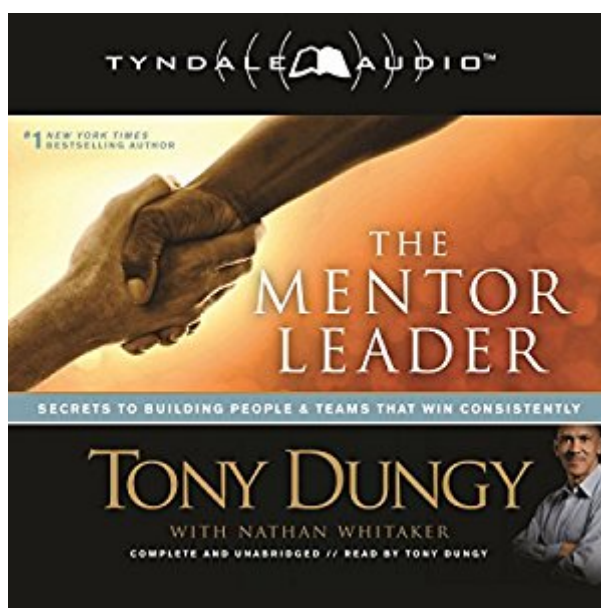


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# The Mentor Leader: Secrets To Building People & Teams That Win Consistently



## Synopsis

"Your only job is to help your players be better." That single idea had a huge impact on Tony Dungy when he heard it from one of his earliest mentors, and it led him to develop the successful leadership style so admired by players and coaches throughout the NFL. Now, a storied career and a Super Bowl victory later, Tony Dungy is sharing his unique leadership philosophy with you. In *The Mentor Leader*, Tony reveals what propelled him to the top of his profession and shows how you can apply the same approach to virtually any area of your life. In the process you'll learn the seven keys of mentoring leadership - and why they're so effective; why mentor leadership brings out the best in people; how a mentor leader recovers from mistakes and handles team discipline; and the secret to getting people to follow you and do their best for you without intimidation tactics. As a son, a football player, and a winning coach, Tony has always learned from others on his path to success. Now you can learn to succeed for your team, family, or organization while living out your values - by becoming a mentor leader.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours 3 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: February 13, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00TKMCTJO

Best Sellers Rank: #87 in Books > Business & Money > Management & Leadership >

Mentoring & Coaching #106 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Men's

Issues #114 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Leadership

## Customer Reviews

*The Mentor Leader* is an excellent book that is both inspiring, challenging, and practical. Coach Dungy offers a truly unique perspective as a Super Bowl winning football coach, a devoted Christian, and a man who has benefited much mentoring and who has intentionally sought for years to have a positive influence on the lives of those he touches. The book is certainly not shy of principles and thoughtful teaching on the topics of mentoring in leadership, but it really shines as a

practical and wise approach that has been borne in the laboratory of life rather than taught in a business school. Author of best-selling book *Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, and Priorities of a Winning Life*, he has seen firsthand "that the way to bring the best out of an individual or a team is to teach-by example and through one-on-one, step-by-step mentoring." The book is packed full of stories and anecdotes, but it is not just a random assortment of anecdotes. Dungy actually covers a lot of material, and arranges it thoughtfully.

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If you're a fan of leadership books, you'll recognize ideas and quotes by leadership experts such as Ken Blanchard, Steven Covey, John Maxwell and others. If not, that's ok too, as he weaves these in naturally along with stories and real-life illustrations. Dungy also does a great job at pointing out where ideas like mentoring and servant leadership are taught and modeled in the Bible, especially in the life of Jesus.

Some of the topics or concepts that I thought were particularly interesting: focusing on strengths, the preeminence of character and integrity in the live of a leader, building a team whose strengths complement yours and each others, the importance of just hanging out and being present in the lives of those you hope to influence, the need to create a culture to effect change, and the idea of treating those you lead as volunteers. Now, there's nothing ground-breaking in any of this, but Dungy does a great job of modeling all of this, and of explaining it in a down-to-earth way.

Towards the end he finishes by acknowledging that a lot has been covered, and the idea of being a mentor leader might be a daunting one, a lot to remember. So he encourages us with this advice: "Don't worry about remembering it. Think instead about beginning to live what we've talked about - each and every day, in every setting of your life. And let me encourage you to start right where you are, with the people right around you, doing something as simple as engaging with them and talking. Sometimes the smallest things we do have the biggest impact. Just start." Being a mentor leader is being about the journey, adding value in the lives of other people in every moment.

The Mentor Leader should be of great interest for fans of leadership and football alike.

I bought this book because I was raised in Tony's hometown. I went to Frost Middle School and Parkside High School while my father was the city manager. Tony came back for "Tony Dungy Day" to do his part in inspiring the young athletes in our community. As young students, we were always excited about that day. I'll always remember how authentic and inspiring he was for all of us. He

truly made a difference in our lives. This book is easy to read and underscores some of the leadership qualities I've intuitively practiced. This book has boosted my confidence as a leader and has reminded me that putting others first is the first step to being a successful leader.

"Two of the greatest influences in our lives will be the people we associate with and the books or other media we read or watch. So choose wisely."-Tony Dungy  
If you dream of becoming great someday, you'd be wise to read Dungy's book, *The Mentor Leader*. Other than the Bible itself, this is the best book on leadership I've ever read. Dungy's most popular book was *Quiet Strength*, and it might be more entertaining than *The Mentor Leader*. But if you're looking for the best possible information on how to be the best possible leader, *The Mentor Leader* is the better book. Many authors and speakers talk about the value of mentoring and growing leaders but what makes this book different is the practical "how to" information that Dungy provides. Another interesting difference is Dungy's frankness concerning his own weaknesses. He talks openly about mistakes he's made and conflicts he's experienced with players. "Mentor leadership is all about shaping, nurturing, empowering, and growing. It's all about relationships, integrity, and perpetual learning. Success is measured in changed lives, strong character, and eternal values." (Dungy)  
According to Dungy, the model for such leadership is Jesus Christ. The irony concerning such leadership is, the organization wins when this approach is taken. The Indianapolis Colts under his leadership are proof. I highly recommend it. Kurt Bennett, author of the Christian parable, *Traveler and the Chaplain*

*The Mentor Leader* is one of the best books that I have read in a long time. It helps bring a coach's attention back to the reason that they are coaching in the first place. Far too often do I see coaches that are involved in sports for the extra money that it will bring not for the reason of training youth athletes to enjoy and love the sports. I am not a big Indianapolis Colts fan, but I am a huge Tony Dungy Fan, and I will be going to purchase his other two books after the holidays, unless I get them as a Christmas gift. I read many of the coaches books that have had success in their profession trying to find other ways to become a better coach, this book definitely gave me some ideas of what I need to focus on. Thanks to Tony for writing another great book, I can't wait to read your other books. Thanks for taking the time to write this book, and helping coaches like myself get refocused on the things that we are suppose to do as a coach, by guiding our athletes to not only be better at their sport, but as a person as well.

I would highly recommend this book for every leader or one aspiring to become a leader. In his

book, Tony Dungy shares that there is no effective leadership apart from building relationships and becoming a servant-leader yourself. Excellent book that will take leaders to a place of building others up and not themselves. The old saying "more is caught than taught" is so vividly stated in this book. EXCELLENT!!!

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