

post deployment wisdom for the returning service member 14 things learned the hard way about coming home Ebook

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Returning home after deployment can be one of the most challenging and transformative experiences a service member faces. The transition from the structured, high-intensity environment of military service back into civilian life often comes with unexpected hurdles and lessons learned the hard way. While planning and preparation are essential, many returning service members discover that certain realities only become clear once they are back home. In this article, we will explore fourteen critical lessons learned through real-world experiences—things that veterans wish they had known beforehand—to help returning service members navigate their reintegration with greater understanding and resilience.

Understanding the Emotional Landscape of Reintegration

1. Expect a Range of Emotions

One of the most common surprises for returning service members is the emotional rollercoaster they experience. Feelings of joy, relief, guilt, anger, sadness, and confusion can all surface unexpectedly. Recognizing that these emotions are normal helps in managing them more effectively.

2. The "Reverse Culture Shock" Is Real

Just as soldiers experience culture shock abroad, they often face reverse culture shock upon returning home. The familiar environment may suddenly feel strange or overwhelming, leading to feelings of alienation.

Rebuilding Personal Relationships

3. Reconnecting Takes Time

Post-deployment, relationships with family and friends might feel strained or distant. Patience and open communication are vital. Remember, rebuilding trust and understanding is a process.

4. Expect Different Expectations

Family members and friends may have different expectations about your readjustment. Clarify your needs and listen to theirs to foster mutual understanding.

Physical and Mental Health Realities

5. Physical Recovery May Be Longer Than Expected

Injuries or exhaustion from deployment might require extended recovery periods. Avoid rushing back into all activities; prioritize your health.

6. Mental Health Challenges Are Common

Issues such as PTSD, depression, or anxiety are more prevalent than many realize. Seeking professional help early can prevent long-term difficulties.

Adjusting to Civilian Life and Career Transitions

7. Civilian Life Has Different Rules

The structured environment of the military differs significantly from civilian workplaces. Adjusting to less regimented routines can be difficult but necessary.

8. Your Skills Are Transferable?But Not Always Recognized

Military skills are valuable, but translating them into civilian terms and credentials can be challenging. Patience and persistence are key.

Financial and Practical Considerations

9. Financial Management Requires Attention

Deployment often changes financial situations. Creating a budget, understanding civilian benefits, and planning for future stability are crucial steps.

10. Housing and Daily Life Adjustments Are Common

Returning to a new or familiar home environment might involve logistical and emotional adjustments. Seek community resources if needed.

Developing New Perspectives and Resilience

11. Embrace the New Normal

Rather than longing for the past, focus on building a fulfilling new chapter. Flexibility and adaptability are vital.

12. Support Systems Are Essential

Connecting with veteran groups, mental health professionals, and support networks can provide invaluable assistance during reintegration.

Self-Discovery and Personal Growth

13. You Are Not Alone in This Journey

Many veterans share similar experiences. Sharing stories and listening to others can foster healing and understanding.

14. Prioritize Self-Care and Personal Wellbeing

Taking time for hobbies, exercise, mindfulness, and rest promotes mental and physical health, making the transition smoother.

Conclusion: Navigating the Road to Reintegration

Returning home after deployment is a complex process filled with unexpected lessons and challenges. By understanding that emotional upheaval, relationship adjustments, health issues, and practical concerns are part of the journey, service members can approach reintegration with greater resilience. Remember that seeking support, being patient with yourself, and embracing change are essential components of a successful transition. These fourteen lessons, learned the hard way, serve as guideposts to help returning service members find stability, purpose, and fulfillment in their post-deployment lives.

Additional Resources for Returning Service Members

- Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)
- Mental health and PTSD support programs
- Career transition assistance programs
- Financial planning resources
- Peer support groups

By leveraging these resources and embracing the wisdom gained from experience, returning service members can turn the challenges of reintegration into opportunities for growth and renewal.

Post deployment wisdom for the returning service member: 14 things learned the hard way about coming home

Returning home after deployment is an experience filled with a mix of anticipation, relief, and often unexpected challenges. For many service members, the transition from the high-stakes environment of the military to civilian life can be complex and emotionally taxing. Post deployment wisdom for the returning service member offers essential insights gained through personal experience and collective lessons learned, helping those coming home navigate this pivotal phase successfully. Recognizing these realities can ease the adjustment, foster resilience, and promote a healthier reintegration process.

