

Commitment

Challenge: Martin Luther King Jr. is one of the most beloved figures in American history. King, a Baptist minister and activist, would become the most visible leader of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. He was committed to see that all people be given fair treatment in America. His tactics, based upon his Christian beliefs, were never violent and were implemented to draw attention to inequality and injustice. It was on August 28, 1963, at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., that King delivered arguably the most famous speech in American history. In 1964, he won the Nobel Peace Prize. King, despite unrelenting pressure on himself and his family, stayed committed to the cause in which he so much believed. As a result, he was assassinated in Memphis, TN in 1968.

Leadership requires you to put your whole heart into what you are doing. Leaders must be passionate about their goal that they are willing to endure all the obstacles, challenges, and setbacks that will happen along the way. As a leader, you realize that you will need to put in a lot of blood, sweat, and tears to turn your dream into a reality.

Questions to consider:

What is the biggest commitment you have ever made to another person?

What are some of the distinguishing marks of someone who is truly committed?

Share a time when you followed up your words with action and a time when you didn't. What resulted from each situation?

What levels of commitment are there on your team?

What's going on: Jesus has communicated with His disciples of His upcoming rejection and death. Jesus is fully committed to finish His mission and continues towards Jerusalem. Many people have followed Jesus over the last three years and now He encounters several men who want to be His followers. Jesus tells them what is involved and obstacles they will have to overcome.

Game Time: Luke 9:57-62

1. Leaders must be willing to always speak the truth. Will the truth always be received?
2. What were the different responses given by the three men who were asked to follow Jesus?
3. What type of commitment is necessary to follow Jesus?
4. What are the things that distract you from staying on the team's mission?
5. How can you remove the distractions either you or your team face throughout the year?

Key Verse: "...no one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."
Luke 9:62

Anchor to remember:

- Finish what you start