

The Heart of a Leader: In Crisis

Team and Personal Equipping



**WELLSPRING
GROUP**

overflowing transformation

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Why *The Heart of a Leader: In Crisis*?

You may be curious what we mean by the term “leader” and wonder if you even are a leader. Merriam-Webster defines LEADER as: “a person who leads; a person who has commanding authority or influence.” So, whether you lead a Fortune 500 company, a volunteer ministry, or a small family – You are a *leader*.

Second, what constitutes a crisis? Crises come in all shapes and sizes. Some crises occur on such a large scale that they are very obvious, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, regional hurricanes, or other natural disasters. Some crises might not be as obvious, yet they can have a profound impact on us. In fact, you might experience something personally that would fall into this category: a condition of instability or danger, a turning point, or an upheaval in one’s life (taken from dictionary.com). In general, a circumstance that might be experienced as a crisis by one person might not be to another.

Crisis is disruptive. It heightens our sense of vulnerability and can call into question beliefs we hold dear. But, the vulnerability exposed in crisis also provides an opportunity for positive change, life-changing growth, or potential disaster for our organizations, people, and ourselves. Crisis brings people like you and me (*leaders*) face-to-face with hard choices and questions:

“What kind of man or woman do I want to be in the midst of this crisis?”

“Who or what will I trust in as I face this crisis?”

“Will I turn back to familiar ways of self-protection or potentially slide into destructive behaviors?”

“Will I make the hard choice to change and grow?”

Change is difficult, uncertain, and risky. It requires a captivating vision of what we might gain and the motivation to enact change. We need a guide who will give us courage to make the hard choices. As believers, we seek the Lord but sometimes we struggle to trust him or to really know how to follow him into life-change. Oftentimes, it helps to have “Jesus with skin on” – a human being who is a real life revelation of the heart of the Shepherd – to lead us into real life change. This principle is true personally, and it also applies organizationally.

In times of crisis, people need to know God’s heart and experience it mirrored by the whole hearts of their leaders in order to receive connection, comfort, clarity, and courage to move forward through the crisis and into the future. How you lead will significantly affect the lives of those around you and your organization for years to come. As a familiar and hopefully trusted voice, your followers are looking to you. This responsibility is particularly daunting in complex never-before-seen crises such as a pandemic coupled with racial injustice issues, hurricanes, fires, etc. It is crucial for you to lean into, rather than run away from, the vulnerability that unknown crisis inherently brings up within yourself and those you lead.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, you can “take heart” when God calls you to lead your people through a “valley of the shadow of death” (Ps. 23) into good pasture. In this calling, he is able to equip a willing leader to shepherd his/her people with “integrity of heart and skillful hands” (Psalm 78:72).

Why are we offering this 6-week heart-centered, experiential course? Because as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, we consistently heard from our alumni that their experience of Wellspring’s *Battle for the Heart* effectively prepared them to navigate the crises they faced personally and professionally. Alumni consistently shared that they were responding to personal, ministry, and marketplace pressures and uncertainties in more godly and effective ways than they would have prior to experiencing Wellspring. They had the heart and the skills to effectively recognize the crisis within them, take what they were experiencing to God, and then see and engage the hearts of those around them.

Wellspring Group desires to participate in God’s equipping process for you in your journey of becoming the human and shepherd-leader whom God created, redeemed, and is restoring you to be. In this course, we will give you a taste of the heart-attitude and skills of connecting more deeply with the heart of God, your own heart, and the hearts of your people. We do this by offering personal and relational skills that will help you create an atmosphere of safety and strength to guide you and those you lead into the future.

Wellspring’s mission is to inspire and equip people to live wholeheartedly in authentic, life-changing relationships that overflow with love, grace, and truth. We accomplish this through a series of transformational opportunities in a small group environment. The foundational equipping process is *The Battle for Your Heart* consisting of two modules: a four-day intensive followed by 16 weeks of follow-through with your small group, capped off with a three-day intensive followed by 12 weeks of small group application of the content. In *The Heart of a Leader: In Crisis (HLC)* workshop and follow-through course, this is the process referred to as “Battle” or “Battle for the Heart.” Through the HLC experience, we are offering you a small taste of concepts and skills more deeply explored in *The Battle for Your Heart*. You cannot gain in six weeks what you would in a longer, more intensive process, yet you can make a start that will make a difference in your heart and the hearts of those you lead.