Understanding the Complexity of Reintegration

The journey back to civilian life is rarely straightforward. While many assume that returning home means resuming normal life, the reality often involves a period of adjustment that can be both rewarding and difficult. The following points highlight some of the most important lessons learned the hard way?so you can better prepare yourself and your loved ones for what lies ahead.

- Expect an Emotional Rollercoaster

The Unexpected Waves of Emotion

Many returning service members are unprepared for the intense emotional reactions they may experience. Feelings of joy, relief, guilt, sadness, anger, or confusion can come unexpectedly. Recognizing that these emotions are normal and part of the healing process can help you cope more effectively.

Tips:

- Allow yourself to feel without judgment.
- Seek support from mental health professionals if emotions become overwhelming.
- Communicate openly with loved ones about your feelings.

- Reconnect with Family and Friends, but Be Patient

The Challenge of Re-establishing Relationships

Relationships may have strained or changed during your deployment. Loved ones may not fully understand what you've gone through, leading to misunderstandings or frustration.

Lessons learned:

- Be patient with yourself and others.
 - Share your experiences gradually; don't feel pressured to reveal everything at once.
 - Engage in shared activities to rebuild bonds gradually.
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- Expect a Shift in Identity

From Military to Civilian

Many service members experience a sense of identity loss or confusion. The structured military environment is a stark contrast to civilian life, which may seem unorganized or overwhelming.

Advice:

- Be gentle with yourself as you redefine your role.
 - Find new purpose through hobbies, work, or community involvement.
 - Consider career counseling or mentorship programs to facilitate the transition.
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- Recognize the Signs of Post-Traumatic Stress

The Hidden Wounds

PTSD can manifest weeks, months, or even years after deployment. Symptoms include nightmares, hypervigilance, irritability, or avoidance behaviors.

What to do:

- Educate yourself about PTSD.
- Seek professional help early if symptoms arise.
- Engage with support groups for shared understanding and healing.

- Re-establish Routines Slowly

The Power of Routine

Reintegrating into civilian life often requires establishing new routines. Jumping back into full-time work or responsibilities too quickly can be overwhelming.

Recommendations:

- Start with manageable steps.
- Prioritize self-care.
- Allow flexibility during the initial adjustment period.

- Be Mindful of Your Physical Health

Deployment's Toll on Body

Physical health often takes a backseat during deployment, but coming home is an opportunity to prioritize medical check-ups and wellness.

Key points:

- Schedule comprehensive medical exams.
- Address any injuries or health concerns promptly.
- Incorporate regular exercise and nutritious eating into your routine.

- Understand That You Are Not Alone

Seek Community and Support

Many returning service members feel isolated, but peer support is invaluable. Connecting with other veterans can provide comfort and practical advice.

Resources:

- Veteran support organizations.

- Local veteran groups or clubs.
- Online forums and social media communities.

- Prepare for the Financial Transition

Managing Finances

Deployment often disrupts financial stability, and returning home may involve financial stress.

Strategies:

- Review and create a budget.
- Seek financial counseling if needed.
- Explore veterans? benefits, job placement programs, and educational opportunities.

- Be Open to Mental Health Support

Breaking the Stigma

Seeking mental health help is crucial but often stigmatized within military culture. Recognizing the importance of mental wellness is a sign of strength.

Action steps:

- Talk openly with trusted individuals.
- Utilize confidential counseling services.
- Incorporate stress-reduction techniques like meditation or mindfulness.

- Manage Expectations and Be Patient with Yourself

The Slow Process of Healing

Recovery and adjustment take time. Be patient and celebrate small victories along the way.

Practical advice:

- Set realistic goals.
- Track progress and acknowledge achievements.
- Avoid self-criticism during setbacks.

- Recognize that Not Everyone Will Understand

Bridging the Gap

Civilian friends and family may not fully grasp military experiences, leading to potential misunderstandings.

How to cope:

- Share your story when comfortable.
- Educate loved ones about your experiences.
- Seek out veteran communities for shared understanding.

- Embrace New Opportunities

Growth and Reinvention

Returning home is an opportunity to pursue new passions, further education, or career paths.

