jds. speaker and podcast kit

Jared D. Simmons

Keynotes and workshops for leaders on the decisions that stall execution.

Talks · Workshops · Podcast conversations

Useful in the room. Still useful on Monday morning.

Planning a keynote, a workshop, or an episode? Send the date, the audience, and what you want people to leave with.

Jared@JaredDSimmons.com · jareddsimmons.com

Usually replies within two business days.

Meet Jared

In preschool, Jared D. Simmons brought home a paper with more red ink than crayon on it. The teacher's complaint? He kept helping the other kids instead of doing his own work.

He never really stopped. Trained as a chemical engineer, he worked in R&D at Procter & Gamble, in McKinsey & Company's Product Development and Innovation practice, and as a Strategic Initiatives Director at The Coca-Cola Company. Now he advises leaders as a certified executive coach, works with leadership teams, and hosts the *What is Innovation?* podcast. His newest venture, KIWAVI, is a concept for a network of business hubs in mid-market cities across America.

What does he bring to your room? A plain framework, sharp questions, and a next step people take on Monday.

Signature sessions

Manager, Coach, Leader: Choosing the Role the Moment Needs
For managers and executives who direct work, develop people, and set direction, often all in the same day. By the end, people can read the moment and pick the role on purpose, instead of the one that feels comfortable.

The Hidden Mechanics of Team Effectiveness
For leadership teams with agreements on paper and uneven follow-through in practice. Results often live in the plumbing: trust, decision rights, handoffs, and operating rhythm. This session shows teams where theirs leaks and what to fix first.

The Cost of Cutting the Wrong Things
For executives and operating leaders under pressure to protect margin. Leaders walk out with a way to weigh cost moves across product, process, and operations while protecting what customers value.

Where Ideas Stall: Finding the Seams That Slow Execution
For cross-functional teams that turn ideas into results. Where do goals, capability, collaboration, and process stop lining up? Teams learn to spot those seams before they cost a quarter.

What's Re-worthy? What deserves our return, and what doesn't
For teams that keep circling the same issues or reaching for the next new tool. Everyone leaves with three things: something worth revisiting, something worth releasing, and a next action.

How he shows up

Keynote · Interactive workshop · Facilitated executive session · Fireside chat or panel · Podcast guest · In person or virtual

Lengths: keynote 45 to 60 min · workshop half day or full day · fireside or panel 30 to 45 min · podcast flexible

Where: Available in person or virtual, anywhere.

Classrooms: Guest lecturer at The University of Texas at Austin's McCombs School of Business, the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business, and The University of Alabama's Culverhouse College of Business.

Jared shapes every session to your audience after a short planning call.

What people say about working with Jared

"Jared is truly a world-class coach and consultant. ... Jared's passion for helping others, combined with his strong problem-solving, structuring, listening, and storylining skills ensure that he delivers results WHILE improving the capabilities of those he works with."

Sr. Manager, Major Consumer Goods Company

"Jared provides firm feedback in a caring and objective way. He is great at pushing me just enough beyond my comfort zone to continually encourage me to experiment and grow."

Fortune 500 Oil & Gas Company

"Through his consistent, steadfast guidance and unwavering beliefs, our organization as a whole reaped the benefits of having Jared onboard."

S. Forzley, SVP Client Services, Major Market Research Company

On air

Host, *What is Innovation?* Since 2020, Jared has put one question to more than 140 guests from across industries. Each guest's answer becomes the episode title. The result is a running argument about how new ideas actually get done.

Listen: whatisinnovationpodcast.com · Apple Podcasts

Start with these:

- Innovation is a leadership challenge, not an idea challenge, with Robyn Bolton
- Innovation is the ability to get creative ideas done, with Duncan Wardle
- Innovation is getting "unattached" to outcomes, with David Greer
- Innovation is bringing unseen opportunities to profitable reality, with Steve Hinch

Guest, on other shows (start here):

- *Specified: Building Materials & Construction Growth Podcast*, S2. Ep. 127: Exploring Innovation Processes (2024). His career story and how innovation works inside organizations.
- *Unleashed*, Ep. 550: Design to Value (2024). A step-by-step walk through a hard business problem.
- *Whiskey, Jazz and Leadership*: Top Shelf Sampling with Jared Simmons, Part 1 (2021). A personal conversation about jazz and leadership. The conversation continues in Part 2.

All guest appearances are listed in A2.

For podcast hosts

Jared knows both sides of the mic. He comes prepared and brings stories.

