

Leadership is having the **WISDOM** to know what is true and right,
having the **COURAGE** to stand on the truth and do what is right,
even when it is difficult or unpopular, and using my unique, God-given
gifts to help and **SERVE** others.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning
of WISDOM

Wisdom

Be strong and COURAGEOUS. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD
your God will be with you wherever you go.

Courage

Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant... just as the
Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to SERVE.

+ Service

LEADERSHIP

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People & Leader in Me at Prince of Peace Lutheran School

Connections to our Christian Identity

1. Our definition of leadership:

Leadership is having the WISDOM to know what is true and right, having the COURAGE to stand on the truth and do what is right, even when it is difficult or unpopular, and using my unique, God-given gifts to help and SERVE others.

2. We view the 7 Habits® leadership program as rooted in and built upon Biblical foundations. The Christian foundation is characterized in Ephesians 2:8-10:

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Important concepts from this passage:

- a. The price has been paid by Christ for everyone to be saved, which implies we were all in need of saving. All of us have been born into sin and are helpless to save ourselves. All of us need a Saviour.
 - b. Our salvation and innate value flows from what God has done for us... created us and saved us through Jesus. Our salvation and innate value do not flow from what we do. It is completely God’s work.
 - c. God created us and saved us for a purpose: to do good works. He has a plan for us and has even prepared the way for us in this plan. He is working in our lives so that we become more like Him. He is the master artist making us into His workmanship, His masterpieces. It is within this context that we build leadership skills and enact habits of effectiveness. These habits are some of the good works that God has prepared in advance for us to do.
3. The reality is that Jesus is the first “Leader in Me”. We have a loving God who created us, leads us into paths of righteousness, and actually lives in us! When we recognize that Christ is the Leader in all of us, we then can follow Him to become leaders ourselves, being His hands and feet to the world.

Psalm 23:1-3 “The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.”

1 John 4:15 “If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.”

Habit 1: Be Proactive

1. I am a product of who God has made me and of my choices.
2. Habit 1 is all about choices. Here is what the Bible teaches about choice.
 - a. When God created us, He created us with the ability to choose. The first choice in history was the choice of Eve: to listen to God or the serpent. Adam then had the same choice, whether to listen to God or not. We also have the same choice to make today. To whom will you listen?

Genesis 3:1-7 "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves."

- b. Because of our sin, we are unable to choose to believe in God (just as a blind person cannot choose to see or a dead person cannot choose to live or an imprisoned person cannot choose to be free). The power to believe in God (faith) is a gift, and it comes only through the Holy Spirit's work in our hearts. The Holy Spirit works through the Word (Bible) and the means of grace (baptism and holy communion). Although we cannot choose God, we can resist His call to believe.

Romans 9:16 "It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy."

John 15:16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."

Colossians 2:13-14 "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross."

- c. Good choices do not produce salvation. No matter how good of a life we live, only perfection pleases God, and no one is perfect.

Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Matthew 5:48 "Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect."

- d. Through faith in Jesus, we have the opportunity daily to make good choices, and it is in those choices that we become more like Christ. It is through those choices that we testify to the life within us and show others the reality of Christ in our lives. Living the Habits[®] is part of our response to what God is doing in our lives. When we fail to make good choices, we fall back on the promises of love and forgiveness that Jesus offers freely.

1 John 1:8-9 "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

James 2:14-17 "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

3. We can remember that God himself was very proactive in dealing with us and our sinful condition. He did not react in quick anger, but instead took the initiative to set in place a salvation plan, through Jesus.

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Psalms 103:8 "The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love."

4. Proactive vs. Reactive Choices: We have choices for how to respond in life. When we are reactive, our natural reactions are often sinful. It is dangerous to live reactive lives. Being proactive really is about exercising self-control.

1 Peter 1:13 "Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed."

5. Proactive language focuses on the power of **words**. The words we choose to use can build up and encourage or they can tear down and destroy. God's Word is creative and redemptive. Christ, himself, is the Word!

John 1:1-5...14 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

6. There are things in our lives we can and cannot control. The Habits[®] calls this the Circle of Influence and Circle of Concern. When there are things we cannot control but are concerned about, we can leave them in the hands of our God who is in control over all. This helps alleviate worry. We then can focus on what we are called to do, influence others and control ourselves as God calls us to do.

Luke 12:22-32 "Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."

Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind

1. God began with an end in mind. When He created everything, it was good and He had full relationship with His creation. After the Fall, He put in place a plan immediately (Genesis 3) to restore fallen creation. His desire and mission remain that every person come back into his family and live with him forever. The only way this happens is through faith in Jesus.

Genesis 1:31 "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning - the sixth day."

Genesis 3:14-15 "So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

1 Timothy 2:3-4 "This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

2. As Christians, our personal missions flow from God's mission. He created us with an end in mind and has given each of us unique interests, giftedness, and abilities. It is in God we find the mission and purpose for which we have been created.

1 Corinthians 14:12 "So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church."

Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4 (the Spiritual Gift Chapters)

Habit 3: Put First Things First

1. What are God's "First Things"?

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

2. Priorities are important. Knowing the difference between what is important and what is not helps us to set priorities. What about God's priorities? What is truly important in His eyes? For a good contrast between what is important to God and what is important for sinful people, see Christ's words to the Pharisees, where he shows that people and their relationship with God is more important than appearances, conforming to man-made rules and selfish pride:

Matthew 23:13-27 which includes

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! ... But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. ...

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean."

Habit 4: Think Win-Win

1. Thinking Win-Win does not come naturally, because it means we have to be very aware of others, valuing their desires and interests just as much as we value our own. Christ teaches us to put others first.

Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Luke 6:29-31 "If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

1. We need to first listen to God in His Word and seek to understand His will, then to align our understanding to His.

Romans 12:2 "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

2. This habit is also all about putting others first and really listening to them to understand their perspectives and interests, without losing our own.

Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Habit 6: Synergize

1. This habit is all about valuing differences. God has made us all unique and our differences enhance our community. The clearest picture of this in the Bible is the description of the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27: "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

2. The value we place on each other and the love we show each other will be a witness to Christ.

John 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw

1. Sharpening the Saw is about renewal and balance: physical, relational, intellectual, and spiritual. It is about health. God, too, wants us to be healthy.

Genesis 2:2-3 "And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Isaiah 40:30-31 "Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."