

10 PRINCIPLES

BECOMING A WELL-BALANCED LEADER

The Unbridled Skies goal is to help small-to- medium sized churches build strong, self- sustaining Leadership Mentorship programs.

Unbridled Skies, however, remains available to assist as your journey requires. The Becoming a Well-Balanced Leader principles briefly explained in this white paper are the “nuts and bolts” of our mentorship framework. A myriad of methods, not limited to those explained below, can be used to arrive at your desired state or as we like to say: destination





This document is an abbreviated overview of the 10 leadership principles which comprise the Becoming A Well-Balanced Leader Curriculum.

The premium version of the Becoming A Well-Balanced Leader Curriculum provides 10 detailed lesson plans that small group and seminar leaders will need to mentor their fledgling leaders. Please note the progressive learning process is essential—there is a reason integrity is first principle, and introspective is the last.

Integrity. Integrity must be the foundation of all principles that follow. Integrity provides a beacon to decision-making and leads to the wisest decisions.

Knowledge. Knowledge is crucial to developing wise decisions. Leaders indeed must take risks, but they must neither gamble nor guess. When knowledge is lacking--the leader must know where to go.

Wisdom. Wisdom uses knowledge and chooses with eternity in mind. A leader must foresee results before others do and remain on the honorable path to success.

Communicate. A leader must efficiently communicate above reproach. Intentions do matter to God. However, people react to "perceptions," not intentions. Leaders must communicate what they intend...and know when they do not.

Vision. A vision must challenge and inspire performance. Envision a legacy, then live your life in reverse. What must you do next to stay on course?

Authority. A leader must respect and honor his or her authority. This respect means the subordinate leader must be able to follow his or her leader proactively—preventing poor leader decisions by knowing when to submit and when to appeal.

Mentor...then...Empower. A leader must first mentor then empower—reverse the order at the unit's peril. A leader determines the necessary skills for each position within the unit, and then correctly trains each member before they are empowered. A healthy risk-taking environment is paramount, or initiative will be scarce.

Shepherd. Only a "shepherd mindset" enables the leader to truly accept ownership of all things necessary to lead the team through life's minefield.

Introspective. Finally, a leader must keep an Introspective outlook on the past, present and future. Certainly, mistakes will be made. In fact, make mistakes early and often— just not the same ones! God does not want to waste pain. Learn from the mistakes of others...and your own.



Integrity

Principle #1

Integrity must be the foundation of all principles that follow. Integrity provides a beacon to decision-making and leads to the wisest decisions.

Bible Passages for Reflection

- 1 Samuel 12:24-25
- Job 31:1
- Proverbs 10:9
- Proverbs 13:20
- Proverbs 15:3
- Proverbs 24:1-2
- Proverbs 22:24-25
- 1 Timothy 2:15
- Colossians 3:23-24
- 1 Corinthians 10:12-13
- 1 Peter 4:3-4
- Romans 6:1-7

Key Points

- You are not ashamed of neither your motives nor your actions. Remember whom you serve.
- The company you keep “keeps” you accountable to their values.
- Your integrity gives others reasons to trust you (or not). Eliminate unfulfilled promises.
- The world may not reward your integrity.
- Finish well.... the honor of men is not your goal.
- You must be "in the world," but not "of the world." You are a citizen of another kingdom.
- Your character is your reputation and defined by what you do, not by what you promise to do.
- Your reputation is your testimony of Christ.
- Admit mistakes. Humility restores fellowship to God and man.
- Everything you do teaches people what you value.



Quotes on Integrity

"Be diligent to present yourselves approved to God as a workman that does not have to be ashamed." II Timothy 2:15

"Keep your behavior among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify them in the day of visitation" - 1 Peter 2:12

"We are what we do when we think no one is looking." - Abraham Lincoln

"There is no limit to the good you can do." - Harry Truman

"It's always the right time to do the right thing." - Martin Luther King, Jr.



Knowledge

Principle #2

Knowledge is crucial to developing wise decisions. Leaders indeed must take risks, but they must neither gamble nor guess. When Knowledge is lacking--the leader must know where to go.

