

spiritual caffeine

a monthly shot of encouragement and equipping for student leaders



Cadre Ministries

foundations of leadership (part 1): competence

using your skills for God

day 1: 3Cs

Read Psalm 78:72

Which of the three “C”s (foundations of leadership)—competence, connection, or character—do you excel in most naturally? Are there any you know you need to work on? Think of a leader you know (or have read about) that had great competence and connection but lacked character (integrity). Do you know any that have great connection and character but lack competence (leadership skills)? Why are all three essential for great leadership?



day 2: giver of skills

Read Exodus 31:1–11 and 1 Chronicles 15:22

From early on in the history of God’s people, he promised to give people the skills they needed to do the work he’d called them to do. And he expected them to work in the areas in which they were skilled. Expert craftsmen weren’t called to lead the music, nor the other way around. In what areas are you skilled? What do you need to do to become more of an expert in that area? How can you use that skill to serve the Lord?

day 3: before kings

Read Proverbs 22:29

Note that this proverb was written by Solomon, a king. He states that if someone is really skilled in their work, eventually it will be noticed by those in high position, and he will have the opportunity to use his skills with much more influence. This is a perfect illustration of how competence is a foundation for great leadership. Who do you know that has been gifted by God with a great skill? How can you encourage them to sharpen that skill and use it for the others?

day 4: blessing

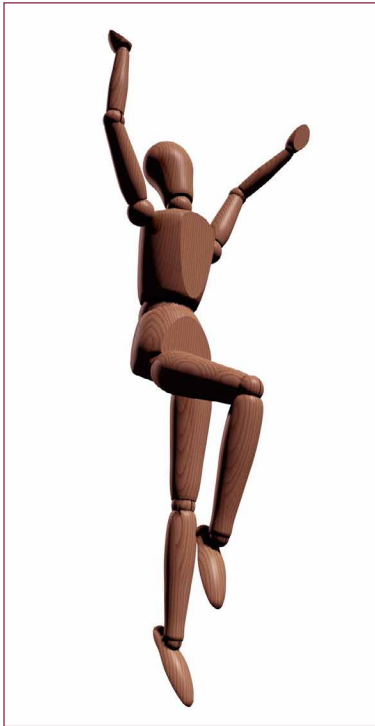
Read Deuteronomy 33:11 and Psalm 90:17

Skills alone don’t lead to lasting influence; competence is just one aspect of great leadership. Those who have lasting ministries with great impact are those who have the favor of God. Make it a practice to pray prayers similar to these verses, asking God to bless your skills and establish the work of your hands.

day 5: for the church

Read Ephesians 4:7–13

God has given different skill sets to everyone in his church, but every gift he's given is meant to serve others and build up the body of Christ. How are you using your gifts and skill set to bless your church and the people around you?



day 6: the body

Read 1 Corinthians 12

I love how God made us each different! If everyone in my ministry had my same personality and gift set... it would be pretty scary! I think it would get boring really fast, and while we might be really good at a few things, a lot of others would fall through the cracks or be done very poorly. God gave us different skills so that we could complement each other and work together. Every person's gift set is essential! If your thumb suddenly decided it wasn't important and didn't want to do its job, you'd be hurting. Make sure that your church isn't hurting because you're not using the skills God has given you.

day 7: work at it

Read Colossians 3:17, 23

Just because God has gifted you to do something doesn't mean it isn't work. He expects us to learn to use our skills in an excellent manner and work hard at whatever we do as if we're working for God—because we are! What's on your agenda for today? Whatever it is, determine to do it in an excellent way, as if working for the Lord.

