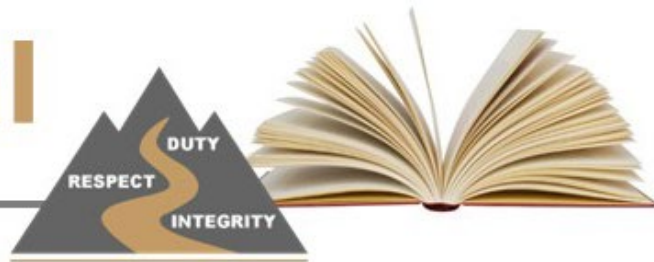


Professional Reading Program

Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program



The 5 Graces of Life and Leadership by Gary Burnison

Best Wildland Fire Leadership Level to read this book:

- All leadership levels

Why Read *The 5 Graces of Life and Leadership*?

“Grace. It moves us forward – elevating above any circumstance – and always along the high road. It is what makes us inherently human – the better self that shines a light for others.”

*“The essence of any leadership journey is transporting people from one place to another – inspiring them to believe in what they can achieve. ... Along the way, leaders are ‘shepherds’ – sometimes in front, sometimes behind, but always beside the others. It’s never about power – but rather **empower**.”*

“It’s mindfulness, it’s self-care, it’s focusing on others. And to be honest, it’s all the things we didn’t really talk about in the workplace before that have become more important than ever.”

The 5 Graces of Life and Leadership is an inspirational, easy-to-read book that leaders of all levels will enjoy. This book is a fantastic look at the human side of leadership, and how leaders can be better at creating community and connectivity in their teams. These kinds of soft skills are an invaluable part of a leadership toolbox and can always be improved. At one level or another, leadership at its core is about getting people to work together for a common goal, and the person-to-person interactions that everyone has on a daily basis can be critical to achieving those goals. The 5 Graces discussed in this book will be very helpful for authentic leadership.

The book is set up in a coffee table-style format, with photos, quotes, and short stories that tie in with the Grace being discussed.

- **Gary Burnison (CEO of Korn Ferry) – The 5 Graces Of Life & Leadership (1-hour video, some insights from the book but more focused on Burnison’s professional experience):**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbYu8KAH6MU>

For more leadership ideas and to dig deeper, check out the Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program (WFLDP) blog, Facebook page, Professional Reading Program, and more at the links below:

Blog: <http://wildlandfireleadership.blogspot.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WFLDP>

Professional Reading Program: <https://www.nwccg.gov/wfldp/toolbox/prp>

Main WFLDP page: <https://www.fireleadership.gov>

The 5 Graces of Life and Leadership Discussion Questions

Gratitude

Why is gratitude—real gratitude, not a forced “you’d better be grateful” attitude—important for a leader? For a follower? How is gratitude tied to vulnerability and authenticity? What motivates you in the fire service? In life outside of work? What about those around you? How can the expression of gratitude empower others? What are some ways that you can express gratitude?

Resilience

What does it mean to you to be a resilient leader? A resilient person? How can you help others, your team, be more resilient? What are some ways that you can model resilience? How does failure, and the moving on from it in a healthy way, build resilience? How might you stay resilient in the face of organizational or cultural change? Changes in your personal life?

Aspiration

Why is important to communicate clear leader’s intent (i.e., meaning), not only for the immediate task, but for the larger context in the situation, the organization, the culture? How can leading with vulnerability and authenticity help convey meaning and inspire those around you? What do you think about the authors “ABCs of leadership” (accountability, belief, and capability) mentioned in this section?

Courage

How can you lead with courage in times of transition? How is recognizing, and planning for, the possibility of failure (and the opportunity to learn from it) a courageous act? How hard is it for you, as a leader or follower, to acknowledge that you “don’t know” something?

Empathy

Why might empathy be so important as a leader? Why is empathy important for communication with those around you? How can you meet others where they are in your situation? How can you create an environment (on a module, a crew, at a fire station, etc.) where people know it’s safe to speak “their truth?” What can you as a leader or follower cultivate culture in your organization?