

GIFTS: Great Ideas for Teaching Servant-Leadership

*A project of the Center for Spirituality & Leadership
at Marian University, Wisconsin*

Activity Title: *Personal Board of Directors (reflection)*

Group Size: does not matter

Time Needed: 15-20 minute reflection

Servant-Leadership Attribute addressed:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Active listening | <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching and mentoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community building | <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitating collaboration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foresight and vision | <input type="checkbox"/> Fostering growth |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self awareness | <input type="checkbox"/> Stimulating creativity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | |

Objectives / Goals / Purpose of the activity:

The goal is to provide individual leaders with an opportunity to reflect on who it is that guides them in their roles as leaders, or who could they begin to turn to for guidance and/or direction.

Materials Needed:

Copy of handout that follows

Directions for the Activity:

- Distribute copies of the handout to participants. (See handout below)
- Ask participants to consider who they might turn to for guidance and advice
- List those persons on the back of the sheet (or in one's journal) and write a short explanation as to why he/she turns to that individual
- Advise participants not to select too many persons for their personal board of directors, and to consider those persons who honestly can / do provide wise counsel

Questions or Process for Debriefing the Activity:

- Ask the participant to share who sits at his/her boardroom table and why
- Ask participants to consider turning to these persons in earnest and discerning ways to make regular, intentional communication with their board members

Describe when the activity is best utilized:

- Best done in very small groups or pairs
- Can be used as a reflection in the midst of a wider discussion on leadership
- Can be used as a part of an on-going process of increasing one's self awareness and initiation as a leader

Variations and/or Helpful Hints:

- Consider a preliminary discussion of the importance of having a coach or mentor to whom one turns for wise counsel and/or advice
- Consider returning to the list participants create on a bi-weekly or monthly basis for discussion as to whether one has actually utilized board members as resources.

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Personal Board of Directors



Coaches and mentors have helped leaders shape their decisions and ideas forever.

If you could assemble your own personal board of directors, who would help guide you and counsel you as needed – who would you select?

Living or deceased, fictional or real; who would sit at the table, and why?

Make a list of 8-10 persons that you would select to sit around your personal boardroom table. Reflect on why you would turn to those persons for counsel and guidance.

Do you turn to these people on a regular basis? If not why not? If so, how can you build further on this important resource as you take up your leadership responsibilities?