

Forty leadership quotes well worth a look

1. A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves. Lao Tzu
2. Where there is no vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18
3. Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others. Jack Welch
4. A leader is a dealer in hope. Napoleon Bonaparte
5. Leadership is lifting a person's vision to high sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations. Peter Drucker
6. Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead
7. The most dangerous leadership myth is that leaders are born-that there is a genetic factor to leadership. That's nonsense; in fact, the opposite is true. Leaders are made rather than born. Warren Bennis
8. He who has never learned to obey cannot be a good commander. Aristotle
9. Become the kind of leader that people would follow voluntarily; even if you had no title or position. Brian Tracy
10. I start with the premise that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers. Ralph Nader
11. Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm. Publilius Syrus
12. The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it. Theodore Roosevelt
13. You don't lead by pointing and telling people some place to go. You lead by going to that place and making a case. Ken Kesey
14. When I give a minister an order, I leave it to him to find the means to carry it out. Napoleon Bonaparte
15. People buy into the leader before they buy into the vision. John Maxwell
16. So much of what we call management consists in making it difficult for people to work. Peter Drucker
17. The art of leadership is saying no, not saying yes. It is very easy to say yes. Tony Blair
18. A good general not only sees the way to victory; he also knows when victory is impossible. Polybius
19. Outstanding leaders go out of their way to boost the self-esteem of their personnel. If people believe in themselves, it's amazing what they can accomplish. Sam Walton
20. No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself, or to get all the credit for doing it. Andrew Carnegie

21. Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate, and doubt to offer a solution everybody can understand. General Colin Powell
22. Great leaders are not defined by the absence of weakness, but rather by the presence of clear strengths. John Zenger
23. He who has great power should use it lightly. Seneca
24. Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other. John F. Kennedy
25. Leadership is unlocking people's potential to become better. Bill Bradley
26. No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent. Abraham Lincoln
27. The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men, the conviction and the will to carry on. Walter Lippman
28. A good leader is a person who takes a little more than his share of the blame and a little less than his share of the credit. John Maxwell
29. There are three essentials to leadership: these are humility, clarity and courage. Fuchan Yuan
30. A leader is, by definition an innovator. He does things other people haven't done or don't do. He does things in advance of other people. He makes new things and makes old things new. Warren Bennis
31. Leadership is a process not a position. Kouzes and Posner
32. Leadership is about breaking the rules when others think that rule breaking would be a mistake. Frederick Nietzsche
33. Don't tell people how to do things, tell them what to do, and let them surprise you with their results. General George Patton
34. One person with commitment accomplishes more than one thousand with an opinion. Orrin Woodward
35. What you do has far greater impact than what you say. Stephen Covey
36. The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers. Ralph Nader
37. Leaders think and talk about the solutions. Followers think and talk about the problems. Brian Tracy
38. Sometimes leadership is about planting trees under whose shade you will never sit. Jennifer Granholm
39. Leadership is the ability to hide your panic from others. Lao Tzu
40. The greatest leaders build organisations that in the end, don't need them. Jim Collins

Task:

Which of these has most impact on you?

How will these thoughts make even a little difference to your leadership behaviours?