

BIBLICAL REFERENCES ON LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT TOPICS



The Bible provides a rich source of material from a wide range of sources which can be applied to the questions and challenges we meet in our various roles as leaders.

The following list of key words and Bible references is offered as a resource for study, contemplation and prayer. It is important to remember that simple “verse picking” should not be seen as a short cut to wisdom. Instead you are encouraged to consider these verses in their fuller biblical context and in the validity of careful reference to the practical issue which you are considering.

This list has been compiled by Richard Fox, Tony Hennessey Brown and Rachel Howkins.

Accountability

Hebrews 3 vv12-14

We are accountable to Christ for our actions, whatever the temptations that may threaten our integrity.

See also **Jude vv 17-23**

Ambition

Philippians 2 1-13

The model for our ambition is Christ whose example is to work selflessly for the sake of all people.

Authority

Matthew 28 18-20

If we listen for God’s message of authority to set out on our journey of leadership we can trust that he will travel with us.

Blame

Genesis 3 1-13

If I have made a mistake, I should not hide from the truth or try to pass the blame on to someone else.

Building

1Corinthians 3 10-16

I rely on many people and their skills for whatever I set out to build, but unless God is the foundation it will not be secure.

See also **Exodus 37 1-9**

Calling

1 Samuel 3 1-14

We have to listen patiently and continuously for God’s prompting when we are seek his call to start out on a new course.

Calmness

Psalms 46 8-11

I need to find quiet moments of calm and reflection to remind me of God’s presence, whatever the circumstances.

See also **Psalms 23**

Choices

Joshua 24 14-15

When I face tricky choices I should revert to God’s calling and stay true to what he has shown me in the past.

Change**Psalm 141**

I am reminded to maintain constant values and vigilance whenever I am faced by change and challenge.

See also **Matthew 9 14-17** **John 7 37-39**

Coaching**1 Timothy 1 18-22**

Whenever we share our knowledge and experience we must be clear what values we are passing on.

See also **Psalm 32 8-11** **Romans 11 33-36**

Communicating Vision**Deuteronomy 31 7-13**

It is important to make clear and share our vision for the future so that all can hear and understand it.

Contentment**Philippians 4 10-13**

I can have confidence in God's provision in times of plenty and in times of paucity.

See also **1 Timothy 6 3-10**

Compassion**Matthew 25 34-46**

My practical concern for those we live and work with me is a Christ-led responsibility.

See also **Psalm 107 39-43**

Courage**Exodus 4 1-7**

I can be sure of God's providence if I trust him in times of doubt and uncertainty.

See also **Joshua 1**

Crisis**Mark 4 35-41**

Even in times of crisis my first priority is to rely on Jesus' ability to calm my spirit so that I can see more clearly the way ahead.

Crossroads**Jeremiah 6 16**

When we face big decisions, evaluate the options and apply the well-worn principles and the tried and tested ways which we know deep down.

Decision Making**Luke 13 6-9**

Before I make a crucial decision have I really looked at other ways to find nurture and growth?

Luke 23 13-25

Am I making decisions in a way which enables me to listen to those who have the wisdom to advise me? Or do those who shout loudest hold sway?

When I am making decisions my priorities should include:

1 Corinthians 31-33

Glorification of God, Sensitivity to other believers, Concern for salvation of others.

Delegation**Acts 6 1-7**

If we see an important task needs attention we should be ready to delegate it to the right people and to give them clear authority to carry it out.

See also **Exodus 18** **Genesis 24**

Difficult Relationships**1 Peter 3 8-22**

Whenever I encounter difficult relationships, I should examine my own motives, then be courteous but firm in resolving issues with a definite outcome.

Diligence**Hebrews 6 10-12**

I can work diligently towards my hoped-for goal if I imitate those whose faith and patience enabled them to inherit God's promises.

Disagreement**Colossians 3 12-17**

I need to deal with disagreement openly through loving forgiveness and peaceful resolution of differences.

Empowerment**Acts 13 1-3 & 42-43**

We should prayerfully prepare and empower others to carry out leadership tasks in full confidence of a successful outcome.

Encouragement**Acts 11 19-26**

It is important to share news of success with colleagues. This can be a great source of encouragement for them.

