Hello leading saints audience. This is going to be one of several simple podcast episodes that you will see come across your feed in the month of December 2021. Each year we like to highlight the past year and reflect on what we have learned. I'll also be sharing with you some behind the scenes content, ways you can help leading saints and what to look forward to in 2022. Now before we get into the this episode where I share some awesome book ideas. I want to make sure I do two things. First, I want to thank you for your support. It means so much to me that you hit the play button and offer your attention to the content that we create at leading saints. This would have ended long ago without an incredible growing audience. Second, I want to ask you to become part of our core leader community. What does Core Leader? well everyone who believes in our mission to help Latter day Saints be better prepared to lead and gives on a recurring monthly or annual basis becomes part of our core leader community? Not only do core leaders help us maintain funding to continue our good work, but they also get an additional access to hundreds of hours of leadership content. Would you please go to leading saints dot org slash donate and consider helping us fund our mission in 2022 by becoming a recurring donor? And if you are already a recurring donor, maybe it's a good time of year to consider increasing your recurring donation. Your donation will change lives and improve the leadership capacity in our faith community. Again, go to leading saints dot org slash donate and see all the benefits of becoming a core leader today. And now, here is some end of year content that we hope you enjoy. All right, so it is a December 20th and I have just a quick minute here to record something that I want to share with you. I'm actually headed out the door because tomorrow is my mother's birthday and we're headed out to dinner with all my siblings and their wives and tonight to celebrate her birthday. So, you know, gotta show up for mom. Happy birthday, mom. I know you listen. I appreciate it. You've been listening from the beginning. I'm gonna cry. All right, moving on. So one episode, one piece of content I wanted to share today was my favorite
leadership books. Like, if I was to sit in front of a leader and they were asking me, please, I need a book to read. What book should I read to better prepare me to lead? I'd say, oh, believe you me. I have many many books. And I am going to be posting this online. If you want to peruse and I'll put this in the show notes, but if you want to peruse some of the books I've put here or they're all linked to Amazon if you want to read up on them further or even purchase purchase them, you can do so. You can go to leading saint dot org slash books. That's right. Leading saint dot org slash books, you can see all the covers of these books and click on them for more details and that would be awesome. So I kind of as I went through my old library, I went to I'm a Kindle reader. I don't like you, but I make Kindle reader. And I went back through my library there and I thought, all right, what are the books that I've read over the years that really stood out and I would recommend to a leader who or to an individual who's really striving to become better improve their leadership? These are books that have definitely done that for my own personal leadership ability. All right, so I've put these in three different categories. I don't know if these are the best categories and maybe I'll change them. But they line up like this. So I have a section called personal development. These are just books of anybody could read to just improve their personal ability, their personal mindsets, just their personal identity, which will naturally lead to them being a better leader. And then we have leading a church organization. And so these are really good practical books that someone could sit down with and learn some skill sets or understand some research to better lead an organization. And then lastly, the last category I put there is repentance and engaging people in the gospel. So these are great books like somebody who's maybe wanting to just sort of struggling, maybe with their testimony, maybe they're questioning their faith, maybe they're just in a rut in their life and they want to maybe gain a new perspective on the gospel. And so those are the three categories. So I'm just going to run through these and just give you a quick like a quick like this is what it is and this is why I should go check it out. And on the website, I've put these in order as far as this is the order I would recommend somebody read it or this is my favorite of the group, so start here, or this is what I found most helpful. But these books are all genius in their own way. So it's hard to say one book is better than the other.

