

LeaderImpact Podcast Ep. 9 Devonia DeBeck

Lisa Peters

Welcome to the LeaderImpact Podcast. We are a community of leaders with a network in over 350 cities around the world dedicated to optimizing our personal, professional, and spiritual lives to have impact. This show is where we have a chance to listen and engage with leaders who are living this out. We love talking with leaders so if you have any questions comments or suggestions to make this show even better please let us know. The best way to stay connected is through our newsletter at leaderimpact.ca or on social media @leaderimpact.

I'm your host Lisa Peters and we welcome to our podcast guest Devonia DeBeck who is an inspiration for anyone on their own entrepreneurial or leadership journey. Devonia began her career helping clients build their own great careers in her role as executive search consultant. After 12 years she transitioned to a career in real estate but soon fell in love with the beautiful homes and the stories that spark joy in the hearts of the families she met. With that love Devonia became a certified home stager and completed an interior decorating diploma and launched the DeBeck Group, Profits Surge Staging and Devonia DeBeck Interiors. Devonia has decorated and staged beautiful spaces for both corporate and residential clients with the goal of creating living and working spaces that people love to live and thrive in and the journey didn't stop there. Devonia has always found herself championing people and soon added life coaching to her portfolio. Devonia now coaches clients on how to define the lives they are searching for. Join us now for a conversation with Devonia DeBeck as we chat, the perspectives of living a life designed to exceed in our personal, professional, and spiritual lives. Welcome Devonia.

Devonia DeBeck

Hi, I am so glad to be here. Thank you so much for having me.

Lisa Peters

Oh I'm kind of excited because the first time I ever saw you was in an interview and you were interviewing some leaders and I'm going to say from around the world because one of them was from Sweden. And there was an interview with Pierre Frape, the president and CEO of AMJ Campbell Van Lines. And in his interview he said something about, you know with COVID, lives are changing and people are moving and they want to change their lives and that was the first time I heard the great resignation. And then I put it together. You're a business coach. You're part of people going I'm done I want to change my life I want to be happy. It's time. So I'm super excited to share this time with you today.

Devonia DeBeck

Well thank you I'm looking forward to our conversation.

Lisa Peters

Well we will get started. Now before we get into the DeBeck Group and all the amazing, your whole entrepreneurial journey. Can you share with our listeners a little bit about yourself growing up? Maybe we can understand where all this energy and entrepreneurship comes from? (Laughing)

Devonia DeBeck

(Laughing) Yeah, it's funny I am a first generation Canadian. My parents were immigrants here back when the first Prime Minister Trudeau invited, open the borders for immigration, immigrants. And my mom first came and then brought my father over but came really for a better life for herself and a better life for the family. And I think most immigrants come to Canada looking for a better life. So here we were. I was a first generation Canadian with Caribbean parents trying to navigate how to be North American or Canadian, but the bar was always very high. My mother always had great expectations anyways for herself and for life and she certainly had that for us as kids. And so as kids we were always taught that we had to do better than everyone else. You know, you got an A, it should have been an A+. My mother had the best of intentions. She really wanted us to excel but one of the things she navigated or weighed that out for us as immigrants was partly because of our race. She really felt that because we're black kids that we had to try harder. We had to be better and so we spent, we were always pushing ourselves. We made a certain achievement and we were onto the next because we were groomed to always try to succeed and be better. So I think it probably took me well into my adult years before I started to kind of redefine or retell that vision for myself because it was so ingrained in me from my upbringing.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, how many kids are in your family?

Devonia DeBeck

I have a younger brother and an older sister.

Lisa Peters

Okay, and I'm assuming they had all the same expectations.

Devonia DeBeck

So yeah, we all were pushed to be better and my mother had great expectations that she would get a lawyer and a doctor in the family and we all disappointed her. (Laughing) But I did. I had a glimmer. She had a glimmer of hope with me. I was a court reporter for a short period of time while I was going to university but that was a great time for me to recognize I didn't want to be a court reporter and my sister actually became a nurse. So she wasn't the medical doctor but in the certain direction that my mother was leaning us towards anyways.

Lisa Peters

Wow! So it's funny. You know you talk about your mom just pushing you. You know, always doing the next thing you master one thing. You're onto the next thing. Just reading your bio you've moved through a few things. I see a beautiful transition of all the things that seem to be connected but it's amazing how that's ingrained in you.

