

PATREON PREMIUM GUIDE · LEADERSHIP

5 CHALLENGING LEADERSHIP LESSONS

Craig Groeschel 10-year anniversary teaching · applied for operators

CRAIG GROESCHEL

5 LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM THE LAST 10 YEARS

Rick Piña

Inspired / mentoring application

Curating Craig Groeschel

Life.Church / CGLP

Video: youtu.be/COc7lbjNFZw

Rise when you can. Dive when you must. Everyone wins when the leader gets better.

EDUCATIONAL PARAPHRASE · CRAIG GROESCHEL / CGLP (AS TAUGHT) +
RICK PIÑA APPLICATION

INSIDE THIS BOOKLET

1. Altitude versus attention
2. Plan lightly, prepare thoroughly
3. Consistency beats intensity
4. Courage over certainty
5. Success without accountability
6. Operator audit + 7-day practice

CREDIT · CRAIG GROESCHEL / LIFE.CHURCH / CGLP

Source: *5 Most Challenging Lessons I Learned in Leadership | 10-Year Anniversary Edition*. Full teaching: youtube.com/watch?v=WgGc4BtFeUM. Free official leader guide: cglp.com / Life.Church. This booklet is an educational paraphrase and mentoring application by Rick Piña. Not affiliated with or endorsed by Craig Groeschel, Life.Church, or CGLP. Pull-bars are paraphrased from teaching, not verbatim transcripts.

CRAIG GROESCHEL

5 LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM THE LAST 10 YEARS

LEADERSHIP UNDER PRESSURE · CHARACTER OUTRUNS PLATFORM

01

Rise / Dive

Discern altitude vs attention with intention, not emotion.

02

Margin

Financial, time, emotional, spiritual capacity on purpose.

03

Cover

Friends, systems, team truth. Character outruns platform.

FROM RICK

Hey Patreon, here's the deal.

Rick intro: <https://youtu.be/COc7lbfNFZw> · Craig full teaching: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgGc4BtFeUM>

I was listening to Pastor Craig Groeschel from Life.Church. Somebody God has used in a tremendous way. A man of vision, organization, and structure. He shared leadership lessons from the last 10 years. I listened to it. It was good. We should probably listen.

I am giving you his video, nuggets from him, and nuggets from me that line up with that. Attitude. Courage. You do not have to feel like you are always ready. That is part of the life of faith. Preparedness. Accountability and success. Not just leadership lessons. Life lessons. Let's discuss it in the comments.

FROM RICK · HOW I'M APPLYING

The anointing needs systems before multiplication. Calling is real. Gift is real. Multiplication still needs a container. Centralized vision. Decentralized execution. That is how I run Inspired and ministry work. I set the strategy. My leaders execute at their level.

I will be honest with you. A CEO and a CRO cannot do everything themselves and still expect to scale. That is the altitude lesson in our own house.

RICK PIÑA

LESSON 01

Altitude versus attention

Discern what deserves altitude and what deserves attention. Answers change over time.

WHAT CRAIG TAUGHT (PARAPHRASED)

Rise above. Dive on purpose.

- Early leaders live in details. Mature orgs need the leader to rise often, then dive with intention.
- **Altitude:** above non-mission-critical noise to see trends, patterns, risks. Work on the org, not only in it.
- **Attention:** dive when culture, key people, future-shaping decisions, or stuck authority-gates require you.
- Craig owns both mistakes: too low too long, and too high too long. Both damaged the organization.
- Best leaders rise and descend with intention, not emotion. Strategic absence lets good leaders solve problems.
- Weeds too long = lose perspective. Altitude too long = lose connection.

You must discern what deserves altitude and what deserves attention.

PARAPHRASED FROM CRAIG GROESCHEL / CGLP (AS TAUGHT)

KEEP ALTITUDE WHEN...

- Focused on bigger cultural / strategic issues
- A capable leader can and should handle it
- You are developing other leaders on purpose
- Your involvement would slow or block growth

GIVE ATTENTION WHEN...

- Culture is drifting
- A key leader is struggling
- A decision will shape the future
- Something stuck needs your authority

FROM RICK'S INTRO

He is talking about altitude. I want you to hear him on that, then take what helped me and apply it in your lane. The things that helped me, I want to share with you.

RICK PIÑA · FROM THE INTRO RECORDING

HOME CHECK

Isabella and I cannot parent every homework problem like a board meeting. Some things the kids must learn by driving. Some things only a parent can settle.

