

# Leadership Portfolio

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# Joe Mosher's Leadership Portfolio

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## Leadership Journal: Introduction

For the entire semester we were asked to write about different leadership topics. For 10 weeks we were given prompts and asked to reflect, ponder, and record our feelings for these thoughts. For many of my leadership journal entries I tried to retell a story of some part of my life. The stories are in as much detail as I could remember. I hope you enjoy.

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## Leadership Journal: Week 1

### Past Leaders

"I can't take another step," I said in agony.

"I know what you mean," said Drew, "Why did we let that old man talk us into this?"

"It's okay," I said, "We only 1,500 feet left."

For most of my life, Drew has been my closest friend. However, it was because of moments like these we were able to become so close.

Drew's dad, Andrew Jones, was called to be our scout master several years back. We often compared Mr. Jones to Indiana Jones, Crocodile Dundee, and Rambo. This is because we believed he could not be conquered by anything. Nothing could scare him, and there wasn't anything he couldn't do. He was ex-military, a rock climber, a gun specialist, and an insurance salesman (Hey it's tough to do that job everyday). Well in all honest it was his insurance company. It wasn't his personality though; he loved to be in nature.

We finally reached the top of Blood Mountain signifying the completion of our 50 mile 5 day journey. Blood Mountain was given its name because it was the highest mountain in Georgia, almost 4,500 feet, seemingly straight uphill. We hiked the last 1,000 feet in torrential down pours. We were the first ones to make it to the top besides Mr. Jones. His pace was unmatched. He was sitting inside of an open faced shelter dry as a bone. He had apparently beaten the rainfall.

"Guess you boys didn't have much need for your water bottles," chuckled Mr. Jones as he eyed our soaking equipment.

"Very funny dad," Drew yelled.

Once the rest of our troop had reached the shelter, Mr. Jones asked,

"How many of you wanted to quit?" Almost everyone raised their hands.

"How many of you did quit?" Every hand went down.

"That is what is most important," Mr. Jones said. "It doesn't matter that you wanted to quit; it only matters that you didn't quit. I hope you remember this day."

I think about that day often. It was a time of tremendous difficulty. I had blisters on my feet; I was incredibly sore, but I didn't give up. Mr. Jones found a way to lead us through hell and be glad that we did it. He inspired each of us that day. It is a day that will not be long forgotten for any in attendance. He taught us that despite extreme adversity we cannot afford to quit. He did what all great leaders do, inspire and uplift those around him.



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## Leadership Journal: Week 2

### Leaders in the Scriptures

Moroni, Helaman, Nephi, Alma, Mormon, Abinadi, and, the brother of Jared, are all might leaders that we can learn from by reading of their experiences, trials, and successes. However, there is one leader whose selflessness has always stood out to me, King Benjamin. King Benjamin was the son of King Mosiah. King Mosiah was a man of God who taught his son and his people to love and serve God. King Benjamin took after his father in love and righteousness towards God and towards the people of Nephi.

Doctrine and Covenants 121:39 states, "We have learned by sad experience that it is the nature and disposition of almost all men, as soon as they get a little authority, as they suppose, they will immediately begin to exercise unrighteous dominion." Think for a moment. When we consider the Hitlers, Castros, and Chavezes, of the world the statement becomes more real. What keeps a man of great power and influence balanced? The balance must be divinely inspired.

King Benjamin was the king of the Nephites and as such could have easily coerced the people to provide him with an extremely nice life style. Instead of doing this, however, he used his role to show others the correct, to provide for yourself through your own labors. King Benjamin wanted the people to have more time serving that God who gives us all life and supports us on a daily basis then to worry about supporting him. How often do we see that in today's world? We are so quick to hurt and deceive others for our own gain.

King Benjamin was also constantly exhorting the people to be faithful to the commandments of God. King Benjamin spent a great deal of his time laboring for the benefit and well being of the people he presided over. He knew the great lesson that in order to lead you must serve. He lead his people not by forcing them but by encouraging them to be better.