Devonia DeBeck

Yeah, we are a product of our childhood and our upbringing right? And you can use it against yourself or you can use it as that's just the tapestry of who we are right? And so I think it's an incredible gift that my mother gave me and gave all my siblings. However, we had to grow into that and kind of redefine it for ourselves or because a lot of times we used it against ourselves until we really matured and found our own voice and our own rhythm. We were fearless in terms of change so that was a beautiful part of it.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, that is a beautiful thing to learn, fearless of change. So I'm going to move on to a little bit more of your professional journey. Just asking you to share a little bit about it. How have you moved through life to where you are and were there any pivotal moments that you kind of went or pivotal moments that just moved you forward propelled you in a direction?

Devonia DeBeck

Yeah, I went to university thinking I was going to go to law school and realizing through my part-time jobs that no, this wasn't for me but always was very entrepreneurial spirited and started in business school. I helped people find jobs as an executive search consultant in my first professional career partly while I was going to university and then I graduated and continued. And worked for a number of companies in executive search and helping senior people helping companies find senior people in their jobs or senior professionals for their companies. Such a beautiful time to speak to people and get to know once you finish the surface conversations you get to know them as people. Even that short window of time and really see their hearts and their ambitions and family will always weigh in that. What they've wanted for their family and a better life. And that reflected in my mind too. What did I really want for myself and always entrepreneurial spirited and so I thought I'd take a risk. And see what I wanted to really do and I always loved design and decorating and transitioning spaces. But at the time I didn't know any architects or interior decorators and the bar was medical school or law school right? So I didn't have any of those goggles on. But my mother left corporate and got her real estate license and then convinced my dad to get his real estate license. So hence when I was looking for an entrepreneurial thing to do, I got my real estate license right? Family of realtors to start with but after doing that for a little while one of the things I really, my passion really started to bloom. That's where I discovered that I really love transforming spaces. Looking at people's homes and going No, we've got to do something here if we're gonna do the best for you right? So started moving their furniture around. Started taking things off their walls and moving it around. Started bringing things out of my

own house to decorate their space way back in the beginning. And then fell in love with design and a way you would yeah.

Lisa Peters

That's funny. Oh I love that I think I've only sold one house I think. And they weren't that. They didn't come in and you know what you need to do. And maybe they told me but like yeah, just sell it. But to have someone, very cool. So a family of real estate agents. I love that.

Devonia DeBeck

Yeah, and just to echo the ambition of my mother and how we were groomed, by the time I hit high school we had moved 13 times and it was because my mother was always upgrading with real estate. So we got into a house. We stayed there for a while. We moved, we got to another house. We bought sometimes we had to rent before the other house was ready but we moved all these times because of the great ambition to be successful also through real estate.

Lisa Peters

Very cool. Again not afraid to change, just keep moving. So then you I mean you loved real estate obviously realized Okay I love the decorating part and you kept moving.

Devonia DeBeck

Yes. So I just went to design school. Got graduated and became an accredited interior decorator. And before you knew the agents were asking me to stage their clients' homes and other people's homes. And before you knew it I went from moving a few things in people's houses to buying inventory and hiring people to help me and it bloomed into a beautiful business and I really found my calling. My real love of helping people transition their spaces and really seeing the joy it brought them. Even if they were selling it, they were just so full of joy.

I mean sometimes you see joy with your kids and when they're laughing and you just pure joy comes out of them. When I transform homes and people come back and they see their spaces whether they're moving or in transition and redoing their space that they're gonna live in, there's such an element of joy and peace that they get out of it. I am just so grateful that God uses these hands to do that.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, so do people ever get afraid of you're going to come in and just, I don't know, do these changes that they're not going to like?

Devonia DeBeck

Well, do you know where they are really fearful? They're fearful that I'm going to come in and criticize their personal style. And that's just not me. If anybody knows me I'm like there's so

much small talk about ooh I like that where's the history of that? Where'd that come from? What's that picture about? So really blending. Like I mean at the end of the day, it has to feel like them and not like me. Because that's where the real joy happens. But I love when they call me and say Devon, I just come home at the end of the day and I go into the living room which is now my reading room even the dogs like it. Yeah, so basically I'm rated by pets as well. (Laughing)

Lisa Peters

Look at you rated by pets. So I'm so far loving the progression of your career because you didn't know about interior decorating but you were in real estate and you saw it. I feel like these doors just slowly opened for you from executive search to...because I mean now you're coaching. So I go right back to the executive coaching or the executive. You know the search that you were putting people in their jobs years ago and now you're helping people define their lives.

