# Squad Goals: Do You Even Lift Others?

*“…be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” – Paul, 2 Tim. 2:2-3*

The US Army has been called one of the best leadership training institutions in the world. It focuses on clear tasks, accountability, and mission-mindedness. Military structure and doctrine are a good analogy—if not outright example—from which Team Albania+ can glean important leadership concepts, especially as the team grows to encompass not only multiple cities, but multiple countries *and* ministries.

The Team Leader of an Albania+ 2018 city team has responsibilities much like that of the squad leader of a US Army rifle squad. The army squad leader is responsible for the well-being of the men and women under his command. In fact, because of the nature of missions/operations and unit structures, care of the team takes priority over the mission. In the field, no one person can be successful by themselves, and unit structures are designed around that reality. Each team member is an individual with unique talents and skills that (hopefully) translate into his designated area of responsibility and that collectively contribute to the team’s success. The US Army squad leader (usually a sergeant) cannot win the battle on his own, but rather it’s his men—riflemen, machine gunners, grenadiers, medics, and radio telephone operators—whose collective success will accomplish the mission.

Therefore, squad leaders are concerned with the things that influence their soldiers’ success. Are they supplied? Are they injured? Are they still in formation? Did they get left behind? Do they understand the orders? Do they have a battle buddy? … and so forth. As “squad leaders” in Team Albania, we have similar concerns:

* Does my team understand our mission and where we are going? *(Knowledge…taught)*
* Are they equipped with the skills to be able to accomplish the mission? *(Capability…equipped)*
* Are they prepared—logistically and spiritually? Are they funded? *(Being cared for)*

It’s our responsibility to proactively ask these questions, seek their answers, and respond in a way that will bring success to our people. By lifting others up, we work not only to help and encourage them but to promote the mission, and we will recruit, make, and sustain disciples—both at home and abroad.

In the scriptures appearing above, Paul is exhorting Timothy to pursue excellence—like a soldier focused on the real mission, like a winning athlete, and like a hard-working farmer. As leaders, we have an important responsibility to teach, equip, and care for our team.

This *Leader Guide* includes two articles reprinted from a book titled *The Noncommissioned Officer and Petty Officer: Backbone of the Armed Forces* that continue this military theme. These articles were chosen because of their close application to what we are doing as leaders of Team Albania+ 2018:

* Chapter Five: “Enabling the Force”
  + Teaching—Coaching—Mentoring—Critical Thinking—Empowerment—Development
* Chapter Seven: “International Roles”
  + An Ambassador and a Professional—Building Partner Capacity

# 10 Keys to Leading a Small Group

1. Leadership Matters
   * The small team experience can make or break the trip for people.
   * The leader can have a huge influence/impact on the team member.
   * People will remember their leaders.
   * Leadership is what makes something good, great, or neither.
2. Leaders Are Servants
   * Leaders in the Bible were servants (Phil. 2:3-4; Mark 10:42-45; John 15:13).
   * The way to lead your team well is to *serve* your team well.
   * “How can I serve you today?” “How can I pray for you this week?”
3. Leaders Are Hosts
   * Most of the team members are new to the team. This is a new experience for them.
   * Understand the difference between a “host” and a “guest.”
   * Leading a team means that this ministry is not about you.
   * As a leader, you are committing to be a host—during team meetings/events, and even in Eastern Europe. You can still have a blast while hosting well.
4. Leaders Are Initiators
   * Leaders take responsibility for the relationship—starting it, managing its quality/depth, initiating through conversation, etc.
   * Initiate by asking questions with the intent to understand who someone is, what their story entails, where they stand spiritually. (See the section “Discipleship Goals.”)
5. Leaders Go First
   * Offer to share your story and model how that is done.
   * Be vulnerable in leading team members into authenticity.
   * When people are honest and vulnerable, it makes it safe for others to be also.
   * When met with a challenge, go first.
6. Leaders Have a Plan
   * Just have one. It’s doesn’t need to be perfect.
7. Leaders Set the Pace
   * Go all in for Eastern Europe as a demonstration to others about how it’s done.
   * Pump up your team spirit by being willing to be outside your comfort zone.
   * Be willing to adjust your team’s pace to move things forward/faster.
   * Be on time to meetings and events.
8. Leaders Are Shepherds
   * Your team is your flock to look over before/during/after the trip (1 Peter 5:2-3).
   * Ask questions. How are they doing? Do they know everyone? Are they having fun? Are they keeping up with fundraising? Do they have any questions?
9. Leaders Ask Great Questions
   * You don’t have to be the expert, but you do have to prepare/take notes.
   * Thing about questions/issues that the team is/will deal with.
   * Drive the conversation, then let your team respond.
   * Get people involved; draw them out.
   * Show that you care about your team members.
10. Leaders Are Catalysts
    * What’s next for these people?
    * Help them connect to the ministry after the trip.

Adapted from LAUNCH leader packet.