

# LITE

Leadership Initiative Training for Educators  
Module 3

Michigan Conference Education Department

# The Law of Empowerment

Only Secure Leaders Give Power to Others

# The Law of Empowerment

- Jesus knew the importance of Empowerment and lived it in everything he did.
- Luke 10:1-9
- Feeding of the 5000 through His disciples
- The Great Commission (Matt 28)



# The Law of Empowerment

- Only secure leaders are able to give power to others.
- Insecure leaders want to keep power for themselves. Example:
  - “Henry Ford, as I would learn firsthand, had a nasty habit of getting rid of strong leaders.” (Lee Iacocca)
  - One day when a group of his designers surprised him by presenting him with a prototype of an improved model, Ford ripped its doors off the hinges and proceeded to destroy the car with his bare hands.
  - "If a guy works for you, don't let him get too comfortable. Don't let him get cozy or set in his ways. Always do the opposite of what he expects. Keep your people anxious and off-balance." (Henry Ford)

# The Law of Empowerment

- “The best executive is the one who has the sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and the self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it.” (Theodore Roosevelt)
- Abraham Lincoln brought his political opponents into his cabinet because he felt that it was what was best for the country. Only a secure leader can do this and not feel threatened.
- The empowerment leadership model shifts away from position power to one where all people are given leadership roles so they can contribute to their fullest capacity.
- Only empowered people can reach their potential. When a leader can't or won't empower others, he creates barriers within the organization that people cannot overcome. If the barriers remain long enough, then the people give up, or they move to another organization where they can maximize their potential.

# Reasons Why Leaders Violate the Law of Empowerment

## 1. Desire for job security

But the truth is that the only way to make yourself indispensable is to make yourself dispensable.

## 2. Resistance to Change

“It is the nature of a person as he grows older to protest change, particularly change for the better.” (John Steinbeck)

## 3. Lacking Self-Worth

“To those who have confidence in themselves, change is a stimulus because they believe one person can make a difference and influence what goes on around them. These people are the doers and motivators.” (Buck Rogers)



# The Law of Empowerment

- Leadership must be based on goodwill...It means obvious and wholehearted commitment to helping followers...What we need for leaders are men and women of heart who are so helpful that they, in effect, do away with the need of their jobs. But leaders like that are never out of a job, never out of followers. Strange as it may sound, great leaders gain authority by giving it away.
- A key to empowering others is high belief in people.

# Secure Leaders Can Empower

- If we are secure in Christ then He is the one defining who we are and what we are capable of doing. We have no need to prove anything and our identity is in Him. We are impervious to outside definitions of success.
- If we are disposable for the cause of Christ then we will sacrifice anything to see the Great Commission fulfilled. (John the Baptist)
- The continuance of our work depends on us giving power away to those who will come behind us. We have freely received opportunities to lead and grow, let's pass this along to others.
- Capacity for organizational growth increases exponentially when we give power away.



**“Great things can happen if you don’t care who gets the credit.”**

**Mark Twain**