

# 5 Old Testament Leadership Principles/Competencies

2024 FALL

PMCL9407-01 BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL BASIS FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

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1. Today, we'll be exploring leadership principles found in the Old Testament, focusing on three remarkable women: Ruth, Deborah, and Esther.
2. These women exemplify timeless leadership competencies that remain relevant in contemporary leadership contexts, particularly within Christian communities.
3. We will also delve into the theological implications of these principles, understanding how they align with God's character and purpose as revealed in Scripture.
4. As we explore these stories, consider how these

principles not only inform your leadership but also deepen your understanding of God's will and your relationship with Him.



how God intends for us to lead.

4. The Book of Ruth, the accounts of Deborah in Judges, and the Book of Esther are not just historical narratives; they are divine instructions on living out God's will in positions of leadership.
5. Throughout this presentation, we will examine specific leadership qualities demonstrated by these women and discuss how these principles and their theological implications can be integrated into our own leadership practices.

## #1 LOYALTY AND COMMITMENT

- ▶ **Biblical Context:** Covenant relationship (Exodus 19:5); loyalty of Jonathan and David (1 Samuel 20:14-17).
- ▶ **Ruth's Example:** Ruth's loyalty to Naomi (Ruth 1:16).
- ▶ **Text Reference:** The Good Book on Leadership
- ▶ **Theological Implication:** Loyalty and commitment reflect God's covenantal faithfulness, showing that true leadership is grounded in a relationship with God and others.

1. Loyalty and commitment are foundational qualities in leadership. In the Old Testament, these concepts are often tied to covenant relationships, as seen in Exodus 19:5, where God calls Israel to be His “treasured possession” if they keep His covenant.
2. The story of Jonathan and David exemplifies this principle, demonstrating the strength of relationships built on trust and loyalty (1 Samuel 20:14-17).
3. Ruth is a prime example of loyalty and commitment. Her unwavering loyalty to Naomi, even when it meant leaving her homeland and facing an uncertain future,

is a powerful testament to the strength of commitment (Ruth 1:16).

4. Theologically, Ruth's loyalty mirrors God's covenantal faithfulness to His people. Just as God remains faithful to His promises, Ruth's loyalty to Naomi reflects the type of steadfastness God expects from His people.
5. According to The Good Book on Leadership, loyalty and relational leadership are key to building trust and strong relationships within a team or community.
6. As leaders, when we demonstrate loyalty and commitment, we not only build strong teams but also reflect the unwavering faithfulness of God in our leadership.



### Discussion Prompt

How can leaders today demonstrate loyalty and commitment in a way that strengthens trust within their teams or communities?

Think about examples from your own experience or leadership contexts.

## #2 COURAGE AND INITIATIVE

► **Biblical Context:** Joshua's call to courage (Joshua 1:6-7); Esther's bold actions (Esther 4:16).

► **Esther's Example:** Esther's courage in approaching the king to save her people (Esther 4:16).

► **Ruth's Example:** Ruth's courage in gleaning and approaching Boaz (Ruth 2:2-3; 3:7-9).

► **Text Reference:** Transforming Leadership

► **Theological Implication:** Courage in leadership reflects a deep trust in God's sovereignty and a willingness to act according to His purposes, even in the face of fear.

1. Courage and initiative are essential qualities for leaders, especially when facing challenges or making difficult decisions.
2. Joshua, as he took over from Moses, was repeatedly encouraged to be strong and courageous (Joshua 1:6-7). This call to courage was not just a leadership principle but a theological command to trust in God's presence and promises.
3. Esther's story is a profound example of courage. Despite the risks, she approached the king to save her people, embodying the essence of leadership that acts



boldly in the face of danger (Esther 4:16).