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But I tried to put them in a way that if you need a place to start, you can go to the top of the list and go from there. All right, let's crush the personal development category here. Coming in at number one is, again, they're not ranked, not the ones better than the other. But where I would say someone could really start with their personal development is a book by our good friend, Ryan got for sin, his book called success mindsets. Your keys to unlocking greater success in your life work and leadership. And this concept of mindsets, you've heard the episodes, if not just Google leading saints, Ryan godfried, and listen to all the interviews we've done with him. Just really helpful perspectives on setting a mindset. Next book is essentialism. Actually, a former bishop, Greg McKeon, he's world renowned author now, just a good book to get your mind straight and it sort of dovetails off the success mindsets and really helpful there. How to fail at almost everything and still win big. This is by Scott Adams. Yes, it's the Scott Adams that the cartoonist that does Dilbert. He's actually a pretty provocative thinker. He's gotten more into politics in the last few years, but this book is not political, and there's another book on my list that is a little more political but not in a super negative way in my opinion. But how to fill in
almost everything and still win big. This is just like a good like if someone was coming out of high school and they're like, give me a book where I can start to understand where I'm going in life or how it can find success this book is it and you just go to their reviews, the reviews of this book and see how awesome that is. The next book by the arbinger institute, big fans out there in the leadership world of the arbinger institute, this book is the anatomy of peace. Just a good solid approach to life relationships and understanding people. So that would be a great book to succeed not only in leadership, but in your marriage and all relationships. The next book is by Stephen covey, one that you probably have never heard of. Unless you're a big Stephen covey guy and that is the divine center. A good mission buddy who actually works with Steven MR covey recommended this book to me and I read it and it's just sort of like this good. It's a book written to a latter day saint audience and man, it can you read a paragraph if you have to sit and meditate for a minute. But just a good book like to find the true core meaning of what we're trying to do with the gospel. And that's great. Next book, the circle maker by Mark batterson. He's the evangelical preacher, phenomenal book, as far as prayer. Like if you're kind of feel like your prayers on a rut or as far as threading prayer throughout your success in your goals and whatnot, like the circle maker is such an awesome way to bring God into our journey here. In all things that we do. Next book, I love this book. No more mister nice guy by Robert Glover. I've interviewed doctor Glover on the podcast. That was a fun one. He's not a latter day saint, but this book, it articulates so well an issue that many of us struggle with that you probably don't even realize you struggle with. And I guess some could call it codependency, but more it's like this nice guy syndrome and a lot of leaders fall into this because they just think that's what leaders do, right? I'm the bishop. So I smile really big and I go around and compliment it. Everybody, if there's conflict, I diffuse it immediately because we want everybody to be happy, we're at church like this is such a crucial book required reading for any leader out there is no more mister nice guy. And then I followed up with a book that I feel like is the answer to the no more mister nice guy. Like I feel like doctor Glover does a great job articulating that the issue and to give some solutions or things to do, but this next book by Todd Herman is one I recommend that really helped me overcome the nice guy and it's a daily battle folks. I haven't yet overcome completely the mister nice guy that lives inside of me. But one that has helped me is by Todd Herman called the alter ego effect. It's a fun read. I've actually given this recommended to a few people who actually didn't like it. So don't get mad at me if you don't like it. I think it's a phenomenal book as far as an approach, a very practical approach of overcoming the nice guy or being the person who's always trying to make sure everybody feels happy and whatnot. And then a book I've read for years long ago I need to pick it up again, purple cow by Seth godin. This just gives you a new perspective on what the type of person you are and the way that you're leading. In your organization, are you building organizations or are you the type of person that truly is remarkable or in other words to remark about? Are you doing work that's actually not just more work? I'm not explaining it well. But as far as like just getting out of a rut, like the purple cow is a great resource for that.

Dangerous love by Chad Ford, latter day saint, I interviewed phenomenal book, go back and listen to the episode if you want more details there. But this is similar to the anatomy of peace like as far as dealing with relationships and whatnot. Daring greatly, by brene Brown, and
anything really by brene Brown, I just got her new book, haven't read it yet. But phenomenal foundational principles for a leader for your personal development. And then another book by Scott Adams. This is called loser think. And this is a little more political, but mainly not because he is sharing a one political perspective. He actually beats up on both sides of the aisle. But loser think, my Scott Adams has such a way it really helped me analyze how I approach situations and now I'm how I'm thinking and how some patterns of thinking that I do actually hurt me in the long run or cause me to judge others and unhealthy ways. And so, man, this loser think, I was just taking notes as far as so many ways I've slipped up in the context of being a latter day saint in our faith community, how I fallen into loser things. So those are my personal development books, I'll probably add more. All right, next, leading a church organization. If I had a leader come to me and say, okay, I just need help. Like my ward's a mess, my corm is off track, my release study, whatever, right? So these are books that I would push you towards and encourage you to read. First one, multipliers by Liz weissman, ladder day saying she's been on the cast multiple times. Just actually wrote another book, haven't read it yet. I'm sure it will lead to another interview. But multipliers are just such a phenomenal book to really help you think through maybe some areas you're falling short where you don't feel like you're falling short. I just talk to a bishop. About a week ago and he said, man, multipliers, I thought I was a multiplier, but I actually realized I was diminishing people with the best intentions