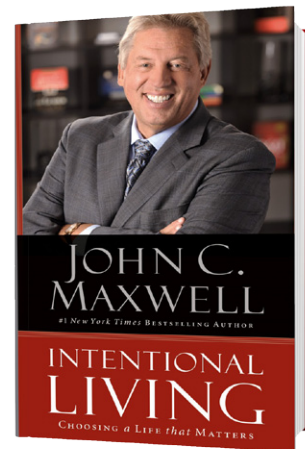


CHAPTER 7

Connect with Like-Minded People

Opening Question

One of the biggest conventions in the U.S. is San Diego Comic-Con, a gathering of comic book, science fiction, fantasy, and video game enthusiasts. If you were to create a convention for people like you, what would you call it, and what kind of people would you hope to attract?



Discussion

1. Do you prefer to get things done working on your own, or working with a team of people? Explain.
2. John Maxwell asserts that one is too small a number to achieve greatness. If you prefer to work alone, how have you tried to deal with that preference, and have you been successful?
3. John writes about the importance of having the right people on the bus. Who do you relate to more: The “driver” of the bus who is choosing the passengers, or the potential passenger who is looking for the right bus to board? Explain.
4. Do you think close family and friends automatically qualify as like-minded for you? Why or why not?
5. How would you describe someone who is like-minded with you? What would they care about and want to do?
6. Do you consider such people easy or difficult to find? Why?
7. Who do you already know that you would consider like-minded? Have you already tried to partner with them to do significant things? If so, what? If not, why not?

8. John wrote about the “I Have a Dream” card he handed out to people around him. How would you go about sharing your dream or vision of significance with others?
9. Which do you think you need to do right now: recruit a team, or find a team already headed in the direction you want to go for realizing your dream of significance?
10. What obstacles do you see to taking that next step? How can you overcome those obstacles?

Application

Your goal this week is to take the next step in the connection process with others.

If you don't readily connect with others and don't have a strong network of acquaintances, then start reaching out to others. Just *connect* with three people this week. Get to know them.

If you readily connect with others and have a strong network of acquaintances, then begin to talking about your dream and asking others about theirs to find like-minded people.

Reading

Before the next mastermind meeting, please read Chapter 8, “Partner with Like-Valued People,” on pages 185-210.

The Connection Checklist

John Maxwell is a master at connecting with people. In fact, if you're familiar with him, you know he makes it look easy! But while John's natural gift for connection is special, we can still learn from his approach.

The following checklist is comprised of nine questions to determine your readiness to connect with others. As the questions are read aloud, rate your preparedness on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being unprepared and 5 being completely prepared. The group will share answers at the end.

1. Are you looking for opportunities right now for making a difference?
2. Do you believe people are coming to you to help you make a difference?
3. Are you willing to make sacrifices in order to make a difference?
4. Are you prepared to move beyond your fear?
5. Are you challenging yourself to stretch to significance?
6. Is your attitude an asset to your dream?
7. Are you connecting with winners to achieve significance?
8. Are you committed to a path with great promise for you and others?
9. Are you ready to start inviting others to join you in living a life that matters?

In which area did you rate yourself the lowest? Why?

In which area did you rate yourself the highest? Why?

How prepared do you think you are to start connecting with others to make a difference? If you scored 36 or more, you're doing pretty well. If less, you have work to do. Discuss what you could do to better prepare yourself to partner with others.