



weLEAD Book Review

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Toy Box Leadership

Leadership Lessons From The Toys You Loved As A Child

Thomas Nelson - 2008 (194 pages hardback)

Authors Ron Hunter Jr. & Michael E. Waddell

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Toy Box Leadership is an unusual book written on a fascinating premise. The common toys we used as children can teach us valuable lessons about leadership principles. Your first reaction may be skepticism or even ridicule toward this simple premise. But once you open the book and start reading, your apprehension will turn into appreciation.

This book examines some of the most fondly remembered toys of childhood including LEGO® Bricks, Slinky® Dog, Play Doh®, Yo-Yo, Rocking Horse, Little Green Army Men and others. These toys subliminally taught us about the basic nature of leadership, and recalling their designs and function may remind us of leadership qualities we lost along the way to adulthood.

Toy Box Leadership dedicates a single chapter to each beloved toy of one's childhood. It analyzes the traits that made the toy interesting and playful. Then the authors draw powerful analogies from the toys to communicate important leadership lessons. For example, after telling the reader about the history behind LEGO® bricks and how they are manufactured - they ask us "how many ways can you arrange six-studded LEGO® bricks? In an astounding 915,103,756 different positions." The authors follow this question by discussing how *building relationships* begin with *connecting*. This is not done superficially, as they dedicate many pages to pull rich meaning from the aspects of each toy. You will be impressed with the excellent assessment they provide.

This enlightening book is truly different from many books written about leadership today. It is a very short read, but you will be taken back to the days when life was simpler. You will also learn *new* lessons from some of the toys you once loved.

weLEAD Rating – highly recommended

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