DO THIS WEEK

- ☐ List three tasks someone else should own
- ☐ List one culture / key-person issue I have been avoiding
- ☐ Practice strategic absence on one item; put attention on one only I should carry



CRAIG GROESCHEL

5 LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM THE LAST 10 YEARS

01

ATTITUDE VS ATTENTION

RISE WHEN YOU CAN · DIVE WHEN YOU MUST



LESSON 02

Plan lightly, prepare thoroughly

Planning matters. Rigid five-year binders matter less. The preparation engine is margin.

WHAT CRAIG TAUGHT (PARAPHRASED)

Pencil plans. Concrete margin.

- Old belief: best leaders always have the best detailed multi-year plans.
- New practice: keep plans flexible. Prepare for opportunities and problems you cannot predict.
- **Margin** = difference between what you have and what you need. Most leaders plan it away.
- Creating margin is a discipline and a top goal, not an accident.
- Do not force the future with arbitrary numbers. Do the right thing at the right time.
- You cannot control the future, but you can be ready when God opens a door.

Plan lightly and prepare thoroughly.

PARAPHRASED FROM CRAIG GROESCHEL / CGLP (AS TAUGHT)

\$

Financial

Capacity to deploy when opportunity or crisis appears.

T

Time

Space to think, innovate, and move when the door opens.

E

Emotional

You and the team can say yes without burning out.

S

Spiritual

Room to seek God's heart above the noise.

FROM RICK'S INTRO

He is talking about preparedness. That is part of the life of faith. I am packaging his notes and my thoughts so we can grow as a Patreon family around this.

RICK PIÑA · FROM THE INTRO RECORDING

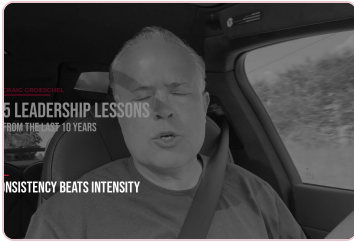
HOME CHECK

Family needs white space too. A packed house can look successful and still be brittle. Pencil plans. Concrete margin.

DO THIS WEEK

- ☐ Name my thinnest margin: money, time, emotion, or spirit
- ☐ Cut or delay one commitment to create space
- ☐ Add one ready-for-opportunity line (cash buffer, think block, Sabbath guardrail)





LESSON 03

Consistency beats intensity

Intensity gets things moving. Consistency keeps things growing. Marathon, not sprint.

WHAT CRAIG TAUGHT (PARAPHRASED)

Be intense occasionally. Be consistent always.

- Leaders overestimate a few big moments and underestimate small repeated actions.
- Consistency = right things, right way, right reasons, long enough to see the right results.
- It may feel boring or slow at first until it becomes unstoppable.
- The team needs a steady, predictable leader, not bursts of brilliance.
- It is not what you do occasionally that makes the difference. It is what you do consistently.

Consistency beats intensity every time.

PARAPHRASED FROM CRAIG GROESCHEL / CGLP (AS TAUGHT)

FROM RICK'S INTRO

I am always trying to give you things that helped me. His teaching on consistency is in the video. Sit with his words. Then bring your own obedience into the comments.

RICK PIÑA · FROM THE INTRO RECORDING

HOME CHECK

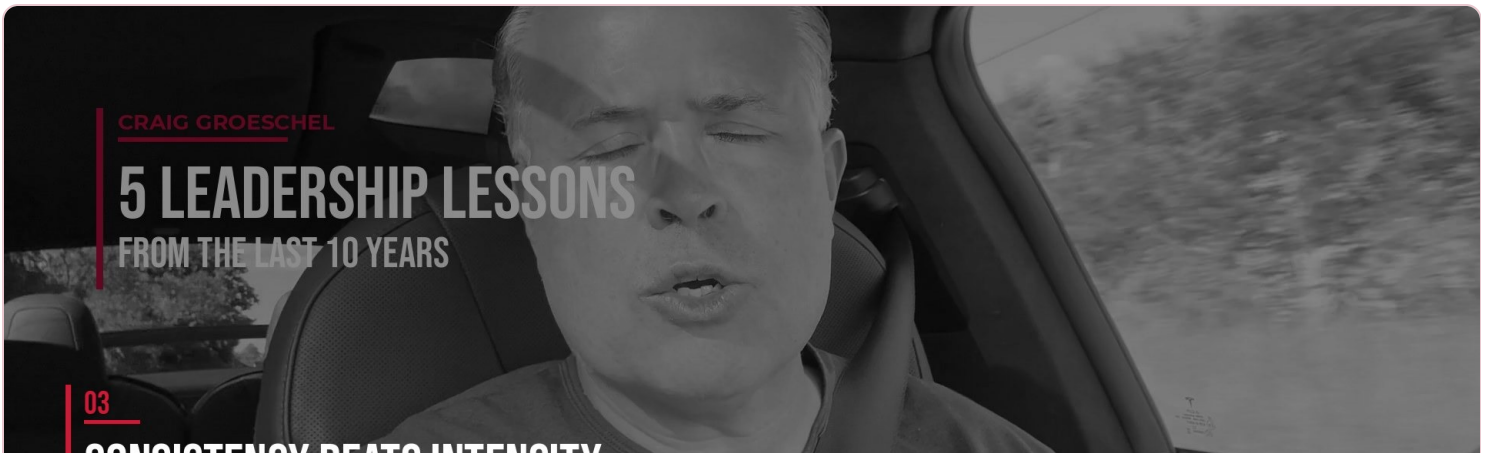
Kids trust the parent who keeps small promises more than the parent who gives big speeches.