4. Similarly, Ruth demonstrated courage and initiative by gleaning in the fields and later approaching Boaz, bold moves for a woman in her position (Ruth 2:2-3; 3:7-9).
5. Theologically, courage in leadership reflects a deep trust in God's sovereignty. Esther and Ruth's actions show us that true courage comes from knowing that God is in control and that He uses our boldness to fulfill His divine purposes.
6. Transforming Leadership highlights courage as a transformative force, emphasizing its role in bringing about significant change.
7. As leaders, when we demonstrate courage and initiative, we align ourselves with God's will, trusting that He will guide our steps even when the path is unclear.



### Discussion Prompt

Can you think of a time when taking  
a courageous initiative led to a  
positive change in your organization  
or community?

How did it impact those involved?

### #3 STRATEGIC THINKING AND WISDOM

- ▶ **Biblical Context:** Solomon's wisdom (1 Kings 3:28); strategic actions in Proverbs.
- ▶ **Deborah's Example:** Deborah's strategic military leadership as a judge of Israel (Judges 4:6-7).
- ▶ **Ruth's Example:** Ruth's strategic approach with Boaz (Ruth 3:3-4).
- ▶ **Text Reference:** Modern Metaphors of Christian Leadership
- ▶ **Theological Implication:** Strategic thinking and wisdom reflect God's wisdom in creation and His guidance in our decision-making processes, emphasizing the need for leaders to seek divine insight.

1. Effective leadership often requires strategic thinking and wisdom, both of which are heavily emphasized in the Old Testament.
2. King Solomon is often cited as the epitome of wisdom, using it to rule Israel justly (1 Kings 3:28). His strategic decisions contributed to Israel's prosperity and peace.
3. Deborah is another exemplary figure. As a judge and prophetess, she demonstrated strategic leadership by orchestrating a military victory for Israel (Judges 4:6-7).

4. Ruth also employed strategic thinking, particularly in her approach to securing a future with Boaz, which ultimately led to her becoming an ancestor of King David (Ruth 3:3-4).
5. Theologically, strategic thinking and wisdom are reflections of God's own wisdom in creation and governance of the world. Leaders are called to seek divine insight in their decisions, recognizing that true wisdom comes from God.
6. Modern Metaphors of Christian Leadership discusses the importance of wisdom in modern contexts, highlighting how leaders today must balance strategy with reliance on God's guidance.
7. As leaders, when we apply strategic thinking and wisdom, we mirror God's wisdom in our actions, making decisions that align with His will and purpose for our lives and communities.



### Discussion Prompt

How can leaders today balance strategic planning with the need to remain adaptable in rapidly changing environments?

Consider how you approach strategic decisions in your own leadership roles.

## #4 FAITHFULNESS AND DEPENDENCE ON GOD

► **Biblical Context:** God's faithfulness (Deuteronomy 7:9); Abraham's trust (Genesis 15:6).

► **Deborah's Example:** Deborah's faith in God's guidance in leading Israel (Judges 4:14).

► **Ruth's Example:** Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi and trust in God (Ruth 1:16-17).

► **Esther's Example:** Esther's dependence on God in seeking deliverance for her people (Esther 4:15-16).

► **Text Reference:** Biblical Foundations of Christian Leadership, Part I

► **Theological Implication:** Faithfulness in leadership reflects God's unwavering faithfulness to His people, emphasizing the importance of trust and reliance on God's providence.

1. Faithfulness and dependence on God are central to Old Testament leadership, and they remain vital qualities for leaders today.
2. Deuteronomy 7:9 speaks of God's faithfulness to those who love Him and keep His commandments, setting a standard for leaders to emulate.
3. Deborah exemplified this quality by leading Israel with a firm reliance on God's guidance, as seen in her directive to Barak during the battle against Sisera (Judges 4:14).
4. Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi and her trust in God's

provision, even in a foreign land, highlight her deep commitment and dependence on God (Ruth 1:16-17).

