

LEADING SECOND

EPISODE GUIDE

Episode 229

Your New Year Starts Now ft. Brandon Stewart

What if the most powerful thing we could do for the new year is refuse to wait for it? Brandon presents us with some questions to walk through now that will help carry us forward. The new year does not have to begin on January 1st. Momentum is something we choose to create now.

JOSEPH.

Joseph was a dream interpreter.

We believe our role, like Joseph, is to be a dream interpreter. To hear the dream of our leader and develop a plan and put it into action.

Joseph didn't wait for famine to get ready. He walking into seven years of abundance and he used them to prepare for what was coming. When the hard season hit, he was ready.

Leaders who run at full speed in January begin now.

EQUIPPING SECOND CHAIR LEADERS.

The mission of Leading Second is to equip Second Chair Leaders to be found faithful in the second chair.

Our mission is built around three pillars: Leading Yourself, Leading Up, and Leading The Team.

Leading Yourself: Where ownership begins.

- The first person you lead is the person who looks at you in the mirror.
- Our inner life is the ceiling for everything else in ministry.

Leading Up: The relationship to whoever you follow.

- We don't wait to be managed.
- We don't wait for someone else to get us started.
- We lead with initiative.
- We stay aligned.
- We carry weight.

Leading The Team: Lead the whole house, not just your department.

- You can win alone and still lose.

The following questions will be around three rhythms: Looking Back, Looking Around, and Looking Ahead.

Look. Back: Self-awareness is powerful.

- We need to have eyes to see how we're doing and what this year has meant to us.
- Our inner life is the ceiling for everything else in ministry.

Look Around: What's true right now?

- What is the current condition of this area of my leadership?
- You can't close a gap you don't know exists.

Look Ahead: Create momentum today going into the new year.

PILLAR ONE: LEADING YOURSELF.

1. Where did I lead myself well this year?
   - What habits did I quietly let slip?

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2. When did pressure reveal something in me I didn't like?
   - How did I respond to pressure this year?

_____

3. What honest feedback did I receive this year and what did I do with it?
   - Does anyone even have the ability to give me honest feedback?

_____

4. Which area of my personal capacity is my lid?
   - Am I experiencing a capacity lid in any area of my life?
   - Is there an area that's capping how much I can carry?

_____

5. Is my inner life getting the same focus as my outward results?
   - How does my time with the Lord right now look?

_____

6. Am I running at a sustainable pace or on adrenaline?
   - Is my pace sustainable right now?

_____

7. What's the one habit I need to start now instead of waiting for January 1st?

_____

PILLAR TWO: LEADING UP.

1. Did I carry weight for my pastor/leader this year?
   - Did I bring solutions or just problems this year?

_____

2. Where did trust grow between myself and my pastor/leader this year?
   - Where was it strained?
   - Was trust built or broken this year?

_____

3. Did I stand in well for my pastor/leader?
   - Did I hand hard moments back to them?

_____

4. Can I stat my pastor's/leader's top three priorities for next year?
   - Are my priorities aligned with my pastor's/leader's priorities?

_____

5. Am I keeping my pastor/leader informed before they have to ask?
   - Do I have a good communication rhythm with my pastor/leader?

_____

6. Have I actually touched base with my pastor/leader and asked, "Are my priorities aligned with yours?"
   - Have I made sure what I am focused on/building is aligned with what my pastor/leader is seeing/building?

_____

7. Have I scheduled a vision conversation for next year?
   - Ask your pastor/leader: What would need to be true by next December for you to say we accomplished what God has called us to do?

_____

PILLAR THREE: LEADING THE TEAM.

1. Did the whole house win this year or just my team?

_____

2. Where are the gaps on the team?
   - What is not operating at 100%?

_____

3. Does my team know, understand, commit to, and work toward the church's goals?
   - Is my team in alignment?

_____

4. Do I really know each team member's life, motivations, and frustrations?

_____

5. Am I hogging the ball?
   - What have I built that can't function without me?

_____

6. Which other teams do I need to collaborate with more?
   - Where am I protecting my turf?
   - Am I working effectively across the team?
   - Am I staying in my lane and protecting my own turf?

_____

7. What are my team's strategies for next year?
   - Do they tie back to my pastor's/leader's vision or my pastor's/leader's objectives?

REVIEW.

Look back at your answers and circle some that really stand out or even sting a bit.

Insight without rhythm is going to fade. Rhythms are how conviction survives a busy calendar.

For each pillar, ask yourself, "What is a daily rhythm I could look at that could move one of these things forward?

Don't just have a vision or a goal, break it down into rhythms.

Additional Resources

Connect With Us:

Want more from Leading Second? Check out leadingsecond.com, Connect With Us, and follow us on Instagram.

Goff Companies:

Goff Companies works with churches through the building process. Their team of experts, designers, and pastors walks alongside you to make church facility expansion simple and mission-aligned so leaders can build places that inspire worship, connection, and growth.

Leading Second Camp:

Leading Second Camp is our annual, flagship gathering for leaders who are all-in for their pastor, their team, and the local church. This year, we will be hosting an Executive Strategy Day on February 3rd, 2027, focusing on creating an intimate learning environment for Executive Pastors and executive-level leaders. On February 4th, 2027, we will host a full day of powerful worship, preaching, and ministry for all Second Chair Leaders. Brandon & Lindsay Stewart will be joined by Larry Brey (Elevation Church) and Marcus Mecum (7 Hills Church) in Dallas-Fort Worth, TX for this special time together. To learn more, watch past years' messages, and register your team, visit leadingsecondcamp.com.

Leading Second App:

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