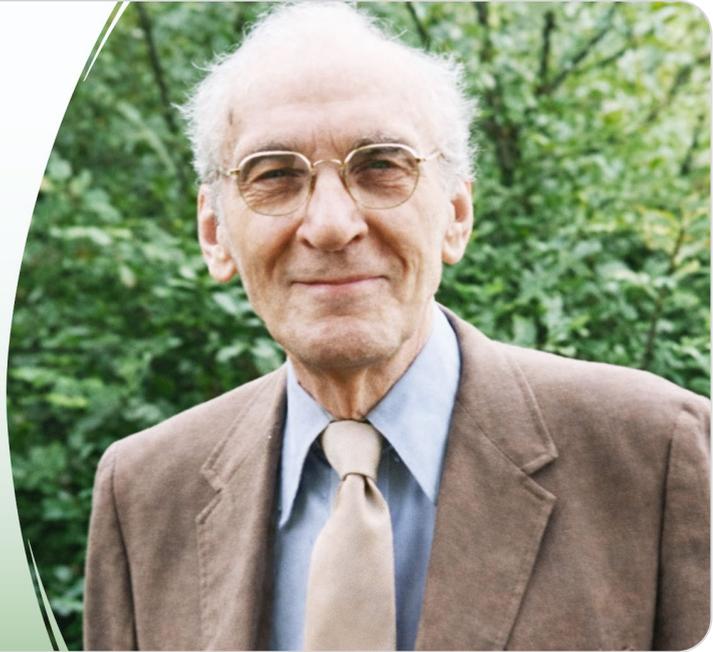


# The servant-leader is servant first

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Robert K. Greenleaf



Robert K. Greenleaf's quote, "**The servant-leader is servant first,**" connects to the idea that leadership isn't self-importance—it's responsibility for other people's growth. The real test is whether people become healthier, wiser, and more capable because you led.

## How to apply it in practice:

- Start 1:1s with "What's getting in your way?" then remove obstacles.
- Measure leadership by development: skills gained, confidence built, autonomy increased.
- Share power: let others lead meetings, present updates, and own decisions.
- Protect the team: absorb noise, clarify priorities, and set boundaries upward.

## Source:

Greenleaf, R. K. (1970). *The servant as leader* (essay). (lmronline.org). (Leadership Metro Richmond)