

## **Character and Leadership**

Isaac Adlerstein | 50 minutes

**Class Summary:** Character is everything. Martin Luther King Jr. once said that "the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Having the courage to lead can be a difficult thing to cultivate. However, each and every single one of us can be a leader by living by our values and empowering others to do the same.

Drawing on examples of great leaders of the past, this class will explore what it means to be a leader of character, and will offer ways for each individual to realize that potential within themselves.

### **Lesson Plan:**

- I. Introduction (3 minutes)
- II. Defining Leadership (5 minutes):
  - a. Ask audience: who are some example leaders? (2 minutes)
  - b. Discussion: What do they all share in common? (3 minutes)
- III. Where are leaders developed? (8 minutes)
  - a. Ask audience (2 minutes)
  - b. Answer: the team structure (6 minutes)
    - i. Military (2 minute)
    - ii. Sports (1 minute)
    - iii. Government (1 minute)
    - iv. Community (2 minute)
- IV. Discussion: can you be a leader without a team? (6 minutes)
  - a. Yes, by standing by your principles
    - i. What you do when nobody is watching (3 minutes)
    - ii. Superheroes (3 minutes)
- V. The S.E.R.V.I.C.E. model of leadership (7 minutes)
  - a. Sincerity: being truthful (1 minute)
  - b. Empathy: sharing the pain of others (1 minute)
  - c. Responsibility: taking accountability for your team (1 minute)
  - d. Vision: know where you want to go (1 minute)
  - e. Integrity: never compromise on your moral values (1 minute)
  - f. Courage: stand up for what is right, no matter the cost (1 minute)
  - g. Empower: treating every member or the team equal to oneself (1 minute)
- VI. Developing your own S.E.R.V.I.C.E. (10 minutes)
  - a. Everyday, look in the mirror ask yourself who you want to be (1 minute)
    - i. Constant self-reflection
  - b. Be big about the small things (2 minutes)
    - i. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"
  - c. Everything is a learning experience (1 minute)
  - d. Develop empathy by serving others (2 minutes)
    - i. "Service creates better leaders, and better leaders create a better world."
  - e. Ordinary people have extraordinary potential (1 minute)
    - i. "With great power comes great responsibility"
  - f. Seek not power, but to do what is right (3 minutes)
    - i. "Leaders become great not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others."
- VII. Why does leadership matter in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? (7 minutes)
  - a. Ask audience (3 minutes)
  - b. Discuss crises that world faces (5 minutes)
    - i. Weapons of mass destruction
    - ii. Sustainability
    - iii. Inequality
    - iv. Risk of global health crisis
    - v. Decline of ethics
- VIII. Conclusion: The responsibility of our generation (4 minutes)
  - a. Taking example from the Greatest Generation (2 minutes)
  - b. Change will only come when each of us becomes a leader (2 minutes)