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**SOLOMON AND DAVID**

**Passing on:** succession planning

**What a mentor does:** sets the pace

**Scriptures to study:** 1 Chronicles 28:1-21,1 Chronicles 29:1-4, Psalm 51, 1 Kings 1:32-37, 1 Kings 2:1-4

**Key thoughts:**

* David was among the greatest kings of Israel. Though he made mistakes, he was also called “a man after God’s own heart”.
* When David learns he will not complete the temple for God, he immediately puts into action a succession plan for his son, Solomon.
* David does everything he can to ensure the success of his son, through instruction, provision and encouragement.

No leader is a success without a successor. As an organizational leader we must ask, “Is God going to use me to do something, or does God want me to impact someone else to do something I can’t or won’t be able to do?” Mentoring is a powerful tool to use in developing and equipping a successor for a life or business role. King David was honored by God in that the lineage of Jesus Himself is traced backed to David’s life. In 1 Chronicles 28:1-9, we read about the succession plan that God wanted David to implement.

In David and Solomon, we see that there is great impact both in being a leader, and in equipping the next generation of leadership. Mentoring is a mark of spiritual maturity. We watch as God builds up others and rejoice as they are also used by Him. This is a *kingdom mindset,* where a mentor seeks God’s glory first and spends their energy pouring into the lives of who will come next. In David’s case, he was mentoring his immediate successor—building the very next generation of leadership.

David sets the pace by stepping ahead in areas for Solomon. He leads by being transparent in the relationship, teaching Solomon about how to relate to God based on his own experience. David also shares his knowledge and resources with Solomon. David wants to keep Solomon to the God-driven task before him, show him everything he can about how to accomplish it, and help him to avoid pitfalls along the way.

**David encouraged.** In 1 Chronicles 28:9, David encourages his son, Solomon, and teaches him to obey God: “And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.” David, confident that God will use Solomon, is determined to instill that same confidence in him. His words of encouragement include caution against selfish and impure motives. It is always a vulnerable thing to rely on others, but mentoring progresses on the basis of trust.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**David equipped.** David was told by God that his son, Solomon, would carry on his work of building the temple. David went about making sure he did all he could to ensure Solomon had what he needed to get the job done. He gave Solomon all of the detailed plans for the temple (1 Chronicles 28:11-19). In 1 Chronicles 29:1-2 King David says, “My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the Lord God. With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities.”

**David was an example.** Continuing beyond what he had provided from Israel’s natural resources, David also gave Solomon his personal treasures. In 1 Chronicles 29:3-4 David continues, “Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: three thousand talents of gold (gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings…” Isn’t this the essence of mentoring—giving ourselves away for the people we seek to mentor? Mentoring has little to do with good intentions and everything to do with Christian character and a sacrificial lifestyle. People become aware of what leaders say, and more so of what they do, but they are most influenced by who we are.

It is noteworthy that David and Solomon were very different in their leadership styles. David was known for his *heart.* He wrote many psalms (songs) and was a soldier, musician, poet and shepherd as well as king. Solomon was full of *wisdom*. He wrote Ecclesiastes and Proverbs.



* Do you have a succession plan for your life and leadership? Who will take on your role after you are gone from your organization? From your family? Is there a next generation behind you that will carry on your good work?
* What is an example of someone who did not do something noteworthy themselves, but their mentee went on to accomplish something big? (Examples: father of Neil Armstrong; George St. John, teacher of John F. Kennedy, who originally said “the youth who loves his Alma Mater will always ask not what can she do for me? but what can I do for her?”)



* Read 1 Chronicles 28:9. How did David encourage his son, Solomon? What did David want Solomon to know?
* Read 1 Chronicles 28:11-13 and 29:1-2. How did David equip Solomon for the task ahead?
* Read 1 Chronicles 28:20-21 and 29:3-4. In what ways was David and example to Solomon?
* Read Psalm 18:1-3 and 18:20-24. David wrote many psalms (songs) of which his son Solomon was aware. What does David teach Solomon through this psalm?
* Read 1 Kings 2:1-4. What instructions does David give Solomon as he is dying?



* What might you do this week to prepare for your own future, and to help prepare someone else for theirs?
* In what ways have you made a personal impact on the world with your life? In what ways might your life be a support to someone else who will make an impact?
* What is important to you to pass on to your children? Is there anything you can begin today to ensure those lessons are clear to them?

1. https://chrisgnanakan.wordpress.com/2015/11/13/old-testament-mentoring-david-solomon/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)