

Neighborhood Leadership Circles

Short Videos and a Few Long Movies

for Sparking Conversation, Reflection, and Inspiration

September 2013

BEST SHORT VIDEOS

Parker Palmer quoting Vaclav Havel, Czech dissident and president, on spiritual dimension (5 minutes) - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpEcjmAQDe4>

When pinned under a boulder, one has time to contemplate... things of the spirit are most important... Consciousness precedes being. The salvation of the human world lies in the human heart, in the human capacity to reflect, in human responsibility."

JK Rowling: What we achieve inwardly will change outer reality. (20 min, text available) http://www.ted.com/talks/jk_rowling_the_fringe_benefits_of_failure

Graduation speech by author of the Harry Potter series. "Unlike any other creature on this planet, humans can learn and understand, without having experienced. They can think themselves into other people's places... Of course, this is a power, like my brand of fictional magic, that is morally neutral. One might use such an ability to manipulate, or control, just as much as to understand or sympathize... And many prefer not to exercise their imaginations at all. They choose to remain comfortably within the bounds of their own experience, never troubling to wonder how it would feel to have been born other than they are. They can refuse to hear screams or to peer inside cages; they can close their minds and hearts to any suffering that does not touch them personally; they can refuse to know... I might be tempted to envy people who can live that way, except that I do not think they have any fewer nightmares than I do. Choosing to live in narrow spaces leads to a form of mental agoraphobia, and that brings its own terrors. I think the wilfully unimaginative see more monsters. They are often more afraid... If you choose to use your status and influence to raise your voice on behalf of those who have no voice; if you choose to identify not only with the powerful, but with the powerless; if you retain the ability to imagine yourself into the lives of those who do not have your advantages, then it will not only be your proud families who celebrate your existence, but thousands and millions of people whose reality you have helped change. We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better. As Greek author Plutarch put it: What we achieve inwardly will change outer reality.

Barry Schwartz: Our loss of wisdom (21 min.)

http://www.ted.com/talks/barry_schwartz_on_our_loss_of_wisdom.html?quote=434

“[A] passionate call for "practical wisdom" as an antidote to a society gone mad with bureaucracy. He argues...that rules often fail us, incentives often backfire, and practical, everyday wisdom will help rebuild our world. ... [He] studies the link between economics and psychology...”

Bryan Stevenson: We need to talk about an injustice (23 min, text available) -

<http://blog.ted.com/2012/03/01/all-of-our-survival-is-tied-to-the-survival-of-everyone-bryan-stevenson-at-ted2012/>

“You know ultimately, we all have to believe things we haven't seen. We do. As rational as we are, as committed to intellect as we are. Innovation, creativity, development comes not from the ideas in our mind alone. They come from the ideas in our mind that are also fueled by some conviction in our heart. And it's that mind-heart connection that I believe compels us to not just be attentive to all the bright and dazzling things, but also the dark and difficult things. Vaclav Havel, the great Czech leader, talked about this. He said, "When we were in Eastern Europe and dealing with oppression, we wanted all kinds of things, but mostly what we needed was hope, an orientation of the spirit, a willingness to sometimes be in hopeless places and be a witness....”

Ronald Heifetz: Adaptive vs. technical leadership challenges (9 minutes)

<http://www.faihandleadership.com/multimedia/ronald-heifetz-the-nature-adaptive-leadership/>

Leadership requires moving forward and making decisions in the face of substantial uncertainty and risk. It requires judgment and intuition and the ability to work with others. There are no “great men” out there to save us.

Daniel Goleman on Compassion (13 min.) - http://www.ted.com/talks/daniel_goleman_on_compassion.html

We don't take every opportunity to help because our brain is focused in wrong direction... Famous study found that seminary students didn't help person in obvious distress if they feel they are under time pressure, despite having just watched videos on Biblical verses. “We've become victims of a world that points us elsewhere [away from not purchasing things from polluters and labor law violators, etc.]” “I was in an urban trance when I saw man obviously distressed.” Lots of people walked past. All it took was simple act of noticing and stopping to help him. Once Goleman stopped, others immediately did too.

Onora O'Neill: What we don't understand about trust (10 min.) -

http://www.ted.com/talks/onora_o_neill_what_we_don_t_understand_about_trust.html

Trust can be thought of as a claim, an aim, and a task. "So the moral of all this is, we need to think much less about trust, let alone about attitudes of trust detected or mis-detected by opinion polls, much more about being trustworthy, and how you give people adequate, useful and simple evidence that you're trustworthy."

TED VIDEOS ON LEADERSHIP

Drew Dudley: Everyday leadership (6 min)

http://www.ted.com/talks/drew_dudley_everyday_leadership.html

“We have all changed someone’s life -- usually without even realizing it. In this funny talk, Drew Dudley calls on all of us to celebrate leadership as the everyday act of improving each other’s lives.”

Fields Wicker-Miurin: Learning from leadership's "missing manual" (17 min.)

http://www.ted.com/talks/fields_wicker_miurin_learning_from_leadership_s_missing_manual.html

“Leadership doesn't have a user's manual, but Fields Wicker-Miurin says stories of remarkable, local leaders are the next best thing... [Good leaders] have tried to connect worlds they didn't know existed before. They've built bridges, and they've walked across them. They have a sense of the great arc of time and their tiny place in it.”

