



Lifting The Lid

Leadership Behavior: Leaders Lead Themselves First

Your Leadership Effectiveness Is Directly Tied To Your Leadership Ability

Success requires leadership. It's true, nothing happens without leadership. Personal success requires personal leadership just as corporate success requires corporate leadership. This means the greatest limiting or lifting factor for success is tied to your leadership.

This is called the "Law of the Lid".

Why is it that some organizations will see growth year after year while others see nothing but decline? It's the "Law of the Lid". Why is it that some individuals grow their assets with each passing year while others grow their debt? It's the "Law of the Lid". Every organization, church or home is perfectly designed to achieve its current results. If growth is part of your vision, then lifting your lid has to be a priority.

The "Law of the Lid" is the very first of John Maxwell's *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*. This law states, "Leadership ability determines a person's level of effectiveness."

This law is always working for you or against you in two significant ways.

1 The Law of the Lid is Limiting or Lifting Your Potential.

Every leader has God given potential to accomplish immeasurably more than he or she can imagine. It is our leadership ability that determines how much of that potential we will actually realize. The lower an individual's ability to lead, the lower the lid on his potential. The higher the leadership, the greater the effectiveness. Your leadership ability, for better or for worse, always determines your effectiveness and the potential impact of your organization. To reach the highest level of effectiveness, you have to raise the lid on your leadership ability.

2 The Law Of The Lid Is Lowering or Lifting Your Influence.

Leadership is influence. Getting things done requires people to get it done with. The higher caliber the people you lead, the greater things you can accomplish. Your lid is either attracting or repelling great leaders. A great musician will attract great musicians. A great athlete will attract great athletes. The inverse is also true. A bad leader isn't likely to find great leaders searching them out. To grow a team with great leaders you have to be intentional about lifting your leadership lid.

A Tale of Two Kings

The "Law of the Lid" can be seen at work in the lives of Saul and David. Both men were chosen by God and given the highest level of leadership. Both men had significant accomplishments that garnered the respect from their nation. Both men had godly prophets speaking divine truth to them. However, one king's leadership limited his legacy while the other king saw his legacy endure.

Saul's Fatal Flaws

Fear & Insecurity: From the beginning, Saul hid when God called him out as king. His fear of losing power or being seen as weak by the people was his biggest weakness.

Impatience: Saul was unwilling to wait on Samuel even after he was given specific instructions. That one incident cost him the throne.

Anger: The walls of Saul's home bore the marks of spears thrown in fits of rage. Leaders who lack control over their emotions are difficult to follow.

Deceit & Manipulation: Saul offered his daughter as a reward and then changed the terms when he didn't like the result.

Jealousy & Envy: Saul saw the anointing on David's life and was threatened by it. Rather than mentor the young leader, he chose to destroy him.

These fatal flaws ultimately became the limit on Saul's leadership. They tower over his accomplishments and have made his legacy one of dishonor rather than honor.

David's Shining Attributes

Humility: Our first introduction to David is that he is found in the field watching sheep. He was faithful in the small things.

Courage & Faith: It was his bravery on the battlefield that thrust him on to the national scene. Where others feared Goliath, David had faith in God.

Submission: David served at Saul's side and refused to "touch the Lord's anointed".

Integrity: David dealt honestly and refused to lie when caught in sin.

Brokenness: Just read Psalm 51.

God would call David "a man after His own heart" and chose his family to be the one through which He would bring forth our Savior.

Obviously we can't ignore David's own gaps in leadership. He committed adultery, conspired to cover it up and murdered a man to hide his sin. These sins limited David's effectiveness at the end of his reign. The "Law of the Lid" is always working for us or against us.

What are some of the essential attributes of a successful leader? John Maxwell offers us a list in his book *21 Indispensable Qualities of A Leader*. Take a look and give yourself a gut letter grade.

- Character
- Charisma
- Commitment
- Communication
- Competence
- Courage
- Discernment
- Focus
- Generosity
- Initiative
- Listening
- Passion
- Positive attitude
- Problem solving
- Relationships

- Responsibility
- Security
- Self-discipline
- Servanthood
- Teachability
- Vision

Are you ready to raise your leadership lid? If so, take a moment to answer these three questions.

1. What are your most important goals? List 3-5. These are the items that will take more than a year but less than five years to accomplish. These goals, when accomplished, will help you achieve your greatest results.

It's likely you feel overwhelmed or under prepared as a leader to accomplish what you set out to do. You may even question if you're the leader to lead into the future.

Remember it is God who entrusted you with your current responsibilities. You didn't not arrive here by happenstance or accident. He sees what your capacity is and called you to it. If God is in it, then it's already bigger than you. It will require you growing into it.

Everything rises and falls on leadership. I have found that when it comes to bringing change and elevating a team that the following is true; to change an organization you have to change the leader or the leader has to change. There is no other option. The great news is you can choose to change. When a leader lifts their own lid, they lift their entire team.

2. Take a look at your most important goals and then take a look at the list of leadership qualities outlined above. What qualities will you need most to accomplish those goals?

If you haven't already scored yourself, go ahead. Then ask yourself where does that score need to be?

This requires humility and self awareness. it is also helpful to invite feedback from trustworthy people around you.

The difference between your current level of leadership and the level you need to be at is your leadership gap. This is the area you will have to focus on to lift the lid. Remember the higher you want to climb the more your leadership lid has to rise.

Are you committed to putting in the work?

3. What do you need to bridge the leadership gap?

What is the cause of the current gap? What skill do you need to learn or what knowledge or expertise do you need to acquire? What attribute do you need to focus on? What mentor do you need to search out? What is your next course of action?

(If you've done the "Draw Yourself A Circle: exercise, this should be added to your MVPs)