

LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP: A WEEKLY READING OF THE JEWISH BIBLE

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (Toby Press Ltd)

Rabbi Sack's *Lessons in Leadership* is like opening an ordinary looking box of chocolates and finding lots of individual and differently handcrafted chocolates inside.

Each chapter focuses on an aspect of leadership derived from stories within the Torah (Genesis-Deuteronomy), such as responsibility, power, courage, good communication, failure, and emotional intelligence. They are explored from a Jewish perspective.

Obviously eating lots of chocolate in one go can be a bit rich, but with each chapter being self-contained, it means that each nugget found within the book can be savored, especially as the chapters are typically four to eight pages long.

Sacks writes about the Torah being a deep and subtle book that doesn't always deliver its message on the surface, and this is evident in the chapter about women as leaders. In looking at the story of Moses he highlights that this story is not about a hero but about six heroines, six courageous women without whom there would not have been a Moses. They are leaders because of their conscience and courage, as they refused to be intimidated by power or defeated by circumstance. Inspiring stuff.

I have recently used this book alongside my daily quiet time and it was a valuable resource in reflecting on the health of my own leadership. For some, this book might be a helpful and nurturing accompaniment to the start of the new year.

Review by Jo McKee, CPAS Head of Leadership Development.

