



# **The 5 Levels of Leadership: Proven Steps to Maximize Your Potential**

*John C. Maxwell*

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## **The 5 Levels of Leadership: Proven Steps to Maximize Your Potential** John C. Maxwell

True leadership isn't a matter of having a certain job or title. In fact, being chosen for a position is only the first of the five levels every effective leader achieves. In his seminal work, leadership guru John Maxwell presents readers with the five stages of leadership and explains how to maximize each one to become more influential, respected and successful:

1. Position - People follow because they have to.
2. Permission - People follow because they want to.
3. Production - People follow because of what you have done for the organization.
4. People Development - People follow because of what you have done for them personally.
5. Pinnacle - People follow because of who you are and what you represent.

## **The 5 Levels of Leadership: Proven Steps to Maximize Your Potential Details**

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# From Reader Review *The 5 Levels of Leadership: Proven Steps to Maximize Your Potential* for online ebook

## Aleya says

I am not really a Maxwell fan. He provides surface level information and stories. This book was no exception. I've been reading this for a work thing and we've gone over it every month since October of last year. Each section we have done invites a little bit of discussion but not enough. It's only the surface of leadership. He tries to pack in a ton of stuff but doesn't give enough examples. I prefer Simon Sinek's works to Maxwell's. It wasn't the worst book ever, but it definitely was not the best.

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## Jacob Bowes says

A phenomenal book and a must read for those wanting to growth in their leadership abilities. This book keeps a very complicated topic simple and yet leaves the read with a clear idea of how to improve. This is another book that I will probably read over and over again.

The book is a little repetitive, but I felt this was done deliberately to drive home the author's main points. It was done effectively and didn't take away from the book's quality.

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## Soundview Executive Book Summaries says

*The 5 Levels of Leadership: Proven Steps to Maximize Your Potential* by John C. Maxwell was chosen by Soundview Executive Book Summaries as one of the Top 30 Business Books of 2012.

### THE SOUNDVIEW REVIEW:

John C. Maxwell remains one of the most popular authors whose books have been summarized by Soundview Executive Book Summaries. When one considers the reasons why Maxwell strikes a resonant chord time and again, a trio of potential answers become readily apparent. Maxwell's books include straightforward advice, a strong moral and philosophical underpinning, and a warmth in delivery that feels like personal coaching from an old friend. All of the above are present once more in Maxwell's latest best-seller *The 5 Levels of Leadership*.

Maxwell takes readers on a journey through a career in leadership. His five levels (Position, Permission, Production, People Development and The Pinnacle) are a framework upon which a career in any industry can be constructed. Each level is supported by principles, rules or beliefs that instill capability and confidence in readers. Maxwell distinguishes his level system from other leadership books by establishing up front that being named to a leadership position, while an honor, does little more than provide an empty vessel. How and with what that vessel is filled forms the heart of the challenge of leadership.

Executives reading *The 5 Levels of Leadership* will want to pay particular attention to Maxwell's fourth level (People Development). The ability to develop productive leaders from one's own team is a difficult skill to master. It can also intimidate executives who fear that they are grooming their own replacements. Maxwell

provides heartfelt council about the reasons why developing leaders is the single highest goal to which any executive can aspire. It is only through the multiplication of one’s own success in others that the fifth and final level (The Pinnacle) can be attained. The fact that Maxwell states that the fifth level is a rarity is a testament to the determination it takes to achieve this goal.

Soundview's 8-page Executive Book Summary of *The 5 Levels of Leadership* is available [here](#).

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**Joseph Santora says**

Leadership has always been a topic that interests me. I've read several of John Maxwell's books, and each time, I learn something new. The 5 Levels of Leadership outline actionable items on each level to help you improve as a leader. The author uses personal stories to help you understand the significance of their lesson. If you are interested in improving as a leader, or even just self-improvement as an influencer, this book is for you.

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**Melike Beykoz says**

"Learn,earn,return" , this summarizes best the maturity jouney of leadership

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**Mariam says**

Unquestionably, an amazing leadership book!

The content was mostly solid material laid out in a simple way.

Loved how he elaborated well on the height of leadership is to develop and lead leaders, not merely collect more followers.

I highly recommend this book not only to established leaders, but to everyone in a position of leadership, to every teacher and every caretaker in all walks of life.

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**Sha Hafez says**

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### **Britni says**

What makes a good leader? A title? People skills? Getting work done? How about all of the above. In John Maxwell's new book, he explains what he calls the Five Levels of Leadership - position, permission, production, people development, and pinnacle - and tips for achieving each of these different levels in your own leadership roles.

I really liked how organized this book was. The first few chapters provided the background behind the five levels of leadership and then the subsequent chapters walk through details regarding each of the levels. Each specific level includes information regarding the upsides, downsides, how to make the most of the position, and ways to transition from that level to the next one up the ladder. I felt that this organization allowed me to get the most out of the book, and there was a lot to get out of the book so I really appreciated that.

Overall a great book on leadership and learning how to develop better leadership skills. I'd recommend it to anyone who is in or would like to be in a leadership role. 5 stars

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### **Visnja Zeljeznjak says**

A great inspirational book about leadership and a good first book to read on the subject. Made me aware (again) of my many mistakes in the past, and made me aware of the importance of investing time in people. "Decide that people are worth it" is the key. People who think in short-term only will have a hard time accepting that it can take a lifetime to reach the pinnacle in your leadership career.

To make the book perfect, there would have to be more examples and more stories (although the book does contain some).

