

# Wholehearted

# Leading



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# Week 1 Wholehearted Leading

## The wholehearted leader

### REFLECTION QUESTION

## What does it look like to be a wholehearted leader?

### Overview video

To be completed prior to the first day's reflection.



**You are a leader!** In some stages of life your sphere of influence may be small, perhaps limited to toddlers or a team at work or as a volunteer. Other times it may involve hundreds, if not thousands of individuals. Whatever the case, **you have an opportunity every day to have impact.** What will you make of the opportunities before you?

### Response

Answer after viewing the video.

Think of a leadership challenge you have faced. **How did you react? Were you pleased with your choices?**

### Day 1

Spirit guided reflection – Jesus, the perfect leader

### Day 2

Spirit guided reflection – Jesus, the servant leader

### Day 3

Spirit guided reflection – David, the dependent leader

### Day 4

Spirit guided reflection – David, the connected leader

### Day 5

Review and Preparation for Team Meeting

# Week 1 Day 1

## REFLECTION QUESTION

### What does it look like to be a wholehearted leader?

#### DAY 1 OVERVIEW

## Jesus, the perfect leader

### Awareness of God and Yourself

Pause and let yourself become still.

As you do, seek to be present to yourself, present to God and to his love for you.

He longs to “guide you with his counsel” (Psalm 73) in every area of life, including what it means to be a wholehearted leader.

Give thanks for this opportunity to be present with him.

Now open your heart to hear from him by his Spirit and through his scripture.

### Encounter God and Yourself in Scripture

The journey to becoming a wholehearted leader begins with Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith (Hebrews 12:2).

But if we are honest with ourselves some of us may wonder, “Can someone who lived more than 2,000 years ago truly be a model of leadership in today’s complex modern society? Can we really use the life of Jesus and the scriptures to guide and empower us as we seek to lead wholeheartedly in our various spheres of influence?”

For the next several weeks we will wrestle with these questions as we engage with God, scripture, and one another. As you do, we hope you will begin to see Jesus as a leader who

- lived connected to his own heart,
- lived connected to God’s heart and the Larger Story,
- lived connected to the hearts of others, and
- chose the ultimate good of those he led and served.

A wholehearted leader **leads** from a place of connection with their own heart, God’s heart, and the hearts of others and **chooses** the ultimate good of those they lead and serve.

**How do we choose the ultimate good?**  
View this brief video for helpful insights:





How does Jesus express his heart, specifically his desires, feelings, and thoughts, through his actions and words?

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**Commit Yourself**

As you behold the stunning love, humility and leadership of Jesus, what happens in your heart as a person and a leader?

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**Taking it Deeper (optional reflection questions)**

Consider your own spheres of influence. Parent. Teacher. Leader. Friend.

No matter the relationship or title we have all experienced the frustration of pouring into or investing in others who seem, like the disciples, unable to see beyond their own small stories.

Reflect on one of those experiences where you were pouring out your life, doing all you could to love and serve and those you were pouring out to were oblivious, unappreciative, or even negative.

**What were some of your feelings, thoughts, and desires?**

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**How did you choose to respond?**

**If you responded in love and humility, what empowered you to do so?**

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**What would you have to “know” about God and your part in his Story for you to respond like Jesus – to humbly love all the way to the end, to choose the ultimate good of those in your sphere of influence?**

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God the Father reveals his glory his goodness, through his sacrificial choice to “crush” his beloved son, the one in whom he is well pleased (Isaiah 53:4-5, Matthew 3:16-17). This painful choice fulfills his desire to give human beings the opportunity to reconnect to his redemptive love so that they might reveal his glory now and throughout all eternity.

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God the Son reveals his glory, his goodness, through the sacrificial love he has just demonstrated which points to the ultimate sacrifice of the cross:

- the sacrifice of bearing all the pain, suffering, and sin of every human being;
- the sacrifice of bearing the punishment of that sin to fully cleanse and redeem fallen human beings; and
- the sacrifice of, in some way, being separated from his Father.

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This fulfills the Son’s desire to reconnect creation to the Father so that they might reveal his glory now and throughout all eternity.

Reflect on Jesus’ sacrificial love for you. As you do, seek to be sensitive to what is happening in your heart. **Take a moment to write out what you are experiencing. Seek to identify the feelings and desires that are being touched.**

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## Commit Yourself

The son chooses the ultimate good of his creation by choosing to obey the will of the Father. Now he shares his heart, his will for his beloved, “little children”: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Consider your spheres of influence, where you lead and serve. Take just one sphere and one person and prayerfully consider what it might look like to love like Jesus, to act for that person’s ultimate good.

