



level up your
leadership

WALK Church

LEAD

Heiden Ratner

Name: _____

Date: _____

Everyone has
**leadership
potential**
on their life

– Heiden Ratner

Start today.



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LEAD

We believe everyone has **leadership potential** on their lives. Upon joining God's family through faith in Christ and joining our church family here at WALK, we encourage every family member to develop into the leader God has created them to be and we want to help you do just that.

We also hold fast to the conviction that in Christ, you have unlocked the **ultimate expression of leadership**, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27.) Leadership guru, John Maxwell, writes:

“Leadership is influence, nothing more, nothing less... titles don't have much value when it comes to leading. True leadership cannot be awarded, appointed, or assigned, it comes only from influence, and that cannot be mandated. It must be earned.”
(Maxwell, The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership)

We believe Maxwell got it right when describing leadership as influence and **the most influential person of all time is Jesus Christ**. No single person has impacted the world more than King Jesus. His life, death, and resurrection continue to change lives today. Right this moment, His teachings are influencing and inspiring millions of people. And His disciples, filled with His Spirit, are changing the world for His glory. Jesus was leading. Jesus is leading. And He is leading in and through His church today!

As you allow Christ to lead His life through you, you will begin walking in the leadership potential that has always existed in you (Eph. 2:10.) And you can join with the Apostle Paul and declare: ¹³ “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” (Phil. 4:13)

How We Define Leadership

Leadership has become one of those buzzwords that gets a lot of attention but is rarely defined. If you ask ten individuals from various churches and organizations how they define leadership, you will likely get ten different answers. At WALK Church, we want to be clear on what we mean when we say, **leader**.

We agree with John Maxwell that “leadership is influence,” however, we also believe that influence doesn’t happen by chance and doesn’t come overnight. Therefore, we have created an acronym using the word **LEAD** for cultivating influence and making a difference.

The phrases that make up this acronym are first demonstrated throughout the life of Christ, and as we pursue Him, we are confident these Christ-like characteristics will become the fruit that follows.

L - Leaders are Learners

Leaders are not “know-it-alls”, leaders are “learn-it-alls.”

E - Leaders are Excellent

Leaders carry an excellent spirit into whatever atmosphere they’re in.

A - Leaders are Aware

Leaders are aware of who they are and who they’re not.

D - Leaders are Disciplined

Leaders are disciplined in their lifestyle.

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way.”
– John Maxwell

God is glorified by
our leadership.



Why Leadership Matters

When it comes to leadership **the why** (motivation) behind **the what** (action) is significant. **Proverbs 16:2** teaches: “All a person’s ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD.” We aren’t leading for leadership sake, nor do we want influence others for our own glory, rather we have a clear *why* behind our leadership efforts.

We believe leadership matters for **three** primary reasons.

1) GOD IS GLORIFIED BY OUR LEADERSHIP

No football player gets the ball in the end zone and runs in circles. The goal is to cross the touchdown line. Our touch down is to bring glory to Christ. We know that apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5), therefore our greatest leadership attempts should result in His glory. We don’t strive toward me-centered leadership, rather we would let our “light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

2) LEADERSHIP AND DISCIPLE-MAKING GO HAND IN HAND

As followers of Jesus, we have been given a clear command from Christ, to “**make disciples of all nations**” (Matthew 28:19) Our disciple-making strategy at WALK Church not only includes growing in Biblical knowledge and spiritual disciplines, but also in the areas of character development and maximum leadership impact. Eric Geiger and Kevin Peck emphasize in their book, **Designed to Lead**: “Jesus did not divorce leadership development from discipleship.”

3) YOUR LEADERSHIP IS BIGGER THAN YOU

Where you live, work, and play (hobbies) are all places of influence. They’re not by accident, they’re intentional. As you develop in your leadership, your influence will impact the lives of the people God has surrounded you with. Your leadership is contagious. As you grow as a leader, the people around you will grow too! As Craig Groeschell says: “Everyone wins when the leader gets better.”

“God ultimately raises up leaders for one primary reason: His glory. He shows His power in our weakness. He demonstrates His wisdom in our folly. We are all like a turtle on a fence post. If you walk by a fence post and see a turtle on top of it, then you know someone came by and put it there. In the same way, God gives leadership according to His good pleasure.”

– Matt Chandler

Your leadership is
bigger than you.



Leaders are **Learners**

Level Up Your
Leadership

**Leadership and disciple-making
go hand and hand.**



L: Leaders are Learners

“All leaders are learners. The moment you stop learning, you stop leading. I learn as much as I can, from as many as I can, as often as I can.”
– **Rick Warren**

If you study the most influential leaders of all time, you’ll notice a common thread among them. They were learners before they were leaders. And not only that, they kept learning upon becoming a leader. 35th President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, once stated: “Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.” Solomon emphasizes in his first Proverb: “Let the wise hear and increase in learning...” (Proverbs 1:5a)

When it comes to leaders being learners, we’ve identified **three learnable focus areas** that can help take your leadership to the next level.

