

Bringing Your A-Game

It was a thought-provoking time.

Ten leaders, circled up, mining the depths of Old Testament Exodus 18—arguably one of the most significant texts on leadership. If you have logged any time in it, you know that the passage is one-stop shopping on a wide-selection of leadership topics. Stocked on its shelves you will find leadership best-practices for dealing in reality, creating strategy, recruiting and developing leaders, delegating tasks, receiving counsel, making decisions, and creating an org-chart. To name a few!

From this lengthy line-up of leadership wisdom, I'd like to place one on center stage for a moment: **The place and power of unique contribution.** That is, what are the two or three distinctives that you uniquely bring to the organization you serve that you cannot (must not) ignore or delegate? For Moses, it was to teach, model, and represent the people before God. From there, he was to delegate authority and responsibility to qualified leaders.

Identifying your unique contribution is all about locating the intersection of your organization's needs and your personal profile—a mix of your passions, your giftedness, your strengths, your experiences, your knowledge, your skill set, etc. For example, if you are a strategic thinker at a start-up organization, you may not have an active role in the development of the over-arching vision, but you should have an essential role in the development of the pathway to implementing that vision. That's what you do best. That's where you show up. That's what distinguishes you.

That's where you make **your unique contribution.**

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Andy Stanley in his book, [Next Generation Leader](#), tees it up this way: *The moment a leader steps away from his core competencies, his effectiveness as a leader diminishes.*

So have you thought about, what is YOUR unique contribution? What's your value point to your organization? What high-payoff activities do you need to do more of and seek out?

Ask yourself this question: **Recognizing how God has gifted me, what do I need to do less of so that I can do more of what He has distinctly wired me to do??**

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Let me leave you with a challenge: Once you have identified your unique contribution, pull out your calendar and do the hard yet ultimately satisfying work of blocking out daily self-appointments where you focus on and drill down on what matters most—your unique contribution.

Because you know the drill: If you don't schedule time for what's most important, someone else will!