King Benjamin's leadership style is very unique and uncommon. However, he was not the only person to lead in such a manner. During his earthly ministry, Christ led in similar ways as King Benjamin. Both were kinds yet spend their lives in service to their fellowman. If Christ, the greatest of them all, finds it so important to labor and serve others than how greater of a responsibility do we have to serve our fellowman? As King Benjamin said, "If ye should serve [Christ] with all your whole souls yet ye would be unprofitable servants" (Mosiah 2: 21).

Let us all live our lives with a desire to follow the examples of leadership that we have.



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## Leadership Journal: Week 3

### Leaders Losing Their Way

"Can't you just tell them no," I said angrily, "I don't want to move before I am baptized. None of my friends will be there."

"The Lord has need of our family elsewhere son," said my dad, "we are going because it is what needs to be done. The change will greatly bless our family."

I was seven years old when my family was asked to leave the ward we had been in for many years to organize a small branch a bit closer to where we lived. I hated it. I didn't want to go. My father was called to be in the branch presidency. There were only 20 members present for our church meeting, none whom I knew.

A large grayed man stood up to conduct the meeting, "Welcome brothers and sisters to the newly organized Monroe branch. My name is Glen Trust and I have been asked to conduct," Glen said rather nervously.

Over the next few years we got to know President Trust well; we grew to love him and his family. He conducted my baptismal interview, often had ward activities at his house, and had the organizational skills required to help our tiny branch grow.

Within five years he was released and became the first member of our branch to be called to serve as a high counselor; he was also called to be our home teacher. It was during this time that everything changed.

He was offered a position in New York as a security advisor for a large company. He was considering taking the job but didn't want to relocate his family. After much consideration he counseled with the stake president. The stake president counseled him to not take the job; he feared it would but too much strain on their family. However, Glen decided it was the path he wanted to take and took the job.

I still remember the last time I saw him. He stopped by our house to home teach us before catching his flight back to New York. He seems as calm as ever and taught us a dry lesson. Within two weeks of that meeting he was filing for a divorce. What had happened in that short amount of time to such a great man?

It turns out he had been having an affair with his secretary while in New York. She was also LDS and was having a horrible time being married. The affair went on for a few months before he filed for a divorce. The root of this problem was the disobedience to the counsel of God. By treating light the counsel of God even return missionaries married in the temple can be venerable to temptation and—as a result—destruction.



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## Leadership Journal: Week 4

### Becoming a Leader

"Mom," I said, "Why do we have feelings?"

"What do you mean?" My mom asked. "Are you asking why we get sad or mad?"

"No mom! When I crashed yesterday on my skate board and skinned my knees why did I have to feel that much pain? Why is it necessary?"

"Well," my mom started, "if you didn't feel that pain how would you know that you are in trouble or hurt?"

"Mom, I'm pretty sure the blood would have let me know."

The above conversation took place when I was seven years old. I wish I could tell you that I knew the answer to my innocent questions but I do not, the truth is neither did my mom. In fact, who does know why we feel pain, physical or emotional? I'm sure we could probably be told why we feel pain, but why would God let us feel pain or hurt? Although I am no closer to answering this question, I have come to terms with the fact that I will never be able to rid myself of pain, no matter how many safety measures I put in place. It seems to be a result of the fall of man.

As we know this fall of Adam brought about a damned state of uselessness and trials to mankind. Pretty crummy huh? Although our existence, pitiful as it is, has a chance to become perfect through the atonement and grace of our Savior Jesus Christ. Ammon, a Book of Mormon missionary, exclaimed, after much success with being a leader to a nation of feared and unfamiliar people, "I know that I am nothing; as to my strength I am weak; therefore I will not boast of myself, but I will boast of my God, for in his strength I can do all things; yea, behold many mighty miracles we have wrought in this land, for which we will praise his name forever." This knowledge is the most important any person can come to grips with. We are nothing compared to the wisdom, mercy, justice, and perfection of God. We can do all that we can to better the land and people we come in contact with and still we will be unprofitable servants.

