

Some of My Most Used Books on Leadership

From the personal library of Dr. Carol Taylor

Some of my most used books on leadership and leading change

If building your library, I'd start with these...(yellow highlights would be my top 7)

Bennis, W. (2003). *On becoming a leader: The Leadership Classic*. (first published 1989)

Cloud, H. (2011). *Necessary endings: The employees, businesses, and relationships that all of us have to give up in order to move forward*.

Collins, J. (2001). *Good to great: Why some companies make the leap...And others don't*.

Collins, J. (2009). *How the mighty fall and why some companies never give up*.

Collins, J. & Hansen, M. (2011). *Great by choice: Uncertainty, chaos, and luck – why some thrive despite them all*.

Covey, S. (2006). *The speed of trust: The one thing that changes everything*.

Duckworth, A. (2016). *Grit: The power of passion and perseverance*.

Fernandez-Araoz, C. (2014). *It's not the how or the what but the who: Succeed by surrounding yourself with the best*.

Heath, C. & Heath, D. (2010). *Switch: How to change things when change is hard*.

Heifetz, R. A., & Linsky, M. (2002). *Leadership on the line: Staying alive through the dangers of leading*.

Kotter, J. P. (2012). *Leading change*.

Kouzes, J. M. & Posner, B. Z., (2002). *The leadership challenge*.

Kouzes & Posner. (2010). *The Truth About Leadership: The No-Fads, Heart-of-the-Matter Facts You Need to Know*.

Kouzes & Posner. (2021). *Everyday People, Extraordinary Leadership: How to Make a Difference Regardless of Your Title, Role, or Authority*.

Lencioni, P. (2022). *The 6 Types of Working Genius: A Better Way to Understand Your Gifts, Your Frustrations, and Your Team*.

McChesney, C., Covey, S., & Huling, J. (2012). *The 4 disciplines of execution: Achieving your wildly important goals*.

Sinek, S. (2009). *Start with why: How great leaders inspire everyone to take action*.

Sinek, S. (2014). *Leaders eat last: Why some teams pull together and others don't*.

My other top reads

Allen, D. (2003). *Getting things done: The art of stress-free productivity*.

Badaracco, J. L., Jr. (2002). *Leading quietly: An unorthodox guide to doing the right thing*.

- Bakke, D. W. (2005). *Joy at work: A revolutionary approach to fun on the job*.
- Bennis, W. (2000). *Managing the dream*.
- Bennis, W., Goleman, D., O'Toole, J. (2008). *Transparency: How leaders create a culture of candor*.
- Bennis, W. & Thomas R. (2002). *Geeks and Geezers: How Era, Values and Defining Moments Shape Leaders*.
- Blanchard, K., Hybels, B., Hodges, P. (1999). *Leadership by the book: Tools to transform your workplace*.
- Blanchard, K. & Hodges, P. (2003). *The servant leader: Transforming your heart, head, hands, and habits*.
- Bradbury, T. & Greave, J. (2009). Emotional Intelligence 2.0.
- Brooks, D. (2015). *The road to character*.
- Buckingham, M. (2007). *Go put your strengths to work: six powerful steps to achieve outstanding performance*.
- Buckingham, M. & Coffman, C. (1999). *First break all the rules: What the world's greatest managers do differently*.
- Buckingham, M. & Clifton, D. (2001). *Now, discover your strengths*.
- Bungay Stanier, M. (2016). *The coaching habit: Say less, ask more questions and change the way you lead forever*.
- Carson, B. (2008). *Take the risk: Learning to identify, choose, and live with acceptable risk*.
- Carver, J. (2006). *Boards that make a difference: A new design for leadership in nonprofit and public organizations*.
- Cloud, H. (2004). *Nine things you simply must do to succeed in love and life: A psychologist probes the mystery of why some lives really work and others don't*.
- Cloud, H. (2006). *Integrity: The courage to meet the demands of reality*.
- Covey, S. R., Merrill, R. A. & Merrill, R. R. (1995). *First things first: To live, to love, to learn, to leave a legacy*.
- Fernandez-Araoz, C. (2007). *Great people decisions: Why they matter so much, why they are so hard, and how you can master them*.
- Fernandez-Araoz, C. (2014). *It's not the how or what but who: Succeed by surrounding yourself with the best*.
- Gladwell, M. (2005). *Blink: The power of thinking without thinking*.
- Gladwell, M. (2013). *David and Goliath: Underdogs, misfits, and the art of battling giants*.
- Goleman, D. (1995). *Emotional intelligence: Why it can matter more than IQ*.
- Greenleaf, R. K. (2002). *Servant leadership: A journey into the nature of legitimate greatness*.
- Heath, C. & Heath, D. (2008). *Made to stick: Why some ideas survive and others die*.
- Heath, C. & Heath, D. (2013). *Decisive: How to make better choices in life and work*.
- Heath, C. & Heath, D. (2017). *The Power of Moments: Why Certain Experiences Have Extraordinary Impact*.
- Heifetz, R, Grashon, A. & Linksy, M. (2009). *The practice of adaptive leadership: Tools, tactics for changing your organization and the world*.
- Heifetz, R. A. (1994). *Leadership without easy answers*.
- Hunter, J. C. (1998). *The servant: A simple story about the true essence of leadership*.
- Kellerman, B. (2012). *The end of leadership*.

