

LEAD LIKE
JESUS

LEAD LIKE JESUS

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR

Ken Blanchard & Phil Hodges



THOMAS NELSON
Since 1798

NASHVILLE DALLAS MEXICO CITY RIO DE JANEIRO BEIJING

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this devotional guide is to inspire and equip you as you live out the love-based leadership Jesus calls each of His followers to model in their daily walk and relationships.

At Lead Like Jesus, we have come to see leadership as an influence process that reaches beyond the hierarchies and formal positions of organizations into life-role relationships. The message and mandate of Jesus to His followers to serve rather than be served are clear and unconditional.

We see life as a very special occasion, each day filled with unique opportunities that will never come again. The moment-by-moment choices we make—to serve or to be served—will determine the legacy we leave in the hearts and minds of others. Our hope is that this guide helps you create a legacy of choices that lead to love, peace, joy, and righteousness.

THE HEART OF A LEADER

*Above all else, guard your heart,
for it is the wellspring of life.*

—PROVERBS 4:23

The most basic and vital service a leader can provide to those who follow is the diligent, daily care and maintenance of his or her own heart.

*Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart
and my mind; for your love is ever before me,
and I walk continually in your truth.*

—PSALM 26:2-3

The heart is capable of great good and great evil. If focused on serving self, it can artfully manipulate and deceive others through words and deeds into doing what appears to be the right thing . . . but for the wrong reasons.

THE HEART OF A LEADER

A heart kept pure, strong, and wise by honest reflection, timely confession, and constant surrender carries within it the capacity to serve and inspire others to do the right thing for the right reasons.

The ongoing question to the heart of a leader is this: Who will I worship, and who will I serve?



DAY 1

Business and beliefs. Jesus and your job. Personal and professional. Servant and leader. Even seeing those words paired together makes many people uneasy. Our sophisticated culture encourages us to draw lines and keep our spiritual lives separate from our secular lives. Faith is for Sundays or family gatherings only. Right?

*"The greatest among you will be your servant.
For whoever exalts himself will be humbled,
and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."*

—MATTHEW 23:11-12

PRAYER: Lord, teach me not to separate You from any part of my life. May I be transparent both as a leader and as a follower. Remind me that faith is not just for Sundays but for every day and that without faith, it is impossible to please You (Heb. 11:6). In Jesus' name, amen.



DAY 2

Jesus sent a clear message to all those who would follow Him that leadership was to be first and foremost an act of service. No Plan B was implied or offered in His words.

“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

—MATTHEW 20:28

PRAYER: Father, teach me to serve as I learn more about the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. In His name I pray, amen.



DAY 3

The truly exciting part of following Jesus is that He never sends you into any situation with a faulty plan or a plan to fail.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

—MATTHEW 11:28-30

PRAYER: Giver of Life, teach me to lean on You and to trust You to provide all that I need for this day. In Jesus' name, amen.



DAY 4

Leadership is first and foremost a matter of the heart!

“The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.”

—LUKE 6:45

PRAYER: Restorer of All Things, restore my heart today so that the good that is often hidden will be released and the evil that is so often prevalent will be removed. In Jesus' name, amen.



DAY 5

Whenever we have an opportunity or a responsibility to influence the thinking and the behavior of others, we must first choose to benefit those we are leading, rather than to act out of self-interest.

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

—ROMANS 6:22

PRAYER: Lord, You have made me and You love me. Help me to remember that You love others in the same way You love me. Help me to love and cherish each person I encounter today in the way You would. In Jesus' name, amen.



DAY 6

As you consider the heart issues of leadership, a primary question you will continue to have to ask yourself is: “Am I a servant leader or a self-serving leader?” It is a question that, when answered with brutal honesty, will reveal your true motivation as a leader.

*Above all else, guard your heart,
for it is the wellspring of life.*

—PROVERBS 4:23

PRAYER: Lord, I want to be a servant leader and to lead by Your example. Bring my heart, my thoughts, my words, and my actions into alignment so that I demonstrate Your character to those I love and lead. In Jesus' name, amen.