Week Two Discussion Post Two

Recognizing and Being Open to Possibility as a Leader

The Art of Possibility Rules

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**The Art of Possibility: My Four Rules**

It is an exciting book and an excellent guide to help one realize that lifelong learning never ends until you are no longer present in this universe, how simple catchphrases can make a difference in so many people's lives (e.g., rule number 6), and how people view the opportunity in different ways. Of the shoe factory marketing scouts, one saw no chance of having a shoe factory in Africa, and the other saw the possibility of an excellent opportunity to have a shoe factory in Africa. I can relate to all of the rules. I choose rules two, four, five, and six.

Rule two**: Stepping into a universe of possibility**.

Imagine that no limitations exist; the universe is abundant, open, and infinite. If you have an attitude of abundance instead of a scarcity mentality, you’re more likely to find new businesses, opportunities, and possibilities. You're more likely to succeed if you participate joyfully in tasks and projects. If you are inclusive and passionate in your life, you’re likely to see greater abundance. The Zanders encourage you to escape the world of measurements and scarcity. “In the measurement world,” they write, “you set a goal and strive for it. In the universe of possibility, you set the context and let life unfold.” I can relate to this set of rules because this is exactly what I did when I decided to return to school to achieve my BSN. I didn’t tell any of my friends that I was returning to school because I was afraid I would fail if I didn’t succeed; no one would know, but my internal goal was set to finish.

Rule four: **Being a contribution**.

In this practice, you wake up every morning with the idea that you are a gift to others. Contribution actually involves two practices: ***“1) declare yourself to be a contribution and 2) throw yourself into life as someone who makes a difference, accepting that you may not understand how or why.”***When you contribute, you forget about scarcity and dwell in the pond of abundance. You go from self-concern to making a difference for others. Notice how the things you do help others. See and imagine how everything you do sends out ripples beyond the horizon. I think that I am a great contributor to family members. I oversee two disabled family members' healthcare; I am the healthcare proxy for both. I serve as the president of my church nurses ministry, and I just suggested and implemented a nursery at the church for young moms who attend church on Sundays to have a place to take their infants and toddlers if they choose to the infant or toddler start crying or get a bit out of control during service. I started volunteering at Boston Public School in 2021 and am now a substitute teacher. I am an advocate for patients with chronic kidney disease and patients on dialysis.

**Rule Five: Leading from any chair**.

The conductor is not the only leader of an orchestra. **You can lead from any chair you’re sitting in**. The act of leadership is not limited to people in leadership positions. Anyone can lead – “the player who energizes the orchestra by communicating his newfound appreciation for the tasks of the conductor, or a parent who fashions in her own mind that her children desire to contribute, is exercising leadership of the most profound kind.”How do you know if you’re fulfilling your role as a leader? You can look into the eyes of the players you’re leading in the orchestra or on the work team and ask yourself, “***Who am I being that their eyes are not shining?***” As a leader, you “can invite information and expression. [You] can speak to their passion. [You] can look for an opportunity to hand them the baton. ”It doesn’t matter who you are and where you sit; you can inspire and lead others from anywhere – even without a title or position. I would say rules four and five are similar because when you contribute your time and profession to a particular group or organization, you are also leading. I lead the nursing ministry, schedule all the meetings, and plan activities around health care at the church. I am a Girl Scout leader, schedule all of the meetings, and send reminder notices via email to all parents to remind them of the monthly meeting; I also plan all of my patient's dialysis support group monthly meetings. Help co-host our neighborhood organization meeting, sending out the Zoom link to neighbors; I act as street captain on my street, leading by keeping neighbors informed of the activities in the neighborhood.

**Rule Six:** The Zanders relate a joke in which two prime ministers converse about Rule Number 6. When one prime minister hears the continued reference to “Rule Number 6,” he turns and asks the other, “Would you be willing to share with me the secret of Rule Number 6?” The other responds, “***Rule Number 6 is ‘Don’t take yourself so goddamn seriously***.’”

Rule Number 6 is a reminder to lighten up and not take yourself so seriously! When you lighten up, you release yourself from egoistic and self-limiting beliefs. “When we follow Rule number 6 and lighten up over our childish demands and entitlements, we are instantly transported into a remarkable universe. The new universe is cooperative and pulls to realize all our cooperative desires.” If I had known about rule number 6 a few months ago, I would have referenced it to the newly elected president of one of my organizations. During one of our Zoom meetings, she said she was changing a specific rule because she was the president and could do whatever she wanted. I quickly reminded her that there were seven board members and three alternate board members and that all rules and regulations needed to be presented to the board to be voted on. Since becoming president of the organization, she has often displayed rule number six. I want to say don’t take yourself or think you all that. “***Rule Number 6 is ‘Don’t take yourself so goddamn seriously***.’”