How Do I Use The Workbook?

Though this material can be used by individuals, it is most effective when used within a small group of four to five people. Transformational power often occurs when we engage God and share our hearts in community. Also, as a leader, you need a safe place where *being* is more important than *doing*, and where you can authentically engage your own heart with the

support of others. Therefore, we recommend completing this material with a team of individuals whom you trust.

Course Benefits:

1 The opportunity to unpack and go deeper with the key biblical concepts and skills introduced with *The Heart of a Leader: in Crisis* workshop.

- How you reveal and reflect the compassionate love of God to those you lead.
- Discovering internal factors that control the way you respond to and navigate external crises.
- Foundational relational skills that build a culture of safety and trust that will empower your team to effectively move forward and adapt in an ever-changing world.

2 6 weeks of self-directed material for individual or team use consisting of:

- Teaching videos, testimonies, and bonus videos.
- Structured times of reflection on Scripture (Battle Preps), with additional Scriptures “For Further Study” at the end of each day for those who want more.
- 1 Team Meeting Guide each week.

providing an opportunity for you to:

- Connect to God’s heart and purpose for you as a person and leader.
- Grapple with your own internal struggles and questions.
- Discover the heart skills required to effectively and compassionately relate to the hearts of your people in the midst of their vulnerability.
- Build relational and leadership trust and capital allowing you to lead your team through uncertain territory.

Preparation Suggestions:

We recommend distributing your work over five days as indicated below:

Day 1 – Read prep work, answer corresponding questions, and watch that week’s video(s). Note: Videos can be accessed by either clicking on the QR code provided OR you can scan the QR code with your phone/iPad.

Day 2 – Complete Day 1 Battle Prep

Day 3 – Complete Day 2 Battle Prep

Day 4 – Complete Day 3 Battle Prep

Day 5 – Prepare for your Team Meeting by reading over that week’s Team Meeting Guidelines and answering the questions.

This course and workbook are not intended to be a superficial “fill-in-the-blank” experience. As such, in this workbook you will frequently encounter the word “grapple”. To “grapple” is the idea of a close encounter with an opponent without weapons – similar to Jacob wrestling with the angel of God. We long to appropriately challenge you to grapple with God in a way that takes you to the depths of your heart in order to experience his transforming love that “surpasses knowledge so that you may be filled with the fullness of God” (Eph. 3:19). Fully engaging the questions will require some time to reflect more deeply on your heart, the heart of God, and the heart of others.

Elements of this Course

DAILY BATTLE PREPS

“Above all else guard your heart; for it is the wellspring of life.” – Prov. 4:23

Why do we use the term “Battle Preps” for the times of engaging with God and his Word? Proverbs 4:23 tells us that there is a battle for your heart because it is source of or wellspring of life. If you have given your heart to Christ, evil has lost the battle for your salvation, but there is an ongoing battle over the depth of your sanctification until the day you die. The “Battle Preps” (BPs) are designed to begin equipping you with the heart-attitude and skill to effectively engage evil in the battle for your heart and the hearts of those around you. These BPs are not intended to involve an exhaustive study of the particular Scripture but instead offer a way to reflectively engage your entire being with God and his Word. Battle Preps consist of four elements:

1. Awareness of God and Yourself

Every Battle Prep begins with an invitation to slow down, quiet your heart, and ask God to meet you through his Word. This section of the Battle Prep will usually take 5-10 minutes. *If you have trouble engaging with this section, focus more on its purpose—becoming aware of God’s presence—than on the specific invitation.* If you don’t connect with a particular invitation, simply seek to become still before God in any way that works for you.

2. Encounter God and Yourself in Scripture

In the *Encounter* section of the Battle Prep you will read through a short passage of Scripture and work through questions and exercises designed to help you meditate on it in a personal way. The purpose of these exercises is to connect you to the living reality of the scene described by the text – to connect with your whole heart and not merely to your mind rationally. You may find that making use of notes contained in an NIV, NASB, or ESV Study Bible to help you understand the background of the passages.

3. Commit Yourself

Simply reading and meditating on Scripture is valuable, but these steps alone do not produce sustained transformation. In the *Commit* section, you will be challenged to respond to God's leading and act upon it. The goal is not to promote a performance mentality or create another to-do list, but rather to allow the Holy Spirit to engage your heart in a way that responds to his divine invitation.