Faith**Hebrews 11 1-3 & 12 1-2**

We are not left alone without help if we keep our faith in pursuing the goals we have set before us.

Feedback**Proverbs 13 1-2**

We should actively seek feedback from a "critical friend" if we are to perform with wisdom.

See also **Acts 21 17-26**

Focus**Mark 6 6b-13**

Do I make sure I "travel light" when I have a task to fulfil so that I don't get distracted by self-importance or unnecessary elaboration?

Goals**1 Corinthians 9 24-27**

We need to be very clear about what we are setting out to achieve and how we are going about achieving it.

Hope**Romans 5 1-6**

In times of difficulty or uncertainty we can be sure that God gives us the endurance which leads to hope which will not be disappointed.

Humility**Matthew 8 1-13**

If we remember in faith that our leadership is subject to God's authority we will experience His blessing in what we strive to achieve.

Integrity**2 Timothy 4 1-5**

We maintain our integrity through faithfulness to God's teaching and so avoid the pitfalls of selfish motives.

See also **Genesis 39**

Judging**John 1 1-11**

We should beware of judging other people's motives but be ready to forgive those who may appear to have let us down.

See also **Matthew 7 1-5**

Knowledge**Mark 12 18-27**

When I am faced with complex questions, I can rely on God's word and power to show me the basic truths which will unravel the strands.

See also **Matthew 8 1-3**

Leading the Team**Joshua 3 14**

Once we have discerned the way ahead, we need to lead and support the team to achieve the goals we have set.

Leadership**2 Samuel 2 1-11**

Our leadership begins with discernment of God's will for us and those we work alongside.

See also **2 Corinthians 1 1-3** **1 Chronicles 11 10-25** **Joshua 24 1-15**

Listening**2 Samuel 18 1-5**

Am I ready to take on advice from colleagues at all levels when preparing for an important initiative?

Mediation**Acts 15 36 - 16 5**

Disagreements are sometimes part of progress and change which can lead to growth if supported by faithful prayer.

Mission**Deuteronomy 30 1-5**

We can be assured of God's support and leading if we follow his calling to the mission he has set before us.

See also **Joshua 5 2-15** **Colossians 2 11-12** **Acts 20 13-24**

Motives**Psalms 26**

God's love precedes us when our motives and actions accord with His will and guidance.

See also **Proverbs 16 & 23** **Matthew 22 23-40** **John 14 15-17**

Paradigm Shift**Mark 6 1-6a**

If we seek to make a big change, be ready to discard our pre-conceived assumptions about other people's abilities and to embrace God's power of change.

See also **Luke 6 27-28** **Acts 10** **Colossians 3 1-17**

Partnerships**1 Corinthians 2 10-15**

When we work with other parties, we must build strong relationships which enable them to use their skills to full effect.

Patience**James 5 7-11**

My patience and endurance are important ingredients in the achievement of my aims and are part of God's purpose.

See also **Psalms 27 13-14** **Job 16 19-21**

Perseverance**Hebrews 12 1-12**

A vital part of our journey when we are struggling with a challenge to our leadership, is to persevere and to heed His discipline so that we gain strength to keep going.

See also **Philippians 3 12 - 4 1**

Psalm 13

Sometimes we have to accept that things go wrong but God's steadfast love is always there to keep things in perspective.

Plan

Mark 11 1-11

Like Jesus, we sometimes need to make detailed plans to make sure that we reach the desired outcome of glorifying God.

See also [James 4 13-17](#) [Psalm 20](#)

Power

Isaiah 40 21-31

God is the one who gives us the power and the strength to overcome tiredness and weakness, if we wait upon Him.

See also [Acts 4 5-12](#)

Pressure

Psalm 121

If we look beyond the "day to day" we will be able to experience God's guidance throughout our comings and goings and obtain release from the pressures we experience.

See also [Mark 8 1-10](#)

Priorities

Mark 1 35-39

We need to pray for clarity so that we can discern God's priorities and then act decisively and in confidence.

See also [Proverbs 3 27-33](#) [Psalm 128 1-2](#)

Problem Solving

Mark 9 20-29

When we seek to solve a difficult problem, faithful prayer to invoke Jesus' presence with us really can make a big difference.

Reconciliation

Luke 15 11-32

Jesus calls on us to reconcile ourselves fully with people who have strayed from us, even if it dents our pride and feelings of self-justification.