Devonia DeBeck

Yeah, I've always been coaching. People have watched all the transitions I've made and how I've navigated careers and things like that and they're always asking always. And I think one of the things everybody has a gift and I think I'm a great encourager. I always love to encourage people and I think that kind of blends nicely with coaching. I had a heart for encouraging people and when COVID happened and when COVID had first happened everybody kind of held their breath for a moment to see what direction were things gonna fall apart or how were they gonna evolve. And I thought well if the real estate market crashes usually, decorating might be a part of that. I need to make sure I'm resilient and I have something else to do so I got certified as a life coach. So I call life coaching certification my COVID project.

Lisa Peters

COVID Bonus!

Devonia DeBeck

And yes, six months later I certified as a life coach and started coaching people as well. But it's so much joy to help people and to encourage them and help them to see the jewel of who they are because sometimes you just can't see it and you need people to look and help you see what you're not seeing.

Lisa Peters

Well it leads me into my next question because I think of you just said with COVID it happened to you and the changes and you know where interior decorating is going to go and I mean unexpected or expected changes or maybe people have had no change. What would you tell a person who maybe is searching to define their life? Where would you tell a person to begin?

Devonia DeBeck

Well I think people should still go to the basics. Your values, morals. What resonates with you and try to create your own... I was listening to Andy Stanley and he called them guardrails. You know when you're off, when you're out of sync and you're hitting the guardrails or you're over the guardrails. You know! So if you really define your values, your morals what's important to you. For me, it's my faith and my walk with God. And if I'm doing something that is challenging that I'm out of sync. So sometimes I call it filters. Sometimes I call it guardrails. Even when I'm coaching and people are questioning, doubting if they're doing the right thing I say Okay, let's get your guardrails in place or your filter in place. And then as you go through life you filter things through that. If it doesn't work then Okay, something's out of whack. If it filters through you still feel you're in line with your values, still feel you're in line with whatever your guardrails are your faith, what's important to you, then move forward and know that you're doing it from a good place. Even if it goes awry. Even if it doesn't line up with other people's views. In your belly, it will feel okay. I like that idea of just spending some time and really understanding that for yourself so that you can move through the world with a little bit more confidence and stop second-guessing yourself all the time, right.

Lisa Peters

Yeah I think that's a big one is second-guessing. I think we need to just make the move and try it. Just take the opportunity and do it and you know if it doesn't work, it's not a failure. You did something. You learned something from it. This is like a coaching session for Lisa. How am I doing?! (Laughing) I love these podcasts I get a little of my own in.

Devonia DeBeck

Yes, even the other day I was because we're all professionals. We're all having the human experience. Nobody gets away without having stress or worry or what have you. This is just how you deal with it so we can move forward. And the last couple of days I've been thinking about...I thought I'm going to get up. I have a clean piece of paper. I have a clean slate. I decide what I'm going to write on that paper today. So stop stressing. Stop getting in your head and decide. How am I going to write my day out on that paper? How am I going to evolve today that at the end of the day I wrote this script of my day? So trying to tell myself I have a clean slate that I can and I'm the creator whatever goes on that piece of paper today. Sometimes it just helps give a sense of calm. And a little bit of I'm okay I'm in control of where this is gonna go.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, because if you don't define your day someone else will. And next thing what your day got sucked up and you didn't get anything done for yourself. Yeah, so you earlier said your filter is faith.

Devonia DeBeck

Yes.

Lisa Peters

You have a faith filter. Can you just tell us a little more about that?

