

See Beyond Your Season

Read together: 1 Chronicles 22:5-19

Faithful leaders prepare people and resources for a future they may never personally lead or fully see.

Think beyond what is urgent

Leadership gives us plenty to do this week. Somebody needs an answer. A volunteer needs help. Sunday is coming. Those responsibilities matter. But if every decision is driven by what is directly in front of us, we can spend years working hard without preparing anyone for what comes next.

In 1 Chronicles 22, David prepares for a temple that Solomon will build. David gathers materials, organizes workers, and gives his son a charge. He knows the work will continue beyond his own part in it. That knowledge gives purpose to his preparation.

There is a question worth asking about the team you lead: What are we building that somebody else will one day inherit? Think about the relationships, habits, and opportunities you are creating. The future of a ministry is already being shaped by what its leaders practice today.

Turn vision into preparation

It is possible to talk about a great future while doing very little to prepare for it. David's vision had a practical expression. There were materials to gather and people to equip. He connected what he hoped for with work he could actually do.

What does that look like in your area? It might mean writing down a process that only you know. It might mean inviting a younger leader into a planning conversation. It might mean improving an environment so a new family can feel welcome. Those steps can seem small beside the vision, but they make the vision more usable.

Give your hope a next action. Who needs to be involved? What needs to be learned? What can begin with the resources already available? A team can participate in a clear next step much more easily than it can participate in a distant picture nobody knows how to approach.

Give other people a place in the future

David also speaks to Solomon and calls others to help him. Preparation includes people. The work cannot depend forever on one person's energy, memory, or influence.

As leaders, we get to help people see that their contribution matters beyond this week's task. Someone serving children is investing in a generation. Someone welcoming guests is helping build a community. Someone developing another leader is making room for work they may never get to

oversee.

Talk about that future with your team. Then make room for people to help shape it. Ask what they see, what they need, and what they are ready to carry. Vision grows stronger when people understand both the purpose and their part in it.

Lead this week

Choose one thing your team will need six months from now and begin preparing it this week. Keep it concrete enough that another person can join you. We can be faithful to today's responsibility while preparing the people who will carry tomorrow's work. That is a worthwhile use of the influence God has given us.

Talk it through

What are we preparing for the next leader? Which urgent task keeps crowding out that preparation?

One next step

Invite one person to help complete a specific piece of future preparation this week.