

“Raising Up Uncommon Leaders”

UNCOMMON LEADER Sermon Series | Week Three | Newbreak Church

June 20th, 2021

This week is about how we raise up others to make a difference in the world.

For more insights relating to this week’s sermon, see <https://newbreak.church/blog/>. We post a new blog every Friday which coincides with the sermon passage or theme from that day.

Start Here

- Were you a Simon Says kid, or a Red Rover kid?
- Other than your parents, who was someone that played an influential role in your upbringing? Was there anyone who was a spiritual mentor in your life?

Going Deeper Into the Message

Read: Luke 10:1-21

Point 1 – Empower others to live out God’s purpose in their lives.

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and **sent them two by two** ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. (Luke 10:1-2, NIV)

In Luke 10, Jesus appointed seventy-two of His followers to visit the different towns and villages before he entered them. They were sent out in pairs, proclaiming that “the Kingdom of God has come near” (vs.10). This group of people were hand-selected by Christ to be His emissaries and to experience the joy of serving God. How cool must that have been to have been asked by Jesus to be His representative and to introduce others to the message of the Kingdom before He would come through?

In a similar way, Jesus empowers each of us to live out His purposes in our own lives. Each of us are sent out by Him to embody His love, kindness, and compassion with those we are surrounded by. Every meeting we attend, every chance encounter with our neighbors, and every parent-teacher conference, we are on a mission from Him. One

question we should be asking is “how does God want to use me right now as His representative?”

It’s also important to note the specific instruction that Jesus gave to His disciples by encouraging them to “Ask the Lord of the harvest” (vs.2) to send out workers into the field. Jesus wanted the seventy-two to look to God in prayer while they were following His purposes for them. Through prayer, Jesus wanted them to slow down, remind themselves that they were on *His* mission, and to look to Him for His help.

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- What do my people need to be successful? In what ways can I provide that? What tools can I give them, or help them get?
- Read the Additional Insight below. In what ways do you feel challenged to practice choosing to value relationships over efficiency?

—ADDITIONAL INSIGHT—

Choose to value relationships over efficiency.

It can often be the propensity of men to be more attune with accomplishing a task than tending to a relationship. Let’s say you are working on something, maybe your car or your garden or anything else. What if your son or daughter follows you outside in hopes of joining you? What is your response? “Hey, kiddo, I’ll be done in an hour. Go play until then.” Something like that? The truth is: *it is far easier and more efficient* to go and do what you set out to do. *But it is far more enriching* for the relationship if you include your child in the task.

Sure, the curiosity of learning a new skill might be a motivating factor in why kids like to ask to join adults in what they are doing. But far more often the primary motivation is the simple desire to be with you. Let’s think of a few examples that either parent might face.

→ You are cooking dinner and your kindergartener says: “I want to help!” So what do you do? You give them the big spoon to stir the meal (maybe even more stirring than is needed).

→ While sowing new seeds in the garden your middle schooler sees you digging in the ground, watching from afar. So what do you do? You invite him or her to come close and understand the

logic and process behind why the seeds need to be planted here, at what depth, and under what conditions.

→ You're folding laundry and your toddler begins to pick up a towel and try to imitate how you folded it. So what do you do? You show him or her each step of it.

When it comes to the tasks we do, our children sometimes have an innate desire to be contributors, not spectators. They want to partner with us!

We want you to see that this applies to all ages and stages of parenting—no matter how different it looks. Now, a moment of transparency. These situations don't always become the romanticized moments we imagine. Let's revisit our bullet point list.

Sometimes giving our kindergartener the spoon to stir turns into them splashing the food everywhere, making a mess and even causing some waste of food. Maybe our middle schooler loses interest in what we thought they wanted to know more about, leaving you frustrated for trying to include him or her. And often including a toddler in the task of folding laundry means that we will likely have to re-fold everything they "folded."

In other words, including our kids in what we are doing does not always go as planned. And that is okay! Including them communicates: *I would rather do this with you than without you.* In this way, your child sees that they are more important than the task.

And isn't this how our God operates? He is the One who leads the charge in valuing relationships over efficiency. Of course, God could accomplish all He wanted to do without us (and way faster at that!). But because He values relationship over efficiency He has made the Church His method to His mission. We are called God's partners ("coworkers," [1 Corinthians 3:9](#)). Jesus didn't do everything by Himself. Even before the book of Acts we see instances when He is empowering His disciples *during* their training ([Luke 10:1-2](#)). Many scholars even say that the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) can be summarized as an invitation toward partnership. From cover-to-cover God's ideal relationship is encapsulated with the preposition *with*. God wants to do life and mission "with" us, not apart from us. Even when God makes all things new He has predetermined our role to "rule with Him" ([Revelation 22:1-5](#)).

