



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

— SERIES —

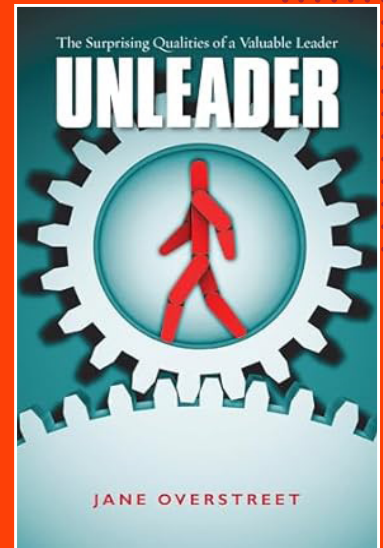
THE NUTSHELL OF UNLEADER

Jane Overstreet
IVP; First Edition 2011

As you pick up this book, you may be thinking exactly what I was thinking—"what the world does not need is one more book on leadership!" But we still need better leaders, and leaders need tools to help them keep growing. The world is hungry for humble, godly servant leaders who understand that leadership is never about us.

Reflecting on the stories of Saul and David, this book asks five fundamental questions: Do I fear people more than God? Do I "use up" people under my leadership, or do I build them up and enable them? Do I put my interests first or God's interests first? Do I lead with integrity? Do I let people get close enough to really love me?

Although Saul and David both began as God's anointed, Saul consistently feared losing power, gave in to pressure, and cared more about position than obedience. David, though imperfect, continually sought God's direction, repented when he sinned, and led out of love for God and for others.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jane Overstreet is the President/CEO of Development Associates International (DAI), a non-profit organization providing training and consulting in leadership and organizational management to more than 10,000 Christian leaders annually in over 30 countries.

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We see how Saul, at the height of crisis, took matters into his own hands and disobeyed God’s commands, ultimately hearing God say, “I regret that I have made Saul king.” By contrast, David rescued desperate and indebted men who became his “mighty men,” sparing Saul’s life when he could have seized the throne and mourning every enemy who fell. Where Saul used people to accomplish his aims, David built them into capable warriors. Where Saul consulted a medium and tried to preserve his position at any cost, David waited on God’s sovereignty. Though David committed grave sins involving adultery and murder, he repented with a broken heart, crying, “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love,” and found complete forgiveness.

This book reminds us that we cannot lead in fear or pride if we truly long to bring God joy. Instead, we must let God love us and lead from the security of that love, knowing we cannot earn it by our performance. If we spend time alone with Him daily, practice spiritual disciplines like prayer and worship, and regularly celebrate and rest with those we love, we will lead from a place of faith and humility. The only standard that matters is whether our leadership brings God sorrow, like Saul’s, or delight, like David’s. May we separate ourselves from broken cultural assumptions and realign with biblical values so that, in the end, our leadership—like David’s—will bring God joy.