and was actually hurting my leadership. So multipliers is a great book to start, especially if your word counsel, meanings are just sort of, they fall flat, multipliers will help you out of that. The next one is the art of gathering by prea Parker. Not a latter day saint just a very bestselling author. And she talks about she breaks down the concept of gathering like meetings or sacrament meetings or community events or parties or whatever it is. And I promise you, if you read this book, you're sacrament meetings will be different in a very positive way. And you'll just analyze all these gatherings we do, whether it's a word council meeting, a one interview or a ward Christmas party, like this book will cause you to think and improve the gathering experience for those that in your order quorum or whatever it is because if you're the leader, you're presiding and as the presiding authority is your responsibility to make sure people have uplifting positive experience regardless of the gathering they come from. Or they come to. Next book by our friends at vital smarts, crucial conversations. This is just good foundational book as far as dealing with conflict and organization. How do you actually communicate to people when two people come to a disagreement? And one of those people is you, right? How do you talk through that? What are some skills very practical skills to help you there? Another book by influence or by vital smarts is influencer. This is a phenomenal book as far as how to make problems change. Like really daunting problems. And there are some daunting problems in our church organization that have been like ministering or like missionary work, right? How can we approach this with a model that's actually going to lead to solutions? And influencers are a great way to do it. It's been out for a couple of decades now and maybe not two decades, but just a phenomenal well research book. I also put dangerous love on here. I've already talked about, but it is also helpful for church organization. Radical candor by Kim Scott, as far as like one to one interviews and how to reach and engage with your people so that they want to follow you, radical candor is a great resource there. Launching leaders, this is bilaterally Steven hit, so he was actually just on the podcast. This is especially helpful for young single adult leaders. If you're in a young single door organization or working with them and you're calling, this is a must read book. All right, the art of
This is what I would consider the manual for ward mission leaders. Okay, like the unofficial manual for ward mission leaders. How to engage in neighborhood, especially in when you're in high density, latter day saint areas where, you know, it's your neighborhood, which is your word. This is a great tool to understand or give you ideas as far as how to approach being award mission leader. Or engaging or igniting missionary work in your ward. All right, next book, introverts in the church. This is a phenomenal book. There's another one I need to image too small. Adam and I can't remember these it is Adam the queue. That's right, actually interviewed Adam, great interview, go back and listen to it. But this is a great one to just understand different sometimes we leaders naturally are the extroverts. So leaders are sometimes naturally extroverted because they're the one that's sort of outgoing and loud and more engaging in a public setting. So they naturally rise to the top. Introverts at church really gives you a helpful way to engage with introverts and make space for them and help for the worship experience to be more positive for them. All right, the next one is women at church. This is I interviewed the author. I always say your name. Natalie mc Bain. And latter day saint, she talks about women at church in the context of being a latter day saint. And phenomenal just like a good foundational like if you're especially if you're a male leader, you're walking in to be a new bishop and you just need to understand how to better approach the women in your ward and make sure they're heard and make sure they're given that space to lead like women at church really help me that way. Making vision stick by Andy Stanley, Andy Stanley is an evangelical pastor as well. Great leadership guru. This is a quick read. And just like as far as like developing a vision, this is it. Quick read, you can read an hour or two and then walk into other corner and have a better ideas how to create a vision. Next book, by one of my favorite authors, it's called a culture of ministering and it's actually by me. That's right. I wrote a book. It's a short read, culture administering. As far as leading, the elder core and relief society in the ministry effort, just some practical ideas, what's worked for me and other leaders in succeeding administering. So that'd be awesome. I also put the anatomy of peace on here again and then one history book actually. David O McKay and the rise of modern mormonism. This is a book that years ago and it's a heavy read, a lot of history, but man, just stay practical, understanding of some history of the modern day church and it has a lot of stories of David and McKay's time and different council meetings and what leaders said, how they wrestled through different issues from correlations to blacks and the priesthood to all these things, right? And it's just what I found as far as up from a leadership standpoint. I mean, if you're a history geek, you should read it, but from a leadership standpoint, it was just interesting to see history of our general authority leaders face really daunting problems and how they approach them and sometimes they approach them in good ways and sometimes they learn from other approaches. But, man, great book. Again, it's heavy, but it's worth a read. All right, next category, repentance and engaging people in the gospel. These are books that I would probably have in a bishop's office that you can and several copies that you can just lend out, be the ward library or have the bishop's library where you can hand
these books out as people are coming and struggling with different topics or issues. You can hand these books and say, hey, why don't you read this and come back and let's just talk about what some things that stood out and what you learned. First one is 6 events by Stephen covey. This is another Stephen covey book that he wrote for a latter day saint audience. It is probably am I going to go there? Yeah, that's right. I'm going there. This is part of my favorite Stephen gummy, but even above 7 habits of highly effective people. This book is so helpful in putting the gospel in the context that is, I don't know, I don't want to say practical, but just like seeing the gospel in a way that's like digestible. And seeing the gospel, so many times as I read, as I read this book, so many times or I thought of different examples in my life where I was like, wow, I can see how the gospels there. I didn't identify it before. So this is a speaking too vaguely.