**As you contemplate acting for the ultimate good of the person you identified, what are you feeling? What are you desiring?** (Example: feeling anxious, uncertain, hopeful; desiring: to be safe, to love well, to hear the Father’s “well done.”)

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## Taking it Deeper (optional reflection questions)

Week 1 / Day 2

Jesus experienced being his Father's beloved Son. Out of that love, he loved. Then he commands his "beloved children" to do the same: "love as I have loved you."

**How does experiencing the love of God the Father through Jesus the Son, affect your capacity/ability to love?**

Just as Jesus was able to love because he himself experienced the Father's love, our ability to love is impacted by the degree to which we experience the Father's love. When we struggle to love it can be an indication that there are areas where God's love has not fully penetrated our hearts.

Pause and consider the way you love or struggle to love and to choose the ultimate good of those you lead and serve. **What does that potentially indicate about the degree to which you are experiencing God's love in your whole heart?** (For example, you feel loved, you are confident of his love, you experience his love satisfying your deep desire to be loved, you choose to love others.)

**What was most significant for you today?**

## Prepare to Move Out

As you move out into your day, connect to the heart of Christ by anchoring yourself in his love. Let his love fill your concerns, fears, hopes and plans.

Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to who he wants you to express his love to today.

Then ask him to empower you to reveal God's glory, his goodness, his sacrificial love to that person.

This is who God created and redeemed you to be. This is your glory and honor. As you seek to love, to act for the ultimate good of those you lead and serve, it will not always be easy, but it is worth it.

# Week 1 Day 3

## REFLECTION QUESTION

### What does it look like to be a wholehearted leader?

#### DAY 3 OVERVIEW

### David, the dependent leader

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#### Awareness of God and Yourself

Take a moment to pause and breathe deeply.

Remember how God the Father sacrificially loves you.

Remember how God the Son sacrificially loves you.

As you remember, pay attention to what happens inside you.

Now, open your heart to experience another example of wholehearted leadership.

#### Encounter God and Yourself in Scripture

We turn today to the story of David at Ziklag. In 1 Samuel 30 David and his men return to Ziklag to find it raided and their women and children taken captive. This was a leadership crisis with potentially deadly consequences as David’s men turned on him in their pain and anger.

But David demonstrates remarkable humility and intentionality as he connects to his own pain, connects to the Father where he finds strength, and then connects with his men.

As you read today’s passage, [1 Samuel 30:1-25](#), look for ways in which you see David connecting to his heart, God’s heart, and the hearts of his men. To assist you we are listing out specific passages to consider.

#### How do you see David

- connecting to his heart (verses 4, 6)
- connecting to God’s heart (verses 6, 8)
- connecting to the hearts of his men (verses 21-24)

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How do you see David choosing the ultimate good of all he led, particularly in the way he handled the distribution of plunder when they recovered what had been stolen?

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**Commit Yourself**

Think of a recent leadership challenge you faced. If you don't have a recent leadership challenge, think of another challenge that you walked through with someone.

In that challenge,

- what were you experiencing in your own heart? (Try to identify 2-3 feelings and 1 or 2 desires. Use your charts if needed.)
- how did you connect to God's heart?
- how did you connect to the hearts of the others involved?

How did the way you navigated that challenge impact you and the way others experienced you?

**Taking it Deeper (optional reflection questions)**

How does David's story inspire you as you consider your own leadership challenges?

How do you see yourself already growing in becoming like David, a wholehearted leader?

As you consider your personal growth as a leader, what is one thing you'd like to celebrate today?

What was most significant for you today?

**Prepare to Move Out**

Move out today with the awareness that God has chosen you to bear his glory to the world. But he does not expect you to do this alone. His Spirit empowers you to live as the man or woman he created you to be. Stand in that reality today and invite him to fill you in a fresh way with his Spirit.

A vertical column of 25 horizontal lines for writing.

# Week 1 Day 4

REFLECTION QUESTION

## What does it look like to be a wholehearted leader?

DAY 4 OVERVIEW

### David, the connected leader

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#### **Awareness of God and Yourself**

As you quiet yourself before the Lord today, reflect on David’s example of trust in God in heartbreaking circumstances. David was met powerfully as he surrendered to God’s love.

Bring your circumstances to God today. Whether they are positive or negative, surrender them to God, and invite him to show you where he is moving in your story.

