Nation Building

How To Awaken the Selfless Leader in You

AT A GLANCE:
The title of the talk series is Nation Building: How To Awaken the Selfless Leader in You because it tackles an important issue: our role as citizens in making our country a better place for us and the generations to come. The role, as the sub-title of the talk hints, is for every citizen to be a selfless leader. Our battle cry: If you want to change this country, change your heart.

AFTER THE SERIES:
The talk series will make you reflect on your life and resolve to be a better person, to be a selfless, not selfish person. We can build a better nation if we are selfless persons. If we have enough selfless leaders—in families, in business, in schools, in church, in the government—this country will change.

Talk 3: "Make a Leader"

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

In Talk 1, we learned that to build the nation, we need to build the family. In Talk 2, we learned that to build a nation, we need to build the church. In Talk 3, we'll learn that to build the nation, we need to build our heart.

The key message of Talk 3 is "You're the one."

I. REVIEW THE KEY BIBLE VERSES:

Talk 3 anchors on two Bible stories: How Moses passed on his leader-ship to Joshua, and how King Saul didn't do that, so God had to pick David to succeed him.

Moses Knows His Limits

Singlehandedly, Moses liberated thousands of Jews from crushing slavery, led them to the promised land, confronted the greatest king of his time, and battled against Egypt, the superpower of the world.

And yet no matter how great he was, he knew his time was up: *Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel: 2 "I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. The Lord has said to me, 'You shall not cross the Jordan.'* (Deuteronomy 31:1-2 NIV)

A real Legend knows his limits. Moses knew he couldn't enter the promised land himself, because he was part of that first generation that had to die. Someone else had to take over. And that's what he did: *Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the Lord swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. 8 The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."* (Deuteronomy 31:7-8 NIV)

He was delegating authority. He was passing on the baton. When a leader is able to pass the baton, he's declaring to the world, "I'm building God's Kingdom, not my own kingdom."

When authority is passed on selflessly, read how the Israelites re-sponded to Joshua: *Then they answered Joshua, "Whatever you*

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Talk 1:
Choose a Leader

Talk 2:
Be a Leader

Talk 3:
Make a Leader

Talk 4:
Big Day

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have com-manded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. 17 Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you as he was with Moses. (Joshua 1:16-17 NIV)

Saul Can't Pass the Baton

King Saul was disobeying God and was messing up big time, so one day, God told Samuel, "We need to replace this guy. Look for a new king."

Read this carefully: Instead of Saul raising David to be his successor, he was threatened by David. So, Saul wanted to kill him.

Once again, we need selfless leaders.

How do you become selfless? *Read again our key passage for the entire series: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.* (Ezekiel 36:26 NIV)

Friend, are you willing to go through a heart transplant?

God is searching far and wide to raise selfless leaders for this na-tion. For your company. For your ministry. For your family.

God is telling you today: *You're the one.*

II. ASK FOR REACTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

Ask leaders among your members: Is Talk 3 an eye-opener for you? What was your first reaction about leaders should be passing the baton? What do you resolve after hearing the talk?

Ask members: What are your reflections on the following:

Leadership is never a solo race but always a relay race. You could be the most talented, most skilled, charismatic leader in the world. But if you don't know how to pass the baton to the next generation of leaders, the entire organization will be disqualified from the race.

Keep looking. God explains to Samuel the right criteria for selecting a leader, something we need to hear: *"Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."* (1 Samuel 16:7 NIV, emphasis mine).

Samuel looked at all the sons of Jesse until God told him David is the One.

What Heart means
The Bible uses the word "heart" in a very different way. Yes, it does include your feelings, but if you explore all the scripture verses where "heart" appears (over 1, 000+ times), there is no one English word that can capture its meaning, because "heart" also includes your mind (thinking), your will (deciding), and your conscience (valuing).

Review the message on How To Elect Officials

To elect public officials, look at their heart.
The criteria is boiled down to two things—"character" and "capacity".
1) Is he selfless?
2) Can he lead?
Note that the second question is important because it's possible to choose a kind, virtuous, moral man who doesn't have the

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wisdom to lead, and people will suffer too. From a biblical perspective, character and capacity —or wisdom— are in a person's heart.

III. PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Lead members to pray: Lord, thank You that You are looking at me the way You looked at David. Thank You for telling me I am the one. Yes, Lord,
I'm the one to serve.
I'm the one to love.
I'm the one to care.
I'm the one to give.
I'm the one to die.
I'm the one to be selfless.
I'm the one to undergo a heart transplant.

Pray for our country: Lord, there is a desperate need for selfless leaders in government, businesses, churches, and families. We echo the thesis statement of our en-tire series: *The only long-term solution for changing our nation is changing hearts—one heart at a time.*

We pray for a change of heart of leaders in businesses, churches, and families that they may be selfless enough to set aside their ambitions for fame and fortune, and instead really work for the greatest good of our nation.

We pray for a change of heart of our leaders that they may be selfless enough to really serve according to the real mandate of their position.

We pray for Your Mighty Power to thwart evil designs and actions of those who would manipulate the Election Process just to get evil candidates elected.

We pray no selfish leaders will succeed in their quest for power.

We pray that the Holy Spirit shall shine His Light, His Wisdom on all voters on Election Day that they will put on their ballots the name of selfless leaders, the ONEs You anoint to lead our municipalities and cities, our Sen-ate and House of Representatives, our beloved country.

In the Name of our Mighty and Merciful Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. AMEN.

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