

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for joining me today for this leadership seminar. I must confess, when they asked me to speak on leadership, I initially thought they meant the ship I lead--a canoe on weekends. Now, you might think leading a canoe expedition is all about steering clear of rocks and keeping everyone from diving overboard for an unscheduled swim. Turns out, it's not that different from leading people. The goal is to keep everyone paddling together and, much like in any leadership role, making sure everyone has snacks. Why does that matter? Because hungry team members are cranky team members, on water or land. Remember, a fed ship is a happy ship--or, as we say at seminar HQ, a fed team is a functioning team. As leaders, we must set the course, harness everyone's strengths, and let's not forget--give them life jackets of encouragement when uncertainties hit. Always steer towards opportunity but never resist an opportunity to turn a mishap into a lesson... or in the canoe's case, a chance to test my swimming skills. So here's to steering our respective canoes, keeping everyone dry, and ensuring they enjoy the ride! Thank you.