



Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success: Building Blocks for a Better Life

John Wooden, Jay Carty

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Legendary college basketball coach John Wooden and Jay Carty know that when it comes down to it, success is an equal opportunity player. Anyone can create it in his or her career, family and beyond. Based on John Wooden's own method to victory, Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success reveals that success is built block by block, where each block is a crucial principle contributing to life-long achievement in every area of life. Each of these 32 daily readings takes an in-depth look at a single block of the pyramid, which when combined with the other blocks forms the structure of the pyramid of success. Join John Wooden and Jay Carty to discover the building blocks and key values--from confidence to faith--that have brought Coach to the pinnacle of success as a leader, a teacher and a follower of God.

Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success: Building Blocks for a Better Life Details

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From Reader Review Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success: Building Blocks for a Better Life for online ebook

Allison Anderson says

What a legacy he left.

Marco Ferreira says

50% bible sermon and 50% useful advice. Would have enjoyed it better without the religious propaganda.

Luckily I was able to skip those parts due to the way the book is organized.

Sunny says

i really liked this book. IN it Wooden talks to us about a methodology that he has put together that comprises a set of values and characteristics that come together as a “the pyramid of success”. Wooden dips into some of the stories that led to him to be one of the most successful coaches in American sporting history. He basically takes you through a collection of characteristics that he believes will lead you to success in anything. The characteristics / character traits are: industriousness, friendship, loyalty, cooperation, enthusiasm, intentness, initiative, alertness, self-control, condition, skill, team spirit, confidence, poise, competitiveness greatness, patience and faith. He also talks about supportive characteristics such as ambition, adaptability, resourcefulness, fight, faith, patience, integrity, reliability, honesty and sincerity. Here are some of my favourite bits:

- Under self-control – wooden wrote: “in every championship game when we had the game won, during timeout I directed the players, “don’t make fools out of yourselves. Let’s let the alumni and the fans do that. I know you want to get the nets, and I know you feel good, and that’s fine, but let’s have no excessive exultation” – coming from an American and one of the greatest American coaches of all time this was near enough a miracle.
- Under alertness - wooden wrote: Abraham Lincoln had said that he had never met a person from whom he did not learn something, although most of the time it was something not to do. There is a lot of truth in that but the point is that Lincoln was always observing and alert to what was going on around him, and he was constantly learning.”

Danny Graham says

I enjoyed this book, but I was unaware of how religious it was. I think the constant use of biblical stories and the suggested Bible readings distracted from the practical lessons to be taken from this book. I would have preferred more in depth examples from Coach Wooden's actual career as they show his pyramid in practice, rather than using stories that are later used to justify which is the "true" religion.

Noah England says

Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success

Respect without fear, a line from Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success. This book is full of lessons and wisdom. Readers can all take different things away from this book: how his words have impacted them, or how readers could use them to impact someone else.

This particular book does not have a "plot" necessarily. Coach Wooden talks about how he used strategies to make himself and his UCLA basketball team successful and efficient.

What is really interesting about this book that I liked very much is that everytime Coach Wooden was done talking about a strategy for success, Jay Carty would follow it with a circumstance in the Bible in which the strategy was actually played out. I thought this was very interesting, and it took a different approach to any other book I have read. Also, at the end of each chapter it would have a "Your Turn" section. It would give the reader scripture to read, and answer some questions.

From reading this book, I felt like Coach Wooden and Jay Carty wanted to bring more than one point out. Their entire book was about bettering yourself and others around you. It was to become more efficient and make one's life easier and more enjoyable. While reading this book it showed how much of an influence John Wooden had on his players and other people, and it made me realize people I know in my own life have shown me these same things. However, I never really took time to appreciate it.

I think this book is a great read for people who are in a position of leadership in some way, as well as people who want to try to better themselves. It is a very motivating book and can open things up you have never bothered to think about before.

Bob Deangelo says

I enjoyed this book. It was easy to read, and I picked up some good things from it. My main purpose in reading this was to take a good look at Wooden's famous Pyramid of Success, and then just get a good feel for John Wooden, who obviously knew a thing or two about leading people. I would have loved to have gotten a little more of the sense of Wooden than the content of the book entailed, but I did enjoy it. Certainly the character qualities that Wooden included in his pyramid are essential for success - both in sports, and in life.

Rockbucfan says

Listen to this if you like:

The Bible and Christian tenets

Old school thinking

UCLA and/or Basketball

Basic tenets of success

Success being a representation of your inner values

Sports-centric examples

Narration that fits the material very well

Solid character-building thoughts

The author having an indisputable and widely acknowledged track record of success

Don't listen to this if you don't like:

A lack of concrete examples of tactics you can use

Christian-focused and biblical references

A slow folksy delivery

Thoughts you're fairly certain you've heard before

The concept of character-building as the key to personal success

Justine says

From the last comment I gave:

"The book does go over the 15 steps of Coach's Pyramid of Success, but then half of the book is devoted to bible scripture readings. I was pretty turned off by the overtly-Christian content. I ended up skipping probably half or more of the book as it was talking about parables from the bible and how it lined up with this book's values. Skip it, read 'Wooden on Leadership' instead."

