

Iconic Leaders of Our Time



Michelle Obama . . .

is an American lawyer and author who was the First Lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017. She is married to the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama.

“Don’t ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own.”

Pope Francis . . .

is the Bishop of Rome and the leader of the Roman Catholic Church since 2013.



“Let us learn to live with kindness, to love everyone even when they do not love us.”



Nelson Mandela . . .

was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist who served as President of south Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the first President elected in a fully representative democratic election.

“It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger.”

Ellen DeGeneres . . .

is an American comedian, television host, actress, writer, producer, and philanthropist best known for her quirky humor.

“Find out who you are and be that person. That’s what your soul was put on this Earth to be. Find that truth, live that truth, and everything else will come.”



Serena Williams . . .

Is a professional tennis player and former world No. 1 in women's single tennis. She has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles, the most by any player in the Open Era, and the second-most of all time.

“A champion is defined not by their wins, but by how they can recover when they fall.”

Elon Musk . . .

is an American entrepreneur, inventor, and the CEO of Tesla.



“I think it’s very important to have a feedback loop, where you’re constantly thinking about what you’ve done and how you could be doing it better. I think that’s the single best piece of advice: constantly think about how you could be doing things better and questioning yourself.”



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1. Which quote is your favorite? Why?
 2. What are three words that stand out to you most in your favorite quote?
 3. What does your favorite quote mean? How does it apply to leadership?
 4. How do these concepts of leadership, and the meaning of your favorite quote, inspire you to lead on purpose?