

# LEARNING LEADERSHIP

## The Five Fundamentals of Becoming an Exemplary Leader

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**MAIN IDEA**

How exactly do you learn how to lead?



The reality is the best leaders are pretty much always the best learners. Leadership is really nothing more than applying a set of abilities which, just like any other skill-set, can be learned and then progressively improved over time. While learning how to lead isn't easy, you only become a better leader when you consistently apply five leadership development practices:



*"If you believe that the people you now lead, or will lead in the future, deserve the best leadership in the world and if it's clear that there's a growing need for an increased quantity and quality of leaders, then it is imperative that you become the best leader you can be. Step one is to develop a leadership mindset. You don't have to wait for an organization to offer a program for you to become the best. Nor do you have to wait for someone else to give you permission or provide some special resource."*

– James Kouzes and Barry Posner

**The Five Fundamentals of Learning Leadership**



**Shattering the Myths** . . . . . Page 2

Usually the first step towards becoming a great leader is to debunk the big five myths about leadership:

- 1 – Only the highly talented can be leaders
- 2 – Leadership is a title
- 3 – You should only lead if you are naturally strong
- 4 – Leaders have to do it all themselves
- 5 – Leaders are born, not made

First and foremost, see the folly of these myths.

**Fundamental #1 – Believe you can** . . . . . Page 3

To become a good leader, you have to believe that you can lead. Leaders are always learning because they have a growth mindset coupled with confidence the future is bright. Keep learning and leadership will flow authentically from the inside out.

**Fundamental #2– Aspire to excel** . . . . . Page 4

To lead well, you need to have clear in your mind your core values and beliefs. Good leaders are always forward looking and draw people forward towards a greater purpose than themselves. To lead, make the people who are with you successful.

**Fundamental #3 – Challenge yourself** . . . . . Page 5

To develop as a leader you have to step outside your comfort zone and do challenging things. In other words, get gritty. Do things that scare you and persist. Be courageous enough to head in new and exciting directions.

**Fundamental #4 – Engage support** . . . . . Pages 6 - 7

High performers, including leaders, seek out support and advice on the best way to move things forward. To become a better leader, get connected. Seek open and honest feedback on how you're doing. Without feedback, you won't grow.

**Fundamental #5 – Practice deliberately** . . . . . Pages 7 - 8

To get better at leading, you have to practice. Have a daily, lifelong commitment to learning and then doing what you learn. Commit to being the best and then do little things every day that progress you towards that goal. Leaders keep hope alive.

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