Devonia DeBeck

Well, a common question for people I guess in the Christian world is when did you give your life to God? Or when did you find faith? And I always tell people I was pretty well born in the church. You know my father always went to church. He always took us to church. We always went on the, I remember being in the Lucy Bus Sunday school and going on the Lucy bus and the bus would come and drive us to church. So I was always in church. I don't know when exactly I found faith, but it has always been my anchor and my navigator. And some days, some part times in life you're really entrenched in marinating yourself in the Word and your faith and all that. And sometimes you're just you're busy and it's happening but it's more of a sidebar than very focused but it's always there for me. It's always the underbelly. It's always the undercurrent. It's always the guide. And no matter how things go well or not well, I always feel that I have that anchor that I have that I can come back and pray it out. Those tough times when you want the answer to be one way and the answer is obviously the other way and you just can't have peace with it. I finally have to just say okay God you're bigger than me. I give it to you. I give up. You're gonna create something way better than I'm gonna create it, so it's all yours. I find that very peaceful for me to just say you created this planet so I can't I can't outdo you so I'm looking forward to what you're gonna do. (Laughing)

Lisa Peters

Yeah, I'm like yeah, you just go ahead, I'm gonna watch. So before I move on because I want to hear more about your spiritual journey I think it's gonna be good. I want to ask a little bit more about filters. I think people listening are going, what are some examples? Can you share some like what are some examples people have as filters? Is that a good question?

Devonia DeBeck

Or guardrails right? Yeah, so it could be in relationships right? It could be...It's funny when I first started dating my husband before we got married or when we're just married, I got married later in life. I was forty before I got married. And my husband was on a second marriage so when you wait that long to be married you're like I'm doing this right. As best as I can? (Laughing)

Lisa Peters

(Laughing) Yeah, you have filters but I got married at 30 I had filters.

Devonia DeBeck

And so one of the things as a realtor or a business professional, you're always giving out cards. Oh I'm a realtor here's my card. Here's my card. Here's my card. Well a couple of times some gentlemen decided they're going to use that card as prospecting for a personal relationship.

And so I just knew for me if I ever wanted my marriage to work, I would not encourage those conversations even though there might be a compliment or make me feel good about me. And so I used to hand the phone over to my husband if somebody would call me and I'd be like why are they calling me and what's with the provocative talk? I would hand it over to my husband. My husband would go Hello and they're like Uh. And then he'd go Why are you calling my wife and they'd be like Blah, blah, blah. So because of that habit and that mindset for myself...there's no such thing as innocent flirting for me, that was my guardrail for my marriage. Or my guardrail for my marriage again... one of the things my husband and I do that we don't even know that we do anymore we don't even use each other's names anymore. We use Love and Honey and all that stuff. Not to be...right? But it's just the love talk in my brain that keeps me when I get mad at little things it still centers me. It still reminds me that this is my guy that I asked God for? So I gotta take care of him. So it's those little guardrails. It could be anything. It could be...I don't curse. I won't say that the people in my life don't curse. But for me, it just helps me stay with a level of self- dignity and respect for others. Not everybody is gonna live their life and speak it in their own way. But that is my personal guard rail to remind me to respect others. So different things are going to be people's guardrails right? Different things will be people's filters. But I think it's important to take some time and think about it so that you honor it when you need to. When it just flutters to your head and you're like yeah we're not crossing that line.

Lisa Peters

Has there ever been a guardrail of surrounding yourself with good people? You know there's some people around you that are just not good for you. And is that an example of a filter?

Devonia DeBeck

Yeah, absolutely I mean and the thing is some people can be around those people who are not good for you but they might be okay for other people. But you have to define that guardrail or that filter for yourself. It's like people who want to give up drinking. Maybe they're like I can't be in the bars. I can't be with this person because they're always drinking and they always want to go out and drink and do shots and things like that. So you really have to, it could be people. It could be. It could be self-talk. It could be Nope I'm no longer gonna berate myself. I'm not going to speak to myself how I would never speak to somebody else? But it takes time right? You have to sit down and spend some time with it. Or else you're just all over the place and people will say things and you'll just do whatever right? And you'll feel one day you'll get to a place and you'll feel lost. Even if when you get to a place and you feel a little bit out of kilter, I find the guardrail helps to or the filter helps to center you.

Lisa Peters

Yeah I think we need to sit down and write those down. We need to take the time.

Devonia DeBeck

Absolutely. And you grow out of some of them right? Sometimes you mature. They change. When you become a mother those priorities are very different from when you become a mother now. It's like no, I cannot go out and hang out with the girlfriends all the time now. All the girlfriends get one birthday visit each and so they change. Yeah.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, good. All right. Well, we're gonna move on a little bit to your spiritual journey. You started a little bit about it. You grew up in the church but, tell us a little bit more about it if you have anything more to share about your church maturity.