Whatever great leadership responsibilities he has in store for the people on this earth do so much to help us grow and become as He is. However, our inexperience and imperfections will continually get in our way to move this work along. Yet, he suffers me to do what little I can do to bless my life, the life of my family, and the lives of those closest to me. Currently I am serving as the Marriage and Family Relations teacher with my wife. This is probably the most rewarding and humbling calling I will ever been a part of. He is teaching me who He wants me to be. I will be eternally grateful for that. I have felt His redeeming love in my life. Because I have felt this, I have had pain removed from my life. The feelings of the atonement are so great that I wish for everyone to have the experience of being forgiven of their sins. People need to have the hope offered to us through the gospel. This removes the pain that I referenced earlier. This is why I would like to do all I can to help others become free from pain and eternal suffering.

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## Leadership Journal: Week 5

### My Crucible

Being a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints comes with the blessing of having many defining points in one's life. For example, every worthy member of the church has the expectation of serving a full-time mission. By serving a full time mission we are provided with opportunities that will change our lives forever and make us the people that we are today. And although I dislike relating everything back to my mission, I would rather relate it back to current experiences, everything good in my life can be related back to my mission.

In high school I wasn't the greatest student nor did I care to be. I wanted to play sports and date girls. I didn't care much about learning or doing my best in the classroom setting. However, here I am about to graduate from Brigham Young University—Idaho with a bachelor's degree in business finance and will be attending law school this coming August. For those who knew me when I was growing up this would come as a huge surprise.

Before serving my mission I was infatuated with computers and the technology behind the internet. I was on my way to being very successful in that field by owning and operating a computer repair shop. We had some very big clients in the surrounding cities and were about to break into the web hosting business. Well I left to go on a mission without any formal post high school education. It was at this time that I met Brother George.

I call him Brother George because I cannot recollect his first name. I had the opportunity of living with his family in my second area, Sun City California. When I first met him I thought he was weird and that he didn't care for anyone except for his family. At the time I could have never known the impact that he would have on my life and the life of my family.

Overtime we became good friends. We both have a passion for chess and would often have epic matches. It was during one of these matches that he asked me what I was going to do as a profession. I told him about my passion for computers, and he told me that I would be wasting my talent. Confused I inquired further to find that he had been analyzing me over the past months and said that someone with my natural thought process should seriously consider becoming an attorney. He placed a seed in my mind that would continue to grow and grow into a firm belief that that was what the Lord wanted for my life. The Lord was able to direct me paths through a loving friend who I will always be thankful for following the prompting to counsel me.

Without going on a mission I wouldn't have been able to receive that counsel and further promptings. As a result I wouldn't have gone to college. I wouldn't have gone to BYU-Idaho, and I wouldn't have met my wonderful wife Jillian. This was the turning point in my life and is the main reason for why I am who I am.



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## Leadership Journal: Week 6

### My Values

These are just a few of the values that I feel are important for every person, especially leaders, to have. A leader must be:

1. Hard working
2. Passionate
3. Ambitious
4. Diligent
5. Dedicated
6. Charitable
7. Humble
8. Honest
9. Loyal
10. Patient

I have about eight more attributes and values but I think that list about covers the majority of it. There are some situations that will require more of some attributes than other. For instance in a general I would like to see a harder working more passionate person. For a bishop I would like to see a more charitable, humble, and diligent person.

There are a few attributes that I think every leader should have. In my opinion, attributes 1-5 are ones that each leader and person should have. I think this way because I believe that most blessings go to those who are willing to work hard and are passionate, ambitious, diligent, and dedicated. I am trying to learn the piano this semester, and it has been one of the most difficult tasks. If I didn't have attributes 1 through 5 I wouldn't be doing as well as I am.

I distinctly remember tracting on my mission in Southern California when the temperature was around 110 degrees.

"Why do I have to do this?" I asked to myself. "Couldn't God create a more efficient way of finding? I would rather cut off my arm to find people than endure this heat."

Morbid isn't it? I honestly remember feeling that way and being willing to give my life to teach the gospel. I really just wanted a quick fix to my slow and certain death by dehydration. I would have done almost anything to escape that heat. It was then that I learned God often doesn't require these great things out of his disciples. He wants us to prove our hard work through our diligence and our faith through our dedication. If getting to the Celestial kingdom required us to give our lives, who wouldn't? Unfortunately we are called to endure the trials of life.

