paul stated that James would just get in the way. Kim, Amanda, and James decided to leave the group Paul was leading and build their own volcano for the science fair project. Paul was angry. He stated that he didn't need them and he could do it on his own. By the end of the week Paul's volcano was a total mess and he was tired of building. He did not finish in time to enter the contest, however, Kim, James, and Amanda won first place.

Ask the class:

- Why did Paul's project fail?
- What could he have done to make sure the volcano was done in time for the contest?
- What leadership quality(ies) were missing? (answer: respect, communication, collaboration) Tell the class to write down on the left side of the index card the

mistake Paul made and on the right side they should write the leadership quality that was missing.

Leader's Note: Explain to the class that Paul did not respect his group members and insulted them which is why they chose to leave the group and build the volcano without him. Finally ask the class if they have ever been in a group where they felt the leader or another group member did not respect them.

Read Scenario four: Franklin is the team captain of the football team, the Lightening bolts. The Lightening bolt's have lost their first game to the Thunder clouds. Franklin goes to this coach and tell him that he does not want to be the team captain anymore. The coach tried to convince him but Franklin would rather just leave the team. Tommy is the new team captain and the first three games the Lightening Bolt's loose again. After the fourth game the Lightening Bolt's never loose a game again.

Ask the class:

- Why do you think the Lightening Bolt's lost the game?
- Why do you think Franklin decided to leave the team?
- What do you think Franklin should have done to make his team better?
- What leadership quality so you think was missing? (answer: Persistence) Tell the class to write down on the left side of the index card what Franklin did wrong and on the right side of the index card the leadership quality that was missing.

Leader's Note: Explain to the class that Franklin gave up the first time his team lost. Leaders will experience loss and failure but one must be persistent in order to succeed at being a great leader. Finally ask the class if they have ever wanted to give up the first time that they failed at something. Ask them to share that experience.