

Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma

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Sunrise Session 05
The Golden Circle:
How To Inspire Action By Moving From What To Why

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The Golden Circle: How to Inspire Action by Moving from What to Why



Based on the book Start with Why by Simon Sinek

Most people define themselves by **What** they do – direct a trauma program, run a fortune 500 company or drive a bus. However, we inherently know that **What** we do is not enough. So, in an attempt to distinguish ourselves, we explain **How** we do **What** we do--by pointing to particular experiences, skill sets or expertise, for example (**What** and **How** are generally found on resumes).

how why Ar follo

Operating from **What** and **How**, from the outside-in of the Golden Circle does not, in reality, make us effective leaders. By itself, it is simply not authentic.

That's where the **Why** comes in. **Why** is your Purpose—your driving motivation for action.

By operating from the inside-out of the Golden Circle, we can effectively change the manner in which patients, colleagues, employees and other stakeholders will perceive us.

When our **Why** is clear, when we are disciplined in **How** we pursue it and when **What** we do is consistent, the outside world understands our **Why** as clearly as we do. And when that happens, more and more people are inspired to follow. And that is authentic leadership!

For the Golden Circle to be most effective, to truly inspire, you must remember two things:

#1 - Order Matters: Simply understanding the **Why** is not enough. You must start with **Why** and then think, act and communicate from the inside out of the Golden Circle.

#2 - Balance: All 3 levels of the Golden Circle must be in balance. This means you must have clarity, discipline and consistency.

Clarity of WHY:

- Purpose, cause or belief
- The Why is the single driving motivation for action

Discipline of HOW:

- Values or guiding principles
- Hows are the specific actions that are taken to realize the Why

Consistency of WHAT:

- Tangible proof or results
- Whats are the tangible manifestations of the Why