

Navigation

ANYONE CAN STEER THE SHIP BUT IT TAKES A LEADER TO CHART THE COURSE



"One thing all leaders have in common is the ability to see more and before."
– John C Maxwell



INSIGHT

Directions: Take turns reading the paragraphs below. As you read, underline the ideas that capture your attention.

One thing all leaders have in common is the ability to see more before. They see more than others do because they see the big picture, which not all people grasp. And they see what is coming before others do. This gives them an advantage when it comes to navigating for the people they lead.

The larger the group someone leads, the more clearly the leader must be able to see ahead. That's true because sheer size makes midcourse corrections more difficult. And if there are errors in navigation, many more people are affected than when a leader is traveling alone or with only a few people. The disaster of the Titanic was a good example of that kind of problem. The crew could not see far enough ahead to avoid the iceberg, and because of the size of the ship, they could not manoeuvre enough to change course once the object was in view. The result was that more than one thousand people lost their lives.

To navigate like a leader, learn to ask yourself these 5 questions:

1. Are You Keeping Your Emotions From Clouding Your Vision? No matter the conditions we face, leaders must not panic. They can't let the circumstances prevent them from seeing more and before and from navigating people through their difficulties.

2. Have You Seen This Situation Before? We've all heard, "Experience is the best teacher," but it's simply not true. Experience is not the best teacher; it never has been and never will be. Maturity doesn't always come with time; sometimes age brings nothing more than wrinkles and grey hair. Sometimes age comes alone.

3. Who Do You Know That Has Seen This Before? What Did They Learn? Navigating leaders get ideas from many sources. They listen to members of their team. They talk to the people in their teams to find out what's happening at the grassroots level. And they spend time with leaders from outside their team who can mentor them. They always think in terms of relying on a team, not just themselves.

4. Can You See the Conditions Before Committing? Drawing on experience means looking inward. Examining conditions means looking outward. No good leader plans a course of action without paying close attention to current conditions. That would be like setting sail against the tide or plotting a course into a hurricane. Good navigators look at the present and try to anticipate the future so that they can count the cost before making commitments for themselves and their team.



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"A leader is one who sees farther than others see, and who sees before others do." – John C Maxwell

5. Have You Seen Enough to Balance Both Faith and Fact? Being able to navigate for others requires a leader to possess a positive attitude. You've got to have faith that you can take your people all the way. If you can't confidently make the trip in your mind, you're not going to be able to take it in real life. On the other hand, you also must be able to realistically deal with facts. You can't minimise obstacles or rationalise challenges and still navigate effectively. Pretending obstacles don't exist won't help you to overcome them.



BENEFITS

When you look through the lens of Navigation, you experience the following benefits:

- **You** will see a clear vision and direction.
- **You** will be able to solve problems quickly.
- **You** will gain the trust and confidence of others.
- **You** will use your resources more wisely.
- **You** will be able to survive the storms of life.
- **You** will be able to empower team members to contribute meaningfully.
- **You** will be able to consistently achieve your goals and reach your destination.



SKILL TO LEARN - How to Navigate

Leaders who are good navigators plan ahead. They see more and before others, and they prepare more and before. This enables them to find a way forward as well as convey confidence and gain trust from people. Great leaders do all that, plus they make navigational adjustments, changing course when needed as they go along.

PLAN AHEAD Acrostic:

Predetermine a course of action

Lay out your goals

Aadjust your priorities

Notify key personnel

Allow time for acceptance

Head into action

Expect problems

Always point to the successes

Daily review your plan



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Reflect and Respond

Choose something you underlined that is important to you. Take one minute to tell everyone what you chose and why it is important to you.

Evaluate & Action

Complete the self-evaluation section below.

Rate how well you demonstrate this skill of Navigation in your life on a scale of 1-10.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10

Why did you give yourself this rating?

What benefits would you receive by improving your rating?

Who do you know that is a great Navigator? What do you admire most about that person?



What specific action can you take this week that will improve your Navigation rating?

Take a minute to share your responses to the self-evaluation section, including the step you will take to improve in this area. Everyone is asked to participate.

