

MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP

PODCAST
- BY BRENT BRADING -



EP63

The Leaders Dress

Code:

Gratitude

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 "The Leaders Dress Code"

STEP #1: ACCOUNTABILITY

Let's get started. The topic of discussion today is "Gratitude" 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/dC1J5N_Tuqg

READER 1

THE LEADERS DRESS CODE

10. Gratitude

Romans 13:14 (NIV) “... clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ...”

Colossians 3:12-15 (NIV)

*12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. **And be thankful.***

Being thankful is always God's will for your life!

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV) “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

There is something so healthy and powerful about a leader who is always grateful

Example: Mark Bailey

- *Church planter and leader of City on a Hill Church in Klerksdorp, South Africa*
- *Always expressing gratitude!*
- *Gives off such a positive vibe*
- *Contagious - makes me start being more thankful!*
- *You come away energised by someone like that!*

READER 2

Eg. Craig Groechel from Life.Church in USA

- Speaks of the power of appreciation
- Stretch yourself to your limit of expressing appreciation
- Then double it!
- That's how important it is for a leader!

Thanksgiving is loving God and loving others with appreciation - the expression of gratitude.

Expressing gratitude is healthy for the soul that expresses it

- Makes you focus on the good things
- Celebrates the goodness of God

Also good for the soul receiving it

- Makes them feel valued
- Makes them want to do it again and do it better!

READER 3

Why is thankfulness so important?

1. Thanksgiving consecrates things

To consecrate means to sanctify or set apart something for God

1 Timothy 4:4-5 (NIV) *4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.*

It is as if thanksgiving consecrates things - makes them holy

- *Here he speaks of food but it could be similar for all things that come our way*
- *When Jesus gave thanks for the 5 loaves of bread, they were made holy and fed 5000 men!*

- Thanksgiving takes something common or even unclean and makes it to the Lord.

Even bad experiences if received with thanksgiving can be translated into something holy in the Lord's hands

READER 4

2. Thanksgiving consecrates our hearts

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

It helps lift our focus from the problems or issues and gets them back onto the Lord

Once again, thanksgiving has taken something out of the anxiety and fear realm and consecrated it - turned it to peace.

3. Thanksgiving consecrates our lives

Psalms 100:4 (NIV) *4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.*

The right attitude for coming before the Lord is not with a grumbling, angry or critical heart but a heart of thanksgiving

Thanksgiving takes us from the unclean, the sinful, the unholy and sets us apart for the Lord.

IN EACH CASE, THANKSGIVING TAKES US OUT OF THE COMMON OR UNCLEAN AND PUTS US IN THE REALM OF THE SACRED

READER 5

CHALLENGE:

Strange story that I want to leave you with:

Jesus has just healed 10 men with leprosy. He sent them to show themselves to the priests and they were healed on the way. But then only one returned to give thanks to Jesus.

Luke 17:15-19 (NIV) 15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. 17 Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? 18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Praise makes permanent

- *Thanksgiving doesn't just consecrate but makes something permanent*
- *Could the other 9 have only received a temporary healing?*
- *It is thanksgiving that brings completion to an act?*

BIG IDEA: *The leader's job is not finished until they have taken the time to express gratitude, praise and appreciation.*

Don't leave your leadership incomplete!

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: Application

Lastly, let's go around the group and answer the following questions:

- 1. How good are you at expressing thanks to God and appreciation to others? Is this something you need to work at?*
- 2. Have you ever experienced an example of where a decision to be thankful (in a non thankful type of scenario!) has completely changed the situation around?*
- 3. Praise makes permanent - what key moments in your weekly routine need to be rounded off with appreciation to your team?*

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>

