

“Raising Up Uncommon Leaders”

UNCOMMON LEADER Sermon Series | Week Four | Newbreak Church

June 27th, 2021

This week is about developing quality habits as a Christ-centered leader.

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

- What’s your favorite faith-based movie? Why?
- “The habits we form determine the direction of our life and outcome of our leadership.” Do you agree or disagree with this quote? How does it inspire you to think about your habits?

Going Deeper Into the Message

Read: Exodus 18

Point 1 – Who’s in my corner?

¹⁷ Moses’ father-in-law replied, “What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸ You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. ¹⁹ Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. ... select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. (Exodus 18:17-19, 21, NIV)

Leaders need people in their corner that will encourage them, celebrate them and call out the best in them. But leaders also need people in their corner who will challenge and correct them with truth. We need both! Moses had Jethro, who happened to be his father-in-law. Jethro helped Moses see that he was doing too much and needed to delegate some tasks of leadership. It was a good thing Moses had people in his life that could challenge his perspective.

Think about it this way. When an MMA Fighter (or a Boxer) has someone in their corner it’s not for the purpose of someone just to be a “yes man” or give them positive

feedback alone! It's not helpful to have that person in your corner as you are getting pounded for multiple rounds. Instead, we need people who know how to speak "grace and truth" (John 1:14) toward us—people who have our best interest in mind but also have the Holy Spirit speaking to them as well.

Even great leaders like Moses can fall victim to their own blind spots. When they do, their effectiveness and credibility as a leader can be impacted unless they have people in their life who have been given permission to call them to task when they get off track.

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- Rick Warren says: "It's wise to learn from experience. It's wiser to learn from the experience of others. You don't have time to make all the mistakes. Be teachable and keep growing." Who do you have in your corner that can help guide you by their experience? Are there any key insights they have shared with you?
- Has anyone ever pointed out one of your blind spots? What was it? How has the awareness of it helped you counteract it?

—ADDITIONAL INSIGHT—

The following excerpt is taken from Newbreak's blog post. To read the full blog post go to: newbreak.church/how-to-get-the-most-out-of-each-weeks-sermon/

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF EACH WEEK'S SERMON

1) Take notes during the sermon.

Whether it be with pen and paper or on a digital device, studies are conclusive that notetakers retain more! Every week we (at Newbreak) build out an outline that has fill-ins for you to track along with. However, do not feel constrained by those. Take notes on whatever is said and whatever sticks out. And do not worry about taking notes verbatim. Actually, one of the best things you can do is take notes utilizing your own verbiage.

By writing notes using your own choice words and vernacular, you will more likely recall what you wrote—because it sounds like you!

The other tip for notetaking is not something many adults consider. Ready? Doodle! Yes, you read that correctly. Those who doodle to complement their notes actually are more likely to retain information. Drawing small pictures or doing simple word art will really help your creative

side of your brain harmonize with the intellectual. One of Newbreak's own, Ashley Bruce, has some great examples of this, [like this one on her Instagram](#).

There are plenty of websites and free resources ([like this one](#)) which provide tips on how to take effective notes. The point is simply this: whatever method you choose to use for taking notes—take notes!

2) Revisit your notes during one of your devotional times.

We suppose there is a presumption here that you schedule devotional time (which we highly encourage). We have written a few blogs on this topic. Consider reading (or re-reading) our blog on [spiritual delights](#); [meditating on Scripture](#); or [the reason for it all in the first place](#).

During a devotional time, you can revisit your sermon notes as a means to recall what was encouraging and what can be meditated on further.

Revisiting sermon notes is a way to get God's truth cemented into your mind. If something was inspiring or thought-provoking enough to write down, it is probably worth re-reading.

3) Start a conversational tradition after church each week.

Let's say you are a married couple with two kids. Each week is a perfect opportunity to start a conversation regarding what everyone gleaned from their church experience. Simple questions go a long way in getting everyone thinking and sharing insights with one another.

Try these questions:

What did you learn at church today? How did God speak through today's message? What was encouraging to you? How do you feel inspired or challenged moving forward? How did the message shape your identity in Christ? What truth about God's character are you taking with you?

The point is to have the worship experience *go with you* as your family shares what inspired them from the Sunday gathering.

This is a fun opportunity to hear how we each process what we heard in the sermon. As for the setting, you can have this conversation in the car ride home, at lunch, at a park, basically anywhere. And of course, you can do this with a group of friends or your Life Group, too.

4) Commit a verse or two from the sermon to memory.

At the end of the day, no words of our own will ever trump God's Word. For this reason, we believe memorizing passages of Scripture has immense practical value! Consider what David wrote:

I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart. (Psalm 40:8, NLT)

David treasured God's Word as life-giving instruction to *guide* Him and *ground* Him through every season. Let's have a similar passion! Maybe this is something that excites you. If so, then it can become a weekly routine! If this is a new practice for you, try it once a month. Instead of choosing a passage to commit to memory every week, choose one passage once a month spurred on by the sermon series we are in. Write it on a notecard and read over it a few times in the morning and evening. You will be surprised how quickly you can memorize a passage by doing something as simple as that!

5) Write out a weekly challenge.

Our teaching team works hard to give *at least* one practical thing you can do from every sermon. You can either take our challenge or write your own, but the point is to *do something* with the sermon content! Your weekly challenge can respond to this question: "How does God call me to live in light of this biblical truth?" A weekly challenge is a way of putting feet to the message; it is being a "doer" and not just a "hearer."

