

LEADERSHIP GOLD

LESSONS I'VE LEARNED *from a* LIFETIME *of* LEADING

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Based on the book
by John C. Maxwell

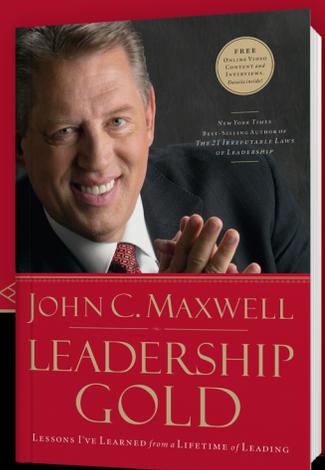


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Letter from John C. Maxwell

Dear Friend,

You are about to embark on a personal growth journey based upon the content in my book Leadership Gold. I confess I've wanted to write this book for almost a decade, but I promised myself I wouldn't do it until I turned sixty. In February of 2007 I reached that milestone and started writing.

My desire was to put the hardest-won leadership lessons of my life into a book that could be used to mentor leaders. I've sifted through a lot of dirt in order to deliver the gold.

Leadership Gold is my most personal work yet. It is filled with stories of my leadership failures and successes and the nuggets of wisdom I have gained as a result.

I am delighted that my friends at Maximum Impact used Leadership Gold to develop this training kit. I had fun teaching it and I hope you have fun watching it.

If you are an emerging leader you will love the foundation this training kit provides. Experienced leaders will enjoy the insights and examples and will want to use the materials to develop the next generation of leaders on their team.

Remember, good leadership always makes a difference! I've seen it turn around organizations and positively impact the lives of thousands of individuals. Turn the page and let's start learning.

Your friend,



John C. Maxwell

Introduction

This book is designed to emphasize what you should learn from the DVDs. Take pertinent notes while you watch them and use the following three codes to highlight key points you will ACT on:

- Put an **“A”** next to the lessons you want to learn to **Apply** in your life
- Put a **“C”** next to the lessons you need to **Change**, lessons you’ve been applying wrong
- Put a **“T”** next to lessons you want to **Transfer** to someone else

To then make the most of the lessons, spend two weeks with each of the twenty six lessons in the following manner:

1. **Spend the first week modeling the lesson yourself**
2. **Spend the second week teaching it to someone you are leading**

By following this model, you and those around you will benefit from the lessons of Leadership Gold for an entire year.

After you have completed your journey, continue to use your notes as a handy reference for your ongoing leadership development and the development of those you will lead in the future.

Lesson 1

If It's Lonely at the Top, You're Not Doing Something _____

My father's generation believed that leaders should never get too close to the people they lead. "Keep a distance" was a phrase I often heard. Good leaders were supposed to be a little above and apart from followers. As a result, when I began my leadership journey, I made sure to keep some distance between me and the people I was leading. I tried to be close enough to lead them but far enough away to not be influenced by them. I eventually learned that:

Loneliness is not a _____ issue.

An executive is shown sitting forlornly behind a huge desk. Standing meekly on the other side of the desk is a man dressed in work clothes, who says, "If it's any comfort to you, it's lonely at the bottom too."



Being at the top doesn't mean you have to be lonely. Neither does being at the bottom. I've met lonely people at the bottom, on the top, and in the middle. My conclusion:

Loneliness is not a _____ issue; it's a _____ issue.

If you're lonely, it's not because you have a particular title or position. Your personality is the culprit.

Advice to Lonely Leaders

 **Avoid** _____

Leadership is as much relational as it is positional. An individual who takes a relational approach to leadership will never be lonely.

 **Realize the _____ of Success and Failure**

Success can be dangerous—and so can failure. Think of yourself as “a success” and you start to separate yourself from those you view as less successful. You start to think, I don’t need to see them, and you withdraw. Ironically, failure also leads to withdrawal. Think of yourself as “a failure” and you avoid others, thinking, I don’t want to see them. Both extremes in thinking can create an unhealthy separation from others.

I’ve gone from:

It’s lonely at the top”

to

“If it’s lonely at the top, I’m doing something wrong”

to

“Come up to the top and join me”

to

“Let’s go to the top together”

to

“It’s not lonely at the top.”