Bible Passages for Reflection

- Proverbs 1:4
- Proverbs 1:7
- Proverbs 2:6
- Proverbs 10:10
- Proverbs 14:6
- Proverbs 17:10
- 1 Chronicles 12:32
- 2 Chronicles 1:10
- Psalms 119:66
- Philippians 1:9
- 2 Corinthians 2:14
- 1 Peter 3:18
- Colossians 1:10
- 1 Peter 3:18
- 2 Peter 1:6

Key Points

- Learn everyday skills. Knowledge is a means to an end...not the end itself.
- Knowledge produces competence, which leads to confidence.
- A confident leader is more apt to listen, adjust, and improve.
- The more you know the more you realize you do not know. Teach this.
- Decide to Never Stop Learning, this energizes humility.
- An effective leader yields power defined by competence and admiration.
- Know your job. Do it well. So, when you speak, people listen.
- An ineffective worker at any trade equates to an ineffective testimony of all else.
- The knowledge of salvation is the foundation of all wisdom that follows.
- See premium version of principles for "50 Things Every Leader Should Know."



Quotes of Knowledge

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction." - Proverbs 1:7

"Also, it is not good for a person to be without knowledge, and he who hurries his footsteps errs." - Proverbs 19:2

"A wise man is strong, and a man of knowledge increases power. For by wise guidance you will wage war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory." - Proverbs 19:2

"Knowledge is proud it knows so much. Wisdom is humble it knows no more." - Unknown

"What we do upon some great occasion will probably depend on what we already are: and what we are will be the result of previous years of self-discipline." - H.P. Liddon



Wisdom

Principle #3

Wisdom uses knowledge and chooses with eternity in mind. A leader must foresee results before others do and remain on the honorable path to success.

Bible Passages for Reflection

- Proverbs 2:7-9
- Proverbs 8:33-35
- Proverbs 11:14
- Proverbs 12:15
- Proverbs 13:10
- Proverbs 24:6
- Proverbs 25:8
- Proverbs 25:27-28
- Philippians 2:3-4
- Philippians 4:6-7
- Philippians 4:13
- James 1:5-6
- Psalms 1:1

Key Points

- Develop wise habits.
- Ask not if the decision is right or wrong ... rather will it help us “run better”.
- Seek wise counsel continuously.
- Go to school on those you admire. Ask yourself--Should I admire them
- Show you care before you share.
- Wisdom will never violate God’s Scripture.



Quotes of Wisdom

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way." - Psalms 139:23-24

*"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting..."
- James 1:5-6*

*"In the confrontation between the stream and rock, the stream always wins...not through strength...but through persistence." -
Peter Davies*

"Even though you're on the right track-you'll get run over if you just sit there." - Will Rogers

"It is not the strength, but the duration, of great sentiments that makes great men." - Friedrich Nietzsche

*"To see what is right, and not to do it, is want of courage."
- Confucius*



Communication

Principle #4

A leader must communicate in a timely, effective manner above reproach. Intentions do matter to God. However, people react to "perceptions," not intentions. Leaders must communicate what they intend...and know when they have not.

Bible Passages for Reflection

- Proverbs 10:18
- Proverbs 11:14
- Proverbs 14:29
- Proverbs 15:2
- Proverbs 15:22
- Proverbs 17:9
- Proverbs 20:18-19
- Proverbs 25:9-10
- Proverbs 26:4-5
- Job 20:12
- Psalms 5:6
- Psalms 15:3
- Psalms 34:13
- James 3:5-6
- I John 3:18

Key Points

- Ensure the message received is the one you meant to send.
- Feedback must be open and often.
- Develop a "we" mindset and always say "we" versus "me, I, mine, my..."
- Use information wisely. Keep a secret.
- Build a network. Know whom you can trust. Prove you are trustworthy.
- Beware speaking evil of anyone—confirm your motives are just.
- Flee gossip and slander when you hear it.
- Try saying "Yes, and" versus "Yes, but ..."
- Slander – telling truth with the intent to hurt.
- Gossip – sharing an issue with someone who is neither a part of the problem nor the solution.
- Traditional leaders receive filtered information. Knowledge is power.
- Speaking in anger will be the best speech you'll ALWAYS REGRET.
- Words are like confetti thrown from a speeding car. You can never recover them all.



Quotes on Communication

"He who angers you conquers you." - Elizabeth Kenny

"When the employees no longer believe that their manager listens to them, they start looking around for someone who will."

*"Nine-tenths of the serious controversies that arise in life result from misunderstanding, from one man not knowing the facts which to the other man seem important, or otherwise failing to appreciate his point of view."
- Justice Louis D. Brandeis*



Vision

Principle #5

A vision must challenge and inspire performance. Envision a legacy, then live your life in reverse.