1) Learn from the LORD

Why not start with the best? God in His kindness has given us 66 books inspired by Himself, that we may grow in wisdom and insight (2 Timothy 3:16.) David prioritized learning from the Lord day and night (Psalm 1:2.) Daniel carved out three times a day to spend time with the Lord in prayer (Daniel 6:10.) Jesus modeled the abiding relationship with the Father, that we may follow His lead (John 15.)

“Visit many good books, but live in the Bible.” – **C.H. Spurgeon**

2) Learn from Leaders

Jesus modeled mentorship with His disciples. He invested closely in twelve and had a deeper mentorship with three. Paul instructed the Corinthians to imitate him, as he imitated Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1.) Elisha followed Elijah (2 Kings 2:1-2.) Leaders learning from leaders is the Biblical pattern.

“The best leaders are the best notetakers, best askers, and best learners.” – **Tom Peters**

3) Learn from Losses

The Apostle Paul once wrote:

¹¹ “... I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:11b-13)

Paul reminds us here of the value of learning from each season. The ones that feel up, and the ones that feel down. We can learn significant leadership lessons from times that feel like loss. In fact, we can redeem moments of loss by turning them into moments of learning.

“I never lose. I either win or I learn.” – **Nelson Mandela**



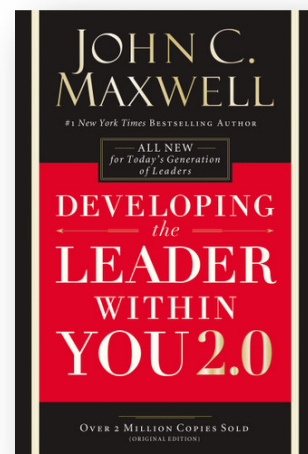
Leadership Growth Items

- 1) Identify a Bible reading plan that works for you on the **YouVersion Bible App** and commit to it. One example could be to reading the “Proverb of the Day” or to begin journeying through all four Gospels by reading one chapter a day.
- 2) Read and finish the book this year: *Developing the Leader Within You 2.0* By: *John C. Maxwell*
- 3) Prioritize learning from a leader who may be a step ahead of you in your field(s) of interest. This will take initiation on your part, yet, it will be worth it.

Scan the QR Code to download the YouVersion Bible App



Suggested Book:



Leaders are **Excellent**

Level Up Your
Leadership

Leaders are Excellent

³ *“Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an **excellent spirit** was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.”*

– *Daniel 6:3*

Daniel was a man of God who had an excellent spirit. Because of his excellent attitude and lifestyle, he grew in influence and became a leader of leaders (Daniel 6.) We too, like Daniel, can gain influence in our leadership by cultivating a spirit of excellence. We believe excellence is doing your best with what God has given you.

We’ve identified **three realities** that follow having an excellent spirit.

1) Excellence Separates

A spirit of excellence will **distinguish** you from the rest of the pack.

“You can’t make a difference unless you are different. – **Chris Hodges**

2) Excellence Motivates

When your aim is a *spirit of excellence* you’re motivated to bring your very best to every occasion. Doing “just enough to get by” is no longer the motivation.

“Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence.” – **Vince Lombardi**

3) Excellence Advocates

One of the thrilling realities of Daniel's story is that when his accusers tried to catch him in wrong doing, it was Daniel's excellence that defended him. When you're living and leading from an excellent spirit you won't have to advocate for yourself, your excellence will do that for you.

⁷ "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us."
(Titus 2:7-8)



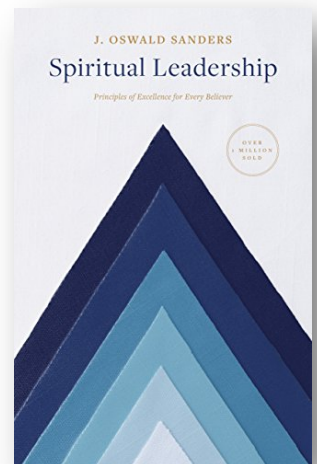
Leadership Growth Item

- 1) Identify **five areas** in your life that currently need growth in the area of excellence. List them below and then recruit wise leaders in your life to hold you accountable to grow in these areas over the next year.

Growth Areas for Excellence

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Suggested Book: *Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer*
by J. Oswald Sanders



God is worthy of our excellence.