Aside from my mission, my marriage requires all of these listed attributes and more. I have also found that the longer I am married the more developed these values become. We have been married for 18 months and are having our first son in June. If marriage is changing me this much, I can't wait to see what children do for me.

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## Leadership Journal: Week 7

### My Mentors

"You Jag!" Hank Kekoolani yelled. "That was my last base."

"Sorry Brother K," I said. "I guess you should have built a stronger army."

Brother Kekoolani wasn't the greatest mentor because he played my favorite video games; he was the greatest because he really cared about my welfare and the welfare of those around him. Brother K, as he was called by the youth in our ward, moved to Loganville, Georgia, at a pivotal time in my life. I was about 15 and had no idea who I was. I had no goals, no ambition, and no problem with being nothing. I still remember the first time I ever really spoke to him.

"Hey little Joe," he said. "I need some help this summer with my HVAC business. Would you be interested in being my apprentice?"

I had to think about it for a while because honestly I didn't want to do anything over the summer except sleep. However, I knew that my dad and grandfather had done HVAC for the better portion of their lives and figured I should know more about what has fed our family for two generations.

"Sure," I said.

"Great! I'll pay you \$8 an hour and I'll be by tomorrow at 8 a.m. to pick you up," Brother K said.

I worked for him every chance I had, the summers of my sophomore and junior years, weekends, holidays, and evenings. I didn't do it for the money. I did it to spend more time with him and learn from him.

We didn't always work. Actually, we played much more than we ever did work. He would host local area network parties at his office and invite the young men and the young men leaders. We would stay up all night playing a multitude of games. Brother Kekoolani was able to form strong bonds with the youth because of his ability to play these games with us.

I learned more from Brother K than I can ever say. He took a real interest in a boy who needed guidance. He taught me how to pray with faith. He loved and accepted me. He trusted me with personal stories that helped him become who he is today. He is my father and one of my best friends. There are very few days that go by where I don't think about him. Everything I am today has to do with his influence in my life. He taught me how to be a man, encouraged me to serve a mission, and helped me start my first business.

How can you repay someone who has meant so much? By paying it forward. I can never help Brother K the way he helped me. However, I can do the same thing for others that he did for me. More than anything, this is what Brother K would want. I owe it to him. I owe it to the Lord.

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## Leadership Journal: Week 8

### My Success

Currently I measure my success with my GPA, LSAT scores, and law school admission letters. Unfortunately, these things mean everything to some and nothing to others. That is the big problem with placing value in something that in and of itself has little to no meaning or value. I should feel more accomplishment with understanding information than getting an A, but I don't. For instance, if I had to choose between completely understanding the subject matter in a course and getting a B minus or getting an A and not understanding the material at all I would choose the latter every time. The problem is I value external validation more than I value internal validation. If it can't be quantified I don't want to participate in it.

Currently I am trying to decide which law school I will attend. This choice is extremely difficult to make. I guess having too few decisions is worse than having too many, but my wife and I are severely struggling with that right now.

"Why don't you just pray about it?" Ian, my brother-in-law, asked last night.

Well is it just that simple? Seldom am I ever given the answer of what I should do before I do it, unfortunately. Usually I get a confirmation after the choice has been made. I feel like Heavenly Father thinks we can make a good decision and I wish He would just take over. Maybe He has and I just don't know it yet. He hasn't let me down yet.

I have many goals that I want to accomplish throughout my life. I want to become independently wealthy and spend more time with my children than most have the chance to. Is it possible to do both of these at once? If I can do both of these things I feel that I will be a success. I also want to be a life time student and an eternal servant.

I will obtain the greatest amount of happiness in my life if I never give into the idea that I should settle for mediocrity. If I can live an exceptional life and teach my family to do the same I will be most pleased with my efforts on this earth. If I teach my children to be complacent and ignorant than I have failed. If there is a better way to do something I want to know what it is and implement it. Is being over ambitious a sin? I want to be perfect in both worldly and spiritual things. However, I find I focus the most on temporal things now than I do spiritual things. In order to be truly success I feel I must master the balance of improving both.

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## Leadership Journal: Week 9

### Types of Leadership Roles

Leadership is simply unavoidable. Leadership is synonymous with responsibility. In each part of our lives we have a certain level or responsibility and therefore a certain level of leadership is required.