- Kim, W. C. & Mauborgne, R. (2005). *Blue ocean strategy: How to create uncontested market space and make the competition irrelevant.*
- Kotter, J. P. & Cohen, D. S. (2002). *The heart of change: Real life stories of how people change their organizations.*
- Kouzes, J. M. & Posner, B. Z., Eds. (2004). *Christian reflections on the leadership challenge.*
- Kouzes, J. M. & Posner, B. Z., Eds. (2006). *A leader's legacy.*
- Lencioni, P. (1998). *The five temptations of a CEO: A leadership fable.*
- Lencioni, P. (2000). *The four obsessions of an extraordinary executive: A leadership fable.*
- Lencioni, P. (2002). *The five dysfunctions of a team: A leadership fable.*
- Lencioni, P. (2004). *Death by meeting: A leadership fable about solving the most painful problem in business.*
- Lencioni, P. (2005). *Overcoming the five dysfunctions of a team: A field guide for leaders, managers, and facilitators.*
- Lencioni, P. (2006). *Silos, politics and turf wars: A leadership fable about destroying the barriers that turn colleagues into competitors.*
- Lencioni, P. (2012). *The advantage: Why organizational health trumps everything else in business.*
- Lencioni, P. (2016). *The ideal team player: How to recognize and cultivate the three essential virtues.*
- Longman, K., Ed. (2012). *Thriving in leadership: Strategies for making a difference in Christian higher education.*
- MacMillan, P. (1992). *Hiring Excellence: Six steps to making good people decisions.*
- Rath, T. & Conchie, B. (2008). *Strengths based leadership: Great leaders, teams, and why people follow.*
- Robinson, W. P. (2002). *Leading people from the middle: The universal mission of heart and mind.*
- Quinn, R. E. (1996). *Deep change: Discovering the leader within.*
- Quinn, R. E. (2000). *Change the world: How ordinary people can accomplish extraordinary results.*
- Tichy, N. & Bennis, W. (2007). *Judgement: How winning leaders make great calls.*
- Tracy, B. (2007). *Eat that frog: 21 ways to stop procrastinating and get more done in less time.*
- Volv, M. (2025). *The Cost of Ambition: How Striving to Be Better Than Others Makes Us Worse.*

Biographies and inspiring stories of courage and leadership

- Aikman, D. (2003). *Great souls: Six who changed a century.*
- Aitken, J. (2007). *John Newton: From disgrace to amazing grace.*
- Eder, M. K. (2021). *The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line: Untold Stories of the Women Who Changed the Course of WWII.*
- Emanuel, M. & Gissing, G. (2001). *Nicholas Winton and the Rescued Generation.*
- Goodwin, D. K. (2005). *Team of rivals: The political genius of Abraham Lincoln.*
- Gordon, E. (1963). *To End All Wars: A True Story About the Will to Survive and the Courage to Forgive.*
- Gore Schiff, K. (2005). *Lighting the Way: Nine Women Who Changed Modern America.*
- Gruber, R. (2010). *Haven: The Dramatic Story of 1,000 WWII Refugees and How They Came to America.*

- Hillenbrand, L. (2010). *Unbroken: A World War II story of survival, resilience, and redemption*.
- Huntsman, J. M. (2009). *Winners never cheat – Even in difficult times*.
- Kiser, J. (2003). *The Monks of Tibhirine: Faith, Love, and Terror in Algeria*.
- Koehn, N. (2017). *Forged in Crisis: The Making of Five Courageous Leaders*. (Shackleton, Lincoln, Douglass, Bonhoeffer, Carson)
- Lansing, A. (1959). *Endurance: Shackleton's incredible voyage*.
- Lewis, J. (1998). *Walking With the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement*.
- Mandela, N. (1994). *Long walk to freedom: The autobiography of Nelson Mandela*.
- McCasland, D. (2001). *Eric Liddell: Pure gold*.
- Meachan, J. (2022). *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle*.
- Poley, Hans. (1998). *Return to the Hiding Place*.
- Shackleton, E. (2001). *South: A memoir of the Endurance voyage*.
- Tougias, M. J. & Sherman, C. (2010). *The Finest Hours: The True Story of the U.S. Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue*.
- Tutu, D. (1999). *No future without forgiveness*.
- Winton, B. (2014, 2024). *One Life: The True Story of Sir Nicholas Winton and the Prague Kindertransport*.