

“Greater Than Yourself” Leadership Book Club Guide

I’m often asked for book recommendations. When it comes to new leaders – well, all leaders, really – Steve Farber’s ***Greater Than Yourself*** (GTY) is always at the top of my list.

GTY was required reading in one of my leadership classes at Otterbein University. Reading it was my *Aha! Moment* when it came to defining my voice as a leader. It’s about ***love***. It’s about ***service***. It’s about helping others be great, even ***greater than yourself!***

Because I believe in this philosophy this so much, I’m sharing my book club discussion questions and thought prompts with you (next page). If you decide to offer it as a book club selection to your team, I can help you with team kick-off and wrap-up events, too.

Leadership Book Clubs are a great way to affirm a learning environment, develop your leaders, and exchange ideas. You will learn more about your team and they will learn more about you, while you all grow together as leaders. It’s a win-win-win!

Email elbiddulph@gmail.com to discuss bringing a book club to your office.

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Title	Greater Than Yourself, The Ultimate Lesson of True Leadership	
Author	Steve Farber	
Publisher	Doubleday	
Copyright	2009 by Extreme Leadership, Inc.	
Website	http://www.greaterthanyourself.com/ (many supporting resources available)	
Summary	An inspiring business parable on the greatest leadership lesson of all – that “truly great leaders in life become so because they cause others to become greater than themselves.” Farber reveals the three keys to achieving GTY: Expand Yourself, Give Yourself, Replicate Yourself.	
Kick-off mtg		
Session #	Reading	Discussion Questions
1	Foreword - pg 42	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In what way through your work do you create a better world? Remember that ‘world’ refers to company, team, community, family. (pg 3) 2. Name at least three ways you are connected to and dependent on others? (pg 41) <p><i>Food for thought:</i> Who has invested in your development and success?</p>
2	Pgs 42 – 85	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Taking a personal inventory helps us know what we have to give as well as our starting point to expand from. Share three items from your inventory. (To get you started, see Plumtree’s suggested categories on pg 48.) 2. Why do you think it is important to choose wisely when selecting a GTY project candidate? <p><i>Food for thought:</i> Complete the inventory exercise on your own.</p>
3	Pgs 86 - 117	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We have all had a “Timothy” on our team; someone who works hard, generally a good employee, but will not go above and beyond unless he sees the reward in it for him. Can you share a story about how you helped your “Timothy”? Feel free to use the name Timothy to protect the innocent. 2. Do you have a specific life event that you can point to that helped shape the person you are today? <p><i>Food for thought:</i> Who might eventually replace you and what are you doing now to help prepare him/her?</p>
4	Pgs 118 - end	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share your reaction to Cat’s “philanthropize your life” philosophy. 2. It’s not easy to decide that elevating someone up might also mean leading them out the door. Do you have a success story to share? <p><i>Food for thought:</i> Who in your life is a GTY candidate?</p>
Wrap-up Mtg		

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