

Dream Big Leadership Church
“Training Today’s Leaders for Tomorrow’s Problems”
Leadership Growth Groups

LEAD

Topics:

1. What is a Leader?
2. Spiritual Maturity
3. Servant Leadership through Discipleship

What is a Leader?

Welcome to the last training group which is centered around leadership. If you have been at Dream Big Leadership Church for any length of time you have noticed that we do not identify those that join our fellowship as “members” but as “leaders.” Now, what exactly is a leader? Here is a ministry definition for you to embrace!

LEADER – a born again citizen of the kingdom of God who has discovered their universal and personal purpose and is serving their generation in the name of Jesus Christ. – Dr. Antwan R. Butler

What can we gather from this definition?

1. A leader is not a true leader until he/she has submitted their life to the Lord Jesus Christ. We must be born again according to John 3:16 and Romans 10:9, 10.

2. Leadership is about discovery and not just about a destination. Leaders understand that God has a definite plan for their lives and become spiritual archaeologists in search of their God ordained purpose. Jeremiah 29:11 – *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”*
3. Leaders are conscious that their assignment is time-sensitive, and they must be about their Father’s business. The Lord saw fit that we should be born in the exact day, month, year, decade, era, season and lifetime we are in. Therefore, we are called to make the most of it! Acts 13:36 – *“For David after he had served his generation by the will of God, fell on sleep and was laid unto his fathers and saw corruption.”*

Spiritual Maturity

Spiritual maturity plays a vital role in in the life of the leader. In *1 Corinthians 13:11* the scripture reads, *“when I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”* As far as our walk with God, we ought to approach Him with “childlike” faith. But when it comes to our walk among God’s people, we are called to spiritual maturity. When we speak of “maturity” we do not mean “perfection.” In reality, no human being is perfect, but every believer is being “perfected.” There are definitive ways to track or monitor our spiritual growth and know if we have become spiritually mature. Here are a few ways to identify them.

1. My character is conformed to the character of Jesus in my daily life. The Lord expects each and every one of us to “come as we are” but not “remain as we are. We allow the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to reshape our thinking, behavior and our lives.
2. Character traits of a leader:
 - a. A sense of long-term stability
 - b. Able to keep their tongue
 - c. A faithful spirit
 - d. Love God and love people unconditionally
 - e. *Colossians 3:1-15*

- f. *2 Peter 1:5-7 – “And beside this giving all diligence add to your faith virtue and to virtue knowledge and to knowledge temperance and to temperance patience and to patience godliness and to godliness brotherly kindness and to brotherly kindness charity.”*
 - g. *Philippians 1:5 – “Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”*
- 3. There is evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in my life. If we have God’s spirit, then we are yielded to His desire to work outwardly what we are experiencing inwardly.
 - a. *Galatians 5:22, 23 – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”*
- 4. I have a working knowledge of the principles and mysteries of the kingdom of God. We know from the integrity of scripture that God is not a respecter of “person” but he is a respecter of “principle.” Principles simply put are the way the Word of God operates and is lived out in the life of the believer. As we grow in God from babes to mature believers, we learn the truths of God’s word and how to put them into practice in everyday life. Just like there are certain keys that may open the door to your vehicle or your home, this is just as true in the Kingdom of God.
 - a. *2 Peter 3:18 – “But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever.”*
 - b. *Matthew 16:19 – “And I will give unto the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*
 - c. *Colossians 1:26 – “Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints.”*
 - d. *Jeremiah 29:3 – “And you shall seek me and find me when you shall search for me with all your heart.”*
 - e. *Proverbs 25:2 – “It is the glory of God to conceal a thing but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.”*
- 5. Outworking of power and the ability of God is present. A spiritually mature believer is one that does not just talk about the possibilities of God but demonstrates those possibilities! We are in partnership with the Holy Spirit and his power is inherent in our daily lives. We have been given authority over the power of evil and its influences as we yield our vessels to the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. *Acts 1:8 – “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*
 - b. *2 Peter 1:3 – “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”*

- c. *Luke 10:19 – “Behold I give unto you power to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”*
- d. *1 Corinthians 4:20 – “For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.”*

Servant Leadership through Discipleship

Our desire at Dream Big is that we not just raise and develop leaders, but that these leaders would in turn and develop other leaders!! Hence, our foundation scripture *2 Timothy 2:2 – “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”* True leadership requires that we multiply our efforts and energy through others we are called to influence.

We believe:

1. The true nature of discipleship is to serve rather than being served. Leaders are always focused on the needs of others and thinking of ways to help meet those needs. Two of Jesus disciples asked about greatness in the kingdom of God and how it is achieved. Jesus made the statement, *“But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger and he that is chief as he that doth serve” – Luke 22:26.* Service is the basis for leadership and helps us to serve as examples of how Christ would have us to live out our Christian experience.
2. The Great Commission is still the mission. Jesus gave us the charge to “go out and make disciples.” Therefore, the function of true leadership is the desire to see others grow and develop into spiritually mature believers through our efforts as the kingdom of God is being ushered in.
 - i. *Matthew 28:18-20 – “Go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.”*
3. Leaders are focused on passing the baton as a rite of passage. This sounds contradictory, but we really are focused on “working ourselves out of a job.” Since, real leaders are secure in themselves, there is no need for competition and are willing to reach, teach and train others to take their place. Leaders due not need to take the credit but are always looking for ways to give the

credit to others as a way of improving other's self-image and esteem. They enjoy complete satisfaction in knowing they are partly responsible for "making a true disciple."

4. Here are some leadership quotes we embrace:
 - a. It is our responsibility to bear the infirmities of the weak.
 - b. Leadership is about empowerment rather than having power.
 - c. Leaders are not as focused on "competing" against others as they are "completing" others.
 - d. Leaders say, "let's go do it rather than you go do it."
 - e. Leaders think, "how can I help rather than how can I be helped."
 - i. Luke 22:32 – "I have prayed for thee that thou faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.