

People Who Make You Great

There are no Lone Ranger leaders. If you're alone, you're not leading anybody.

David, the second king of the United Kingdom of Israel and an ancestor of Jesus, is widely viewed as a righteous and effective king in battle and civil justice. He was a warrior of great renown, and a poet and musician.

John C. Maxwell, author and internationally recognized expert on leadership development, listed some ways David pulled together the core people who made him great:



1. **He built a strong inner circle before he needed it.** David began building his team long before he was crowned.
2. **He attracted people with varied gifts.** David surrounded himself with men of diverse abilities. We read of experienced warriors with a variety of skills, many men of valor and hundreds of captains. With the help of these men, David felt ready for anything.
3. **He engendered loyalty.** David's followers displayed incredible loyalty to him throughout his life. Those closest to him seemed willing to put their lives on the line for him.
4. **He delegated responsibility based on ability.** David continually gave authority to others. He designated Joab as commander of the army, and he felt equally secure in giving others civil authority.

"Some of David's first followers were misfits," Maxwell observed, "yet he transformed his ragtag supporters into a winning team. As David gained experience and grew in his leadership, he continued to attract stronger and stronger people. David made his inner circle great, and his inner circle made him great."

Maxwell is right. No leader succeeds alone. Even David needed his Jonathan (Saul's son and David's close friend).

Do you have someone who "strengthens your hand in God," as Jonathan did for David? All leaders need loyal friends who can help them persevere.

David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about 400 men with him (1 Samuel 22:1-2 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter