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (James 1:22, NIV)

This follows our formula for spiritual growth: Information + Application = Transformation.

You need to be informed before you can apply anything. And information is useless if not applied. Transformation, then, is the process of hearing and doing. You are "wise" in Jesus's eyes if you put your learning into motion ([Matthew 7:24](#)).

Point 2 – How am I continually growing and learning?

Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action. (Acts 7:22)

Moses grew up with a habit of learning. First, it took place in Egypt as he grew up in fortunate circumstances receiving the best education. But even when he lived in the wilderness, before leading the Hebrews out of Egypt, he had to be teachable as God was revealing Himself to him.

We, too, have to have the mindset of growth. After all, we can only take people as deep as we have been. That is why leaders should never be purely complacent with how far they have come and what they have learned. Scuba diving instructors, for example, have to be trained on how to handle the pressure and depths of deeper water. They can

only take students as deep as they know how to go! Our leadership is no different. If we want to take people deeper into their walk with God, we have to go there first.

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- A.W. Tozer says: “Complacency is a deadly foe of spiritual growth.” Why is this such an important quote? How do you counteract complacency in your life?
- Read the activity below. What is something you want to take action on?

—ACTIVITY—

REPLACING TIMES OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR TIMES TO LEARN

2 Peter 3:18 says: “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Peter challenges us to grow in knowledge. What if we seized more opportunities to learn and grow? After all, as the axiom says: “leaders are learners.”

Take inspiration from these challenges:

1) Replace your morning scroll (on social media) for morning Scripture.

Social media does not always feed our soul with spiritual nutrients. So, try to begin your morning with the life-giving truths of Scripture.

2) Read before bed 3x a week.

Don't take the number too literally. The point is to make a habit of reading before bed at least a few times a week. For example, many people watch Netflix before bed, and we are not shaming anyone who does that. However, what if a few days of the week (say, 3x) were evenings that were devoted to reading a book that helped you better understand God or a particular book of the Bible better? What could be the long-term benefits of this as opposed to simply watching Netflix in the evenings?

Be encouraged, learning might seem like a chore at first but for many people who make it a habit it becomes a joy!

Point 3 – How can I develop healthy rhythms?

The purpose of healthy rhythms for today is so that we can have a long-term impact for the kingdom of God. We want to serve God and His people with everything we have, with all He has given us. However, at times we can go too hard, too fast, and with no support. When that happens we burn out. And when we burn out we're no longer effective in ministry, at home, in our jobs, or in our friendships.

One way to ensure we can run the race God has laid before us with success and be victorious is to practice Sabbath. Taking a sabbath is simply to rest. We can start small with a weekly sabbath, then maybe a monthly sabbath, and then at some point a yearly sabbath. God started this after He had created the heavens and the earth. After hard work, He took some time to enjoy the fruits of His labor. Genesis 2:2-3. God wanted to enjoy all the work of His hands. He also wants this for us. He wants us to be able to enjoy those things we work for with our friends, our family, and with Him. When we rest, we are able to recharge. When we spend time resting, we have an opportunity to be grateful. When we take the time to be grateful, we feel like we can keep going, we can persevere.

With our cell phones, we all know that when that low battery icon comes on, we better find a way to charge the phone, and fast! We can plug it into a power source and continue to use it, but it will not recharge very quickly. It could even still die on us. Or we can plug it in and walk away. I know, that seems very hard, but if we give it time to recharge it will work more efficiently, for longer, unplugged from the wall. We are the same. We need to have legitimate rest to get a sufficient recharge in order to be at our best.

A benefit of taking regular sabbaths is that it makes it much easier to listen to God's direction. We need God to lead us in His plans for us. Our steps will not succeed if He does not lead. Moses knew this to be true. "Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here" (Exodus 33:15, NIV). Moses wanted the other countries to know that God was pleased with him and so, Moses asked God to lead them as a nation. As Christ-centered leaders, we need to listen for God's direction. He will answer in His time and in His way, but He promises to always answer those who listen to His direction.

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- What helps me to feel rested and refreshed? How can I make this a priority? Can I afford one day a week to enjoy all I've worked for and all God has provided?
- When do I hear God? Under what circumstances? How can I replicate that environment?

Point 4 – How do I consistently look for ways to serve others?

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. (Hebrews 11:24-26)

Moses had the best of everything, the best food, clothes, home, and education. At least it looked that way to the outside observer. What he did not have at this point was God's will and purpose for his life. When we are not doing the things, when we're not engaged in the mission, God put us on this earth to do, we will always be wanting more.

God put us here to serve Him. We do that by serving each other, by serving those around us, together. When we do this we feel fulfilled. We are part of His good plan and purpose for our lives. We have joy.

"Therefore, as we have an opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10, NIV).

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- What can I do this week to serve someone I know, in my community, or in my Life Group? How can I do this regularly?
- Who would I like to serve with me? Who can I invite to serve together to make it more fun and enjoyable? Can serving be fun? *(If you have kids, is there a way to include your kids when you serve?)

—SUMMARY—

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

- 1) Who's in my corner?
- 2) How am I continually growing and learning?
- 3) How can I develop healthy rhythms?
- 4) How do I consistently look for ways to serve others?

—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?