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### **Matt McAlear says**

Awesome book, with many takeaways. Talks through the 5 levels and makes a great argument for why each level is important and how to move up the leadership ladder.

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### **Malik Aljabri says**

Finish it ad AudioBook, you need to read/listen if you will gone to implement the steps.

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## **Melanie says**

Great book on improving yourself as a leader. Can be applied to all kinds of leadership positions. I found insights that will help me as a mother, Cub Scout leader and school volunteer. The five levels of leadership are position, permission, production, people development, and pinnacle.

Some of my favorite quotes:

"Good leaders are always good learners." p. 44

"Successful leaders work hard to know themselves." p. 46

"To be effective, leaders must always be learners. If you're through learning, you are through ." p. 239

And I thought this list of crucial leadership lessons was spot-on: integrity, vision, influence, passion, servanthood, confidence, problem-solving, communication, creativity, teamwork, attitude, self-discipline.

"Change occurs in people's lives when they: 1) hurt enough that they have to (pain & adversity)  
2) learn enough that they want to (education and experience)  
3) receive enough that they are able to (support & equipping)"

I loved how Maxwell ended his book with examples from the life of pinnacle-leader and basketball coach, John Wooden. It was a great tribute to a wonderful man.

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## **Kimberly Smith says**

I REALLY enjoyed this book of John Maxwell's, in fact it's my favorite book of his that I've read so far. I know one of his best sellers of all time is the 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, which I've also read. THAT book was more like a portrait of a leader in that if you ARE a true leader, these 21 Laws are the attributes you would possess.

THIS book is much more clear in how to identify where you're at, and how to improve and move up to the next level. There are practical applications for anyone who wants to grow and improve in their leadership skills. It's easy to read and gives you the big picture of where you can get to so people follow you out of respect and because of what you have accomplished over time, and because you've helped raise up other leaders. THEN you can truly leave a legacy behind.

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## **Gloria Washington says**

This book is excellent for dual purposes. Personally and for developing your team.  
A great read and study.

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## Robert Stump says

Homo Homini Lupus

<http://manisawolftomen.blogspot.com/>

The Five Levels of Leadership does one thing that just makes me batty: the five levels all start with the same letter, P. Why do you have to do that? The five P's of leadership. It sounds dumb because it is a dumb idea. Let's consider the 5 P's to see why this approach is so silly. Position, Permission, Production, People Development, and Pinnacle. Two of these descriptors fit their levels, three are misnomers. Position, dead on, this level is all about the position that a person is granted, appointed to, etc. and Production, this is all about what the leader is producing, about the results that he garners. How about Permission? This level is concerned with the relationships between leader and team, about bonding with your team and forming some comradery with them. Where does permission come in? Getting people's permission to be led. I don't get it. Or People Development? This one isn't bad, but it almost would fit stage two better, where this level is really more Leader Development. And of course Pinnacle, but then this misnomer is only related by virtue of it being the last level. There is no other connection. Level five is about a person's legacy and influence as a leader of leaders who make leaders of their own.

Alright: end rant.

This book is excellent with that single exception due to my personal irritation with picking a letter to use as a naming convention for subject matter in a work. It is convoluted and as silly as running through the alphabet for the first word of every sentence in a technical manual on microwave rotating plate assembly.

John C. Maxwell is a man who knows leaders and knows leadership. Beyond his personal success as a business leader, speaker, teacher and author, his company EQUIP has trained a million leaders worldwide. This guy knows what he is talking about. For me the most interesting part was something that say behind the lines, that Maxwell never alludes to or even implies. I wondered at one point if he had noticed the connection. The life of Christ exemplifies the five levels of leadership. Let's just do it real quick.

Level one: The dove comes from heaven as John the Baptist dunks Jesus. A voice from heaven cries out, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well-pleased." Position: God's Son.

Level two: Calls twelve ruffians and ragamuffin men out of their current lives to become disciples, and by disciples he means one who follows him around, shares his food, to cast out demons, heal the sick, so forth so on (room and board, not provided). Comradery: Twelve Disciples.

Level three: Feeds 5000, and then 4000, casts out legion, drives out Pharisees, produces 908 bottles of Chateau Le Fie for a wedding. Production: Ministry

Level four: His followers are by the Ascension already gathering others together, maybe five hundred or so. That is to say he has produced leaders from his ragtag bunch. Leadership Building:

Level five: The Great Commission and the Apostle Paul. The command is given by Jesus just before the Ascension to make disciples of all nations, and we see from church history that the process is leaders making leaders who make leaders.

That was fun. Now back to the book itself. The work is well written, easy to follow and packed with advice

and such for up and comers. Maxwell follows the same pattern for each level, highs, lows, beliefs, "laws," and how to move onto the next level. There is enough on each level that a long time leader will find bits useful across the board, and light enough that a newcomer won't feel like they need to come back after they have gained a little more experience, though, I could see the benefits there.

The book grows with each level building on the last and giving a clear picture of the practical side of it all. It is obvious from the gate that Maxwell is not a philosophizer or a lazy-boy leader but that he has and is in the trenches. This is a book I would suggest to both the long established and the freshly appointed and even to the naively hopeful.

4/5

Propter Sanguinem Agni,  
RS

This book was provided to me free of charge by the publisher. They asked only for my honest opinion. Nothing weird or anything like that. I am only disclosing this information because it is illegal if I don't. I'm pretty sure that I would go to prison, probably for life, seeing how reviewing a product you are given for free under the guise of having purchased it yourself is similar to murder. O laws, like whitewashed tombs!

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