Aaron Dutton says

Written as a devotional, this was surprisingly hard to get through because of the numerous notes I took. This would make a good book for a book club.

I love reading about John Wooden and this book is no exception. To be fair, you probably need some background information on his life to really appreciate this book. Otherwise there will be a lot of mystery references.

Griselda says

John Wooden's Pyramid of Success contains every moral I ever learned growing up. It is the structure to which I hoped I would become. Unfortunately, I am not that model citizen. But that is not important. Coach Wooden encourages to look inside ourself and see what we can change, and then (well, after praying to God for help) act better, each day. Be the best version of ourselves we can me.

I would recommend this book to anyone who wants motivation. I would not recommend this book if you have issues with GOD. Coach Wooden references The Holy Bible throughout this whole book.

William Chan says

Friendship, loyalty, and cooperation. They are some of the most important factors for success. With them combined, you could be way more efficient. This book told me how important it is to include these factors in your life and how it could change your life. It even provided examples from the bible! I really enjoyed the short stories the writer had experienced and I thought they were very good examples. I was able to learn the

important factors to a successful life by reading this book, like finding the keys for Halliday's egg hunt. It showed me the way, and I think it could show yours too.

Kyara Schroeder says

I really enjoy John Wooden's idea of the pyramid, however this book is heavy handed with Christianity. I am a spiritual person and have my own faith and have no issue seeing how the teachings of the bible can benefit me. This book is a descriptive version of the principles Wooden has in his pyramid and it was beneficial. What really got me was that each chapter had a Biblical example to go with the principle, followed up with a list of scripture to read. The end of Chapter 29 was very off putting ending it with "those who miss heaven can hardly be a success". It's one thing to use scripture to teach principles, and another thing to preach religion.

In addition to that, it is a rather dry book because so much of it refers back to the Bible. I'm really glad I did the audio version, don't think I would have made it through otherwise.

Mark Mitchell says

John Wooden is, of course, one of the most successful coaches of all time, as measured by winning percentages or other similar statistics. But, his own definition of success is "peace of mind" that comes from knowing that you did your very best. His Pyramid of Success is a diagram showing important personal qualities (industriousness, initiative, team spirit, integrity, faith) that he believes help one to attain success.

Although there is nothing overtly religious about the Pyramid, other than the inclusion of "faith" as a personal quality required for success, Coach Wooden was a devout Christian. This book is co-written with Jay Carty, who played for Wooden at UCLA before becoming a Christian minister. Each chapter of the book covers one element of the Pyramid. The first section of each chapter is Coach Wooden's discussion of the quality in question, often related to a specific basketball situation. The second section is Carty's discussion of the same quality, with examples taken from scripture. And, lastly, there is a homework section which asks you to read specific Bible passages and answer questions about your own life.

Because I coach my own children, I look for ways to be a better coach. And, as a Christian, I look for ways to strengthen my faith. This book was an excellent resource in both respects. The relationship of the sports context with which I am familiar to the Bible -- and the challenge of the personal exercises -- was a helpful framing.

Blake Thompson says

Wow, never have I read a book that made me introspect on so many aspects of my life. It was amazing how many questions about myself that I answered myself while journaling and answering Jay Carty's questions at the end of every chapter. I used this book as an evening quiet time in which I read one chapter per night, and I recommend the same strategy to everyone. Do not just read and blow through this book just to cross it off a reading list. Actually, take the time to absorb and meditate on the questions at the end of every chapter. I hope everyone that reads this review gives it a shot and experiences the same personal growth I experienced

from this book.

Luke says

A book of proverbs from a heck of a coach.

From the book:

Success is peace of mind that is the direct result of self satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming.

You are the only one who knows whether you have won

If people are going to become all that they are capable of becoming it is important that they work hard; but it is also important that they are intentional about the hard work. Planning places effort where effort is most needed. People who put these two components together have a firm cornerstone of industriousness upon which they can build toward success.

Mistakes made while expanding boundaries are what I wanted. If we weren't making mistakes, we weren't far enough out on the edge. If we weren't pushing against the walls of our capabilities, we weren't practicing correctly.

I know you can't please everyone, so on this issue I haven't tried. I have only wanted to please God.

Our championships came as the by-product of meeting lesser goals of measurable, year-over-year improvement.

Sincerity may not make a friend, but it will keep one.

Honesty is not only the best policy, but it is also the best therapy.

Nowadays many young people have never experienced fight - they have never worked hard enough to even get their second wind.

Am I a success? I have peace of mind.
