

# THE LEADER'S HEART: A 10-WEEK JOURNEY

## A Narrative Summary

There's a kind of leadership the world celebrates—polished, powerful, always in control. Then there's the leadership Jesus modeled: a towel wrapped around His waist, kneeling before dusty feet, whispering to His Father in a garden while sweat became like drops of blood. This 10-week journey invited you into that second kind of leadership—the kind that transforms not just what you do, but who you are.

### Cultivating the Heart's Foundation: Weeks 1-3

It began with a radical reorientation. In **Week 1**, Matthew 20:26–28 turned everything upside down: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." Jesus didn't just teach this—He lived it. In John 13, He took the basin and towel, washing feet that would soon run from Him. You discovered that true power flows not from position but from selflessness. The question echoed: *Who are you elevating today?*

**Prayer for Week 1:** *Lord Jesus, You came not to be served but to serve. Break down my pride and my need for recognition. Teach me to lead with a towel in hand and love in my heart. Show me today who needs to be elevated, and give me the humility to serve them well. Amen.*

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But you couldn't serve authentically from a false self. **Week 2** took you deeper, into Psalm 139:23–24, where David prayed, "Search me, O God, and know my heart." You were invited to shed the masks—the performance, the insecurity, the need to prove yourself. David's raw vulnerability in Psalm 51, confessing his sin with Bathsheba, showed that God doesn't want your polished résumé. He wants your true self. When you lead from that place of authenticity, trust grows and pretense dies.

**Prayer for Week 2:** *Father, search my heart and know me fully. Strip away the masks I wear and the false self I've built to protect myself. Give me courage to be honest about who I really am—with You, with myself, and with others. Let my leadership flow from authenticity, not performance. Amen.*

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Then came **Week 3**, perhaps the most overlooked dimension of leadership: emotional health. Proverbs 4:23 warned, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." You watched Jesus in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36–39), openly expressing His anguish and pouring it out before the Father: "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." He processed His emotions honestly before God rather than denying or suppressing them. You learned that emotional wholeness isn't weakness—it's the wellspring that prevents burnout, sustains influence, and keeps your relationships healthy. Unexamined emotions leak into everything you lead.

**Prayer for Week 3:** *Lord, You know the depths of my heart—the wounds I carry, the feelings I've buried, the pain I've avoided. Teach me to process my emotions honestly before You. Guard my heart and make me emotionally whole so that what flows from me brings life, not harm. Give me wisdom to recognize when I need rest, help, or healing. Amen.*

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## Strengthening the Heart's Resilience: Weeks 4-6

As the journey continued, **Week 4** confronted a truth most leaders resist: embracing weakness. The apostle Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 became personal: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." You were encouraged to name your limitations—not as barriers, but as doorways to deeper dependence on God. When you stopped pretending you had it all together, grace rushed in and others felt permission to be real too.

**Prayer for Week 4:** *Father, I confess my weaknesses and limitations before You. I've spent so much energy trying to appear strong and capable. Help me see that Your power is made perfect in my weakness. Teach me to depend on You, not my own strength. Let my vulnerability create space for Your grace to work through me. Amen.*

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**Week 5** addressed the pace problem. Jesus regularly withdrew to solitary places (Luke 5:16), modeling rhythms of rest and renewal. You were challenged to build sustainable patterns—Sabbath, silence, solitude—that keep you from running on fumes. Busyness might feel like faithfulness, but it's often just fear dressed up as productivity. Intentional rhythms aren't luxuries; they're necessities for long-term effectiveness. Without them, you'll flame out before you finish.

**Prayer for Week 5:** *Lord, You rested on the seventh day and regularly withdrew to be alone with the Father. Forgive me for treating rest as optional or lazy. Help me build rhythms of renewal into my life—Sabbath, silence, and solitude. Slow me down when I'm running too fast. Teach me that sustainable leadership requires intentional rest. Guard me from burnout and help me finish well. Amen.*

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Then **Week 6** slowed you down even further with a simple but revolutionary practice: presence. In a world of distraction and multitasking, being fully attentive—to God, to people, to the moment—becomes a form of worship. Jesus never seemed rushed. He noticed the woman reaching for His cloak in a crowd (Luke 8:43-48), stopped for blind Bartimaeus when everyone else wanted to move on (Mark 10:46-52). Presence honors others and sharpens your leadership intuition. You can't hear the Spirit's whisper if you're always running.

**Prayer for Week 6:** *Jesus, You were never in a hurry. You noticed people others overlooked and gave attention to those who needed it most. Forgive me for my distraction and divided attention. Teach me to be fully present—with You, with my family, with those I lead. Help me silence the noise and listen for Your voice. Let my presence honor others and reflect Your love. Amen.*

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## Applying Heart-Centered Leadership: Weeks 7-9

The journey then turned practical. **Week 7** tackled conflict resolution. Conflict is inevitable, but destruction isn't. Ephesians 4:15 called you to speak "the truth in love," and Matthew 18:15-17 outlined Jesus' process for addressing offenses directly and redemptively. You learned that avoiding conflict doesn't preserve peace—it buries bombs that eventually explode. Healthy conflict, handled with grace and truth, actually builds unity and trust. It clears the air and strengthens teams.

