

Discussion Questions for
Leadership & Spirit
Breathing New Vitality and Energy into Individuals and Organizations

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We offer these discussion starters for all, not just those in positions normally designated or perceived as leadership positions. We believe that all those present in an environment, workplace or other place, exercise leadership functions by what they say and what they do. As a pebble thrown ripples the surface of the lake and a pebble not thrown leaves the surface as it was, so too our every action or inaction affects those around us.

Part One: Two Threads: Leadership and Spirit

Chapter 1: Weaving Together Leadership and Spirit

1. In your mind, what is the theme of this chapter?
2. Why does the author think this theme is important? What do you think?
3. How do you predict the author will suggest integrating the theme into the workplace?
4. What would be the effect on your workplace if that theme were integrated as you predict the author will suggest?
5. How would you feel about that?

Chapter 2: Understanding and Experiencing Spirit

1. Why is it important to understand what spirit is and how we experience it?
2. What has been one or two “experiences of spirit” in your life?
3. What would the impact be on your life if you could increase the frequency and duration of “experiences of spirit” in your life?
4. How could you bring about such increases?
5. What emotions would you feel as a result?

Chapter 3: Leadership that Constrains Spirit

1. What are the aspects of leadership that the author sees as constraining the spirits of followers/employees?
2. Why is it important to understand these constraining factors?
3. How have you experienced one of more of these factors?
4. What effect would it have on your spiritual life if you recognized and identified constraining factors in your life?
5. How do these constraining factors make you feel?

Chapter 4: An Inspiring Alternative: Partnership

1. What is “partnership” as defined and described by the author?
2. Why does the author believe partnership will feed or develop the spirit?
3. What must be present for the author’s sense of partnership to function?
4. If you could bring those factors into your workplace, what would be the impact on those working there?
5. How would that make you feel?

Part Two: Ways of Being, Ways of Doing

Chapter 5: Who Are We to Be?

1. What is the point of this chapter?
2. Why is it necessary to answer the question that is the title of this chapter?
3. How does one move from one's present level of development to a different level?
4. If you were to choose to redefine and recreate yourself over the next five years, what would be the result?
5. How do you feel about starting and taking that journey?

Chapter 6: Developing Our Inner Life

1. Why is it important to examine and develop our inner life?
2. What are the elements of our inner lives that the author believes affects our outer lives?
3. How does the author suggest we develop our inner lives?
4. If you picked one reflective and one active discipline to practice, what would they be and what impact would you expect them to have on your outer life?
5. How would you feel about taking up those practices?

Chapter 7: What Are We to Do?

1. In this chapter the author writes about what needs to be done in general, by executives, and by followers. What one action in each group would be most beneficial for your spiritual life if you worked to improve it?
2. Why would each of those be beneficial to you?
3. How could you begin to implement the actions you identified?
4. How would you and your workplace change if you implemented the actions fully?
5. What would be your feelings at the beginning of implementing these actions? What would be your feelings if they were as fully implemented as you wish?

Chapter 8: Fostering Community

1. Why is being in a community important to the spiritual life of an individual?
2. What are characteristics of life in a community? What are characteristics of a workplace when it functions as a community?
3. How do individuals prepare themselves to participate in community in such a way as to grow in their spiritual lives? How can a workplace be adapted to foster the growth of community?
4. If both individuals and the workplace were prepared to function in and as a community, what sights and sounds would you expect to find in the workplace?
5. What feelings would you expect to have in a workplace that is a community as opposed to one that does not function as a community?