



Mondays with Mike

AULTCARE

MONDAY TUE

Guiding Principles for Successful Leaders

In the ever-challenging and fast-paced worlds that we live in, the ability to anchor to a basic set of leadership principles can be elusive. There is so much “leadership chatter” about what is the best approach. In fact, you can Google or YouTube this concept and be overrun with options. So, how should we approach this information overload and still have a set of guiding principles?

Over the course of my career, I have compiled these five Guiding Principles that I believe serve leaders extremely well in a sustained manner. In other words, they have survived the test of time. As new authors, speakers, and leaders share their insights, they all fall somewhere in these five. This is true as a mother, father, coach, CEO, pastor, and in other roles where we may be in charge.

So, as you “unclutter” the leadership message that you seek, use these five principles to assist you:

1. Have a “systems approach.” No one decision is made in isolation of another. Everything has a connection. That is the “physics” of leadership. Create systems, workflow, and approaches that can serve the greater good.
2. Plan strategically. It can be said that some people aim at nothing every day and do a great job of hitting that. Instead, have a mission, vision, values, purpose, and goals. Design them for you and your needs. Hold true to them, even in the most challenging times.
3. Communicate internally and externally. The challenge with communication is the illusion that it has taken place. Be obsessed with delivering a clear message at all times. Take the time to over-communicate. In fact, build this into your “systems approach.”
4. Emphasize leadership styles and orientations. Nearly 80% of our ability to produce results with people (not widgets) is found in the environment that we create around ourselves and the personality that we insert into that environment. The other 20% is found in our technical skills. Find ways to nurture and grow your people ahead of the processes that you think are important to have. Unlock the skills and talents of those around you.
5. Develop and nurture culture. Culture is a word that captures the “way of life” of a group of people. It is the way they do things. The everyday words, actions, and behaviors of a group are its culture. Truly, it is the defining energy that allows groups to win over the long haul, survive tragedy, and build others up to carry the baton on the next leg of the business, family, or team’s journey.

As you work with your families, workgroups, congregations, and teams, pass all of your leadership work through these five principles. I think you will be on course as the chatter continues all around you!

Have a great week!

