
TED TALK

***WHAT IT TAKES TO BE
A GREAT LEADER***

BY ROSELINDE TORRES

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

INSTRUCTIONS

Individually or as a group, watch the TED Talk “What It Takes to Be a Great Leader” by Roselinde Torres (available at leanin.org/great-leader). Use the questions below for a group discussion on the themes and ideas presented in the video.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- What is your idea of a great leader?
- Did you relate to any of the stories Roselinde mentions in her talk (for example, a superstar worker who transfers to a new business unit and fails; a CEO with gaps in her or his leadership pipeline; or a leadership team surprised by a market shift and being forced to downsize)?
- Which traditional leadership development tools and programs are valuable in your personal growth? Which do you think are least helpful to you (for example, performance reviews, formal training classes, or mentorship programs)?
- Do you actively anticipate change in your industry? How do you “see around corners”?
- What does your network say about you? How diverse is it today? How can you expand it to have a range of perspectives and backgrounds?
- What does your calendar say about how you spend your time?
- What has made you successful in the past? Can you abandon those established patterns to embrace the unfamiliar and take a calculated risk?
- What’s one key takeaway from the video that you’d like to share with someone else? With whom would you share it?