



## Step Into Leadership - *Lessons from the Top Turkey*

November 2016



There's only one star at the traditional Thanksgiving table: the turkey.

The other foods may play important supportive roles—the mashed potatoes and gravy, the dinner rolls, the cranberry sauce—but they don't take center stage. They don't lead the pack.

Believe it or not, aspiring leaders can learn a lot from a Thanksgiving turkey! Here are five lessons we can take away from our favorite holiday bird:

**“A good leader takes a little more than their share of the blame; a little less than their share of the credit.”**

**-Arnold H. Glasow**

*Do You Think  
of Leadership  
as a Privilege?*



*There are many reasons people pursue leadership roles.* Some do it to step up and fill a void where they see a need. This is often true in volunteer organizations. Others have a natural gift of leadership and it just feels like a fit for them. Others look at leadership roles as resume builders. For yet others, it's economic and leadership positions usually pay more. And maybe it's some of all the above. Regardless of why you may have entered leadership

**1. Be tender on the inside, but keep a thick skin** Great leaders lead with their hearts as well as their heads. They care about their co-workers; they care about their customers. They take a genuine interest in others' well-being and extend a helping hand to those in need. But they're also not pushovers. Despite having tender hearts, great leaders know where to draw a line and stand firm on policies, values, and deadlines.

or why you may be considering it, have you thought of that role as a privilege? Robert K. Greenleaf, author of *Servant Leadership*, introduced the concept of the leader as a servant, and also the servant role of organizations.



## 2. Be 100% natural

Just like with a turkey, if you start adding synthetic attributes to your personality, you'll add toxicity to the workplace. If you aren't acting like your true, genuine self in the workplace, others will notice. It is always best to stick to your values and practice authentic leadership. That means letting your positive attributes shine and acting in a steadfast manner that others can rely on and trust. You'll find that authenticity also helps strengthen your personal brand.

*As a leader*, you have influence and can impact many things. How do you want to have impact? How do you want to use your influence? What's the legacy you want to leave behind about how you impacted your organization and the lives and careers of those whom you lead?

## 3. Be bold

The turkey isn't afraid to sit at the center of the table. Leadership takes courage and a whole heap of confidence. It means putting yourself out there, despite the possibility that you might make mistakes or others might not agree with you 100% of the time.

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a *leader*.

A *leader* is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way. Ultimately, *leadership* is not about glorious crowning acts.

## 4. Foster community

Despite being a big presence, the Thanksgiving turkey makes room for other food at the table. A

good leader builds a capable team around them; they foster an interdependent community by maintaining open lines of communication, showing genuine care for others' well-being, and providing an atmosphere of trust. They also do not micromanage and have enough faith in their team to let them work independently.

## 5. Be memorable

There are a lot of top turkeys out there; what makes you stand out? Is it your zest? Your warm personality? Your ability to bring together a capable, productive team? Find that one thing that sets you apart from the pack and capitalize on it. Reflect upon what makes you, you and what makes you a great leader. If you need a little guidance on this one, contact me or a trusted career coach to get you started.

Stop being the cranberry sauce! It's time to step into your leadership and become the top turkey. Let's lay out a plan together. Send me a message today and let's get your leadership cooking!

**Wishing you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!**



Would you like to explore ways you can become an even more effective leader?  
Take advantage of a free half-hour consultation.  
Contact me!

## Some questions to ask yourself...

What do others need from me to be their best?

How can I create a vision that inspires others to enthusiastically perform their work driving toward that vision?

What is most important for me to model to others and why?

What are ways I can model what I want others to see, do and learn?

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