



Leadership Principles from Nehemiah
Lesson 3: Vision, Goals, & Endurance to Fulfill the Call of God

1. Leadership begins with vision.

Nehemiah 2:1-5

Leadership begins with a vision.

A leader must have _____

Vision can be very simple as we discovered in the previous lesson. Vision has three parts:

- _____
- Seeing the solution
- _____

As we see in the life of Nehemiah and every leader, there will be opposition to fulfilling the vision.

2. A leader sets goals

Many people in leadership are able to articulate a vision but they do not have clear-cut achievable goals.

Some examples of vision without a goal:

- Noah says, “I want to survive the flood.”
- Paul says, “I want to reach the world.”
- Joe Christian says, “I want to serve the Lord.”

All of these are good visions. But because there are no goals, the vision itself will not bring you closer to fulfilling it.

Nehemiah 2:6-9 shows us Nehemiah exemplified the principles of a goal setter.

Nehemiah 2:6-9

Nehemiah had a time goal in verse six. He had specific goals for the resources required to do it in verses seven and eight.

His vision and goals enabled him to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem 52 days!

Nehemiah 6:15

Goals should have the following characteristics:

- _____

Definition: Precise or exact

- _____

Definition: Able to be described in specific terms

- _____

Definition: Able to be achieved

You goals should not be “so far out there” that you are setting yourself up for failure.

- _____

Definition: Able to see things as they really are and to deal with them in a practical way; not impractical

Remember that there is an element of faith. God can do more than you expect. However, you must be able to realistically reach your goal.

- _____

Definition: Easily seen or recognized; able to be touched or felt

You might say, “I want to become more patient.” What does that mean? What will that look like when you reach the goal?

If your goal is not tangible, you will not know when you reach it.

Example: “We want to do for missions this year at our church.”

This is a good vision but not a goal. It is not specific. Exactly what do you want to do? Do you want to take trips to certain countries? Do you want to give more monthly? If so, how much?

It is not measurable. You will not know when you have reached your goal because you have not defined “more”. This would be similar to a worship leader who says, “I want our worship team to grow.” A better goal would be to say, “We want to have three more musicians and four more singers on the worship team in the next six months.”

It is good to do “more” but we will not know when “more” will happen. Therefore, it is not attainable, realistic, or tangible.

A better goal for missions would be to say, “We want our church to give \$500 per month to missions this year and begin twelve new feeding programs for starving children in Honduras.”

This meets the requirements for all of the characteristics of goal setting.

Important things to remember about goals:

- Your goals should be based on you and God, not other people.

- _____

If you aim at nothing, you are sure to hit it.

- _____

For example do not have a goal to stop eating junk food. Have a goal instead to begin eating healthier.

- Goal setting requires tough choices and the ability to prioritize
- Vision is permanent. Goals are changeable. Therefore goal setting is an ongoing activity

Hindrances to goal setting:

- Fear of imperfection

- _____

- Ridicule from others

The advantages of goal setting are:

- Goals set you free from the bondage of serving the desires of other people instead of the vision given to you by God.

- Goals provide feelings of accomplishment.

- _____

- Goals keep you mentally alert.

- _____

If something agrees with your goal the answer is “yes”. If something does not agree with your goal the answer is “no”.

3. A leader finishes what he starts.

Nothing is more frustrating than following a leader who starts things and never finishes.

A good leader will not only start something. He will finish it.

Nehemiah 6:15

4. Every good project starts in obscurity.

Nehemiah 2:11-16

Nehemiah went to Jerusalem, immediately made a secret inspection of the damage, and estimated the extent of the job.

5. A leader will face opposition.

At this point in our story of Nehemiah we see that there is opposition to the vision. Every vision from God will have opposition.

Nehemiah 2:10

Sanballat, the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammorite, and Geshem the Arab (who shows up later in chapter two) lead the opposition against Nehemiah.

During this class we will look at specific attacks that come against a leader as they serve God. We will look at opposition from the outside, problems from the inside, and the characteristics a leader must have to overcome. First let's look at instances where these men attack Nehemiah.

Nehemiah 2:19

Nehemiah 4:1-3

Nehemiah 4:7**Nehemiah 6:1-14****Nehemiah 13:28**

Leadership will be opposed. This is to be expected.

6. A leader must have self-control.

Definition of SELF-CONTROL: Self-control is a lifestyle in which a Christian allows the Holy Spirit to dominate him in such a way that negative desires will not master his life.

The life of a self-controlled person is characterized by discipline.

_____ will destroy a leader.

Discipline gives you your courage when you face opposition. When the opposition comes you do not lose focus, but keep on the task because of discipline.

Discipline attracts people to a leader.

How to develop self-control:

- _____
- Have a proper view of adversity.
- _____
- Have dependence upon God.

7. A leader must be a person of endurance.**Nehemiah 2:17-20**

Nehemiah shared the vision including his personal testimony. He told him about God's hand being on him and what the king had done for him.

Sharing your vision _____

When you share your vision you are sure to meet opposition. The three enemies use the weapon of ridicule to deter the people from attempting the project of rebuilding the walls and gates.

Nehemiah gave a brief answer, showing self-control and endurance.
Without endurance you will be a quitter.

Endurance will take you through times of adversity and make you an overcomer.

Ways to keep your endurance:

- Focus on your vision. Do not look at the circumstances and what other people are saying.
- _____
- Visualization - see it done
- _____
- Maintain communion with God