David Logan: Tribal leadership - http://www.ted.com/talks/david_logan_on_tribal_leadership.html

“What we're really here to talk about is the ‘how.’ Okay, so how exactly do we create this world-shattering...innovation?”

Stanley McChrystal: Listen, learn ... then lead - http://www.ted.com/talks/stanley_mcchrystal.html

“Four-star general Stanley McChrystal shares what he learned about leadership over his decades in the military. How can you build a sense of shared purpose among people of many ages and skill sets? By listening and learning -- and addressing the possibility of failure ...”

John Maeda: How art, technology and design inform creative leaders -

http://www.ted.com/talks/john_maeda_how_art_technology_and_design_inform_creative_leaders.html

“[He] delivers a funny and charming talk that spans a lifetime of work in art, design and technology, concluding with a picture of creative leadership in the future...”

Patrick Awuah on educating leaders (15-20 min.)

http://www.ted.com/talks/patrick_auuah_on_educating_leaders.html

“[I]n Africa really it is a question of leadership. Africa can only be transformed by enlightened [leadership] Leadership matters....”

Arianna Huffington: How to succeed? Get more sleep

http://www.ted.com/quotes/the_essence_of_leadership_is_being_able_to_see_the_iceberg_bef.html

"The essence of leadership is being able to see the iceberg before it hits the Titanic. —
Arianna Huffington

Derek Sivers: How to start a movement (Several minutes)

http://www.ted.com/talks/derek_sivers_how_to_start_a_movement.html

"The first follower is actually an underestimated form of leadership in itself. ... The first follower is what transforms a lone nut into a leader. — Derek Sivers (at 00:47)"

THE DIFFERENCE WE CAN MAKE

Summer in the Sanctuary - <http://stateofthereunion.com/summer-in-sanctuary-an-american-graduate-special>

Al Letson, the creator of NPR's State of the Re:Union, created this poignant one act play and radio drama about his summer working with kids from a tough Jacksonville neighborhood.

Blue Engine

Year One Stories Told on Film - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ss_O87_9_SI

Introduction to Blue Engine - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJjcNQrd50I>

THE BIG PICTURE

Jonathan Haidt: How common threats can make common (political) ground

http://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_how_common_threats_can_make_common_political_ground.html

"If an asteroid were headed for Earth, we'd all band together and figure out how to stop it, just like in the movies, right? And yet, when faced with major, data-supported, end-of-the-world problems in real life, too often we retreat into partisan shouting and stalemate. [Social psychologist] Jonathan Haidt shows us a few of the very real asteroids headed our way -- some pet causes of the left wing, some of the right -- and suggests how both wings could work together productively to benefit humanity as a whole...By understanding more about our moral roots, his hope is that we can learn to be civil and open-minded."

Sherry Turkle: Connected, but alone?

http://www.ted.com/talks/sherry_turkle_alone_together

As we expect more from technology, do we expect less from each other? Sherry Turkle studies how our devices and online personas are redefining human connection and communication — and asks us to think deeply about the new kinds of connection we want to have.

OTHER VIDEOS

Charles Duhigg: *Power of Habit* and The Good Life Project

Donna Jo Napoli: What Children (and Everyone Else) Need to Read

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3j2oom5Y3tc>

The role of luck. Learning that bad things can happen to good people like me teaches empathy.

Redirect with Timothy Wilson (18 min.) – <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tk4bdpA6oz4>

Social psychologist Wilson argues that “the key to transforming our lives lies simply in learning to redirect the stories we tell ourselves.” Story-editing: “Story-prompting,” “Do good, be good,” and writing exercises.

Use of 20 home visits over a course of a year during which visitors help parents “at risk of abuse” reinterpret their children’s behaviors. Parents less likely to abuse than control group, kids had lower cortisol levels and higher cognitive functioning.

Change behavior first, then let narratives follow: Teens who get involved in volunteer work are 50% less likely to become pregnant.

Story editing: Prompting. How to get people to like one another. Bring people together under equal status under which they depend on each other. Showed college freshman a simple video with black and white upper class students saying they didn’t realize they could become such good friends but found they had lots in common and became fast friends.

Often implicit and less conscious. Can’t just ask someone, “what’s your narrative.”

GENERAL COLLECTIONS

RSA Videos - <http://www.youtube.com/user/theRSAorg/videos?view=0>

A wonderful collection of 50-100 animated shorts and talks ranging in length from 20 minutes to an hour or so by interesting thinkers and scientists on human nature, creating a better society and more.

The Heroic Imagination Project – <http://heroicimagination.org/resources/video-library/>

Philip Zimbardo created a famous social psychology experiments showing the capacity of most ordinary well-meaning people to do evil, given the right mix of “authoritative”

instructions. This project is his effort to help us understand how we are capable of “moral disengagement” and to understand why some people choose the more difficult course.

The Science of a Meaningful Life Video Series – http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/gg_live/science_meaningful_life_videos/

“Provocative talks and revealing interviews with leading experts on the science of happiness, compassion, mindfulness, and more.”

MOVIES

The Happy Movie - <http://www.thehappymovie.com/> - What makes people happy?

Lincoln – What’s real leadership? What does American history have to offer us today?

It’s a Wonderful Life – What does a good community look like?