Suggestions:

- Explore educational benefits like the GI Bill.
- Volunteer or participate in community projects.
- Set personal development goals.

- Engage in Self-Care and Wellness

Prioritize Your Well-being

Self-care is vital to maintain mental, emotional, and physical health.

Practices:

- Maintain regular sleep patterns.
- Engage in hobbies and relaxing activities.
- Practice mindfulness and stress management techniques.

- Keep the Lines of Communication Open

With Support Networks

Whether it's family, friends, or mental health professionals, open communication is essential.

Tips:

- Regularly check in with loved ones.
- Be honest about your needs and feelings.
- Don't hesitate to ask for help when needed.

Final Thoughts: The Journey Continues

The path of returning home after deployment is filled with lessons learned the hard way. While the transition can be challenging, each experience offers growth and resilience. Embracing the wisdom gained from these challenges can empower returning service members to forge a fulfilling civilian life, reconnect with loved ones, and continue serving their communities in new and meaningful ways. Remember, you are not alone on this journey—support, patience, and self-compassion are your greatest allies.

Question What are some common emotional challenges returning service members face after deployment? Many returning service members experience feelings of isolation, difficulty readjusting to civilian life, and emotional numbness. Recognizing these feelings early and seeking support can aid in smoother reintegration. How important is establishing a routine upon returning home? Establishing a consistent routine helps provide stability, reduces stress, and creates a sense of normalcy, which is crucial for mental health and successful reintegration. What role does communication with family and friends play in post-deployment adjustment? Open and honest communication fosters understanding, strengthens relationships, and helps address any misunderstandings or concerns, making the transition easier for everyone involved. Why is self-care essential for returning service members, and what are some effective strategies? Self-care is vital to manage stress and mental health. Strategies include regular exercise, sufficient sleep, seeking mental health support, and engaging in hobbies or activities that promote relaxation and well-being. What are some signs that a returning service member might need professional mental health support? Signs include persistent sadness or anger, withdrawal from loved ones, difficulty

concentrating, changes in sleep or appetite, and thoughts of self-harm or hopelessness. Promptly seeking help can prevent further issues. How can service members prepare for potential challenges in adjusting to civilian life? Preparation includes setting realistic expectations, building a support network, maintaining physical health, pursuing education or career goals, and being open to seeking help when needed. Planning ahead can ease the transition.

Related keywords: military reintegration, returning veteran tips, post-deployment adjustment, service member transition, veteran readjustment challenges, homecoming advice, military to civilian life, veteran mental health, reintegration struggles, returning service member support

Mike Murdock Wisdom Keys

mike murdock wisdom keys are a treasure trove of spiritual insights and practical principles designed to inspire, empower, and transform lives. As a renowned pastor, author, and motivational speaker, Mike Murdock has dedicated his life to sharing timeless wisdom that helps individuals unlock their true potential. His wisdom keys are more than simple advice; they are strategic principles rooted in biblical teachings that, when applied, can lead to success, prosperity, and spiritual growth. In this comprehensive article, we delve into the essence of Mike Murdock's wisdom keys, exploring their significance, core principles, and how you can incorporate them into your daily life for lasting impact.

Understanding the Concept of Wisdom Keys

What Are Wisdom Keys?

Wisdom keys, as presented by Mike Murdock, are succinct, powerful principles or truths that unlock the door to success and divine favor. They serve as practical tools that guide individuals toward making wise decisions, cultivating a positive mindset, and aligning their actions with spiritual principles. Think of wisdom keys as spiritual formulas that, when activated, generate multiplied blessings and breakthroughs.

The Biblical Foundation of Wisdom Keys

Mike Murdock emphasizes that true wisdom originates from God's Word. His wisdom keys are deeply rooted in biblical scriptures, such as Proverbs 4:7, which states, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom." These keys function as divine insights that are accessible to anyone willing to seek and apply them.

The Core Principles of Mike Murdock Wisdom Keys

1. The Power of Words

One of the most emphasized wisdom keys by Mike Murdock is the power of words. He teaches that words are containers of either life or death, blessing or curse. Carefully choosing your words can influence your destiny.

- Speak positively about your future.
- Declare your goals and dreams regularly.
- Avoid negative language and complaints.