Devonia DeBeck

I find that when I had those big things in life that happened, my faith was what kept me on the ground when I wanted to spiral away. You know, getting married in my forties and never having children was a hard pill for me to swallow. And my husband when we got married he said yeah sure I have 3 girls already. But for you, I will have another child right? But then my 3 stepdaughters, my youngest one started having a family early and once my husband became a grandpa, he didn't want to have that conversation anymore. And that was a hard pill for me to swallow. And I truly believe my relationship with God and my faith is what got me through that hard pill because after a while...some things are just not to blame other humans. I just felt that if God wanted me to be pregnant and have a child it would have happened. People get pregnant, some people laugh and say my husband just looks at me and I get pregnant. But it just didn't happen for me and it took me a long time. It took me a good year and a half to get over that disappointment. But now when the grandbabies call me Grandma and snuggle up then hey it all changes it's all good. It's all good. But yeah. So my faith has really helped me through those hard things where you want to blame everybody and anybody. And at the end of the day I just say God has big shoulders and I can blame him and then he'll help me kind of come to terms with where I should stand on this.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, so what is something you live by?

Devonia DeBeck

I think it kind of resonates in what I just said. But this year my quote for the year is going to be, Be still and know that I am God because I'm a person who likes to be involved in so many things. And then I'm always aspiring. I'm always planning. I'm always trying to achieve something and sometimes frustrated on my journey. So I love the phrase to live by Be still and know that I'm God. If it's tough, just be still and let me God let me do the heavy lifting. Or let me direct you or let me let it evolve from me as opposed to Devonia you trying to manipulate everything that happened.

Lisa Peters

Oh we try so hard. I would agree.

Devonia DeBeck

So sometimes I miss that. I think COVID has helped me a little bit to really appreciate being still. And know that there's goodness in stillness as well.

Lisa Peters

Yes, I have learned that is too. Now in our pre-interview, it was a month ago. You shared a story and I want you to share it again. A little bit about meeting your husband because it is such a good story. Oh yes, it's a good story. I would like you to share it.

Devonia DeBeck

Well I met my husband when I graduated high school. I traveled around the world with a group called Up With People. And Up With People you may have known them from they've done the Super Bowl. We travel around the world doing community service around the world in a 2 hour professional musical. And we're invited to cities that we go to. We don't show up, just show up. We get invited sometimes. A big company wants to say thank you to all their employees around the country so they invite us to go to each city and perform. Once in the south I remember we were invited once to university because the sorority, there's a black sorority, and they had a cross burning. Somebody burned across on the lawn of the sorority and that just fractured the whole community and then they brought Up With People in to help bond the community.

So Up With People students from all over the world who come learn this professional musical. Travel around the world performing it. Travel around the world doing community service and we're together for a whole year. And we live with host families. We don't stay in hotels. We invite families to host the cast, the students.

And so that's how I met my husband. He was from Nebraska and I was from Toronto. He's a little older than me. He had finished university and just started teaching and I had graduated high school, worked a little bit and then traveled with Up With People. So we dated for a little bit and then he decided that he was going to stop after a year and go back to work. And I decided that I'd travel for another year around the world. But unbeknownst to me, we got very close. Unbeknownst to me, he was teaching at a performing arts high school in a very affluent white area but the school was in the center of it and it was predominantly black school. So I have visited him maybe three or four times within a year and so we were interracial couple. He was a white man from Nebraska and I was a black girl from Canada, from Toronto. And so we didn't see much of each other. But when we saw each other we were in environments.

But unbeknownst to me when I was traveling he was receiving death threats about dating a person of color, dating a black person. And so here's this poor guy. He had no idea where it was coming from. He'd have notes on his car. Notes at his house. Notes all over the place. And he was being threatened and he had no idea where it was coming from. So for a year this was going on and I had no idea what was going on and so when I finished my second year of travel, he just said you know what? He didn't know what to do. And he said I just don't know if I can raise a family worrying about the threat of death from a relationship. And so we went our separate ways and that was a hard pill for both of us to swallow but we went our separate ways. And later to find out that he found out that other people were also getting those threats but nobody talked.

