

African Methodist Episcopal Church
Christian Education Department

YOUNG ADULT LESSON

FALL QUARTER – September – November 2009

COVENANT COMMUNITIES

Unit 1: Leaders in the Covenant Community

Lesson 1

September 6, 2009

A Leader for the People

The election or death of one leader will always lead to an opportunity for a new leader to rise up

Greater Insight

I Timothy 2:1-6

Background Scripture

Joshua 1

Print

Joshua 1:1-11,16-17.

Key Verse

I command you – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

from the ranks of the populace. The criteria used by earthly standards greatly differ from those the LORD uses. The LORD, being the Ultimate One in charge picks and chooses whom he wants when he wants and for his purposes, and according to his divine plan. Although earthly leaders deal in the secular realm, governing everyday life and situations, in the spiritual realm, true believers know that it is God who is really calling the shots whether in the home, church, government, or other aspects of our secular lives.

Who would have thought God would have given Moses, whose disobedience kept him from seeing the Promised Land, the awesome job of selecting Joshua, one of the few who lasted the forty years, as his successor.

The Lord gave Joshua the same assurance he gives leaders today. God let Joshua know that:

- **God had his back.** He would not be alone as the people moved forward to possess the land that had been promised to their ancestors. The LORD was with Moses through thick and thin and would be with him.
- **God wants loyalty.** Through his many experiences as Moses companion, Joshua learned that God's leaders were successful when they displayed complete loyalty and devotion to their one God and not the false gods of Israel's neighbors. The first four commandments spelled out how God wanted first place in the lives of his people then and now.

- **All things are possible for those who lean on God's unchanging hand.** God encouraged Joshua to be strong and courageous; and put his trust and faith in the LORD. Proverb 3:5-6 tells to "trust in the Lord with all our hearts and to lean not to our own understanding. In all our ways we must acknowledge [God], and he will direct our paths.

As a leader your success will depend on these things.

- **Display a public presence.** People following you must know you and you must know them
- **Accept your authority.** You must foster an attitude of trust among God's people so they would accept you as their leader.
- **Guide others with Gentleness.** Wisdom tells us that guidance stemming from loving compassion and valuing followers is far more powerful than force.
- **Know that all humans make mistakes.** Admit your faults, change, and move on.
- **Caring Correction.** Appropriate correction is an indication of concern for your followers. Group rules and expectations must be clearly stated and the consequences breaking the rules enforced.

SHOUT OUT! On a scale from one to five, with one being the lowest score, how would you rate yourself as a God-fearing leader? Use the blog link to share with us your thoughts on the attributes of effective leaders.