



## LEADERSHIP

---

The meeting appeared over and a lot of great things had been discussed. The team was feeling good about themselves when Bobbi spoke up.

“Uhhmm, has anyone else noticed something about what we wrote down?”

Twelve sets of eyeballs looked at the white board and the ten principles that were listed. They were trying to figure out what Bobbi had noticed.

It seemed like forever but was just over a minute when Jaylen became the first to speak.

“I love puzzles and I’m seeing that white board like one of those word puzzles I used to do on the back of those menus they’d have at restaurants for us kids. I’m seeing the word LEADERSHIP on that board.”

“I see it now too,” said Travis. “Wow, that’s freaky. Is that what you saw Bobbi?”

“Sure is. That’s some freaky stuff but also kind of cool,” said Bobbi. “How’s that for coincidences? It’s almost like we were supposed to learn those lessons and write them down. Wow, how weird is that?”

Even though Bobbi was the first to see the hidden word on the whiteboard, now every set of eyes saw it as clear as day. It was like

they had just solved a hidden message with their super-secret decoder ring.

- L**ose the excuses
- E**xcel in your role
- A**lways be on time
- D**isplay a good attitude
- E**ncourage team members
- R**emain committed & focused
- S**upply effort & energy
- H**elp & serve others
- I**mprove & be coachable
- P**repare to win

“Regardless of how weird it is, that’s a good lesson for us,” said Matt. “Each of these things can apply to all of us. None of us are immune to any of those things. They all apply at some point. Also, each of us can do each one of those things. It’s not like Brandon is the only one that can improve and be coachable or that Learie is expected to be the only one who has to lose the excuses. Regardless of our status on the team, we can all do these things.”

“That’s right. We can all be leaders,” added Jaylen. “If we do those things then we’re demonstrating positive leadership. This will help the entire team. It’s like leadership is the glue for all of these principles. Even though Brandon and Learie are our senior captains, we can all do these things. We can all practice and demonstrate leadership by doing these ten things.”

“Since this is obviously like a big neon sign flashing at us saying be better and do better, what is our next step? How do we do these things now?” asked Bobbi.

“First, we definitely need to take a picture of this,” said Brandon.

“Already did,” Jaylen quickly replied.

“In that case. Maybe we make a poster or something like that,” suggested Learie.

“I think that’s a great idea, but I feel like we should do more,” said Matt. “We already have some cool posters in our locker room, but we haven’t really been living up to those. I don’t want this to end up the same.”

“I don’t think it would end up being ignored, so to speak, because we actually came up with this stuff, not Coach,” suggested Brandon. “Don’t get me wrong. The posters he put up are pretty cool and say great things, but at the end of the day, they’re his. However we did it, we actually came up with these things on our own. We can take ownership in this acronym thing. Sure, it should be a poster, but we need to be reminded of this often and live it out daily somehow.”

“I agree. Last night’s revelations and these things we came up with are too special to just dismiss. This needs to be special somehow,” said Jaylen.

“You mean like a blood oath?” joked Antonio.

“We don’t need to light candles or get out the knives,” responded Brandon. “Nothing creepy like that.”

“How about we all sign the board like a contract, or an agreement or something like that,” suggested Bobbi.

Learie wasted no time, picked up two dry erase markers, and tossed them to Antonio and James.

“You guys were the first ones here today. Go ahead and be the first to sign the board”

Antonio and James must have liked Bobbi’s idea because they didn’t hesitate to get up from their seats and sign the board.

Each of the remaining ten players then took their turns signing the board in an unofficial covenant to what their standards would be for the remainder of the season.

Jaylen announced to his teammates, “I just took another picture of the board. I wanted to get one with all of the signatures on it.”

“Good idea,” said Brandon. “Send that to me and I’ll ask Coach to make it into a poster that goes right next to the door as we leave the locker room. That way we’ll see it every time we leave.”

As he finished talking, Brandon couldn’t help but smile as he saw Scott raise his hand again.

“I thought I said there’s no need to raise your hand.”

“Uh, yeah. Sorry. Anyway, I was thinking that your poster idea is cool. But we should also get something we can all have. Like mini posters in our lockers or t-shirts or wristbands or something like that.”

“I agree. Those are all great ideas,” said Learie. “I actually like the wristband idea the best. Maybe get the word LEADERSHIP on them in our school colors.”

“And Coach might even let us wear them in practice.” added Bobbi. “That way we’d constantly be reminding ourselves and each other.”

“Great ideas, guys,” said Brandon. “I’ll ask him about both the wristbands and the poster.”