#### **Encounter God and Yourself Through Scripture**

Today we return to [1 Samuel 30:1-25](#), but we will be using a tool called the State of Your Heart template to unpack what might have been unfolding in David’s heart.

A State of Your Heart template is a helpful tool for connecting to your heart and to God’s heart in any given situation. It walks you through describing the situation and identifying your thoughts, feelings, and desires before asking you to consider the choices you’d like to make in response.

Read and use your imagination and all of your senses to attempt to walk in David’s shoes. Try to feel what he as a leader may have been feeling. Consider how David was wrestling with connecting to his own heart, to God’s heart, and to the hearts of his men.

Now read just the first 8 verses: [1 Sam 30:1-8 \(NIV\)](#). As you do, focus on how David connects to his whole heart - his thoughts, feelings, desires, and choices. Then read the State of the Heart we offer as an example for you.

#### **Potential State of David’s Heart:**

**Thoughts:** “Are my loved ones alive?” “What should I do?” “God where are you?” “Why are my men blaming me?” He remembers the I AM - his shepherd.

**Feelings:** grieved, distressed, exhausted, desperate, betrayed as his men talk of stoning him.

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**Deep Desires:** To protect and provide; family/relationship, to come through, justice.

**Choices:** His first choice is to find strength in YAHWEH - the I AM. To cry out and inquire of God, in order to obey God's leading. David chose to offer mercy to those who considered stoning him.

David gives himself time to address the internal crisis he is facing by connecting to his own heart and connecting to God's heart to experience strength, comfort, and his presence. Only after that does he seek direction on how to deal with the external crisis. As a wholehearted leader it is critical to connect to your own heart and to God's heart before making a strategic decision.

Now read 1 Samuel 30:9-25 (NIV), focusing on how David connects to his heart and the hearts of his men.

**Potential State of David's Heart:**

Put yourself in David's place and fill out a potential State of Your Heart for David. In this situation what might he have been...

**Thinking:**

**Feeling (see feelings chart):**

**Desiring (see desires list):**

**Choosing:**

**Commit Yourself**

Beginning this week, we are asking you to send a State of Your Heart update to your team members prior to your team meeting. This is not only a helpful exercise for you but also an invitation to greater connection as you allow your team members to know you at all four levels of your heart.

Below and in the Tool Box you will find a copy of the State of Your Heart template and some examples.

To complete your State of Your Heart update, first identify an event in your life that you want to process. This event can be something positive or negative (*for example: a great review at your job or a fight with your spouse or a friend*).

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We are including 2 examples to give you an idea of what this exercise may look like for you.

**Example 1 (sister):**

**How are you doing?** Fair/Struggling

**What situation or circumstance is most on your heart?** I've been like an emotional yoyo lately. 18 months ago, when my husband had an unexpected heart attack, two couples sat with me at the hospital and supported us during my husband's long recovery. Now both those couples are moving away this summer. Though I'm happy for both, I can't stop crying and selfishly I grieve the end of a sweet season of life and friendship.

**Thinking:** I'm losing my support system! Is the next season of life dominated by grieving - sickness, loss of family and friends? Aging is hard and it's hitting me fast. I feel like I've aged like 5 years during this past year. I don't like this. Also, this is new - usually I'm the one moving. I want to serve them well and celebrate them well. But every time I think about that I just start crying.

**Feeling:** Grief, loneliness, confusion  
Fear - who/how will I fill the gap? It's not easy for me to make friends with women or for us to connect deeply with couples.  
Guilt - for selfishly thinking so much about me, for those fears and thoughts, for times I left behind my friends.  
Grateful! It has been a sweet season and the Lord has richly provided. Many people never know fellowship like this.

**Desiring:** Surface: An older mentor to walk with me through this next season of change.  
Deep: Connection, to come through and love well, to be seen, known, loved and accepted.

**Choosing (How will your choices reflect the kind of man or woman you want to be?):** To give myself permission, time and space to grieve. To trust that God will be with me and there will be sweet times in the next season as he provides new places of connection.

**Example 2 (brother):**

**What situation or circumstance is most on your heart?** At work last week, I made a mistake on a client's account that led to a lot of work for my boss. All things considered, he was pretty gracious about it but he did check my work for the next couple days.

**Thinking:** How could I be so stupid? I've been in this industry for twenty years, how could I make such a rookie mistake? Does my boss actually still trust me? Will he want to replace me with someone younger?

**Feeling:** Guilty for causing more work for my boss. Anxious about my job status. Shame that I could make such a silly mistake. Frustrated that he feels the need to check on me.

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