See also [2 Corinthians 5 11-20](#)

Recovery

Nehemiah 2 1-9

I need to admit and discuss openly when things have gone wrong and address them with clear focus to achieve recovery.

Reflection

Luke 6 12-15

I need to take "time out" to pray and reflect before key decisions, not least choosing colleagues to work alongside me.

Relationships

Colossians 4 7-18

Care for the daily life and experiences of our colleagues, friends and family is an important part of our relationships with them.

See also [Ephesians 6 1-10](#)

Resources

John 6 1-14

God does provide plentifully for us when we prayerfully offer up the slim resources which we feel we have at our own disposal.

See also [Judges 7 1-21](#)

Reversal**1 Samuel 2 1-11**

God is able to help us overcome reversal in our fortunes if we are faithful and honest about our shortcomings.

Review**Luke 13 6-9**

We should examine options carefully before we make a decision to close or terminate an initiative or activity.

Servant Leadership**John 13 1-17**

Jesus has made it clear that a central purpose of leadership is to serve others and that status carries little value.

See also **Galatians 5 13-14**

Service**1 Peter 4 7-11**

We have an array of gifts and talents which are unique to each of us and we should offer them unselfishly to God in service to others.

Setbacks**Mark 10 35-43**

When setbacks occur, however serious, we can rely on God's providence to lead us to a place of safety.

Skills and Talents**Ephesians 4 7-16**

We should recognise and work to optimise the range of skills and talents of those we live and work with.

Status**Mark 10 35-43**

We must be careful not to strive for status above our calling - Jesus was willing to lead as servant.

Strategy**Titus 1 5-6 & 2 1-9**

We are encouraged to set out clear strategies according to the different characteristics of the people we are working with.

See also **Mark 6 1-13**

Stay on Track**2 Timothy 3 14-17**

We should not deviate from the principles we have learned, so that God's guidance enables us to be proficient and well-equipped for our task.

See also **Psalms 23 1-23** **Genesis 35 1-21**

Stress**Psalms 16**

God's presence alongside us assures us of protection and inward security if we trust Him.

Success**Acts 6 1-6**

When things are going well, we must be careful not to get carried away by the excitement, at the expense of prayerful reflection, on its impact on all concerned.

Succession Planning**1 Chronicles 28 1-7
& 11-12 & 29 1-2**

It is a prime responsibility of a leader to prepare for his/her succession with generosity and clarity so that the organisation is enhanced.

Talents**Romans 12 1-8**

God gives us all different talents and we should be alert to engaging them to their full potential for the common good.

See also **Matthew 4 18-22**

Team**Galatians 5 13-15**

The team will thrive if its members work in a spirit of mutual love and care rather than for self-aggrandisement.

Time Management**Matthew 25 31-46**

When we plan our time, the over-arching theme should be to seek God's will for us and align our use of time with that.

Transformation**Genesis 28 10-22**

In whatever situation we find ourselves, there is potential for positive change and transformation if we listen for God's call.

Trust**Psalms 23**

We can rely on God for guidance and protection throughout the journey of life's experiences.

See also **Genesis 26 1-5** **John 14 1-7**

Uniqueness**Matthew 6 25-34**

God knows and cares about each and every one of us and about our needs and concerns.

Values**Joshua 8 30-35**

When we have prepared a plan of action, we should regularly re-check that it fits God's values as well as those of the organisation.

Vision**Jeremiah 29 10-14**

God has a vision for each of us, which He will reveal if we search for it in prayer and with all our heart.

See also **Isaiah 9 1-7** **Revelation 21 1-4**

Walk the Talk**1 Timothy 3 1-7**

I really do need to "Walk the Talk" if I expect others to follow my lead.

Weakness**Psalms 130**

When we are weak and in despair our cry is always heard and God promises to redeem us.

See also **2 Corinthians 8-10**

Weariness**Matthew 26 36-46**

Even when we are tired and our faith is dim, we can be assured that Jesus stands ready to pick us up and refresh us.

Wisdom**Proverbs 2 1-11**

Our thirst for wisdom will lead us to find God's protection and leading.

See also **James 1 5-8** **Isaiah 11 1-9** **Romans 11 33-36**