

KUEST:ROCKET
STUDENT LEADERSHIP

THE **BIG 5** TIME

Five Essential Qualities of True **LEADERSHIP**

A Student's Guide to Leading with Character!

TOM TONEY





BIG TIME WISDOM

Great Leaders Get the Right Results



Wisdom is one of the most important qualities you can develop in life. Wisdom will open doors of opportunity. Wisdom will help you choose right over wrong. Wisdom will strengthen your friendships. Wisdom will help you get the most out of

your efforts. Wisdom will help you be a great and effective leader.

Being wise is more than simply knowing how to do something. It is more than having experience. Being wise is also more than just being smart. Here is why:

WISDOM is knowing the right thing to do at the right time in the right way to get the right results.

When you have wisdom, you not only have answers, but you know how to use what you have, your time and abilities to get the desired results.

Wisdom grows with time and experience. If you pay close attention when you try to accomplish a task, you can grow in wisdom. Whether you fail or succeed, do something perfectly or

5 BIG TIME Qualities of True Leadership

poorly, your wisdom can grow if you will pay attention to your results.

For example, my mom makes incredible cinnamon rolls. She has been baking cinnamon rolls for a very long time. She no longer needs to look at the recipe for baking cinnamon rolls because she has made these tasty treats over and over again. She knows that certain kinds of sugar or flour can make a difference in how the cinnamon rolls taste. She also knows that not every oven bakes the same, so you have to watch the color of the rolls to be sure they are ready.

My mom never has to measure the amount of sugar, or shortening or flour. She just knows the right amount. If something goes wrong during the process, my mom knows how to fix it. She has made thousands of cinnamon rolls and she has learned a lot in the process. In the

beginning, my mom needed a cookbook to help her make cinnamon rolls. Today, she uses wisdom.

WISDOM is knowing how to use your knowledge to get the job done right.

Great leaders are wise leaders. They are wise because they choose to pay attention and learn from their efforts. They stick with a job until it is complete, then they take the time to consider everything that happened along the way. They think about their mistakes and how they were corrected. They think about the things that went well, and why. Leaders are learners and learners grow in wisdom.

As a young leader, you should desire wisdom, because in life, wisdom will keep you from burning the cinnamon rolls. What I mean is that wisdom will help you know

5 BIG TIME Qualities of True Leadership

when the timing is right. For example, the instructions for baking cinnamon rolls may say, “bake for 20 minutes.” If you look and see the crust is just the right color, it may be time to take the cinnamon rolls out of the oven. The timer may still show 4 minutes to go, but WISDOM says, “take the rolls out of the oven now.” This could be the difference between burnt rolls or perfect rolls.

If this is true for cinnamon rolls, is it possible that it is also true for your schoolwork, your relationships, your sports teams and your life?

These are things you learn along the way. You learn them from taking risks and paying attention. You learn them from listening to others who are wise. You learn them from making mistakes but never giving up. You learn them by asking questions. In all these ways, you

KUEST Student Leadership

are growing in knowledge, experience, ability, and, most importantly, in wisdom.

This will help you become a great leader. People want to follow wise leaders. Wise leaders know how to avoid bad situations and lead others to success. Wise leaders know how to use resources to their advantage.

Wise leaders are not know-it-alls, they are humble learners. Wise leaders are not show-offs, they are hard workers. Wise leaders are not bossy, they are kind and clear with their instructions.

Wise leaders recognize their own weaknesses and are comfortable with their own strengths. They have learned when to allow others to lead and when their own leadership is the right choice. Wise leaders recognize they do not know everything and that they need the skills and abilities of others to achieve the goals

5 BIG TIME Qualities of True Leadership

of the team.

Great leaders use wisdom to avoid big mistakes and to keep the team moving toward success.

TWO STORIES

My friend Ellie is a great leader. She listens to her friends' suggestions when working on a project together. She values the abilities of others and loves learning from those around her. She also recognizes when her ideas and abilities would help her team and confidently shares her thoughts and suggestions.

Ellie is also not afraid to admit when she has made a mistake. She does not blame others or try to cover it up. She realizes mistakes are an opportunity to grow. Rather than try to hide her mistakes, Ellie openly admits them, learns from them and grows in wisdom. Ellie is a great leader

because she leads with WISDOM.

Can you relate to Ellie? Do you listen to and value others? Have you ever learned from your mistakes? What happened?

Then there is my friend Carlos. Carlos is a nice kid, he just has a hard time letting others help. He thinks that being a strong leader means having all the answers and just telling others what to do. As a result, his team does not feel valued and they rarely get to share their ideas. This often means they do not perform as well as they could. In these moments, Carlos is not using wisdom to lead his team.

Carlos rarely takes ownership when he does something wrong. He does not want to look like a bad leader. Instead, he blames others and does not learn from those mistakes. This means Carlos will

5 BIG TIME Qualities of True Leadership

likely not have the wisdom he needs the next time he faces a similar problem.

Can you relate to Carlos? Have you ever ignored others so you could be the leader? Have you ever blamed others for your own mistakes? What happened?

Growing in Wisdom takes work. It means staying focused and allowing others to help. You have to choose to not give up when you make mistakes. Growing in wisdom means paying attention to what is going on around you. You must learn to listen to others who have greater knowledge and experience if you want to grow in wisdom. Growing in wisdom means asking questions, including others and putting your own wisdom to work.

GROWING IN WISDOM

If you are ready to get stronger as a leader, you will need to grow in wisdom.

Here are the three important steps you can take to begin growing in wisdom.

STEP 1 : GAIN KNOWLEDGE

Wisdom begins with what you know. Even if you know very little, it is enough to get started. Read books, ask questions, watch videos. Do what it takes to gain knowledge.

STEP 2 : TRY / FAIL / SUCCEED

Knowledge starts to become wisdom the very first time you put it to use. Truly knowing something comes with experience. You have to try, and even if you fail, keep trying until you succeed. The more you do this, the more you are learning to do the right thing at the right time in the right way to get the right results.

5 BIG TIME Qualities of True Leadership

STEP 3 : PAY ATTENTION

You only grow in wisdom if you pay attention to what you try and what happens as a result. So you take the little bit of knowledge that you have, and you put it to use. Maybe you fail or maybe you succeed the first time. As long as you pay attention to what you did and your results, you will learn. The more you learn, the more you know. This continues until soon, you know the right thing to do, in the right way, at the right time to get the right results. This is how you grow in wisdom.

Wisdom comes from listening closely to your leaders, taking risks and learning from your mistakes. You build wisdom by paying close attention when something works. Taking notes, asking questions, being involved and desiring

to get stronger as a leader will keep you growing in wisdom. WISDOM is a BIG TIME Quality of True Leadership!

WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?

Take a moment and write down two things you are going to work on from this chapter.

ACTION STEP ONE: I will...

ACTION STEP TWO: I will...