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Annotated Bibliography: Helps on Navigating the Art of Leadership and Empowering Team Members

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Annotated Bibliography:

Helps on Navigating the Art of Leadership and Empowering Team Members



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Leadership has many facets and strategies as individuals are asked every day to take a step up and be in charge of others. The question for any leader is: How to do it well? These volumes take on the challenge of how to avoid the pitfalls which destroy organizations, create personnel problems among team members, and create chaos within a group of people working together. This variety of authors seek to show others the secrets they discovered in becoming successful leaders. They are not the newest titles, but I believe they are some of the most sensible and helpful to anyone looking to improve their leadership skills.

Barthel, T. K., & Dabler, J. (2005). *Peacemaking women: Biblical hope for resolving conflict*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

Conflict is a part of life for women everywhere, especially for women in leadership. Barthel and Dabler seek biblical solutions to conflicts with God, others, and within each individual. Subjects include: female leaders with powerful personalities, shame, the Church, depression and a forward by Ken Sande (President of Peacemaker Ministries).

Blackaby, H. T., & Blackaby, R. (2001). *Spiritual leadership: Moving people on to God's agenda*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

This volume is unique in that it takes a look at the qualities which destroy those in leadership and how to safeguard against them. Taken from a spiritual point of view, chapter ten examines the issue of pride and how it may turn those with great leadership qualities into arrogant, self-seeking or unteachable under-achievers. Another excellent chapter deals with the problem of time management and schedule control for those in positions which often deal with continuing flows of human interaction. Balancing the need to spend time with individuals versus the demands of task management can be a challenge to all of those in charge.

Blanchard, K. H., & Miller, M. (2009). *The secret: What great leaders know and do*. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

Taking leadership from a parable point of view, this volume follows the struggles of Debbie Brewster as she tries to save her position as team leader. In searching for the secret of becoming a truly great leader, her mentor tells her “great leaders serve.” This book is unique in the fact that the main character is a woman and addresses many of the concerns from a woman’s point of view. With more and more leadership positions now being held by women, this volume is an excellent addition to any collection.

Cole, N. (2009). *Organic leadership: Leading naturally right where you are*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

Cole bases his book on church-based leadership versus Kingdom-oriented leadership, offering many interesting and thoughtful ideas that can be applied to anyone in a leadership role. The chapter titles include: *The Secret Source of Leaders: Or, Where We Start Makes All the Difference*; *Pharisaism Today: Protecting the Powerful*; and *Wax On and Wax Off: Life-on-Mentoring Skills*. The author continues his ideas from “Organic Church” in seeking to provide an alternative look at leadership in the church today.

Hunt, J. M. (2009). *Building your leadership résumé: Developing the legacy that will outlast you*. Nashville: B & H Books.

This book contains many insights for both leadership in business and spiritual communities. The format is easy to follow as the author presents an idea or situation and then lists suggestions for a solution. For those who enjoy short bullet-point presentations the format of this book will be a quick and concise resource. Each of the 40 chapters takes on a different topic of both the positive and negative sides of leadership. The chapters are generally less than ten pages long, making this an easy read for those who need something which is suited to small time allotments.

Hybels, B. (2002). *Courageous leadership*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Bill Hybels wrote this book after pastoring over 30 years at Willow Creek Church in Barrington, Illinois. While some readers would find sections of the material familiar from Hybels’ many workshops and conferences, the information covers a wide variety of leadership topics.

Iorg, J. (2009). *The painful side of leadership: Moving forward even when it hurts*. Nashville: B & H Publishing.

Every person who has ever been in charge of anything knows that leadership comes with criticism, judgement, and sometimes broken relationships. Iorg shares his insights on dealing with disappointment, loneliness, criticism, and conflict in the workplace. An especially helpful chapter deals with supervisors who have to terminate someone and the challenges and the changes that result to an organization when a person is let go.

Lencioni, P. (2002). *The five dysfunctions of a team: A leadership fable*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Using the fable mode of storytelling, Lencioni relates the problems encountered by a new CEO when she discovers her team is in such disarray that it may cause the collapse of the entire organization. Breaking down the difficulties into five dysfunctional areas, the author integrates both the problems and the solutions into the story. The end of the book includes a model and detailed explanation of each of the dysfunctional scenarios, as well as the role of the leader in solving them.

McIntosh, G., & Rima, S. D. (1997). *Overcoming the dark side of leadership: The paradox of personal dysfunction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

McIntosh takes a frank and painful look at the dark side of leaders who are led astray by unfavorable qualities. Dealing with subjects such as passive-aggression, codependency, paranoia, the need to succeed, and narcissism; the author asks all in authority to understand the consequences of letting the dark qualities effect or even destroy their leadership abilities. The book offers ideas and solutions to guard against falling into the dark side personality traps and gives multiple resources for further information.

Maxwell, J. C. (2000). *The 21 most powerful minutes in a leader's day: Revitalize your spirit and empower your leadership*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

By spending a little time each day with this volume, Maxwell propels the reader through a weekly then daily program using his "21 Laws of Leadership". Each law is based on the leadership styles of different people in the Bible. Chapters begin with a thought for the day and scripture to accompany each law. Applications, reflection questions, and charts help the reader easily understand and retain the information.

Maxwell, J. C. (2007). *The 21 irrefutable laws of leadership*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Maxwell again takes on the many facets of leadership with this volume on different leadership laws illustrated by true examples. Each chapter discusses one law using an example of a well-known person and how the law applied to them. Other features include illustrations, charts, appendices, applications and source notes.

Maxwell, J. C. (2011). *The five levels of leadership: Proven steps to maximize your potential*. New York: Center Street.

Author of multiple titles on leadership, Maxwell developed five levels of leadership to help people understand the developing stages of leaders from their appointment to the position, through mastering the final stage of others following someone because of who they are and what they represent. Maxwell lists the levels as position, permission, production, people development and pinnacle. Each level is explained in detail throughout the book with examples from real life, suggestions for growing in the next level, quotes, helpful ideas and the downsides to each area.

Myra, H., & Shelley, M. (2005). *The leadership secrets of Billy Graham*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Known for his unfailing integrity, Billy Graham has led the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association as its CEO for over fifty years. Illustrated with events, quotes, and examples from Billy Graham and those who knew him; the authors provide anyone in authority over others with a truly Biblical-oriented mentor to learn from and follow.

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