



Everyone Can Lead

Learning Targets/Objectives:

- Determine the most important qualities for leaders and how best to lead as a service leader.

Success Criteria:

- Students will participate in a Leadership Convention based on their research and presentations.

Lesson Content Overview:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is recognized as one of the world's greatest leaders. He possessed the ability to organize and motivate thousands to embrace nonviolence as a means for creating social change. Effective leaders are often made, not born! Everyone has the capacity to be a great leader.

Dr. King reflected on the need for great leaders to move beyond what "everyone" else is doing and embrace their individuality. Youth must be encouraged to step outside the realm of what is comfortable and engage in activities that may not be popular.

"Ultimately, a genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus, but a molder of consensus. I would rather be a man of conviction than a man of conformity. "

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *Where Do We Go From Here: Community or Chaos?* 1967

Leadership development provides continuity and stability in a changing environment and helps to institutionalize the change. One way of developing leadership is to expose leaders to problems and issues directly related to their lives. It is essential to understand that leadership development is not simply the training of leaders in the nonviolent process. When using nonviolence, leadership takes responsibility for frontline action and does not merely give directions from a safe distance. Nonviolent leadership directs its energies towards persuasion and involving inactive potential supporters rather than relying on outside experts and government agencies to resolve them.

The nonviolent leader functions as a catalyst by provoking and stimulating people to rise above their limitations in addressing the issue. In nonviolence, the leadership seeks to maximize all the talents and resources within the group.

SEL Opener:

- **OPTION 1:** Show pictures of your school/community/town/state leaders (adults).
 - **Discussion Questions:** *Who is this? Why are they considered as one of our community leaders? What makes them a leader?*
- **OPTION 2:** Show social media posts of local high school students/US students leading like Dr. King.
 - **Discussion Questions:** *Who is this? Why are they considered student leaders? What makes them a leader?*



Instructional Activities:

- Activity 1: Students will discuss 5 characteristics of a good leader.
 - Complete the [What Makes a Good Leader Worksheet](#).
- Activity 2: Watch the [“Rebuilding the Broken Community”](#) speech.
 - Discuss the lines that stood out to them.
- Activity 3: Think about all that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. did and said.
 - Discuss what made Dr. King a good leader.
- Activity 4: Read *It Starts with Me* by Dr. Bernice A. King and Dr. Kimberly P. Johnson
 - Discuss the characters, plot, feelings, vocabulary, summary, and them
- Activity 5: Practice being a good leader by completing three or more service tasks.
 - Use the [Classroom Service Leadership Bingo Board](#).

Assessments:

- Have the students each select a leader within their school, community, or nation.
 - Create a poster or tri-board for the Leadership Convention.
 - **Presentation Criteria:** Image of the Leader, Name, Biography, and 5 traits that make them a leader.

Adaptations for Student Needs

IEP/504:

- Sizes of student groups range
- Students team up with a peer partner, while others would prefer to work individually.
- There is a variety of small-group work
- Chunking information
- Visual cues and wait time
- Visual supports (maps, images, PowerPoint slides, handouts)
- Assessments will be modified, and students given extra time

ELD/ELL/ESL:

- Modified/simplified reading material
- Content-related lists/handouts of key terms
- Text is supported by visuals and connected to real-life experience