So we went our separate ways. 20 years later I never spoke to him again. And 20 years later at the 20 year reunion year he reached out to some old friends and they said Hey, that time it was a Yahoo page, so hey we're all on a Yahoo page. And he posted a little blurb about his life and his Yahoo Page he had 3 daughters and he had been divorced for a couple of years. And I sent him a little email and said hey old friend how are you doing? And within six months of that email we were married! So there you go. (Laughing) So what is meant to be will be that was one of the mottos that I live by is what is yours will be yours. You do not have to worry about it even if it takes time. Who's meant for you will be yours.

Lisa Peters

It just took a lot of time. I think that's the hard part is it's the anger like it's like just let this happen and speed it up and that was 20 years.

Devonia DeBeck

Yeah, and I had never married. Never really not because I was waiting for him. I did. I thought I didn't think anything. I never thought of him again. Well I mean I thought of him again but I never pursued anything like that. So yeah.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, well thank you for sharing.

Devonia DeBeck

So, we're 14 years in and he moved to Canada.

Lisa Peters

And 3 and 3 daughters and grandchildren now.

Devonia DeBeck

So yes and three lovely step daughters and three lovely grand babies now. Yeah 2 COVID babies.

Lisa Peters

Wow, that's wonderful and you're getting your snuggles in.

Devonia DeBeck

Yeah yes I am.

Lisa Peters

So I'm gonna ask you a little bit about LeaderImpact. How did you get involved with LeaderImpact group?

Devonia DeBeck

I have a friend who we created our own little mastermind business group together and we're friends for a while and she had joined with a couple ladies who launched the women's part of LeaderImpact when it first started. And probably about a year in or so she asked me if I was interested in just coming and seeing what it was all about and I never left. So it's been wonderful. And everybody's been so gracious and it's such a beautiful, just this beautiful journey of all the wonderful leaders and women that I've met and men leaders as well. So I've really enjoyed learning and sharing and fellowshiping with all these great leaders.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, so are you in an all ladies group or you in a coed group?

Devonia DeBeck

Good question. So I'm in an all ladies group and our group grew and grew and then we broke into 2 different groups and now my new group is already growing. And so probably sometime in the mid midyear I might start a new group because this group is doing so well together. Although I love these ladies, I'm just so passionate about people finding this group and finding their community like these ladies. And I think a lot of us feel this way because they look forward to coming Thursday. We do our Thursday morning. And they're like this is my happy time even though it's so early in the morning. I hate missing. I love coming here. I feel that as a leader...sometimes the more senior you get the less people take care of you because you're taking care of people. So this is their community to have each other. Love on each other and take care of each other. Yeah.

Lisa Peters

Oh yeah I love that. And I know it's so hard to start a new group. I just started a new group and it's a virtual group so we've got people from all across Saskatchewan. And we've met I think twice as of filming this. And it's been a joy. So what are you studying right now or are you reading a book?

Devonia DeBeck

Yes. Yeah I'm reading a book called Refresh. And I apologize I wish I had the person's name. It's actually a couple who wrote it together and it really is helping us to, especially leaders and overachievers, to just give ourselves permission to let go of a lot of things. And where to find our, how to get our lives, overused phrases imbalance but what takes us out of balance and how to refresh ourselves. And as women, the husband wrote the male version and the wife the female version, but they wrote them together but then broke off the sections that they thought would resonate with their own gender. But it's been really great to and especially the beginning of the year to start with that book.

Lisa Peters

I think the best part is just sharing it with other leaders. Because you can read a book and it's read you read it. But when you share it, you have to dive deep.

Devonia DeBeck

The funny thing about our group with LeaderImpact is that the women in our group, they're not afraid to say, You know what, I don't agree with the writer and this is how I would write it differently. Or this is my perspective on that point. So just because the book is in print doesn't mean that it's gonna get, I just love seeing these strong women, confident women who are like what that's not my experience and I would do different with it. We learned so much from each other and it's so refreshing to see people courageously put their hand up and say no I don't I don't buy into that.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, and to have such a safe platform to do it.

Devonia DeBeck

Absolutely, absolutely.

Lisa Peters

Well this is one of my questions I ask everybody. LeaderImpact is about your impact through your leadership. So, have you considered what you want your faith legacy to be when you leave this world?

Devonia DeBeck

I think really that people would say that I was an encourager. That they always felt uplifted and encouraged. Because I don't think I could go up to heaven and tell God that I created some beautiful spaces. (Laughing)

Lisa Peters

(Laughing) They were really pretty.

