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I. Huddle Up -- Childlike Curiosity: It's Crucial to Leadership



Last week, during "auntie time," I watched two-year-old Kylie discover her shadow. I found pure joy watching how she interacted with it as I showed her how it worked. Do you remember being a kid and being mesmerized with your own shadow? Doesn't this photograph take you back to the games you played and curious thoughts you had when you discovered your shadow?

That young part of each of us has an innate desire to learn from every new experience and explore every opportunity in our path. This is the beauty of children. They are learning at rapid speed because they are naturally inquisitive about all the nuances in their environment. I've also noticed that this exploration is where most of the discipline happens, as their curiosity also leads them to experiment with danger and trouble.

Healthy Desire to Learn

Working in the emotional intelligence field, I find it interesting that curiosity is technically an emotion, and driven by that emotion, one is led naturally to explore, investigate, and learn. That explains why people who have chosen to shut off their emotions and live from their head and logic turn off their natural curiosity and settle for fact finding. It also explains why, in my opinion, one of the most powerful traits of a successful leader is a healthy curiosity.

Great leaders have an inherent desire to learn from their environment. This hunger drives them to ask questions and explore how all this new information affects their organization. Humbly, they start with themselves and how they naturally tick. Then they work out to those around them, and the business model as a whole. They have a passion for new experiences and a thirst for learning that results in a true comfort with change. They get results because they actually desire to engage in healthy debate so that they can learn from the diversity of thought and hear all sides of an argument. They can never get enough feedback; they courageously seek it for their own personal growth. They are humble and teachable, because surely they can't have all the answers - there is so much more to discover and learn. Amazing things are created, discovered, and accomplished because of the natural curiosity of a leader. Curiosity is what makes an entrepreneur succeed - or keep trying even when they do not succeed.

Ignoring Danger Signs

The problems arise when childlike curiosity gets confused with childlike behavior. If left unchecked, curiosity will stumble upon danger. Without discipline and accountability, that's where the downfall of a leader begins. Think about it. Children are free to indulge their curiosity because they have a loving authority figure setting boundaries and quickly correcting any sign of steps toward danger. They are free to discover because they have natural limits and relationships to govern their instincts and innate desire to know more.

Unwise leaders think they must know the answers and go it alone. What starts as a natural curiosity leads to a moral breakdown and compromise of character because the danger sign was ignored. There was no parent around to yank you from the situation your curiosity led you into. Leaders fall the hardest because they have not placed themselves in relationships where they receive honest, brutal feedback on their behavior.

Childlike Curiosity or Childlike Behavior?

This leads us to the question, Where are you on the curiosity chart? Do you need to allow yourself to be more childlike in your thinking and to follow your natural curiosity? When was the last time you just laid on the grass and let yourself ponder the clouds, the birds, the wind, or whatever? Or, are you in need of accountability and boundaries in your natural hunger to experience more? Has your curiosity led you down a road that you are no longer experiencing joy? Then get into a coaching or mentoring relationships today that will keep you from killing your curiosity but instead controlling it to produce greatness in your life. Are you at a healthy place in your curiosity? Then celebrate and acknowledge to yourself this great trait in yourself and allow it to lead you to do something great for someone else. There is so much more to learn, so be curious and then courageous!

Your Coach,

Shandel

II. Pep Talk -- Monthly Quotes

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity." -- Albert Einstein

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do... Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." --Mark Twain

"I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift should be curiosity." --Eleanor Roosevelt

We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths. --Walt Disney

In each of us are places where we have never gone. Only by pressing the limits do you ever find them. --Dr. Joyce Brothers

III. MVP Award -- Successful People Living with Intention: Chris McFarland



Chris McFarland is a young leader ahead of his time, poised for great growth and influence. It is a known fact that in the upcoming generation we are showing a scarcity of leaders. Chris brings me great joy and relief by showing that some of the greatest leaders are yet to be discovered. His passion, vision, and focus are only matched by his heart, values, and compassion to lead a team to greatness. I have watched this guy grow fast and take on responsibility and ownership like a champ. His desire is to be the best he can be for himself, his organization, his God, his team, his wife, his peers and his customers. He is a very humble and teachable guy who knows what it means to lead a team, and be a player. It is awesome to see this type

of character and leadership rising up. If you live in Portland, Oregon, or live anywhere in the Northwest - check out www.portlandcityfest.com!

Here's Chris...

I have been with the Luis Palau Association since 2004. Since that time I have been in four cities and never seen less than 80,000 people come to the two day city-wide festivals I have been a part of or directly led. I experienced my greatest accomplishment to date, directing our Nashville CityFest in 2007. It was in this amazing season that my boss hired a leadership coach for me. You might know her; her initials are SS.

Directly on the heels of this amazing win, I was asked to come on board with the next generation of our festival model. My initial role left me with little direct responsibility or control. My pride, okay arrogance, said "no problem." It didn't take long for me to become extremely frustrated and to question why I wanted to be a part of this team, let alone try to help with the new model. I became bitter towards my role, and resentful toward my bosses for putting me in this position.

It has been a full year and I have walked through and past my bitterness, resentment and pride. Walking with my coach, Shandel, helped me see the mistakes and pitfalls of my ways. I am grateful and humbled by the lessons I have learned. Through the worthwhile hardships of desiring more (actually, mostly thinking I was owed more), and having my bitterness and resentment forgiven by those around me, I have been taken to a whole new level and ability to be the festival director I set out to be.

Chris McFarland

IV. Game Schedule -- One More Month of Summer!

Only one more month of summer...time for change, looking forward, and regaining perspective on your values.

It's a perfect time to get clear on your vision. If you are not clear on where you are going, what you are here for, or how you are going to handle change in your life - then take time to invest in you. You can hire a coach and define what's really important to you. Or you can start clearing space to think by making a list of what is standing in your way and join a [FALL Life 301](#) class. If you join a class now, you can get started on the homework right away. Make room in your life for what the next season holds for you. And as always.. BE the Best You can BE Today!

"ASK SHANDEL" Have you subscribed to Shandel's blog? www.shandel.com and get regular updates from her radio show "Ask Shandel" and other stuff. Check out Shandel's recent appearances on the "Live from Seattle" radio show! We also love it when you leave your comments on this newsletter as well.

For Your Company: Building The Extraordinary Team Workshop - Are you being the best leader you can be when it comes to your people? Is your team as efficient and functional as you desire? Are you certain your team has clear communication & priorities? Are you maximizing each person's time, talent, and energy? [Brief overview here.](#) Contact [Jenny](#) for more information to bring this workshop to your team.

For You: Know Yourself; Understand Others Self Study Course - Want to maximize your understanding of your communication and behavior style as well as what motivates and drives you? This course helps take you to the next level of your self-discovery process. For more information check out our product page at www.truelifecoaching.com

[Testimonials and more details on Life 301](#)

V. On 3 - Ready...1,2,3 - BREAK

Thank you for taking the time to read this month's edition of *The Coach's Time Out*. I truly appreciate you forwarding this newsletter to those whom may find it beneficial. If you desire to subscribe, please visit the front page of our website or send an email to ss@truelifecoaching.com with the word SUBSCRIBE.

If you would be so kind to forward this to a friend - see below for an easy click to help you pass it on.

Life's a blast - go for the 2 EXTRA points!

Shandel Slaten

Your Life Coach

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Be You. Be Real. Be the Best You can Be...Today!