**Prayer for Week 7:** *Lord, give me courage to address conflict directly and redemptively. Help me speak the truth in love, not in anger or avoidance. Teach me to listen well, to seek understanding, and to pursue reconciliation. Let me be a peacemaker who doesn't bury problems but resolves them with grace. Build unity in my relationships and on my teams through healthy conflict. Amen.*

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**Week 8** confronted the control trap through delegation. Moses' father-in-law Jethro saw him wearing himself out trying to do everything (Exodus 18:17-23) and said, essentially, "This is not sustainable. Share the load." Jesus sent out the twelve, then the seventy-two (Luke 9-10), multiplying impact through empowerment. Delegation isn't about dumping tasks—it's about developing people. When you hold too tightly to responsibility, you limit both your capacity and others' growth. True leaders create more leaders.

**Prayer for Week 8:** *Father, forgive me for trying to do everything myself. Break my need to control and my fear of letting go. Teach me to delegate well—not to dump tasks, but to develop people. Help me identify who to invest in and what to release. Multiply my impact by empowering others. Let me create leaders, not just followers. Give me faith to trust others with responsibility. Amen.*

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**Week 9** confronted you with integrity—the alignment between your private life and public leadership. Daniel lived with such consistency that when his enemies searched for grounds to accuse him, they found none—his character was so sound that the only charge they could bring against him was his unwavering commitment to God (Daniel 6:4-5). That kind of consistency doesn't happen by accident. It's forged in the small, hidden choices no one sees. Proverbs 11:3 stated bluntly, "The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity." Your influence will only endure as far as your character can carry it. Integrity earns respect; hypocrisy destroys it.

**Prayer for Week 9:** *Lord, make me a person of integrity. Let my private life match my public leadership. Expose any duplicity in me and give me strength to make the right choices when no one is watching. Build in me a character that can carry the influence You've entrusted to me. Let my life be consistent, honest, and honoring to You in every area. Amen.*

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## Multiplying the Heart's Impact: Week 10

Everything built to **Week 10:** legacy and succession. This was where heart-centered leadership revealed its ultimate purpose. Paul's words in 2 Timothy 2:2 captured it perfectly: "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." Four generations in one verse—Paul to Timothy to faithful people to others.

This is the multiplication strategy of the Kingdom. True legacy isn't measured by what you accomplish personally, but by the leaders you develop who continue the work after you're gone. As Andy Stanley says, "Do for one what you wish you could do for everyone." Invest deeply in a few, creating ripple effects that outlast your lifetime.

You saw it in Elijah and Elisha (2 Kings 2). Elijah mentored Elisha for years, and when the time came, Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit—not out of greed, but readiness. And he got it, performing twice as many recorded miracles. The student surpassed the teacher, and that was the goal all along.

The Scriptures reinforced this mandate everywhere. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 commanded parents to teach God's ways diligently to their children. Psalm 78:4 urged, "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord." Titus 2:3-5 instructed older believers to mentor the younger. Generational investment isn't optional—it's biblical.

Legacy-minded leaders identify emerging talent, create development paths, share opportunities, and transfer authority humbly. They celebrate when protégés exceed them. They document processes and embrace replaceability, trusting that God's kingdom endures beyond their tenure. It requires faith to release control and invest in what you might not see fully realized in your lifetime.

**Prayer for Week 10:** *Father, help me see beyond my own accomplishments to the legacy I'm building. Show me who to invest in deeply. Give me wisdom to mentor well and humility to celebrate when others surpass me. Let me faithfully pass on what You've given me so that Your work continues for generations. Help me build leaders who will build other leaders. May my life multiply Your Kingdom long after I'm gone. Amen.*

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## The Heart's Commitment Moving Forward

So here you stand, at the end of ten weeks but the beginning of something larger. Leadership from the heart is a daily surrender, culminating in a legacy that points to Jesus. You've been equipped to lead with humility, resilience, and vision, knowing that God who began a good work in you will carry it to completion (Philippians 1:6).

The question isn't whether you'll lead perfectly—you won't. The question is whether you'll lead faithfully, investing your life in others so that God's work multiplies for generations. Every leadership moment is an investment in eternity.

Over these past ten weeks, you've journeyed deep into what it means to lead from the heart. You've confronted pride, embraced vulnerability, learned to rest, resolved conflict, delegated authority, and built integrity. You've been challenged to invest in others and leave a legacy that outlasts you.

But this isn't the end—it's just the beginning.

If you want more information or want to discuss anything covered in the past 10 weeks, **send an email to [info@resonatetexas.org](mailto:info@resonatetexas.org) with "The Leader's Heart" in the subject line.** We would love to travel deeper with you into the heart of the servant leader.

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### Closing Prayer:

*Lord Jesus, thank You for these ten weeks together. You've challenged, stretched, and shaped our hearts. Continue the work You've begun in us. Keep us humble, authentic, emotionally healthy, and faithful. Help us lead from a place of rest, resolve conflict with grace, delegate with wisdom, and live with integrity. Above all, help us invest in others so that Your Kingdom multiplies through generations. We surrender our leadership to You. May everything we do point others to You. In Your name, Amen.*