REMEMBER

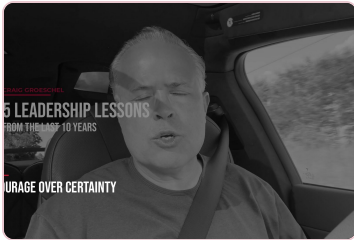
Be intense when the mission requires a surge. Be consistent as your default. Your team does not need brilliance in bursts. They need a leader whose yes means yes.

DO THIS WEEK

- ☐ Pick one small daily or weekly discipline and protect it for 90 days
- ☐ Ask Isabella or a teammate: Am I predictable in a healthy way?
- ☐ Kill one fake urgency that only feeds my need to feel important



CADENCE COMPOUNDS · STEADY BEATS SPECTACULAR



LESSON 04

Courage over certainty

You do not need certainty to lead. You need courage.

WHAT CRAIG TAUGHT (PARAPHRASED)

Lead in the gray.

- Often you choose between uncertain and more uncertain. Wait for certainty and you never lead.
- Some of Craig's worst decisions were the ones he felt most certain about. Some of his best were made when he was not sure.
- Greatness is rarely built on certainty. Often on a hunch, vision, or whisper, built with courage.
- The team needs honesty, steadiness, and courage more than performed confidence.
- Greatness is often a reflection of faith, not certainty theater.

You don't need certainty to lead. You need courage.

PARAPHRASED FROM CRAIG GROESCHEL / CGLP (AS TAUGHT)

CERTAINTY THEATER

- Pretending to be more sure than you feel
- Waiting forever for perfect clarity
- Prideful confidence that is often wrong

COURAGEOUS HONESTY

- "I am not fully sure. We will try this and learn."
- Pray, get counsel, take the next step
- Humble, teachable, willing to adjust

FROM RICK'S INTRO

He is talking about courage. You do not have to feel like you are always ready for this thing. Especially, you know, that is part of the life of faith.

RICK PIÑA · FROM THE INTRO RECORDING

HOME CHECK

Tell the truth at home about what you do not know. Your family can handle honesty better than false certainty.

DO THIS WEEK

- ☐ Name one decision where I am hiding in research
- ☐ Write the next step in one sentence. Pray. Act.
- ☐ Tell the team or a mentee the truth about uncertainty





LESSON 05

Success without accountability

Failure will not ruin you, but success without accountability likely will.

WHAT CRAIG TAUGHT (PARAPHRASED)

Accountability is protection, not restriction.

- Managing success is often harder than recovering from failure. Failure can humble. Success can isolate and blind.
- More success means people challenge you less, blind spots get ignored, entitlement whispers.
- The more successful you become, the more accountability you need.
- Where you resist accountability hardest is likely where you need it most.
- You are only as strong as you are honest. Character always wins in the long run.

Failure won't ruin you, but success without accountability likely will.

PARAPHRASED FROM CRAIG GROESCHEL / CGLP (AS TAUGHT)

Success will grow your platform. Accountability helps guard your character. In the long run, character always wins.

PARAPHRASED FROM CRAIG GROESCHEL / CGLP (AS TAUGHT)

01

Friends

Unimpressed and unintimidated. Can get in your face.

02

Systems

Checks around money, power, and pace.

03

Team truth

Hard truth can travel upward.

FROM RICK'S INTRO

He is talking about accountability and success. All of these things he addresses are not just leadership lessons. I would say they are life lessons. Notes from him. Notes from me. Let's discuss it.

RICK PIÑA · FROM THE INTRO RECORDING

HOME CHECK

Marriage is accountability with love. Do not outsource your whole soul to the brand.

