

The Bigger Game

The Bigger Game is an innovation model that helps individuals, teams and organizations create meaning, conviction, courage and growth in service of achieving desirable goals and dreams. The Bigger Game has much compassion for the challenges, excitement, confusion and glory of life! You are always on the Bigger Game Board — which provides clarity and understanding for the Bigger Game Player. From this place of clarity, one is able to move forward with freedom and creativity. There is no such thing as being “stuck” anymore... the Bigger Game informs us where to put our attention. Playing a Bigger Game will innovate your life.



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Comfort Zones

It is natural and normal for human beings to drift toward comfort. Most people return over and over again to what is familiar or routine, easily falling into comfortable habits that over time create a sense of complacency and boredom — essentially very little growth of one's self, better known as entropy or decay. The Bigger Game Model takes a look at the places where comfort zones take you away from what you are up to in life, rather than in the direction of what you desire and the impact you want to have.

Hunger

Too much boredom and complacency over time creates a "hunger." Although we may not know what we are hungry for, we do notice a yearning for something more. Sometimes, this hunger is for more meaning and maybe a desire to contribute and make a difference in the world. "Hunger" is a good thing: It means one is awake to the possibility of something more than simply existing. Once one taps into their deep hunger, action and movement begin to occur because of the desire to "be fed."

Compelling Purpose

Compelling Purpose is not about fulfilling some personal need or desire. It is not about making more money, about having more possessions, about personal gain in some way. Compelling Purpose is about being "up to something" that is grander than one's self. It is about impacting people, communities, organizations, nature, and/or the world at large (or your immediate world) in some particular way. The bottom line is "it is not about you." And yet, when you tap into your Compelling Purpose it feels so good and so satisfying on a personal level. We have found that people who are up to something "outside of themselves" do experience a fuller, richer and more satisfying life.

GULP

"I don't know how or I don't think I am capable of this." You have entered into the GULP. If you know how to play the "game" you are up to, then it is not a Bigger Game. There must be a sense of GULP in order for it to be defined as a Bigger Game. This Bigger Game will demand you to develop competencies, skills and abilities that you don't already possess.

Investment

There are many dimensions to the Investment square. These may include time, money, becoming better at something, i.e., public speaking, taking better care of yourself. The investment list could be long and it should unfold along the way as one continues playing their Bigger Game. There is no "arrival" or "done" when it comes to investing in one's Bigger Game. A first key investment to make when playing a Bigger Game is to announce your Bigger Game OUTLOUD over and over again. The world cannot respond or support your Bigger Game unless it is made public.

Allies

To play this Game you must have allies. Allies are both the people who are wildly supportive and “on-board” with your game and AND people who may disagree or have resistance to what you are up to. You must create a designed alliance with your allies. Do you want ongoing support via a phone call; do you want feedback along the way? Whatever it is, it must be designed and stated. And this relationship will shift and change over time as your Bigger Game progresses.

Assess

The Bigger Game player must learn to assess where they are in relationship to the game plan — without voting. When one is able to assess, the opportunity for flexibility, creativity and adeptness are increased. In the Assess square, the focus is on strategies for success, the tactics, and the game plan.

Sustainability

Living a balanced life is crucial to playing this game. You must take care of yourself in order for the game to sustain itself. Playing bigger does not imply burning-out and over working to the point of exhaustion and resentment. What needs attention along the way? — family, spouse, children, self-care, friends, etc. And, there must be consciousness along the way to design the game in such a way, that if you were to leave this Bigger Game for some circumstance of life, it could sustain itself. This is the idea of legacy — “this Game could go on without me.” This is not an ego-based model.

Bold Action

The operative word here is **BOLD**. This is about taking action that is uncomfortable, about taking action that asks much of people. Martin Luther King was not shy in asking for people to march. Notice the impact of this Bold Action. By taking Bold Actions, the world around you knows that you’re up to something BIG. It’s not about playing small. This is not a place of “business as usual.” And notice how the Bold Action square touches all the other parts of the model — this means there could be Bold Actions to take in each area of the model.