Leaders are **Aware**

Level Up Your
Leadership

Leaders are Aware

Awareness and leadership serve each other. It's rare that you will find a good leader who doesn't first possess good awareness. Where there's a lack of awareness, there's a lack of influence. Jesus modeled precise awareness on every occasion. He knew when to be at specific places, and when not to be. He knew when to share certain information, and when not to. He knew who He was, and who He was not. Because Jesus had great awareness, we should strive toward that too.

When it comes to **leadership awareness**, we believe there are three primary areas of awareness that we must be focused on.

1) Self-Aware

Self-awareness is key to leading well. If a person knows you don't possess personal self-awareness, they won't trust you with their life and deepest issues.

"As a leader, the first person I need to lead is me. The first person that I should try to change is me." – **John Maxwell**

2) Spirit-Aware

It's vital to be aware of what the Spirit is doing in you, around you, and in the lives of others. Being Holy Spirit aware puts you on the same page of the One who is leading all things and is in control. We are leaders who "walk by the Spirit."

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." - **Galatians 5:16**

3) Sin-Aware

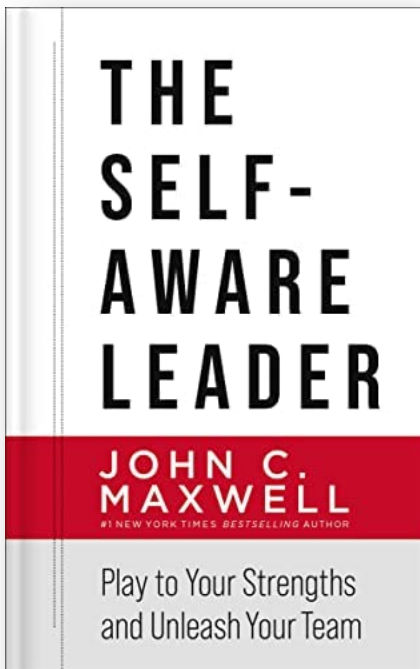
As leaders we must be "...wise as serpents and innocent as doves." (Matthew 10:16b) We know in our flesh we are deeply sinful, and we also have an adversary who would love to trip us up with his deceitful schemes (Ephesians 6:11.) We must be strong, courageous, and watchful for the traps of sin.

"Be killing sin or sin will be killing you." – **John Owen**

Leadership Growth Item

- 1) Identify **two people** in your life who you love and respect and that are close to you in proximity. Close enough to know your strengths, and also your weaknesses. Initiate a connection moment with them and ask them the question: “Are there any areas you feel I lack awareness in?” This may be scary to do, however, the only thing scarier is to go through life unaware.

Suggested Book: *The Self-Aware Leader: John C. Maxwell*



Leaders are aware of who they are, and who they're not.



Leaders are **Disciplined**

Level Up Your
Leadership

Leaders are Disciplined

Discipline is key in the life of the leader. When it comes to leveling up in your leadership, one must eliminate laziness and replace it with intentional discipline. Jesus mastered this character trait as the Son of God. He was disciplined with His words, actions, and timing. Because our Savior was disciplined, we should be too.

We believe there are **three primary areas** a leader can discipline themselves in order to be most effective.

“As a leader, the first person I need to lead is me. The first person that I should try to change is me.” – **John Maxwell**

1) Disciplined in their Time

Time management is essential to being the leader God has called you to be. Paul writes in Ephesians 5:15-16: ¹⁵ “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.” The Lord desires for us to make the best use of our time - not to waste it - but to steward it well for His glory.

“The quality of a person's leadership will be in part measured by time: its use and its passage... Minutes and hours wisely used translate into an abundant life.” – **J. Oswald Sanders**

2) Disciplined in their Talent

Have you ever known someone with all the talent in the world, but they wasted it due to lack of discipline? The gifts, talents, and natural abilities the Lord has placed in you are not there by accident. They're there on purpose and for a purpose, but it takes discipline to see their fullest potential.

“Discipline, for the Christian, begins with the body. We have only one. It is this body that is the primary material given to us for sacrifice. We cannot give our hearts to God and keep our bodies for ourselves.” – **Elisabeth Elliot**

3) Disciplined in their Treasure

Solomon writes in the Proverbs: ⁴ “Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. ⁵ When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.” (Proverbs 23:4-5) If we aren’t disciplined with the finances and resources God has generously given us, those same finances and resources will sprout wings and fly away. As leaders, we must be disciplined and wise to make the most significant impact we can with the finances and resources the Lord has entrusted to us.