The Encounter and Commit sections usually take about 20 -25 minutes to complete together.

4. Prepare to Move Out

The *Move Out* section of your Battle Prep prepares you to engage your day with courage, strength, and love. You will read a closing thought and be invited to pray.

If you are particularly rushed one day and do not have time to fully engage the BP, then simply read the Scriptures and questions. Reflect on them as you have opportunity and then come back to them the next day.

TEAM MEETINGS

Once a week you will meet with your team for approximately one-and-a-half to two hours (based upon a group size of four). One of your teammates will need to serve as the leader to facilitate communication and keep the meeting moving. Team Meeting guidelines are provided at the end of each week's materials. Used organically, these guidelines will greatly help you and your team reach your objectives. Consider the Team Meeting guidelines not as requirements to check off, but rather as a framework for a living encounter with each other as a group. They are intended to guide you into deeper fellowship with God and with one another. Since you will be touching on emotional issues at times, meeting at restaurants or coffee shops is not optimal. We recommend a home or office if in-person meetings are possible. If not, video conferencing may be the best option.

Guidelines for Effective Team Meetings - Ask Yourself:

- **Are you holding confidentiality vigilantly?** *What is shared here stays here.*
- **Are you asking or telling?** Throughout this course you are seeking to develop listening and engaging skills, not advice-giving skills. Asking questions helps the other person discover truths on their own or from the Holy Spirit, offering much greater chance of lasting change.
- **Are you sharing something that will shift the focus from your brother's or sister's story to your own?** Notice and avoid any compulsion/temptation to identify with someone by breaking into his/her story with your similar experiences. At the appropriate time it may be beneficial to identify with your brother or sister by sharing briefly that you can relate without hijacking their sharing.

- **Is your sharing taking away from another's opportunity to speak?** Practice conversational generosity.
- **Are you sharing in the first person, from your personal experience?** If you share about a challenge involving someone else, do not dwell on them. The person is not present, thus cannot be addressed. Share how you are being affected by the situation so your team can engage with your heart and mind.

GRAY BOX REVIEWS

Gray boxes are an important feature provided in your Battle Preps and team meetings that will help to focus your weekly review and your overall review at the end of the course. Answering these gray box questions will significantly simplify your review as you complete the course. Also, you will need only review a few gray box questions to recall what you gained from each week and identify your overall key takeaways so that you can be prepared to succinctly share this back with your small group.

STATE OF YOUR HEART UPDATES

Beginning in Week 2, you will learn how to write a State of Your Heart (SOYH) update and be asked to email this to your team before your Team Meeting. This is a valuable tool that guides you into the vital skill of connecting with your own heart and connecting to God's heart. This will also assist your team in praying for you and growing in knowing how to connect to your heart during the Team Meeting.

The SOYH update involves the spiritual discipline of journaling to assist you in more fully understanding your own heart and to better prepare you to share what is going on within your heart. These skills are vital to building authentic relationships within your team as well as with others. As you grow in your ability to process how you were affected in a past situation or relationship, you will also gain the ability to do the same kind of processing in the present. Being able to identify how you are affected in the moment empowers you to engage from your whole heart more effectively during a challenge. That is not easy, but it is life-giving to you and to those around you!

FEEDBACK FOR OUR TEAM

You will be asked to complete a survey at the end of Week 6, but you can help us grow and improve this material by giving us ongoing feedback through your questions, comments, testimonies, or concerns. Please feel free to contact either Dana Smith at danas@wellspringgroup.org or Larry Bolden at larryb@wellspringgroup.org at any point!

MALE/FEMALE CONNECTION, POWER, AND PROTECTION

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” Genesis 1:27

Your HLC team and/or your leadership team may involve both men and women. As you begin connecting more deeply you may find yourself engaging a brother or sister at a significant, in-depth heart level. These male/female interactions can highlight the power of pure and holy cross-gender connection in authentic Biblical community. This is most clearly demonstrated in Jesus’ experience of authentic, close relationships with women. In fact, as Gen. 1:27 illuminates, God’s image and glory are most fully seen in the connection of both “male and female.”