#### Personal Leadership

Each person is responsible for what he or she does. This is called personal leadership. Those who are good personal leaders are goal oriented and self driven. They don't need others to tell them what type of expectations they should meet, they meet them.

#### Nuclear Leadership

This involves the leadership that must be performed among the nuclear family. Age and gender roles are included with the different levels of leadership. A parent is different from a child and a mother from a father. We have norms associated with the types of leadership we have.

#### Industrial Leadership

This type of leadership is leadership that is required in order for us to perform in our career or job. This is difficult because one must juggle the needs of a boss, coworkers, self, and family. In this category we have the managed and the managers. The leadership responsibilities will vary from doing what you are told to controlling the work environment.

#### Extended Leadership

This type of leadership refers to the responsibility taken on in extra time. Religious or volunteer responsibilities are included in this type of leadership. One may be in an elected position, coach a child's sports team, or teach a youth group at the church. Whatever these responsibilities are they classify who we are better than the other types of leadership. This is a group we choose to be involved in.

I have leadership roles that could fall in each of these categories as defined. Personally I struggle with keeping my heart and hand clean. I struggle with trying to make correct decisions and keep the commandments. This is a battle I will have my entire life, though I hope it will get easier. The curse of this is that I am the only one who knows how well I am doing at this. In my family I have the responsibility of being the patriarch of our home. The term patriarch sounds intimidating and it is for me. Trying to define myself in this aspect is challenging. Luckily I have many people and resources around me to help me, personal revelations the greatest of them.

I am a husband. I'm trying to figure out what this means. I have the responsibility to love, provide for, and encourage my spouse to be her best self. This is tough because she is often better than I. I will soon be a father. I have no idea what type of duties are there but I assume they are similar to that of a spouse. I will help my children be the best people they can be with their different attributes and talents.

I am currently a student and devote the majority of my time towards my studies of interest. I have the responsibility of being a good student and keeping my grades up.

My extended leadership responsibilities include teaching the marriage and family relations class in my ward. This is the greatest calling I have ever had. I get to teach it with my wife. We are responsible for adequately preparing for and delivering an uplifting lesson. Our classmates are responsible to prepare to receive it.



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## Leadership Journal: Week 10

### Integrating My Life

One of the greatest blessings of my life has been the chance that I have had to attend this great university. One of the good things about attending this university has been the ability that I have had to learn and grow both secularly and spiritually within the same walls and from the same professors. This is a unusually place that I have had the chance to study. Where else on world is this possible? I can think of very few other places.

BYU-Idaho has helped me to connect secular and spiritual learning. This connection can now be used through every aspect of my life. Satan has the ability to remove all sense of responsibility. We are animals aren't we? We have animal like instincts and have these urges that are unholy and damning. Our natural is to get gain, have control, and use those around us. These are the basic urges or survival and wealth. However, I have learned that it is possible to obtain wealth and survive by building up those around me.

I have the chance to work on campus as a tutor. I have the ability to talk freely and openly about the church and my testimony. This is a special thing; something that I should not take for granted.

We all have many different hats and responsibilities. These responsibilities require differing things from us in order to accomplish the objectives associated with our varying jobs. Although these jobs will differ, it is possible to be the same person in each of these roles. There is a miracle behind our personalities. Where does our personality come from? It is nurture or nature? Is it more than that? Did we come down bearing unique gifts and talents learned from our Father? I think our personality is the result of tough choices that we often need to make on a daily basis. Our personality is primarily responsible for how we handle and view everything in our lives.

With this in mind I definitely think that we can tear down all the barriers and walls in our life and have our unique God like personage perform in each area of our lives. However, we must attain a extremely great personality to do so. We must be principle oriented. If we are not principled we cannot tear down the walls in our lives. People without principles are blown to and fro not having and anchor. Luckily we have the blessing of personal revelation to guide us to perfection.

I don't know if I am ready to tear down all the walls in my life. But I do know that I am on the right track. This wonderful university has helped to prepare me to break down the barriers in my life, my family and my community. The Holy Ghost will continue to help me in accomplishing this.