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Just go check it out. It is a great book. I love that book. Next one, the continuous tone up by Brad Wilcox. This is just a practical read for individuals who are need to better understand the grace of Jesus Christ and how that works with the atonement and whatnot. Brad obviously has gone on to do several books even speaking conference about this concept that is so helpful. And he's really shifting our paradigm in the church as far as how we see grace and understand it and use it. The next book, wild at heart, by John Eldridge, if you're an elderly president, this is required reading. Absolutely. John Eldridge is an evangelical I don't know if I'd say he's a password evangelical author. He's created these boot camp retreats that we've partnered with where your heart group that we've been doing as well. Just a good understanding of, oh, now I see why men need Jesus and as an eligible corn president, I can help men find Jesus because of the perspectives that John Eldridge writes in that book. I love John elder stuff. I really recommend anything he writes. He's an evangelical culture. You're going to swim past some of his perspectives at the gospel and whatnot. It's great. Considering the cross by John Hilton, the third boy, are you Professor of atom on the podcast several times? I love considering the cross. If I was a bishop again and somebody was really struggling with relapse of sin or whatever, I would hand them considering the cross end, we would just talk about the sacrifice and suffering that Jesus went through with them. Another book that's on my list that I would give them is the divine gift of forgiveness by elder Neil L Anderson. This is really the modern day miracle forgiveness. Man, you should have stacks, bishops should have stacks of this book in their office and handed out this just puts forgiveness in a much less shaming perspective and repentance and you can see that I get it like God did this Christ did this for me. Awesome. So I don't know what to say about it. Bridges administering to those who questioned by David ostler, good friend of mine, but he's been on the podcast just this is like the go to for any leader, especially leaders that are more orthodox to read and understand why people struggle or have faith crises or transitions of faith or whatever you want to call it and practical approach of how to approach those situations. Another book I recently read and actually recently recently interviewed the author J stringer, his book is called unwanted. This book is so helpful of putting sexuality in a religious context that is not like black and white or it's not. It's just more practical. Not just making this list of don't do that or stop this behavior but understanding why people struggle with their sexuality in so many ways or pornography or whatever it be. All right, another book by John Eldridge, I recently read really loved waking the dead, like this is a good one like if someone's just like in a slump or they're just like, man, I don't know what to do. I guess I come
to church, but I just don't feel it, right? Like waking the dead is a great book to engage them in the larger story that God has for them and the gospel and whatnot. So awesome read, the circle maker, another mention here, this would be helpful for engaging people in the gospel as well. The untethered soul by Michael singer. This is a heavy book, like a meditation book, he's not a latter day saint, but just like, again, if someone's in a funk, this would be a great book to read or for you to read to really understand the souls of men. Like, why we do what we do? It's just a deeply, beautifully written, and it was I feel like being too vague about it. And then finally, the divine center, which I've already mentioned. So what book am I missing? I know I'm gonna like go to the dinner with my mom and I'm gonna be there at the restaurant. I think there's four more books I should have put on here, but I'm gonna keep updating this. You can always go to leading saint dot org slash books and you'll see what books are on there or what books I've added or maybe I'll remove some. I don't know, but hopefully you're leaders or readers, right? That's the old saying, leaders are readers, and I'm a true believer of that. You've got to be reading. And obviously, the scriptures are crucial, words of our profits. Absolutely. But outside of that, you've got to be engaged in research and thought that others are producing even if you disagree with it. It will help you think in a different way. Just finishing up on a manuscript right now and there's gonna be a lot of Latter day Saints who disagree with some of my perspectives there. But that's okay. At least want you to read it and it will maybe cause you to think about some concepts and come to your own conclusions. So those are my books.

Let me know what books you think. And again, would you go to leading saint dot org slash donate and help us out in 2022? Like we need your support, and if you're already contributing, could you give a little bit more, we would really appreciate it. It really goes to good use and keeps us moving forward. We got big goals to hit in 2022. So leading saint dot org slash donate and all right, gotta go say happy birthday to my mama.