2. The Principle of Gratitude

Expressing gratitude opens the door for more blessings. Murdock advocates daily thankfulness as a wisdom key that attracts God's favor.

3. The Seed-Faith Principle

Financial and spiritual seeds are vital components of Murdock's teachings. Giving generously and faithfully is a wisdom key that activates divine provision.

4. The Power of Focus

Concentrating on your goals and eliminating distractions is essential. Clarity of purpose accelerates progress and success.

5. The Importance of Wisdom Connections

Surrounding yourself with wise and positive influences is a wisdom key that fosters growth and accountability.

How to Apply Mike Murdock Wisdom Keys in Daily Life

Practical Steps for Implementation

Applying wisdom keys requires intentionality and discipline. Here are steps to incorporate these principles effectively:

- **Study and Meditate on the Word:** Regularly read biblical scriptures that emphasize wisdom, such as Proverbs 3:13-18 and James 1:5.
- **Declare and Confess Your Goals:** Use your words to speak life over your aspirations.
- **Cultivate a Gratitude Attitude:** Start and end each day by thanking God for His blessings.
- **Practice Generosity:** Give tithes, offerings, and help others as an act of faith.
- **Focus on Your Vision:** Write down your goals and review them daily.
- **Seek Wise Counsel:** Build relationships with mentors and positive influences.

Overcoming Challenges with Wisdom Keys

Life's obstacles can be mitigated by applying these principles:

- **Negative Thinking:** Replace doubts with faith declarations.
- **Financial Struggles:** Apply seed-faith principles and wise money management.
- **Relationship Issues:** Use words of encouragement and forgiveness.

Popular Mike Murdock Wisdom Keys and Quotes

Notable Wisdom Keys

Some of the most renowned wisdom keys from Mike Murdock include:

- "The quality of your life is determined by the quality of your decisions."
- "You are as close to your breakthrough as your faith is strong."
- "Your words are the steering wheel of your future."
- "Gratitude is the magnet that attracts your next blessing."
- "Success is not just what you achieve; it's what you become."

Impactful Quotes

These quotes encapsulate the essence of his teachings:

"Wisdom is the key that unlocks the door to your future." ? Mike Murdock

"Your greatest asset is not your talent, but your ability to apply wisdom." ? Mike Murdock

Benefits of Applying Mike Murdock Wisdom Keys

Spiritual Growth

Implementing these keys enhances your relationship with God and deepens your understanding of divine principles.

Financial Prosperity

Practicing seed-faith and wise stewardship can lead to increased provision and financial stability.

Personal Development

Adopting a positive mindset, disciplined habits, and strategic planning foster growth and confidence.

Relationship Improvement

Applying wisdom in communication and forgiveness strengthens personal and professional relationships.

Conclusion: Embracing Wisdom Keys for a Transformed Life

Mike Murdock wisdom keys serve as invaluable tools for anyone seeking to elevate their life spiritually, financially, and personally. By understanding and applying these strategic principles—centered around words, gratitude, seed-faith, focus, and wise connections—you open yourself up to divine favor, success, and fulfillment. Remember, wisdom is accessible to all who diligently seek it. Start today by integrating these keys into your daily routine and watch as your life transforms in extraordinary ways. Let the wisdom of Mike Murdock guide you toward a future filled with purpose, prosperity, and divine grace.

Mike Murdock Wisdom Keys: An In-Depth Exploration of Spiritual and Practical Principles

In the landscape of contemporary Christian teaching and motivational speaking, few figures have garnered as much attention—and controversy—as Mike Murdock. Central to his teachings are what he calls “Wisdom Keys,” a series of principles, revelations, and strategies purportedly designed to unlock success, spiritual growth, and divine favor. This article aims to critically examine the concept of Mike Murdock Wisdom Keys, exploring their origins, core principles, practical applications, and the controversies surrounding them. Through a comprehensive review, readers will gain an understanding of how these keys function within Murdock’s teachings, their theological underpinnings, and their influence in the realm of faith-based self-help.

Origins and Context of Mike Murdock's Wisdom Keys

Mike Murdock, born in 1946, has been a prominent figure in the realm of televangelism and Christian motivational speaking for several decades. His teachings emphasize the importance of wisdom—particularly divine wisdom—as the key to prosperity, health, and spiritual fulfillment. The concept of "Wisdom Keys" emerged as a central theme in his ministry, appearing in books, seminars, and televised broadcasts.

