

Boardroom Book Club Briefings

Atomic Habits — James Clear

Subtitle: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones

Executive Summary

Success stems not from grand goals, but from tiny, consistent actions that compound over time. Clear teaches that we do not rise to the level of our goals, but fall to the level of our systems. By refining daily behaviours, leaders create cultural momentum that makes excellence inevitable.

Boardroom Takeaways

- Systems > Goals – Build environments and processes that make good behaviours automatic.
- Identity-Based Change – Align behaviour with how teams see themselves.
- Compound Growth – Small, consistent actions across the organisation create exponential results.

Discussion Questions

- What organisational habits drive our results—for better or worse?
- How can we embed positive micro-behaviours into our leadership culture?
- What systems reinforce underperformance, and how could we redesign them?
- How do we measure progress in small, meaningful increments rather than big wins?
- What story do our current habits tell about our company's identity?

Worksheet

- List three current 'habits' that shape team outcomes.
- Identify the cue, craving, response, and reward (the Habit Loop).
- Redesign one habit this quarter to reinforce desired performance.



Multipliers — Liz Wiseman

Subtitle: How the Best Leaders Make Everyone Smarter

Executive Summary

Wiseman distinguishes between Multipliers—leaders who grow intelligence and capability in others—and Diminishers, who unintentionally drain it. Multipliers leverage curiosity, autonomy, and accountability to unlock collective genius, making their organisations more agile and resilient.

Boardroom Takeaways

- The Multiplier Effect – A leader’s role is to multiply capacity, not control it.
- Challenge + Belief – Stretch assignments combined with belief unleash hidden potential.
- Liberating Leadership – Create space for others to think, decide, and own outcomes.

Discussion Questions

- Where do we see ‘diminisher’ behaviours in our culture?
- How can board members model multiplier behaviours in discussions?
- What would happen if we consistently assumed our people are capable of more?
- How do we balance guidance with freedom?
- How do we recruit, develop, and reward multiplier leaders?

Worksheet

- Reflect on a recent meeting – did you multiply or diminish input?
- Identify one colleague to stretch this quarter with meaningful delegation.
- Create a 90-day Multiplier Commitment Plan for your leadership team.



Blue Ocean Strategy — W. Chan Kim & Renée Mauborgne

Subtitle: How to Create Uncontested Market Space and Make the Competition Irrelevant

Executive Summary

Kim and Mauborgne argue that most organisations compete in red oceans of rivalry, driving down profit and differentiation. Blue oceans are uncontested spaces created through innovation and value creation. The framework helps leaders systematically find opportunities where competition becomes irrelevant.

Boardroom Takeaways

- Value Innovation – Combine differentiation and low cost to unlock new demand.
- Strategic Canvas – Map the current market and identify where to diverge from norms.
- ERRC Grid – Eliminate, Reduce, Raise, Create to redesign value propositions.

Discussion Questions

- Are we operating in a red or blue ocean—and how do we know?
- What industry assumptions could we eliminate or redefine?
- Which customer pains are underserved or ignored by competitors?
- How can we shift focus from rivals to value innovation?
- What blue ocean moves could redefine our sector?

Worksheet

- Use the Strategy Canvas to compare your offer vs competitors.
- Apply the ERRC Grid: Eliminate, Reduce, Raise, Create.
- Define one blue ocean move to explore this year.