



What Holds Us Back?

Introduction:

We have a mission; God has called us to be disciples and to make disciples. He has placed us here in the heart of Redditch to bring the Kingdom of God to our town, to reach out, to see people come to faith in Christ, to grow.

It's a big task! A task that can only be achieved when we all work together as a body, bringing our individual, unique gifts and abilities to the table. **Our desire at Oasis is that we will develop a family of leaders with a heart to serve.**

In our first session we said that '**leadership is influence**'. We are all influencers. In our second session we are going to look at some of the things that may hold us back in our leadership.

Romans 12 v. 4-8

⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

These evenings are about learning and equipping so that we can all make our contribution in the best way possible.

Question 1 (discuss & feedback) – Take a look at these verses and identify some of the 'issues' Saul had in his leadership. Are you aware of any others?

1 Samuel 17 v. 10-11

1 Samuel 13 v. 11-14

1 Samuel 20 v. 33

1 Samuel 19 v. 8



Most of the things that limited Saul’s leadership were character issues. Last time, we said that people often look on the outside for someone who ‘looks’ like a leader, or ‘sounds’ like a leader. God looks at our hearts and our characters. We can have all the skill in the world but if our character is not good then we can’t expect God to work through us and this will limit our leadership.

Question 2 (discuss & feedback) – From your knowledge of David’s life, what are some of the things that *could* have limited his leadership?

Question 3 (discuss) – What are some of the things that hold you back in your leadership?



David and Goliath

1 Samuel 17 v. 1-11

Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. ² Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. ³ The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

⁴ A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. ⁵ He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armour of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; ⁶ on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. ⁷ His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

⁸ Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." ¹⁰ Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." ¹¹ On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

v. 20 – 24

Early in the morning David left the flock in the care of a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. ²¹ Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. ²² David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and asked his brothers how they were. ²³ As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. ²⁴ Whenever the Israelites saw the man, they all fled from him in great fear.

v. 32 – 37

David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

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³³ Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth."

³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine."

David could have been afraid, like Saul. David had never killed a giant before, although he had experience of killing wild animals. He draws on his past 'lesser' experience to stretch towards the new challenge.

David could have followed Saul's example. Saul was the leader, but David stretched beyond.

David refers to himself as 'your servant'; he sees what he is going to do as an act of service.

In a sense, David did get angry that Goliath was threatening the Israelites, but he used that righteous anger to do something.

The impact of what David did was, firstly, that he grew himself as a leader. He went from being able to finish off a bear to finishing off a giant. What could be next? But the impact of what David did was felt beyond himself. He impacted and influenced those around him.

1 Samuel 17 v. 51-52

David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.

When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. ⁵² Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.

See how the rest of the Israelites suddenly step up, following David's example.



Question 4 (discuss & feedback) – Why do you think it is so important for *us* to grow in leadership, stretching beyond the things that hold us back?

Things to think about and reflect on:

What things are holding me back in my leadership?

What is **one thing** I would like to change in order to grow?

What can I do in order to make that change?



Another area where we need to make sure we don't 'limit' our leadership is within the local church. History tells us that local church growth is a bit like growing a potted plant. When a plant grows to a certain size, the size of the pot it is in begins to restrict its growth.

The solutions are:

- 1) Accept that the plant will not grow any further and just continue to feed and water it as it is. Unfortunately, plants like this eventually become unhealthy.
- 2) Take the plant and 'split it' to make smaller plants which can grow in different pots.
- 3) Put the plant into a bigger pot.

Question 5 (discuss & feedback)

What are some of the signs that a church may be 'outgrowing its pot'?

Suggest ways that we can approach these challenges

In the future we may have to do some things differently in order to 'lift our lid' and enable Oasis to grow to the next stage.