

Developing The Leader Within You 2.0

Mastermind based on the book by John C. Maxwell

THE QUICKEST WAY TO GAIN LEADERSHIP: PROBLEM SOLVING *Developing the Problem Solver Within You*

Problems introduce us to _____

- 1) Our decisions are often impacted by our proximity to the problem
- 2) Our plates as leaders will always be filled with problems
- 3) Pragmatism serves us well as leaders
- 4) Believing there is always an answer is an asset
- 5) Our actions can make our problems increase in number and size
Problems always tend to multiply whenever I...
 - Lose my perspective.
 - Give up on an important personal value.
 - Lose my sense of humor.
 - Feel sorry for myself.
 - Blame others for my situation.
 - Wish for them to go away instead of working for them to go away.
- 6) Problems handled well often make us better

The Problem Promise: When you handle them well, problems promise to make you better.

What you face helps you to face yourself, and what you are able to carry defines you.

What have you learned about yourself through facing problems?

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Problems introduce us to _____

- 1) People who make problems worse
- 2) People who become problem magnets
- 3) People who give up in the face of problems
- 4) People who use problems as stepping-stones for success

As a leader, you need to pay attention to how your people respond to problems, and you need to help them respond correctly if possible.

Who on your team do you need to help respond correctly to problems?

What is the best part about sharing your problems with others? And the worst?

Problems introduce us to _____

“In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” Albert Einstein

- 1) Recognize a potential problem before it becomes a real problem
- 2) Get a clear picture of the problem
- 3) Ask questions to help you solve problems

The Information Question: Who knows the most about this problem?

The Experience Question: Who knows what I need to know?

The Challenge Question: Who wants to tackle this problem?

The Magnitude Question: Who needs to buy in, and how long will that take?

The Trust Question: Have we earned enough trust to make needed changes?

The Personal Question: What questions do I need to ask myself?

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4) Create a framework to examine problems and solutions

Leadership: How does this problem affect our people?

Personnel: Do we have the right people to help us with this problem?

Timing: Is this the right time for a solution, and do we have enough time for it?

Vision: How does this problem affect where we're trying to go?

Priorities: Are my problems taking me or the team away from our priorities?

Values: Are my values or my team's being compromised by this problem?

5) Value shared problem solving

6) Always come up with more than one solution

7) Cultivate a bias for action

8) Actively look for opportunities and lessons in every problem

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Developing the Problem Solver Within You

Enlisting Others as Problem Solvers

Starting this week, when you face problems, begin using questions to learn more about the members of your team, gather information, brainstorm ideas, and find multiple solutions to problems.

- When did the problem begin?
- Where did it begin?
- Who was first to notice it?
- What are several possible causes for it?
- What is the impact of the problem? Who is affected?
- What other possible negative consequences could it have?
- Is this problem part of a bigger problem? If so, how?
- Who has dealt with this kind of problem successfully?
- What are several possible approaches to solving it?
- What kind of time, expertise, and resources will be needed for these solutions?
- Will people buy into these solutions?
- How long will each of these solutions take to implement?
- How might these solutions give us future advantages?
- What lessons can be learned from all of this?