5. Esther also showed great faith, calling for a fast among her people before approaching the king, which illustrates her dependence on God's intervention (Esther 4:15-16).
6. Theologically, faithfulness in leadership reflects God's unwavering faithfulness to His people. As leaders, we are called to trust in God's providence, knowing that He is faithful to fulfill His promises.
7. Biblical Foundations of Christian Leadership, Part I discusses the centrality of faithfulness in leadership, particularly during times of uncertainty.
8. As leaders, when we demonstrate faithfulness and dependence on God, we not only model God's faithfulness but also inspire others to trust in God's guidance and provision.



### Discussion Prompt

In what ways can leaders cultivate a sense of trust and faithfulness within their teams, especially during challenging periods?

Reflect on how faith influences your leadership decisions.



## #5 INFLUENCE THROUGH RELATIONSHIP

► **Biblical Context:** Moses' relational leadership (Exodus 33:11); Nathan's influence on David (2 Samuel 12:1-13).

► **Ruth's Example:** Ruth's relational influence with Naomi and Boaz (Ruth 1:16-18; 4:13-15).

► **Esther's Example:** Esther's influence over King Ahasuerus (Esther 7:3-4).

► **Text Reference:** The Making of a Leader

► **Theological Implication:** Relational influence in leadership reflects the relational nature of God, who desires a personal relationship with His people and calls leaders to nurture relationships that reflect His love and care.

1. Leadership is often about influencing others, and in the Old Testament, we see many examples of leaders who wielded their influence through strong relationships.
2. Moses is a prime example, leading Israel not just through commands but through a deep relational connection with the people, as seen in his interactions with God and the Israelites (Exodus 33:11).
3. Ruth's influence on Naomi and later on Boaz was grounded in her relational commitment and integrity, which ultimately brought about positive outcomes for

all involved (Ruth 1:16-18; 4:13-15).

4. Esther's influence was also rooted in her relationship with the king. Her careful, relational approach led to the deliverance of her people (Esther 7:3-4).
5. Theologically, relational influence in leadership reflects the relational nature of God. God's desire for a personal relationship with His people is mirrored in the way leaders are called to nurture relationships that reflect His love and care.
6. The Making of a Leader emphasizes the importance of relational influence in leadership development, suggesting that leaders who build strong, meaningful relationships are more effective.
7. As leaders, when we build influential relationships, we are participating in God's relational work in the world, fostering communities that reflect His kingdom values.



### Discussion Prompt

What are some practical ways leaders can build strong, influential relationships within their teams or organizations?

Think about the role relationships play in your leadership practice.

# CONCLUSION

Loyalty and Commitment

Courage and Initiative

Strategic Thinking and Wisdom

Faithfulness and Dependence on God

Influence Through Relationship

1. To wrap up, let's recap the leadership principles we've discussed: loyalty and commitment, courage and initiative, strategic thinking and wisdom, faithfulness and dependence on God, and influence through relationship.
2. These principles, as demonstrated by Ruth, Deborah, and Esther, offer timeless guidance for leaders today.
3. Importantly, each of these principles carries significant theological implications, helping us understand how God desires us to lead according to His character and purpose.

4. Whether we're leading a small team, a large organization, or a community, these qualities can help us navigate challenges, build strong relationships, and lead with integrity.
5. As you leave this presentation, I encourage you to reflect on how these principles and their theological implications can be applied in your own leadership contexts. Consider how you can embody these qualities in your daily leadership practices, aligning your leadership with God's will.

## REFERENCES

### Books

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- ▶ Patterson, Stanley E., "Biblical Foundations of Christian Leadership, Part II." *The Journal of Applied Christian Leadership* 11, no. 1 (2017): 80–94.

Finally, here's a list of the references I used in this presentation.

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1. Thank you all for your time and attention today. I hope this exploration of Old Testament leadership and its theological implications has been insightful and thought-provoking.
2. If you have any further questions or would like to continue the conversation, please don't hesitate to reach out. My email is on the screen.
3. Thank you again, and I look forward to connecting with you in the future.