Bible Passages for Reflection

- Proverbs 3:5-7
- Proverbs 11:10
- Proverbs 16:3
- Proverbs 24:30-34
- Jeremiah 29:11-12
- Colossians 3:2
- James 1:2-3
- James 1:12,
- I Peter 5:7
- II Kings 6:16-17
- Psalms 3

Key Points

- Imagine your life as a journey. Your vision is your destination.
- Imagine you're in your coffin. design your desired legacy. Now live your life in reverse by doing what you must do.
- Define your vision. You want to know when you've arrived.
- There will be pain even (especially!) when you stay on path. God promises trials.
- Prioritize: you DO have enough time to do all God wants you to do everyday.
- You have to say NO to some good stuff...to make room for God's best.
- Persevere: quitting too often comes "just before" success arrives.



Quotes on Vision

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil." - Proverbs 3:5-7

*"There is more to life than increasing its speed."
- Mahatma Gandhi*

"The mass of men leads lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with a song still in them." - Henry David Thoreau

"Even though you're on the right track—you'll get run over if you just sit there." - Will Rogers

"The secret to success in life is for a man to be ready for his opportunity when it comes." - Benjamin Disraeli

"Success consists of going from failure to failure without a loss of enthusiasm." - Winston Churchill

*"Even if you fall on your face, you're still moving forward."
-Victor Kiam*



Authority

Principle #6

A leader must respect and honor his or her authority. This respect means the subordinate leader must be able to follow his or her leader proactively – preventing poor leader decisions by knowing when to submit and when to appeal.

Bible Passages for Reflection

- Proverbs 19:20
- Proverbs 10:17
- Proverbs 2:14
- I Thessalonians 10:12
- I Peter 2:17-20
- Romans 12: 16-19
- Romans 13:1-2
- Daniel 1:8
- Daniel 12-13

Key Points

- Learning to follow reduces blind spots.
- If you cannot follow, don't try to lead.
- Learning to trust your leader will earn you the trust of others.
- There is no authority except from God.
- Understand your values, preferences, and convictions...when to bend...when not.
- Learn to help your leader stay on vision...the "King with No Clothes" parable.
- Appeal appropriately at proper time.
- You must be loyal or leave. Disloyalty is NOT an option.
- In baseball the catcher's goal is to help the pitcher be successful.
- Bottom-line: you are the catcher. You must work to make your boss successful.



Quotes on Authority

"Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God."

- Romans 13:1

"Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable. For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrow when suffering unjustly... But if when you do what is right and suffer for it, you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God."

- I Peter 2:17-20

"There is one element that is worth its weight in gold, and that is loyalty. It will cover a multitude of weaknesses."

- Philip Armour

"Communicate downward to subordinates with at least the same care and attention as you communicate upward to superiors." - L.B. Belker

"Your decisions will always be better if you do what is right for the organization rather than what is right for yourself".



Mentor/Train

Principle #7

A leader must first Mentor then Empower—reverse the order at the unit’s peril. A leader determines the necessary skills for each position within the unit, then ensures members are properly trained before they are “empowered”. Empowerment is key to leveraging the unit’s maximum potential.

Bible Passages for Reflection

- Proverbs 17:10
- Proverbs 22:6
- Proverbs 28:23
- Proverbs 23:9
- Proverbs 26:10
- Hebrews 12:11-14
- II Thessalonians 3:14-15
- Matthew 10:42
- I Samuel 13:14
- Galatians 6:1-2
- Galatians 6:10

Key Points

- Seek to find leaders with the potential and heart to serve.
- Provide exposure to real life leadership lessons.
- Teach the difference between technique and procedure—no “tech-cedure”
- Admit your mistakes. It teaches others to fess up.
- Use your instincts to find emerging leaders.
- Train before you empower.
- Empower those you trust, then “turn ‘em loose.”
- Determine commitment level before investing in their training
- The noblest calling of leadership is the growth and development of people.
- Focus on increasing gains, not reducing losses.
- If we work to make disciples... Will it really make much difference?

Unbelievable impact explained in the premium version of our 10 Principles.