God doesn't just make us feel part of it, He really gives us a role. His ideal life is in partnership *with* us.

He chose to have you in His family with a special role that He designed you to have. He is the paragon of how to be a parent who includes kids in what we are doing.

There are many hallmarks of what makes a great and attentive dad. But I have certainly seen this mentality (valuing relationships over efficiency) to be one of the key factors. Because suddenly, the task becomes secondary (which is hard for us, men!) and the bonding experience becomes the greater purpose. And that bond creates relational equity for years to come!

Don't underestimate the profound impact shared experiences can create with your son or daughter.

Point 2 – Lead with peace.

When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. (Luke 10:5-6)

When Jesus sent His disciples out He exhorted them to say: "Peace to this house." What does that mean? In the ancient world, leading with peace meant imparting God's blessing on those you encounter. The Hebrew Bible is full of rich benedictions and blessings that provided the fodder and theology of what it looked like to bless someone else. Take for instance one of the most famous blessings in the Torah:

²⁴ "May the Lord bless you and protect you;
²⁵ may the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
²⁶ may the Lord look with favor on you
and give you peace."
(Numbers 6:24-26, CSB)

Saying these words (or words like it) over others is a way of praying that to be true for them, which also changes how we perceive those we are pronouncing a blessing over. When we want to bless others, we need to have a soft heart that wants the best for people and wants to be a blessing to others. In this way we can create an environment where God's peace and *shalom* blooms in the lives of those around us.

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- What would it look like to pronounce a blessing over others? Would you use Scripture explicitly? Why or why not?
- How can you lead with peace in your office, your neighborhood, your social media account, and in your home?

- Would people who know you say that you are a person who leads with peace? Why or why not?

—GROUP ACTIVITY—

DON'T MISS THESE 3 ROUTINE MOMENTS TO BUILD RELATIONAL EQUITY

One of the best ways to have peace in your home is to build relational equity with your kids. It's very easy to get caught up in the daily grind of life and miss out on the special moments that we share with our families. Here are three routine moments that we can each take advantage of to build deeper relationships and experience God's peace.

Meal times. We all have to eat, and we can learn from Jesus as we read the Gospels that meal times can become more than a task. It can become a holy experience, if we are intentional about it. What kind of memories do you have around meal times? Did your family eat together frequently? Was it at the table or in front of a TV? Currently, is meal time a tech-free space (cell-free zone?)

Car times. Driving places together can sometimes feel very stressful. But it can also be a great time to connect with God, with your kids, or those you are driving with. How have you taken advantage of the time you spend in the vehicle together? What are you currently doing to foster conversation, create openness, and active listening?

Bed times. This may sound like something that is only applicable for pre-teen kids. But that doesn't have to be the case! Although it may look different, parents can use those moments before bed to leave a lasting impression. What you say to your kids before they go to sleep is what they will think about as they're falling asleep. This is the time to build them up and tell them where you saw growth that day. Even one good thing they did, picking up after themselves, can be the reminder that you see the good things they are doing. As you end the day, you want to say as Jesus did, "My peace I leave with you." John 14:27

Point 3 – Celebrate the wins of those around you!

The seventy-two returned **with joy** and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." (Luke 10:17)

When we, or the people we lead go out on a mission well equipped with a plan and a purpose, accomplishing that purpose is a joy. The calling of God on our lives becomes tiresome and tedious when we are ill equipped and don't understand the plan.

All people want to win. They want to celebrate small gains leading to big victories. That begins with great leadership. Each of us has an opportunity to "spur one another on

toward love and good deeds” Hebrews 10:24. It’s so important to cheer for those around us as we would our favorite sports team. “Yeah! That was awesome! Great play! Well done!” Celebration of what God is doing through us and in the lives of others is very important. As the saying goes, “what gets celebrated gets repeated.”

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- In what ways can we celebrate with our kids, family, friends, spouse? How can we show them we see the victories in their lives, big or small?
- How do you celebrate what God is doing in your own life?

—SUMMARY—

How do I raise up those around me to make a difference in the world?

- 1) Empower others to live out God’s purpose in their lives.
- 2) Lead with peace.
- 3) Celebrate the wins of those around you.

—FINAL CHALLENGE QUESTIONS—

1. How are you going to think differently in light of what you have read, heard, and discussed this week?
2. What is one thing you are going to change in your life in light of the sermon?
3. BONUS: For those of you with kids or around kids: What is one truth from this message that you can share with your kids?