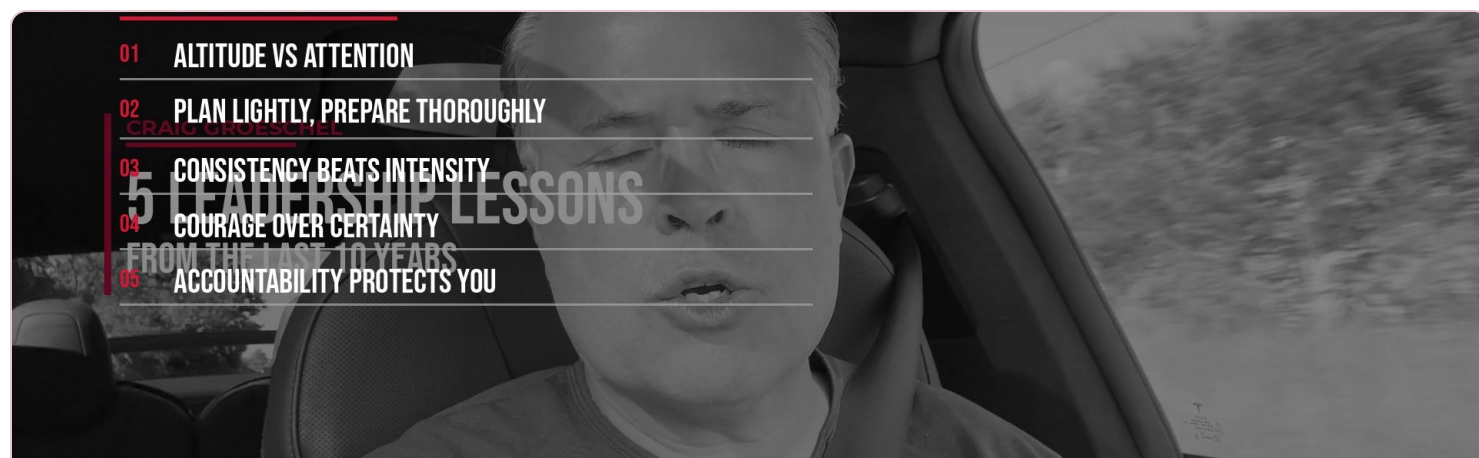
DO THIS WEEK

- ☐ Invite one unimpressed friend to ask a hard question
- ☐ Strengthen one system around money, power, or pace
- ☐ Tell my team one vulnerability and the check I am putting in place



FRIENDS + SYSTEMS + TEAM TRUTH · COVER BEFORE THE CRASH

One-page leadership audit



FIVE LESSONS STACKED • RUN THE AUDIT AGAINST YOUR REAL WEEK

ARENA	PROMPT / YOUR NOTE
WORK	Altitude vs attention this week?
TEAM	Who should own what I am still holding?
CALENDAR / CASH	Which margin is thinnest?
CADENCE	Which small consistency beats my next sprint?
DECISION	Where am I waiting for clarity instead of courage?
CHARACTER	Where do I resist accountability?
HOME	What does family need me to rise or dive into?
GOD	Where do I need spiritual margin to hear Him?

RED LINES

- Do not call micromanagement “excellence.” Do not call empty tanks “faithfulness.”
- Do not call recklessness “courage.” Do not call isolation “strength.”

7-DAY PRACTICE

Day 1

One rise, one dive.

Day 2

Create one unit of margin.

Day 3

Protect one boring consistency.

Day 4

Tell the truth about one uncertainty.

Day 5

Invite one unimpressed voice.

Day 6

Strengthen one system (money/power/pace).

Day 7: Review with God and a witness. Post one comment to the family.

Family, God is not done with you. Lead with humility. Build margin. Stay consistent. Choose courage. Stay covered. Everyone wins when the leader gets better.

YEAR OF DISCOVERY

GREATER IS COMING

I LOVE YOU • RICK

LET'S DISCUSS THIS IN THE COMMENTS

1. Which of the five lessons hit you hardest this week?
2. What are you doing that someone else should own, and what are you avoiding that only you should carry?
3. Where do you need courage more than clarity, and where are you resisting accountability?



01 ALTITUDE VS ATTENTION

02 PLAN LIGHTLY, PREPARE THOROUGHLY

03 CONSISTENCY BEATS INTENSITY

04 COURAGE OVER CERTAINTY

05 ACCOUNTABILITY PROTECTS YOU

5 LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM THE LAST 10 YEARS

EVERYONE WINS WHEN THE LEADER GETS BETTER

Credit: Craig Groeschel / Life.Church / CGLP · youtube.com/watch?v=WgGc4BtFeUM · Free guide: cglp.com

Mentoring application: Rick Piña · Rick & Isabella Piña Coaching · Educational paraphrase · Not affiliated with or endorsed by Craig Groeschel or Life.Church