“Give regularly. Stewardship is not a once-a-year consideration, but a week-to-week, month-to-month commitment requiring discipline and consistency.” – **Randy Alcorn**



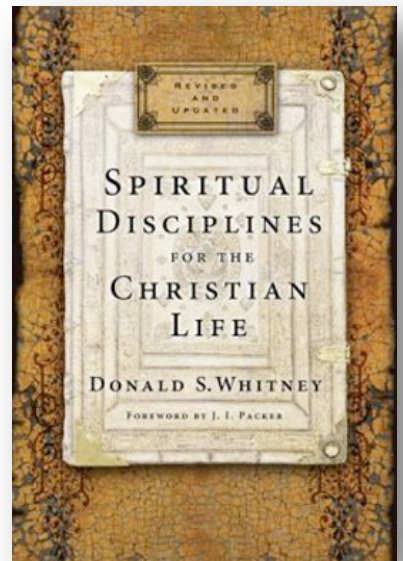
Leadership Growth Item

- 1) Identify the area of discipline (time, talent, treasure) you need the most strengthening in and invite another leader to help you in this area as well as to hold you accountable with a measurable goal.

For example, if your area of growth is in time management, set a measurable goal that could look similar to this: **For the next thirty days I'm going to utilize my calendar, alarms, and reminders. I'm going to schedule meetings in advance and make it my goal to arrive five minutes early.**

- 2) Read **Proverbs 3:9a**: "Honor the LORD with your wealth..." Would you say today you are living out this verse by tithing and living generously, ready to make a difference with the finances He has given you?

Suggested Book: *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, by Donald S. Whitney



TIME
IS
PRECIOUS.

Appendix

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Leadership Commitment

Scan the QR Code below to sign the WALK Church LEAD Commitment



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LEVEL UP



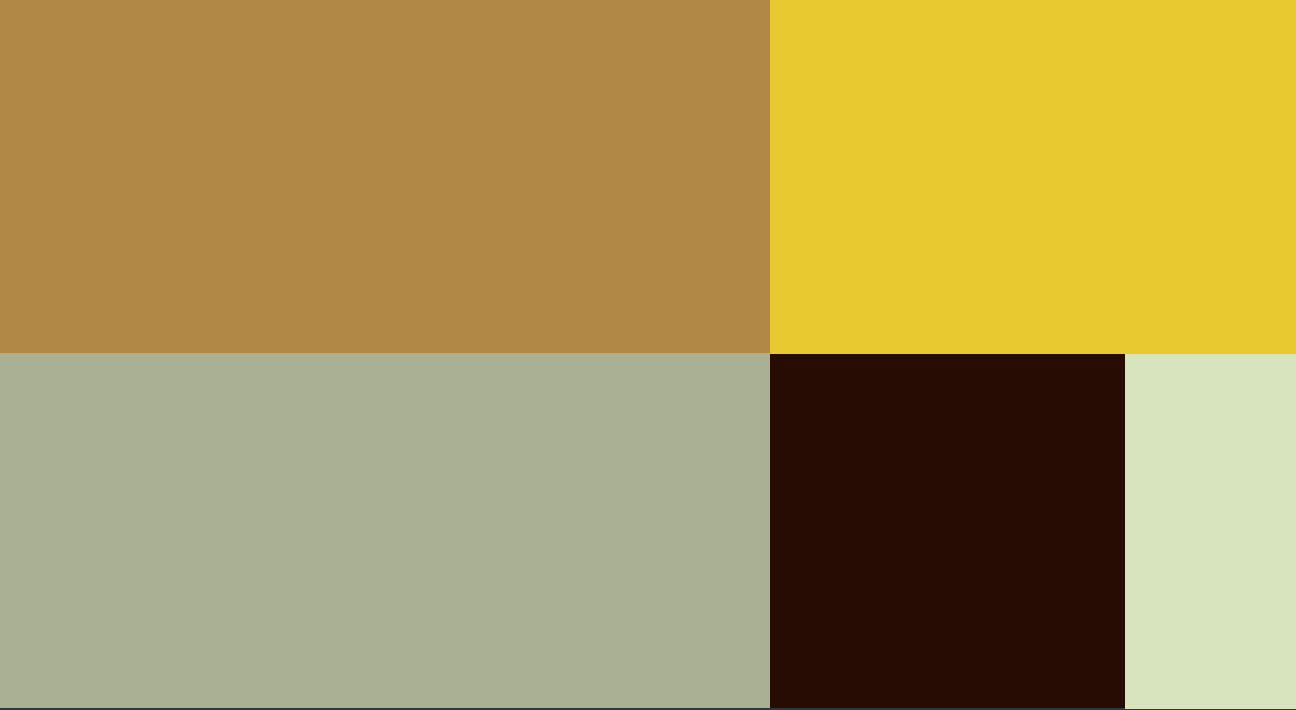
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