



8 Questions

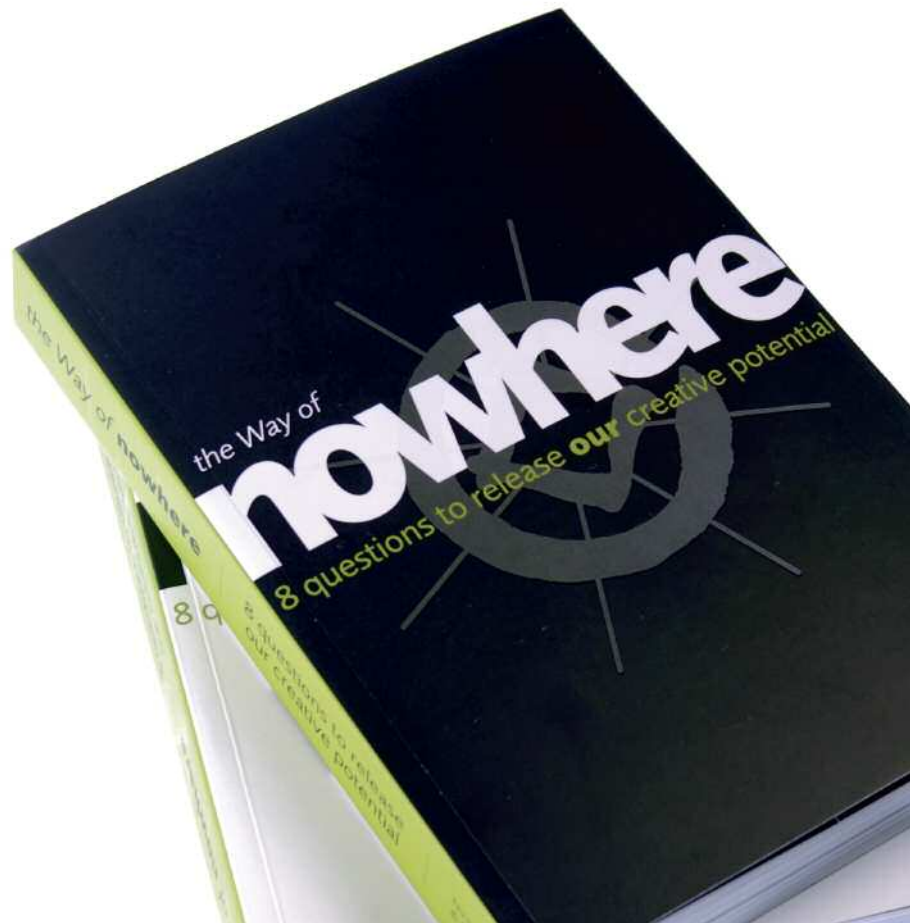
8Qs Leadership Circles

Shaping a next-generation leadership practice

Continuing the Quest

The Way of nowhere (Udall & Turner 2008) describes a unique approach to 21st Century leadership and organisational life. The **8 Questions** Leadership Intensives introduce leaders and change agents to a powerful next-generation practice.

The **8 Questions** Leadership Circles are ongoing forums and communities of innovation for graduates of the Intensives. These circles enable members to continue their quest into ways of designing and catalysing interventions that release the creative potential of their people, their organisations and their wider stakeholder eco-systems.



The power of Circles – a senior catalyst's view

People have sat in circles since ancient times. As symbols of wholeness, integrity and continuity, circles provide containers where new possibilities, pertinent to the challenges of the moment, emerge from "the space between."

However independent we may be as individuals, there are thresholds of growth and development that we do not cross alone. A small, trusting group of people creates an alchemical process that pushes its members to undertake things they have never done before. Together members generate new thoughts and actions that they can experimentally take back into their daily lives.

8 Questions Leadership Circles meet once a month for a full day. The days are usually structured in four parts:

- 'Creating the circle' by sharing experiences since the last meeting, becoming present to one another and building the container for the day
- 'Opening the circle' by considering new insights and learning, and by engaging with thought leaders or provocative ideas from around the world
- 'Expanding the circle' by exploring and working with organisational issues brought by circle members – using structured yet creative methods of inquiry
- 'Closing the circle' by distilling learning, capturing new insights and refining next actions

The benefit for leaders is to sit with other leaders who carry similar responsibilities across different contexts. It is an opportunity to share experiences with other people who know what it is like to step forward and lead; who know what it takes to provide inspiration and clarity even in times of great complexity and uncertainty. Moreover these circles are an opportunity to shape the future of leadership.


A crucible for a transformational practice

The **8 Questions** Leadership Circles give members the opportunity to continue their personal and collective journeys. They provide a space to deepen understanding, expand knowledge, share learning and practice the practice. They also provide the support of a community of peers dedicated to one another's success.

Circles meet regularly for a day-long session every four to six weeks. The Circles are facilitated by a skilled and experienced **nowhere** catalyst. Between meetings, members hold questions and advance their practice, as they continue to explore the depths and edges of *the Wheel of 8 Questions*.

These Circles are opportunities for members to lift themselves out of the busy-ness of the day-to-day, to step back, reflect and learn how to stand ever more powerfully and humbly in the centre of their own Leadership Circle.



The image shows five golden statues of Buddhist figures standing on a decorative, multi-colored base. From left to right: the first figure is a deity with a snake around its neck and a crescent moon on its forehead; the second is a serene figure holding a sword; the third is a bearded figure with a crown holding a long staff; the fourth is a fierce-looking figure with a crown and a sword; the fifth is a bearded figure with a crown holding a sword. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

'Our dream is to build "a beautiful mind" – a virtually connected and vibrant network of Leadership Circles all over the world. And to shape the future of leadership through this neural net of collective intelligence and wisdom.'

Nick Udall

To learn more about **8 Questions** visit us online at
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