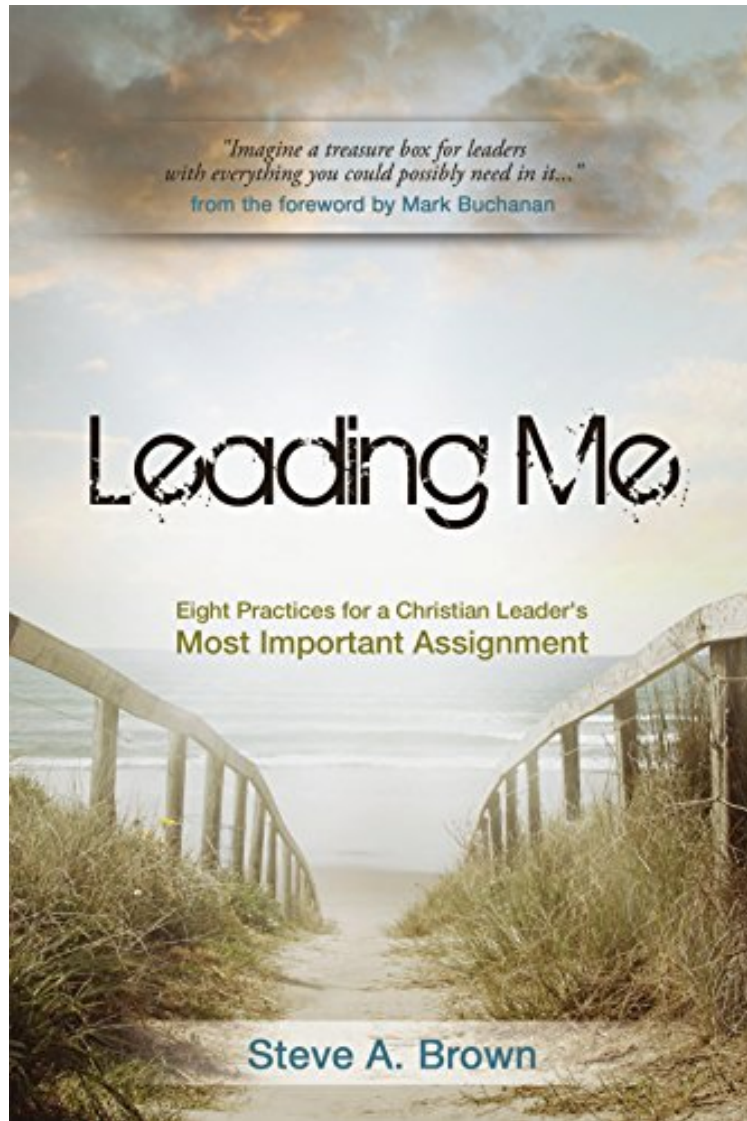


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Leading Me: Eight Practices for a Christian Leader's Most Important Assignment

Steve A Brown

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Steve A Brown : Leading Me: Eight Practices for a Christian Leader's Most Important Assignment before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Leading Me: Eight Practices for a Christian Leader's Most Important Assignment:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Tedall leaders and aspiring leaders must read0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 25,550 Ball Bearings!By John W. PearsonBefore you can lead and coach others, says Steve Brown, you must learn how to lead yourself. So what would that look like? Steve enlightens us with

eight memorable insights in this terrific book. It's packed with the practical—like “The Cycle of Grief” chart on page 51 and its antidote on page 53, “The Cycle of Grace”; original—know anyone who hangs a poster copy of Rembrandt's “The Prodigal” by their front door? And—it's inspirational. I made a ton of inspirational notes that I planned to share with you, but then I read Chapter 8, and found the big idea for me (and maybe you). Read this excerpt and you'll be telling this story to family and friends all year!

