



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 6: Rules

Suggested Week of Use: July 9, 2023

Core Passage: Jeremiah 23:1-12

News Story Summary

A recent article published by a manufacturing organization highlights the cost of poor leadership, particularly in the area of employee retention. The article notes that some 75 percent of American workers believe the worst part of their lives is their immediate boss and about 35 percent have left a job they liked because of their bad boss. Approximately 9 percent are actively looking for a new job because of their boss, while 50 percent are considering a job change. According to the article, many workers say that it would take a significant pay increase—25 percent or more—to convince them to stay in a job with a boss they don't like.

Personally, dissatisfaction leads to a decrease in productivity and a lack of purpose and belonging. Financially, companies spend at least \$1,500 for each new hourly worker they recruit and train when someone leaves. The cost goes up for more highly skilled workers. Unfortunately, companies often fail to consider leadership issues when they address retention. To solve the problem, three things should happen. First, leadership challenges must be acknowledged and addressed at the highest levels of the company. Next, leaders must be provided with training and resources to help them become better leaders. Finally, leaders must evaluate themselves honestly to identify how they can improve as leaders.

For more about this story, search “Turning the tide on poor leadership.”

Focus Attention

To replace the Engage activities, ask: *What was your worst job? What made it so tough?* Point out that all of us have had jobs we didn't love. Say: *When we like a job but struggle with company leadership, though, that's a problem.* Share information about the impact of poor leadership on employee retention. Ask: *What are some qualities of a good leader? How can you tell when those things are lacking?* Explain that Judah's leaders let the people down, which created a negative spiritual impact on the nation. Share that God promised to raise up a righteous leader for His people. Challenge adults to use this lesson as a way to evaluate the leaders they follow and to identify ways they can improve their own spiritual leadership.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind the group about the impact of poor leadership on employees and companies. Point out again the three things that companies can do to deal with leadership problems. Suggest how these might relate to spiritual leadership. Say: *Keeping these three things in mind, consider ways you can support quality leaders and become a stronger leader in your own right.* Close with prayer, lifting up the leaders in your job, community, state, nation, and church.