Questions your listeners will want answered

1. You've asked more than 140 guests what innovation is. What's your answer today?
2. Why do good ideas stall after everyone has agreed to them?
3. Manager, coach, or leader: how do you know which one the moment needs?
4. You say progress beats activity. How can someone tell the difference by Friday?
5. What's a base metaphor, and how did triplet eighth notes rescue a stuck workflow redesign?
6. What did a chemical engineer from Procter & Gamble learn about people that he couldn't learn about products?

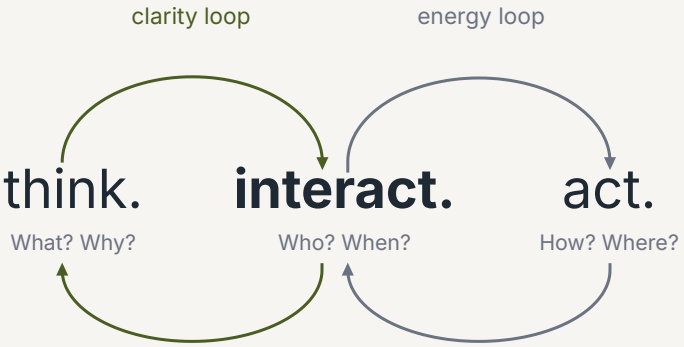
What your listeners get

- **think. interact. act.**, a plain three-part framework they can use on a stalled problem this week
- Stories from a career across product R&D, consulting, and corporate strategy
- One concrete next step to try before the episode is a week old

Media

High-res headshots for programs, posters, and show art: jareddsimmons.com/headshots/

> "Inspiration fades. Education rusts. Momentum propels progress."



Listen first

Specified S2 Ep. 127, Exploring Innovation Processes

Hear Jared's path from engineering to innovation leadership.

think. interact. act. · LinkedIn · *What is Innovation?*

Let's talk

Have a date, a room, or a mic? Start with an email.

Jared@JaredDSimmons.com
jareddsimmons.com

Usually replies within two business days.

Helpful to include: the session or topic, keynote or workshop or episode, audience size, date, and what you want people to leave with.

Making the case to someone else? Forward this kit to your decision-maker. Appendix A4 has a short email you can paste.

Appendix: the booker’s pack

A1. Bios and stage introduction

Short bio (about 50 words)

Jared D. Simmons helps leaders move the decisions that stall execution. A chemical engineer by training, he built his career at Procter & Gamble, McKinsey & Company, and The Coca-Cola Company. Today he’s a speaker, a certified executive coach, and host of *What is Innovation?* His newest venture is KIWAVI, a concept for a network of business hubs in mid-market cities across America.

Medium bio (about 120 words)

Why do good ideas stall after everyone agrees on them? Jared D. Simmons has spent his career on that question. He started as a chemical engineer in R&D at Procter & Gamble, then joined McKinsey & Company’s Product Development and Innovation practice. At The Coca-Cola Company, as a Strategic Initiatives Director, he was responsible for a pipeline of product innovation initiatives.

These days Jared works as a certified executive coach and facilitator through OUTLAST, his consulting practice. His central framework and philosophy, **think. interact. act.**, shapes how he approaches problems and opportunities, even when it isn’t named on stage. On the mic, he hosts *What is Innovation?*, with more than 140 conversations since 2020. And then there’s KIWAVI: a concept for a network of business hubs in mid-market cities across America, which Jared leads as Founder & President of KIWAVI Corporation.

Long bio (about 220 words)

The workflow redesign was stuck. Two departments ran slightly out of sync, and no spreadsheet or diagram could make the process owner see it. So Jared D. Simmons tried music. She played organ; he plays piano. “Triplet eighth notes against sixteenth notes,” he told her. She got it on the spot.

That’s Jared’s move with leaders and teams: find the picture that makes a hard problem clear, then turn clarity into action. His framework for it is plain on purpose: **think. interact. act.**

Jared earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering at The University of Alabama and began in R&D at Procter & Gamble. Next came McKinsey & Company’s Product Development and Innovation practice. At The Coca-Cola Company, he served as a Strategic Initiatives Director over a pipeline of product innovation initiatives. Across those roles, his projects delivered well over $100M in incremental profit.

Today he’s Founder and Principal of OUTLAST Consulting LLC, where he works with leaders as a certified executive coach and facilitates leadership teams. His podcast, *What is Innovation?*, is past 140 episodes. He has also guest lectured at The University of Texas at Austin’s McCombs School of Business, the University of Georgia’s Terry College of Business, and The University of Alabama’s Culverhouse College of Business. What’s next? As Founder & President of KIWAVI Corporation, he’s developing KIWAVI, a concept for a network of business hubs in mid-market cities across America.