EXCERPTED FROM CHAPTER 8: STEWARDSHIP AND SHALOM

Teach me to number my days aright so that I may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12)

Steve Brown writes: People sometimes do strange things. After my first residential session as a participant in the Arrow Leadership Program, my roommate went home and made a very strange purchase. He bought 25,550 ball bearings. The natural question is, why? Why would anyone buy 25,550 ball bearings? Well, there is a method to what may seem like my roommate's madness. The answer is profound. During that first Arrow residential session, my roommate had a transformational experience. He was deeply moved by the needs in the world. He was also awed by God's particular call on his life to be part of his mission in this chapter of history. Finally, he was convicted that God wants everyone to carefully steward their limited time on this earth. His prayer was the same as the psalmist's in Psalm 90:12: “Teach me to number my days aright so that I may gain a heart of wisdom.” So, when my roommate got back home, he took the psalmist's prayer literally. He wanted to number his days aright. To do so, he did some basic math. He estimated his lifespan to be 70 years and multiplied 70 years x 365 days. This comes out to 25,550 days of life. Although my roommate knew that this timeframe wasn't guaranteed and that his days are ultimately held in God's hands, he was still moved by this research. He wanted to brainstorm creative ways to tangibly and visually mark this precious and finite amount of time. So, he purchased 25,550 ball bearings. With each ball bearing representing a day of his life, he counted out all the days he had already lived. Then he put the ball bearings representing days already lived into a large jar. The rest of the ball bearings were put in another jar that represented days not yet lived. Then he began a morning ritual. Every morning he would go over to the jar of days not yet lived, pick out one ball bearing and place it in his pocket. This one ball bearing was a tangible reminder of his responsibility to steward each day that God gives him on this earth. At the end of each day, he completed the ritual. He would take the ball bearing out of his pocket and place it in the jar representing completed days. It served as a visual reminder that each day given is a gift and resource to steward for God's glory. Once a day is gone, it is gone forever. My Arrow roommate eventually stopped this ritual, but he recently told me that the jars still sit on his shelf as a visual reminder. This story has had a profound effect on my life. We ultimately don't know how many days we have in this life. Today could be the last one. Maybe there are thousands left. Whatever the number, this story is a vivid reminder that we are called to be stewards of this special gift of time.

REVIEWER'S NOTE: In this important book, Steve Brown masterfully connects the dots between the illustrations and the Biblical values. (You'll remember both.) If you appreciated his booklet with over 200 questions, “Great Questions for Leading Well,” you'll love this book. Brown continues, “The concept of stewardship is clear in Scripture. God has entrusted everyone and particularly Christian leaders with many resources—time, talent and treasure being just three. Our job is to recognize this trust as well as to seek to care for and invest these resources for God's glory. As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 4:2, “Now, it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” In other words, leading yourself well means being a steward of the trust given to you. This trust is magnified for Christian leaders who are given opportunities to leverage not only their own talents but also the talents given to others. When I put the ball bearing illustration together with these stewardship verses, I am both convicted and inspired to wisely invest the gift of time entrusted to me. I am overwhelmed by the truth that God invites us to be part of his work and purposes. For these reasons, one of the key elements of leading ourselves is stewarding our time.”

FINAL NOTE: This is the perfect for small groups, accountability groups, or as a resource when coaching others.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Practical wisdom for Christian living

By Steve Roukema

A great resource for personal growth and daily challenges! Steve's practices have also been beneficial as I introduce and demonstrate them to those I am leading as well. The reflections questions at the end of chapter allows for the leader to go home and continue to challenge themselves towards greatness! A necessary resource for those who know the challenge of continual growth in a relationship with Jesus and desire more for themselves and for others!

You are your most important and most difficult leadership assignment. *Leading Me* will help you get traction on living a Christ-centered, holistic, sustainable and fruitful life of impact. Grounded in biblical truth, utilizing the latest research and drawing on the proven process of the Arrow Leadership Program, *Leading Me* provides practical next steps for your most important leadership assignment...you. Absorb the vital wisdom of this book, and you'll find yourself leading more like Jesus: less frazzled, more fruitful, less frantic and more fulfilled in the Father's love. You'll experience leading as grace rather than as a rat race. Ken Shigematsu, Pastor of Tenth Church Vancouver and best-

selling author of God in My Everything