97: LEARNING TO LEAD YOURSELF

EPISODE NOTES

Thank you for joining the Craig Groeschel Leadership Podcast!

Great leaders don’t just lead other people. Great leaders have learned how to lead themselves well. Your potential to lead others is a direct result of how you lead yourself.

Why does self-leadership matter so much? If you’re leading others, they’re not just listening to you; they’re watching how you live your life. If you live with intentionality, discipline, integrity, and purpose, people will grow to trust and respect you. But the opposite is also true—trust and respect diminish if you don’t lead yourself well.

“Great leadership isn’t just about leading others. Great leadership starts with self-leadership.” —Craig Groeschel

People will work for a paycheck, but they’ll give their heart for a mission they love. When you lead yourself toward passion, mission, and purpose, others will follow.

We’ll start with two keys to leading yourself, and you’ll find key #3 in the next episode.

1. Develop your leadership identity.

   It can seem logical to start with key #2 below, but it’s actually important to start with identity. If you always feel like you’re “junior,” “still developing,” or “sort of a leader,” you need to embrace your leadership identity.

   Leadership is not just something you do. A leader is who you are. Leadership is not a title or position. Leadership is a mindset. You have influence, and your leadership matters today.

   “Leadership is not a title or position. It’s a mindset.” —Craig Groeschel

   When you see yourself as a leader, it changes your posture, your confidence, and how you interact with people. When you see yourself as a leader, you stand taller, think higher, and care deeper.

   **You stand taller.** You feel deep, genuine responsibility. The buck stops with you, and you feel the weight and the blessing of owning outcomes.

   **You think higher.** You’re thinking ahead, projecting into the future. You’re not just working in your business, you’re working on it.
You care deeper. Because you care more, you don’t see your role as a job. You see it as a calling and a passion.

“Leadership is not just something you do. A leader is who you are.” —Craig Groeschel

2. Define your leadership initiatives.

Be honest with yourself. At their worst, nobody lies like leaders. We can deceive ourselves—but we’ll never be able to lead ourselves as long as we lie to ourselves.

We need to be specific about the things we want to grow in. Name the specific skill or area. We cannot develop a skill we don’t define.

“As a leader, you will never make a big difference when you are distracted by small things.” —Craig Groeschel

See the exercises below for practical ways to define your leadership initiatives.

“The greatest gift you can give yourself is honesty. You will never be able to lead yourself as long as you lie to yourself.” —Craig Groeschel

3. Determine your leadership inputs.

Find notes and discussion for key #3 in episode 98.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Here are exercises you can do to grow as a leader—ask yourself and your team these questions:

1. Let’s get practical. If you haven’t been able to internalize your leadership identity, try something concrete to help you believe it. Record a voice memo and listen to it every day. Write who you are as a leader on the bathroom mirror and spend time in the morning dwelling on it. Order stationery with traits or definitions of how you want to see yourself as a leader. What can you do to solidify and meditate on your leadership identity?

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2. We should always be developing in some way. What specific trait do you need to develop in your own leadership? What is the top area you want to improve? Write it down in one sentence. Communicate it to your core team. Then, ask for correction and affirmation along the way as you grow in that area. Follow up monthly to measure your improvement.

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WINNING THE WAR IN YOUR MIND

Craig’s latest book, Winning the War in Your Mind, is available now everywhere books are sold—find it in hardcover, audio, or digital formats.

The Winning the War in Your Mind Workbook is also available to help you study and apply the lessons in the book. Find it at www.go2.lc/WTWYMWorkbook

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THREE KEYS TO SHARPEN YOUR LEADERSHIP

Craig hand-picked three episodes designed to help you build a strong leadership foundation. You’ll learn practical ways to influence your leaders, manage your time wisely, and improve how you communicate. Head to www.go2.lc/threekeys to get the episodes and leader guides sent right to your inbox.

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