Yet, anything powerful can also be dangerous, and so appropriate boundaries need to be in place and respected to provide a protected environment for safe connection to occur. This attention to appropriate boundaries needs to be understood in any situation involving deep, heart level engaging; it is not exclusively a gender issue. For example, when a man engages another man he does not know well, it is wise to be cognizant about boundaries, because that man may struggle with same-sex attraction issues.

The following are a few general boundaries for cross-gender (male/female) interaction:

- If married, protect deep conversations with someone of the opposite gender by including a third party, even conversations online or through text. Always copy your spouse or another person on anything that could be misconstrued or considered heart-engagement over email.
- When you express admiration/affection, be intentional about maintaining a heart attitude of a brother to a sister and vice-versa.
- Express yourself in ways that you would in front of their spouse and your spouse (if one or both are not married, then consider the future spouse).
- Ensure appropriate depth and frequency of emotional engagements with someone of the opposite gender.
- Be *very* careful with anything related to touching a person of the opposite gender.

In this environment, it is not appropriate to have individual/exclusive in-depth engagement with the opposite sex (unless the person is your spouse). Evil has done a thorough job of distorting male/female interaction in our culture. The way back to healthy relationships that more fully express the image and glory of God through both genders is to clarify and respect appropriate boundaries. Those boundaries create a safe context in which brothers and sisters can experience the fullness of God’s love and grace through their unique gendered expressions. The protection of the fellowship then propels us into becoming all that we are created to be.

Preparation for Week 1

(If you have not already watched the “Getting Started” videos as well as the 90-minute workshop, use the link to the right to access the landing page. Complete instructions on using QR codes can be found on p. 10.)



To prepare for this week complete steps 1-3 that follow:

1) Answer the questions below.

What do you perceive is the purpose of a leader? Try to be as gut-level honest as possible.

Identify a recent situation that was emotionally charged and that challenged you as a leader. Describe the situation:

How did you respond?

What was your external reaction – what did you do?

What was happening internally – what were you feeling?

When you consider what was happening inside of you and the choices you made, what do you think you were believing in that moment at a visceral, gut level:

about the other person or the situation?

about yourself personally or as a leader?

about God?

How does that align with what you believe to be the purpose of a leader?

If your answer reveals any misalignment, how does that realization impact you?

- 2) If possible, before watching the video, quickly glance over the Scriptures printed for you in the “Encounter God and Yourself in Scripture” sections of each day. We will be looking at these more in depth throughout the week.
- 3) Watch this week’s teaching video by clicking on (using your mouse) or scanning (see instructions below) the QR code to the right.



How to Scan a QR Code with an Android Phone

1. Launch your camera.
2. Point it at the **QR code**.
3. Press and hold the home button.
4. Tap to trigger the **code's** action.

Scan a QR code with your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch

1. Open the Camera app from the Home screen, Control Center, or Lock screen.
2. Select the rear facing camera. Hold your device so that the **QR code** appears in the viewfinder in the Camera app. Your device recognizes the **QR code** and shows a notification.
3. Tap the notification to open the link associated with the **QR code**.

Note: This video is critical to your understanding of this week’s concepts and Scriptures. Use the space on the following page to record notes from the video.

Battle Preps

*The purpose of a godly leader is to experience and express God's heart
– his glory, compassion, love, grace, and truth.*

DAY 1 QUESTION:

What is your purpose as a human being?

Note: As you read this question, some of you may wonder what it has to do with being a leader? Stay with us, because understanding your purpose as a human being has direct connection with your purpose as a leader as well as with how you connect with the human beings you lead.

WEEK 1 DAY 1 - BATTLE PREP

Awareness of God and Yourself

In the midst of the day-to-day challenges of life, pause and reflect on the glory of God displayed by the beauty of nature. Recall, for example, a beautiful sunset, your favorite landscape scene, or a glorious, star-filled night you have enjoyed. Take a moment to savor the glory of God as revealed in the colors, design, magnificence, beauty, and wonder of his creation.

Now consider that the same Creator God has formed you in his image for his glory and honor.

As you come into this time with God, seek to be in awe of his glory as expressed in his creation, including creating you!

Allow your heart to settle before God for a moment. Bring to him whatever you are experiencing, whether positive or negative: awe, joy, exhaustion, hurt, fear, hopes, disappointments, and challenges.

