



# JIM HARSHAW JR.

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## *Revealing Failure as the Path to Success*

Success Through Failure Podcast

Action Plan Episode #304

### **Prepared for Anything: Leadership, Teamwork, Communication, and Decision-Making Lessons from the Pathfinder Retreat**

After months of preparation, 12 amazing individuals raised the bar during our first-ever Pathfinder Retreat held in Princeton, New Jersey.

Pathfinders are the graduates of my coaching program which is called Reveal Your Path. They signed up for this retreat because they wanted to go deeper; they wanted to connect with the people who share the same vision as they do.

And that we did!

It was a weekend full of adventure, wisdom, and learning— shared by their fellow Pathfinders and special guests, [Dr. Josh Spodek](#) and Dr. Nate Zinsser. In this episode, I am sharing with you the most life-changing lessons my clients took home with them.

My goal for this episode is for you to gain the clarity and focus from these takeaways that all of the attendees benefited from.

Let me take you to that hot, fun, and transformational day and let's dive into the seven lessons from this retreat that you can apply to your personal and professional life. Tune in now.

### **Top Quotes From This Episode**

*"When you create and build that compass, you'll hit your mark. But if you don't, if you're not looking at a compass, and you don't have a guide, you're going to drift off course. You're not going to hit your target."*

*"People want to be part of a community. Find your community."*

*"Success doesn't have to be suffering."*

*"People fail along the way to success."*

*"You can't do them all anyway, so why burn yourself in habits that aren't sustainable?"*

## **Show Notes**

**This episode touches on the following key topics and ideas:**

- **What it means to be a Pathfinder (1:18):** *Pathfinder Credo:* I am a Pathfinder. A seeker. A dreamer. A competitor. I get things done. People say I'm crazy. I'm hard-headed. That I'm wired just a little bit differently. But you can't deny me. I raise the bar. Set a new standard. Create a path where there once was none. I live by my values and strive for my goals. I know what to say "no" to because I know what to say "yes" to. I am a leader. And I reveal this path to those who follow. I am a Pathfinder.

Become a Pathfinder and join next year's retreat. Go to [JimHarshawJr.com/APPLY](http://JimHarshawJr.com/APPLY) and sign up for a FREE one-time coaching call with me.

- **2021 retreat (4:01):** Shout out to the 12 Pathfinders who joined this year's retreat: Mark, Matt, John, Jared, Jeff, Ryan, Dave, Dan, Lisa, Cody, Logan, and Craig. Also, a big thank you to our special guests, [Dr. Josh Spodek](#) and Dr. Nate Zinsser.

Here are some photos from the retreat:



*With Dr. Nate Zinsser*

PATHFINDERS SHARING  
WISDOM AT THE  
RETREAT LAST  
WEEKEND



LEADERSHIP EXPERT,  
AUTHOR DR. JOSH  
SPODEK!



*Compass Exercise*



Follow me on [Instagram](#) for more photos.

### **7 Takeaways from the Pathfinder Retreat**

1. **I can do hard things (6:41)**: For me personally, I pulled the trigger by organizing this event. I did something that was out of my comfort zone and that I wasn't ready for, and never would have been ready for.

What greatly helped me pull this off was a change in my language, from: "I hate running events because it's stressful," to: "I'm starting to enjoy running events!" Add to that my Environment of Excellence or the people who lent me their hands in order to successfully run the event.

2. **How do you look at challenges? (11:32)**: We had a survival activity where the Pathfinders had to determine how they would react if, hypothetically, a bear suddenly walked into their camp and ransacked their food.

During our sharing session, Cody's group turned the bear situation into an opportunity! Instead of wallowing in despair because of the loss of food supply, he said that because of the bear, they now have a big source of food in the area that they can potentially hunt!

*(That very idea reminds me of one of my favorite films, [The Edge](#). Best clip ever!)*

Early in the pandemic, I lost a lot of business really quickly. But I flipped that on its head and that's when I started looking for the opportunities I can

create given my situation. Now, I can speak virtually to groups, teams, and companies all over the world via Zoom— which I could not have done before the pandemic.

- 3. What guides you? (15:01):** We did a Compass exercise where the Pathfinders were first tasked to walk toward a tree, 50 yards away, with their eyes closed. And everyone veered away from the destination.

They went for a second attempt, but this time, they had to look down and rely on a compass to guide them. And they all hit the benchmark across the field.

The same applies with life. What are you using in your life as your compass? Is it your values? Are your goals aligned with your core values? You have to take the time to create that compass, so you won't drift off course and finally hit your mark.

- 4. Community (18:27):** We had two amazing guests and 12 amazing Pathfinders who joined us in the retreat and I realized that people want to be part of something special; they want to be part of a community and learn from others.

Where's your community? Who's part of your community? Who's part of your environment of excellence? Find that community.

- 5. You're not alone (20:46):** These people who joined us are high performers in all walks of life. They're amazing people. But they all struggle with similar things: consistency, focus, balance, mindset.

People fail along the way to success. You're not alone.

- 6. Hard work vs Inspired Action (22:01):** Dr. Zinsser, Director of Performance at West Point, said, you don't need to suffer to be trying your best, actually, it's the opposite. You have to find your flow state so you can operate in a focused and effortless manner. Trying too hard is counter productive.

In [episode 120](#), I go deeper into the difference between hard work and inspired action and how to turn your hard work into inspired action or how to find that inspired action for you.

- 7. SIDCHA (24:44):** [Josh Spodek](#) coined the term SIDCHA: Self-imposed daily challenging healthy activity; like adding 1 burpee a day or having cold showers, among others.

He said, people call him extreme for SIDCHAs but he thinks people are extreme for watching 4+ hrs of TV a day!

Determine habits (SIDCHA) that you can do— not on your best day— but on your worst day. That's where you get the real benefit anyway.

Figure out the habits that are sustainable for you. Set the bar low and build from there. Momentum creates success.

### **List of Resources Mentioned in the Episode**

["The Edge" \(movie\)](#)

### **Want to talk to a personal performance coach?**

Want to consider executive life coaching? Claim a spot on Jim's calendar for your free one-time clarity call: [JimHarshawJr.com/APPLY](http://JimHarshawJr.com/APPLY)

Enjoyed the podcast and want to hear more? Head on over [here](#) for more!

### **How to Leave a Rating and Review for STF on iTunes**

Ratings and reviews help a lot! Please consider leaving one. It's really simple. Here's how: <https://youtu.be/T1JsGrkiYko>

### **Other Episodes Referenced**

[#89 Absurdly Useful Leadership Tactics That You Can Use Today from Josh Spodek](#)

[#196 Initiative: A Blueprint For How To Make Your Idea Work With Josh Spodek](#)

[#163 Courage, Suffering, and Doing Hard Things: Insights on Living from former Navy SEAL Rorke Denver](#)

[#120 Focus, Clarity and Inspired Action: A System for Getting "There"](#)

[#246 & #247 Interview with Tim Ferriss: Secret \(or Not-So-Secret\) Routines, Experiments, and Absurd Questions from a World-Class Performer](#)