Off the clock? He sang lead and played keys in a cover band, and now plays solo jazz. He’s a published poet, a reader of the Shakespearean author, a football fan, and a lifelong puzzle solver.

Stage introduction (about 45 seconds, for the MC)

Think about the last big idea your team agreed on. Is it moving? Or is it still sitting in a slide deck?

Our next speaker has spent his career in that gap. Jared D. Simmons, a chemical engineer by training, worked in R&D at Procter & Gamble, in McKinsey & Company’s Product Development and Innovation practice, and as a Strategic Initiatives Director at The Coca-Cola Company.

Today he's a certified executive coach to leaders and their teams. He hosts the *What is Innovation?* podcast, where more than 140 guests have taken a swing at the show's title question. And as Founder & President of KIWAVI Corporation, he's developing a concept for a network of business hubs in mid-market cities across America.

He's here to help us get unstuck. Please welcome Jared D. Simmons.

A2. Episode index

Guest appearances

Date	Show	Episode	Link
Oct 2024	Sonata Learning Podcast	Ep. 102: Jared Simmons (OUTLAST Consulting LLC)	YouTube
Jul 15, 2024	Specified: Building Materials & Construction Growth Podcast	S2. Ep. 127: Exploring Innovation Processes (With Jared Simmons)	Spotify · Apple
Jan 29, 2024	Unleashed	Ep. 550: Design to Value	Umbrex · Apple
Sep 1, 2022	B The Change Georgia with Nathan Stuck (Chat With Leaders Media)	A Path to Empathy and Humanistic Problem Solving	Apple
Sep 21, 2021	Whiskey, Jazz and Leadership	Top Shelf Sampling with Jared Simmons (Part 2)	Podbean
Sep 14, 2021	Whiskey, Jazz and Leadership	Top Shelf Sampling with Jared Simmons (Part 1)	Podbean
May 28, 2020	AigoraCast	Figure Out a New How	Libsyn

Hosted: *What is Innovation?* (selected)

Show home: whatisinnovationpodcast.com · Apple Podcasts

Date	Episode	Guest	Link
Jul 2, 2025	Innovation is bringing unseen opportunities to profitable reality	Steve Hinch	Apple
Apr 29, 2025	Innovation is getting "unattached" to outcomes	David Greer	Apple
Feb 5, 2025	Innovation is the ability to get creative ideas done	Duncan Wardle	Apple
May 10, 2023	Innovation is a leadership challenge, not an idea challenge	Robyn Bolton	Apple

A fuller set of episode picks will be chosen once listener download data is in.

A3. AV and tech

- **Mic:** wireless lavalier or headset preferred; handheld works.
- **Screen:** projector or LED wall with HDMI input; slides are 16:9.
- **Clicker:** wireless slide advancer.
- **Confidence monitor:** helpful, not required.
- **Workshops:** flip charts or a whiteboard, markers, sticky notes, and tables set in small groups.
- **Fireside or panel:** two mics and seating; questions shared a week ahead.
- **Virtual:** Zoom, Teams, or Webex; Jared joins on his own camera and mic.
- **Podcast:** remote or in studio; any recording platform.

A4. Email for the person recommending Jared

Subject: Speaker idea for [EVENT]: Jared D. Simmons

Hi [NAME],

I'd like to suggest Jared D. Simmons for [EVENT OR SESSION]. His talks are about where decisions stall and how leaders get them moving, which is exactly what [OUR TEAM / OUR AUDIENCE] is wrestling with. He's a chemical engineer by training who worked at Procter & Gamble, McKinsey & Company, and The Coca-Cola Company, and today he's a certified executive coach who also hosts the *What is Innovation?* podcast. One client called him "truly a world-class coach and consultant," and another said working with Jared "set me up for long-term success in my management role." I think [SESSION TITLE] would land well with our group, as a keynote or a hands-on workshop. His kit is attached, and you can reach him directly at Jared@JaredDSimmons.com. Could we find 15 minutes this week to talk it through?

[YOUR NAME]

A5. Asset links

- **Headshots:** download page https://jareddsimmons.com/headshots/ (direct file: https://jareddsimmons.com/headshots/Jared-D-Simmons-headshot-2026.png)
- **Web headshot:** https://jareddsimmons.com/assets/images/jared-headshot.png
- **Website:** https://jareddsimmons.com
- **think. interact. act.:** https://jareddsimmons.com/think-interact-act/
- **LinkedIn:** https://www.linkedin.com/in/jaredsimmons
- **Podcast:** https://whatisinnovationpodcast.com · https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/what-is-innovation/id1537731814