

# Developing Leadership in Your Children

Luke 2:52

We all like to think of our children as natural born leaders. Few are. But even if they are, and especially if they are not, we need to train them and develop their leadership skills, because we need them to be leaders for many reasons:

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I had a hard time finding any Scripture that really talked about developing leadership in children. I guess you can say much of Proverbs might be considered a textbook for it, since it was a king teaching his son who was presumably to be king someday.

I need to read through Kings, Chronicles, and Samuel as I know there are lots of at least implicit examples of children learning leadership. But until then...

I was reviewing a verse I've always liked about Jesus' childhood and saw some very obvious parallels for the first time:

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Luke 2:40 And the Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Was Jesus a leader? (Did He have influence?)

Luke 1:80 And the child continued to grow, and to become strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Was John the Baptist a leader?

1Sam. 2:26 Now the boy Samuel was growing in stature and in favor both with the LORD and with men.

Was Samuel a leader?

None of those men had any official position or title (Samuel?) that would give them influence over kings, cultures, or societies, yet they surely had influence!

Let's see what we can learn from these passages and other sources to get some practical ideas on how to develop children who are leaders.

## I. What Developed Leadership in Jesus, John, and Samuel?

What are the common things you see from those verses about each child?

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Do you think those things had anything to do with their later leadership skills?

How can you replicate such conditions for your children?

"Grew in wisdom" - **Study Bible (Proverbs!); bring God into everyday; "Why?" when correcting; pray for them; model it.**

"Grew in stature" - **Physical; healthy lifestyle; confidence.**

"Grew in favor with God" - **Pray Col. 1:9-12 over them; model; Bible study, prayer.**

"Grew in favor with men" - **Build relationships (love people); integrity; diplomacy; unselfish; model it; no favoritism; humility; serving others.**

## II. How Else Can You Develop Leadership in Them?

Break up into five smaller groups and read one of the following (secular) essays, searching for practical, effective, and feasible ideas you can implement with your children to develop leadership in them. Select the best ideas and share them with the class.

[http://www.tip.duke.edu/resources/parents\\_students/leadership.html](http://www.tip.duke.edu/resources/parents_students/leadership.html)

[http://www.dukegiftedletter.com/articles/vol2no3\\_feature.html](http://www.dukegiftedletter.com/articles/vol2no3_feature.html)

<http://www.trans4mind.com/counterpoint/andrews3.shtml>

<http://www.helium.com/tm/438794/seven-personal-characteristics-leaderhow>

<http://www.helium.com/tm/222594/anyone-leader-children-leaders>

List the best ideas shared from these secular sources: \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you think those things would develop leadership skills? Which will you try with your kids?

## Conclusion:

"The military has discovered that one thousand hours of leadership training are worth about 15 minutes of actual **leading. Being given true responsibility for people, budgets, projects, missions, lives, and being asked to do one's best and learn from success and failure is the best way to develop leaders.** The military trains leaders by giving them real responsibility at the lowest levels (by pushing decision making down the chain of command as far as possible), and allowing junior leaders -soldiers, sergeants, young officers - to take action and learn as they do." - Mark Horstman

Last week I said, "To me, leadership is making a difference. It is standing up and doing what needs to be done, something meaningful, relevant, and significant."

What activities / opportunities could you design for your children that would develop their leadership skills?

What are you going to do to make a difference?