

Adaptive Leadership Resources

The following are resources that can prove helpful in exploring adaptive leadership and its application. There are many other sources available, but these are among the best. The list offers everything from a three-minute video to suggestions for books.

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Books

Leadership Without Easy Answers by Ronald Heifetz

The first of the books in the field, it is the most theory-based of the major books. Great grounding in the ideas and development of the adaptive leadership framework.

Leadership on the Line, by Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky

Further development of the framework in a less theoretical and more story-driven format.

The Practice of Adaptive Leadership: Tools and Tactics for Changing Your Organization and the World, by Alexander Grashow, Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky

This book is almost a workbook, with lots of practical tips and examples. I would pair it with either *Leadership Without Easy Answers* or *Leadership on the Line* and read it after doing those other books, which will ground you in the theory first. I return to *Practice* frequently to get concrete approaches to particular challenges.

There are other books written in the field, but these are the books by the main architects of the framework.

Video and Audio Links

NPR Hidden Brain segment with Ron Heifetz

<https://www.npr.org/templates/transcript/transcript.php?storyId=230841224>

3 minute video on technical v. adaptive with Heifetz

<https://ed.ted.com/on/DL8omrCn>

Really great 5-minute video with overview of the framework, particularly on technical vs. adaptive—one of the strongest I've seen. It is produced with local health departments in mind but can be applied to all of us.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fA-dSo2qg6Y&feature=youtu.be>

Faith and Leadership interview with Heifetz, good overview of key concepts, about 8 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfLLDvn0pI8>

Heifetz keynote address at the Faith and Leadership summit at Duke University in 2008, great overview of the concepts, 70 minutes

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<https://www.faithandleadership.com/ronald-heifetz-leadership-adaptability-thriving>

Articles

Harvard Business Review article “Leadership in a (Permanent) Crisis,” by Alexander Grashow, Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky

Good overview and application of the framework. HBR and the Stanford Social Innovation Review have some of the best resources in the field.

https://hbr.org/2009/07/leadership-in-a-permanent-crisis?referral=03758&cm_vc=rr_item_page.top_right

HBR Interview with Heifetz

Leadership in a (Permanent) Crisis

<https://hbr.org/2009/07/leadership-in-a-permanent-cris.html>

“Getting Off the Dance Floor, and On the Balcony,” *Governing Magazine* article by Russ Linden

<http://www.governing.com/columns/mgmt-insights/Getting-Off-the-Dance.html>

“Becoming an Adaptive Leader: Based on the work of Ronald Heifetz and Marty Linsky,”

A good overview of the framework applied in a faith-based setting, but helpful to others

https://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/becoming_an_adaptive_leader.pdf

“The Theory Behind the Practice,” Chapter 2 of *The Practice of Adaptive Leadership* available online

<https://cambridge-leadership.com/documents/Ch-2-Theory-Behind-the-Practice.pdf>

“Leading with an Open Heart,” by Ronald A. Heifetz and Marty Linsky *Leader to Leader*, No. 26 Fall 2002, a good overview of the framework

http://lci.typepad.com/leaders_resourcing_leader/files/LeadingWithAnOpenHeart.pdf

“Leading Boldly: Foundations can move past traditional approaches to create social change through imaginative – and even controversial – leadership”

Heifetz article discussing case studies from the foundation world—a good one for the non-profit community

https://ssir.org/articles/entry/leading_boldly