

# Lead from the Inside Out

David, the second king of Israel, although not without his faults, was an acclaimed ruler, warrior, musician and poet. The Bible says of him:

*He (God) also chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the ewes that had young He brought him, to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance. So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands. (Psalm 78:70-72)*

Quite a compliment for a person to receive from the Lord!

While there are many lessons we can learn from David about things we should not do, we can benefit from the skill of his leadership, according to author and speaker John C. Maxwell. Writing in *Leadership Promises for Your Week*, Maxwell observes: “David’s leadership succeeded through a two-sided coin – his outward skill and his inward integrity. Every great leader must have this combination.” Maxwell said leaders must ...

1. Value excellence.
2. Not settle for average.
3. Pay attention to detail.
4. Remain committed to what really matters.
5. Display integrity and sound ethics.
6. Show genuine respect for others.
7. Go the second mile.
8. Demonstrate consistency.
9. Never stop improving.
10. Always give 100 percent.
11. Make excellence a lifestyle.

Of course, the first person you lead is you – and you cannot lead effectively without self-discipline. Consequently, Maxwell points out, leaders must ...

1. Develop and follow your priorities.
2. Challenge your excuses.
3. Remove rewards until you finish the job.
4. Stay focused on results, and never trade what you want at the moment for what you want most.

A leader’s promise to the team: I will value you as people, praise your efforts, and reward you based on your performance.

Those principles – and that promise – will make Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home even greater in the mission to which we are called.

– Beecher Hunter