Quotes on Mentor/Train

"If you undertrain, you may not finish...but if you over-train, you may never start." - Stan Jensen

*"Genius is the ability to reduce the complicated to the simple"
- C.W. Ceran*

"A Leader is best when people barely know he exists... when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say, 'we did this ourselves'" - Lao-Tzu

"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you help them become what they are capable of being." - Goethe

"Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime." - Chinese Proverb



Empower

Principle #8

A leader must first Mentor then Empower—reverse the order at the unit's peril. A leader determines the necessary skills for each position within the unit, then ensures members are properly trained before they are “empowered”. Empowerment is key to leveraging the unit's maximum potential.

Bible Passages for Reflection

- Exodus 3:10
- Proverbs 23:7
- Proverbs 13:10
- Matthew 9:38
- Matthew 13:41
- Matthew 28:16-20
- Mark 3:14
- Luke 10:2
- Rev 11:3

Key Points

A healthy environment is one which allows Risk-taking. "I will take initiative—because I know I will not be crucified if I'm wrong."

- Giving more choices generates more creativity.
- Be helpful: define the limits of empowerment and then go away.
- Your response to mistakes develops or destroys risk-taking.
- Discipline mistakes borne of disobedience.
- Use mistakes for “lessons-learned” and “let's not go that way again.”
- Teach conflict and mistakes are opportunities to skip generations of learning.
- Demonstrate the value of team where trust prevails over fear.
- Encourage 'esprit de corps'—reward team loyalty.
- Expose danger of group think and encourage creativity--is there a better way?
- If you expect the best of your people more than likely you will get it their best.
- Performing tasks with high leverage are the key to being an effective leader.
- Involvement leads to commitment.
- What gets rewarded gets done.
- Prepare and teach then empower.



Quotes on Empowerment

"Continually ask yourself if what you're doing can be handled by someone else. Time is your most precious resource—use it wisely because it is irreplaceable."

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity." - Gen George Patton, Jr.

"The opportunity to accomplish challenging tasks inspires people to give their best."



Shepherd

Principle #9

Only a “Shepherd mindset” enables the leader to truly accept “ownership” of all things necessary to lead the team through life’s minefield.

Bible Passages for Reflection

- Genesis 48:15
- Isaiah 44:28
- Proverbs 2:3-5
- Proverbs 25:6-7
- Proverbs 27:2
- Jeremiah 45:5
- Psalms 23
- Psalms 75:6-7
- John 10:14
- John 15:16
- John 21:16
- Acts 20:28
- 1 Peter 5:1-3

Key Points

- Your followers must believe you care...before you share.
- Choose to draw them to Christ, not you.
- God is responsible for success.
- You must simply be obedient. Keep our motivation to lead pleasing to Christ.
- Duty titles define responsibilities, but not value to the organization.
- BEWARE, your path will be followed by others...Are you looking UP?
- Seek to serve and you will discover you are leading.
- Humility draws a following and builds character.
- God’s selects His leaders. He is not limited by your qualifications.
- A secret to a leader's success is to "catch their sheep" doing something right and praise them for it!



Quotes on Shepherding

"Continually ask yourself if what you're doing can be handled by someone else. Time is your most precious resource – use it wisely because it is irreplaceable."

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity." - Gen George Patton, Jr.

"The opportunity to accomplish challenging tasks inspires people to give their best."



Introspection

Principle #10

Finally, a leader must keep an Introspective outlook on the past, present and future. Certainly, mistakes will be made – in fact, make them early and often. God does not want to waste pain. Learn from the mistakes of others...and your own.

Bible Passages for Reflection

- Deuteronomy 31:12
- Psalms 78:13
- Psalms 94:12
- Psalms 119:71
- Job 15:7
- Proverbs 3:11
- Proverbs 5:12
- Proverbs 8:5
- Hebrews 12:7
- Hebrews 12:11
- Titus 3:14
- Revelation 11:3

Key Points

- Assess your strengths and weaknesses–know thyself.
- Decide to break bad habits.
- Do you seek the praise of others?
- Do you lead with a thermometer?
- Can you handle criticism? Feedback? Praise?
- Determine to investigate your progress at least quarterly.
- Invite those of opposite positions to critical meetings. Co-opt, agree, or watch.
- Be ready to "get off that dead horse you're riding".
- If you cannot be trusted, do not try to lead.
- If you cannot admit another person's idea is better, do not try to lead.



Quotes on Introspection

"Do not look where you fell, but where you slipped."
-- African proverb.

"Only those who dare to fail greatly can achieve greatly."
-- Robert F. Kennedy

"If you wish to make a man your enemy, tell him simply, 'You are wrong.' This method works every time." -- Henry Link