Devonia DeBeck

Because he said hey oh look did you see the planet that was what I did right? So I can't I can't compete on that. So but I do love that God has inspired me to be an encourager and it's my happy place where I feel that I'm helping people to see and to revisit and be encouraged by what they might have been challenged by.

Lisa Peters

Yeah. I love that. I think sometimes we think it has to be grand. It has to be a big legacy that I leave. I gotta leave a big impact. It's like, nope, which is huge! So I mean if you think back on your life of the people that encouraged you. I mean for you I just think of your mom.

Devonia DeBeck

Absolutely. Yes. Absolutely. And maybe as a parent, I don't have my own kids but I have my stepdaughters and then my nieces and nephews, I just always want to encourage them and just tell them how great they are as who they are. And that their job on this planet is not to be like anybody else. Their job on this planet is to really find their unique person of who they are. And I'm so excited to be your aunt. I'm so excited to see what you're going to do next. Things like that. So yeah I think they just roll their eyes at me now. But...

Lisa Peters

That's what they do. Oh my cheeks hurt Devonia. I love your share. Good shares. So my final question which I love asking is what brings you joy? You've shared so much joy. But if there was one thing.

Devonia DeBeck

I love to... We have moved away from the formalities of life. And I was brought up with my mother, with tablecloths and cloth napkins and all that stuff. And I have so much joy spoiling my guests when they come to my house. The table is set. There's flowers on the table. It may be the fine china, it may be just regular china but it's just it's thoughtful on my behalf because it's my gift to my client. Or my gift to my guest. And I just take so much joy of seeing how excited and how special they feel this is for them. And just seeing them just relax and nestle into the environment. And my husband and I, we love it when our, of course I decorate and all that stuff and people like oh your place must be beautiful or whatever, but we love to see people really sink into our sofa and put their feet up on the sofa and really feel pampered and spoiled by us. We have so much joy that way.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, that's a beautiful mood. I just feel the serenity and what a beautiful gift to give your guests. That is a beautiful gift.

Devonia DeBeck

Yeah, we love entertaining and my husband...but my stepdaughters they've gotten used to me now. They're like oh here comes the table cloth and the cloth napkins. Okay, and the pretty plates.

Lisa Peters

Do you do it at their house too? Do you go into their own house?

Devonia DeBeck

My stepdaughter, my middle step daughter, bought a house and when we went to visit her in Texas I was like oh my gift to you and so I went to town and she's like oh thank you Devonia. And so I kind of ...I said to my husband What's the budget? I need to help her get her kitchen, breakfast area all decked out a little bit. And once it was transformed we spent so much time in that kitchen having conversation and playing games. And so I love creating those environments that people feel like they want a nest. So the girls get it too.

Lisa Peters

Thank you so much Devonia for just sharing the last 45 minutes with us. My cheeks hurt from the smiles. I feel joy just talking to you. Thank you.

Devonia DeBeck

Yeah, oh good, good.

Lisa Peters

And you know I loved hearing about your family. And you really were designed to exceed. You know your mother encouraged you and your whole life for me as I listened was just a transition. So thank you for sharing this last 45 minutes.

Devonia DeBeck

Well thank you so much for having me. I really enjoyed this. So I appreciate it.

Lisa Peters

Any time. Well so this ends our time with you. But if anyone wants to reach out with you or engage with you where can they find you.

Devonia DeBeck

Yeah, if you go to <https://debeckinteriors.com/> even if you want coaching, there's a place there that you can reach out to me directly and then I'll pick up their comments there as well.

Lisa Peters

All right? Well thank you Devonia it's been a pleasure sharing this time with you.

Devonia DeBeck

Thank you so much that I truly appreciate this. A lot of fun.

Lisa Peters

Well I want to thank you all for joining us. If we've said any books or anything there's going to be some show notes. So check those out. But if you're part of LeaderImpact you can always discuss or share this wisdom with your group and if you're not yet in a LeaderImpact group we would love to have you check out groups available in your area at leaderimpact.ca or get in touch with us and we will connect you. Stay in touch with our newsletter at leaderimpact.ca or on social media or get in touch with us at info@leaderimpact.ca. And if you like this podcast, please leave us a comment, give us a rating or a review this will help other leaders find our podcast. Thank you for engaging with us and remember impact starts with you.