



LEAD WELL

Embracing Creativity

Lead Well Podcast Episode 4 with Mark Miller

- 1) **Mark Miller defines creativity** not as an artistic gift but **the ability to generate viable alternatives**—a thinking skill that enables a leader to generate viable alternatives, consistently and on demand.
 - How is this definition of creativity different from what you’ve known in the past? How does it challenge your view of your own creative abilities and those you lead?

- 2) **Creativity as a skillset requires that leaders “expand their world.”** Think of an artist with a color palette; it’s impossible to create with colors that aren’t on the palette. In the same way, expanding our world calls for us to add new colors to the palette of our lives, in the form of experiences, in order to usher in creative thinking.
 - Take a minute to explore the idea of ***expanding your world*** and adding new colors to your palette. What are two ways in which you will ***expand your world*** to sharpen and inspire your creative thinking skills in the near future?

- 3) **Like any other skillset, creativity must be learned and practiced.** There are hundreds of techniques to help us come up with creative ideas and solutions to problems—brainstorming being one of many.
 - What are your top three “go-to” techniques for personally or collectively generating creative ideas, options or solutions?
 - Take some time to research additional techniques and practices that develop creative thinking skills, and choose one or two to implement this week. (You can check out some of the books suggested by Mark on the podcast for ideas!)

- 4) **Creativity affects engagement! Everyone has a seed of creativity within them.** When you can create an environment where people are invited to bring creative ideas and solutions to the forefront, engagement skyrockets.
 - What are two ways you will cultivate and encourage the seeds of creativity you see in those you lead?

Take Action:

Expanding your world is the first step to growing in your creative thinking abilities. Over the next week, commit to being intentional about expanding your world. Operate outside your comfort zone and gain new experiences in music, literature, travel, food, or any specific area of choice. Remember, you want to fill your palette with new colors so you aren’t painting the same picture!