

# MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST

- BY BRENT BRADING -



EP47

## Growing Your Leadership Capacity: Start Planning as Early as Possible

### FOR THE GROUP LEADER

These notes have been designed to disciple leaders in round the table small group discussions.

What is in *ITALICS* is meant to be read out loud.

*Welcome to this week's Mustard Seed Leadership discussion. The current series is*  
**"Growing Your Leadership Capacity"**

### STEP #1: ACCOUNTABILITY

*Let's get started. The topic of discussion today is*  
**"Start Planning as Early as Possible"** *But before we start on the new topic, we will usually*

*hold each other accountable about last week's action step.*

*Since this is the first in the series, let's go straight to the notes.*

## STEP #2: READ THE NOTES

**Option 1:** Let each person in the group take turns reading a section. (Each section is marked with a **READER #** ). Go clockwise starting with the Group Leader, and highlight or underline what catches your attention.

**Option 2:** The leader reads all the sections.

**Option 3:** Watch the video.

<https://youtu.be/aHQkvvYNIk>

## READER 1

# *Growing your leadership capacity*

## **DEFINITION:**

***Leadership capacity is simply how much you can handle***

- How much **responsibility** you can shoulder
- How many **people** you can lead
- How many **projects** you can manage
- How much **influence** you can wield

***The good news is that we can grow that capacity***

***BIG IDEA:*** Leaders of great influence have learnt to stretch their capacity as much as possible

## **6 WAYS TO STRETCH YOUR CAPACITY AS A LEADER**

- 1. Focus on as few things as possible***
- 2. Do as little as possible***
- 3. Meet with as few people as possible***
- 4. Make as few decisions as possible***
- 5. Start planning as early as possible***
- 6. Maximise events as much as possible***

## **START PLANNING AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE**

This is one of the quickest and easiest ways to really make a difference in your leadership capacity. Simply plan better and plan earlier.

**Many leaders are poor planners.**

### **Illust: First leadership role - Youth Leader**

- Had a terrible leadership team - all useless
- They never did anything and I had to do everything
- They made no contribution. I was burning out.

### **Finally had to challenge them to change**

- Their response? Happy to help, in fact frustrated that they can't
- We never have a meeting, we never prepare a plan, you make last minutes plans on a Friday afternoon just before the Youth Meeting
- So we have no way of making a contribution!

## ***Started having a monthly leaders meeting with a calendar***

- *Discussed ideas*
- *Planned out the next six weeks*
- *Assigned the dates*
- *Assigned responsibilities*
- *My job became a thousand times easier*

***BIG IDEA:*** *You will never get the best out of your team if they are not given time to bring their best.*

## ***Revelation:***

### ***Luke 10:1-2 (NIV)***

*1 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. 2 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."*

## ***Jesus was a master planner***

- *He knew that he had three years of ministry*
- *But instead of getting caught up in the whirlwind of the crowd*
- *He deeply invested in his team*

### READER 4

## ***Then to maximise his visits to each town***

- *He started sending his team ahead of him*
- *First he sent the 12 who had the most training*
- *Next he sent 72 others - a team of up to 84, two by two, so that could be 42 different towns that got a visit.*
- *It meant that they grew from the outreach experience*
- *And it meant that the town was ready for a visit*

***BIG IDEA: Big capacity leaders plan early so that the team has time to bring their best.***

***Can you imagine what it must have been like for Jesus entering a town that his team had already visited?***

- *The crowd was ready for him*
- *The local elders were expecting him*
- *The place to stay was organised*
- *The best place to preach or teach from was scouted out*
- *The synagogue was happy to receive him*

## READER 5

***Jesus' visit became so much more effective and his job so much easier because he planned early so that his team could bring their best.***

*That's how Jesus maximised his capacity!*

***CHALLENGE: Evaluate yourself - how good are you as a planner?***

***If this is an area that needs work then here are some things to think through:***

- 1. Aim to plan yearly, monthly, weekly and daily - be intentional about setting a time for planning.** Example: October is time to plan the year ahead, Staff meeting on Tuesday to plan the week, morning devotional time to plan the day.
- 2. Find the tool that works for you - wall chart, google calendar etc.**
- 3. Establish your list of priorities and events and make sure those priorities are reflected in your diary.**

## READER 6

- 4. Put the big rocks in first - high priority, low control NOT low priority, high control.**

Example: International Team meetings are a high priority and I don't get to set the date. So put it in first!

- 5. Communicate your plans.** Example:

Frustrated when church attendance was low on a big event. Problem - only told people a week before that it was a big event. Their plans were already made!



**CONCLUSION:** *Big Capacity leaders make plans as early as possible so that the team can bring their best and you don't get landed with everything.*

### STEP #3: SHARE YOUR HIGHLIGHT

*Now let's go around the group and take turns sharing what stood out to you the most from what we read. **What stood out to you and why?***

### STEP #4: EVALUATION

*I am going to ask each of you in turn to evaluate yourself (From a 5 which is **EXCELLENT**, down to a 1 meaning **LOTS OF WORK NEEDED!**) on how well you are doing in the area of this topic and then share this with the group and why you chose this score.*

### STEP #5: ACTION

*Lastly, let's go around the group and answer this question: What action step can you take to grow in the area of this topic by next week? Ask each member to share a practical action step and date of action. Make sure the Group Leader and the individual write them down for next week's accountability step.*

## CLOSING

A great way to close off is to pair up briefly for a moment of prayer. Pray for each other that you will succeed in your action steps. Thank everyone for coming and committing to grow as a disciple of Jesus.

For more notes visit:

<https://outlookchurch.co.za/mustardseedleadership>