Murdock claims that these keys are divine revelations, often shared through personal testimonies, scripture references, and practical advice. According to him, Wisdom Keys are not merely life tips but are spiritual secrets handed down from God to unlock the divine mysteries of success and abundance. The phrase "Keys" suggests access—implying that understanding and applying these principles grants believers entry into a higher level of living.

Historical Background

The development of Wisdom Keys can be traced to Murdock's own journey of faith, which he describes as a pursuit of divine wisdom to solve personal struggles and achieve success. Over time, he began to compile these principles into teachings aimed at empowering believers to harness spiritual and practical insights.

Theological Foundations

Murdock's Wisdom Keys are rooted primarily in a prosperity-based theology, emphasizing that divine wisdom is essential for material and spiritual prosperity. He often references scriptures like Proverbs 4:7 ("Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom...") to justify his focus. However, critics argue that his interpretation tends to overemphasize material success as evidence of divine favor.

Core Principles of Mike Murdock Wisdom Keys

The essence of Murdock's teachings revolves around a set of fundamental principles—each presented as a "key" that unlocks specific areas of life. While the exact number varies depending on the source, several core themes are consistent across his teachings.

The Principle of Spiritual Wisdom

Murdock asserts that divine wisdom is the foundation for all success. He distinguishes between natural knowledge and spiritual wisdom, emphasizing that the latter is a gift from God. This wisdom, he claims, guides believers in decision-making, relationships, finances, and health.

Key Aspects:

- Seeking God's wisdom through prayer and meditation.
- Recognizing wisdom as a divine gift rather than solely human intelligence.
- Applying spiritual insight to everyday choices.

The Power of Words and Speech

A recurrent theme in Murdock's teachings is the power of words. He emphasizes that words are "creative forces" that can shape one's destiny.

Major points include:

- Speaking positive, faith-filled words over circumstances.
- Declaring prophetic declarations aligned with divine promises.
- Avoiding negative speech that can hinder progress.

The Principle of Giving and Receiving

Murdock teaches that generosity is a spiritual key to unlocking abundance.

Specific teachings:

- Sowing seeds through giving to God's work.
- Expecting a harvest or return on one's investments.
- Developing a mindset of abundance rather than scarcity.

The Principle of Focus and Clarity

According to Murdock, clarity of purpose and focus are vital to success.

Important elements:

- Identifying specific goals and desires.
- Eliminating distractions and diversions.
- Maintaining a clear vision of the future.

The Principle of Faith and Expectation

Faith is central to Murdock's understanding of Wisdom Keys.

Key practices:

- Believing in the fulfillment of divine promises.
- Expecting miracles and breakthroughs.
- Cultivating a confident, unwavering faith.

Practical Applications of Wisdom Keys

Murdock's teachings aim to be applicable in everyday life. Here are some ways his Wisdom Keys are presented as actionable principles.

Daily Rituals and Habits

- Reading and Meditating on Scriptures: Engaging with the Bible to unlock divine wisdom.
- Speaking Affirmations: Regularly declaring positive, faith-based affirmations.
- Practicing Generosity: Consistently giving to causes or ministries, expecting divine provision.
- Setting Clear Goals: Writing down and reviewing specific objectives.

Strategic Decision-Making

Applying Wisdom Keys involves:

- Asking divine guidance before making major decisions.
- Listening for the "inner witness" or peace from the Holy Spirit.
- Using wisdom principles to evaluate opportunities and relationships.

Building Wealth and Prosperity

Murdock advocates that understanding and applying Wisdom Keys can lead to financial breakthroughs:

- Developing a "wealth mentality" rooted in giving and faith.
- Managing resources wisely.

- Recognizing divine opportunities for increase.

Relationships and Personal Growth

- Applying wisdom in resolving conflicts.
- Cultivating healthy, faith-driven relationships.
- Developing character traits aligned with divine principles.

Controversies and Criticisms Surrounding Wisdom Keys

Despite their popularity, Murdock's Wisdom Keys have been subject to significant scrutiny and criticism.

Financial Transparency and the 'Seed Faith' Doctrine

One of the most contentious aspects is the emphasis on giving, often linked to the 'seed faith' philosophy, which suggests that financial seeds sown into ministry will yield automatic returns.

Critics argue:

- This teaching can lead to financial exploitation.
- It creates an expectancy of material prosperity that may not materialize.
- Some followers have reported financial hardship after over-investing based on these teachings.

Theological Concerns

- Overemphasis on material wealth as a sign of divine favor.
- Potential misinterpretation of Scripture to support prosperity teaching.
- Lack of accountability in the dissemination of teachings.

Authenticity and Credibility

- Questions about the transparency of Murdock's personal finances.
- Allegations of self-promotion and commercialization of faith.
- Debates over whether the 'keys' are divine revelations or motivational tools.

The Impact and Legacy of Mike Murdock's Wisdom Keys

Despite controversies, Murdock's Wisdom Keys have undeniably influenced millions of believers worldwide. His teachings have spawned books, seminars, and online courses emphasizing the importance of divine wisdom in achieving success.

Positive impacts include:

- Encouraging believers to seek divine guidance.
- Providing practical frameworks for goal-setting and personal development.
- Inspiring many to adopt a more proactive faith approach.

Critics, however, warn:

- The potential for fostering a materialistic mindset.
- The risk of dependency on teachings rather than personal spiritual growth.
- The importance of balanced theology that prioritizes spiritual health over material success.

Conclusion: Evaluating the Wisdom Keys

Mike Murdock's Wisdom Keys represent a distinctive blend of biblical principles, motivational strategies, and prosperity teachings. They emphasize the pursuit of divine wisdom as a catalyst for success across spiritual, personal, and financial domains. While many followers testify to life-transforming breakthroughs, skepticism remains regarding the theological basis and financial implications.

For those exploring Murdock's teachings, it is advisable to approach Wisdom Keys with discernment—balancing faith-based principles with biblical integrity and practical wisdom. Engaging critically with these teachings can help believers determine how best to incorporate divine wisdom into their lives without falling prey to the pitfalls of overemphasis on material gain.

In the final analysis, the true value of Mike Murdock's Wisdom Keys lies in their potential to inspire believers toward a deeper pursuit of divine understanding, personal growth, and purposeful living—principles that, if rightly understood and applied, can foster genuine success rooted in spiritual integrity.

Question What are Mike Murdock's Wisdom Keys? Mike Murdock's Wisdom Keys are spiritual principles and insights designed to help individuals unlock their potential, achieve success, and experience divine favor through practical and biblical wisdom. **Answer** How can I apply Mike Murdock's Wisdom Keys in my daily life? You can apply Mike Murdock's Wisdom Keys by studying his teachings, meditating on the principles, and intentionally practicing them in decision-making,

relationships, and goal setting to see transformative results. What are some of the most popular Wisdom Keys taught by Mike Murdock? Some popular Wisdom Keys include principles about sowing and reaping, the importance of gratitude, developing a winning attitude, and understanding the power of words and faith. Are Mike Murdock's Wisdom Keys based on biblical teachings? Yes, Mike Murdock's Wisdom Keys are rooted in biblical scriptures and are designed to align spiritual principles with practical applications for success and fulfillment. Can I access Mike Murdock's Wisdom Keys for free? Many of Mike Murdock's teachings, including Wisdom Keys, are available for free through his online broadcasts, social media, and free resources on his official website, though some books and materials may require purchase. How do Wisdom Keys help in overcoming life's challenges? Wisdom Keys provide spiritual insight and practical strategies that empower individuals to make wise decisions, stay motivated, and navigate challenges with faith and confidence. Are there success stories from people who have applied Mike Murdock's Wisdom Keys? Yes, many individuals have shared testimonies of breakthroughs in finances, relationships, and personal growth after consistently applying the Wisdom Keys in their lives. How often should I study or review Mike Murdock's Wisdom Keys? For maximum benefit, it is recommended to study and meditate on the Wisdom Keys regularly, such as daily or weekly, to reinforce the principles and see lasting transformation.

Related keywords: Mike Murdock, wisdom keys, spiritual growth, prosperity, success principles, faith teachings, inspirational quotes, motivational messages, Christian teachings, leadership tips

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