Encounter God and Yourself in Scripture

As you read **Gen 1:26-27 (NIV)** below, highlight, circle, or underline words that point to who God made you to be:

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

*²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

Now read Psalm 8 (NIV) and mark how David grapples with who we are as human beings:

*¹ LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.*

*² Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.*

*³ When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,*

*⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?*

*⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.*

*⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:*

*⁷ all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,*

*⁸ the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.*

*⁹ LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

As we reflect on what these passages teach about our purpose as human beings and leaders, it is critical to understand what it means to be created in “the image of God.” Consider this definition from Dr. John H. Walton in the *NIV Application Commentary* on Genesis (p. 131 - *structure and emphasis added*):

“The image [of God] is a physical manifestation of divine (or royal) **essence** that bears the **function** of that which it represents; this gives the image-bearer the capacity to **reflect** the attributes (love, faithfulness, justice, wisdom, etc.) of the one represented and **act** on his behalf.”

Reflect on a time when you grappled with the existential questions of “Who am I? And why would God care for *me*?” Or it may be that your current crisis has you struggling with whether God really cares at all.

In your grappling, your questions might be related to but different than David’s in Psalm 8. If possible, identify your key questions:

How did you experience this season of grappling with God? What answers, if any, did you come to?

David answers his questions in Psalm 8 by reflecting on the wonder of creation. Consider David’s answer to himself (vv. 5-8), reflect on the opening video about God’s glory, and thoughtfully read the following comments:

David believes that God cares for human beings – for you – because God actually crowned you with glory and honor. A crown speaks of royalty; of relationship to the King and authority given by the King.

By creating you in his image, God has crowned you with glory. This gives you the capacity for an intimate relationship by which you are able to reveal his character and glory. You can reveal his compassionate love, grace, and truth right where you live and lead.

God has crowned you with honor, which represents the privilege of revealing his glory by ruling/acting on his behalf in the sphere of influence he is entrusting to you!

How does this view of glory and honor strike you? To what extent do you actually believe and live like those things are really, honestly true about you?

The writer of Hebrews refers to both Psalm 8 and the Fall in chapter 2 as he writes:

*...at present we do not see everything subject to them (human beings). But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. **In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. (Hebrews 2:8b-10 NIV)***

Jesus tasted death to set you free to be restored to the position of glory and honor as a son or daughter of God, thereby revealing his glory – his heart of steadfast compassionate love, grace, and truth.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Hebrews 2:5-10, 14-15

Jeremiah 3:11-18

Romans 1:20-23

Commit Yourself

How would you answer today's reflection question – *“What is your purpose as a human being?”*

If Psalm 8 is true, it applies to you not only as a human being but also as a leader.

If you could more deeply and consistently believe that you are created to reveal God's glory – his compassionate love, grace, and truth – in your sphere of influence, how might that affect the way you lead?

What was significant for you today?

Prepare to Move Out

In the midst of all your challenges, pause and celebrate that God created YOU in his image. He crowned you with the glory to reveal his character as a “little Christ,” in the words of C.S. Lewis. He crowned you with the honor of representing him in your sphere of influence.

Consider the leadership challenges before you and the temptations facing you. Remember that Jesus has experienced and overcome every temptation. He became a human being that he might go to the cross to set you free from fear of death and restore you to the glory and honor for which the Father expressly created you.

Today, Jesus longs to meet with you. He desires to inspire and empower you to take up your cross so that you might experience his resurrection life and reflect the fullness of his glory in you—to represent and reveal God’s heart through your own heart right where you live and lead.

Take a moment to pray, giving thanks to God for his provision for your salvation, for your life and for your leadership. Thank him for the people you have the privilege to influence this day. Now, commit your day to him and move out knowing you are not alone. He is with you, in you, and for you today (Romans 8:31; John 14:20).

*The purpose of a godly leader is to experience and express God's heart
– his glory, compassion, love, grace, and truth.*

DAY 2 QUESTION:

In crisis, what do you need most as a leader?

WEEK 1 DAY 2 - BATTLE PREP

Awareness of God and Yourself

Take a moment to be still.

Pause and reflect on the glory of God in creation, including yourself as a human being “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Ps. 139) in his image.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you a glimpse of the glory of God as expressed through Jesus Christ, “full of grace and truth” (John 1:4).

Offer up to the Lord whatever is most heavily weighing on your heart today—your schedule, relationships, challenges, worries, or hopes.

Encounter God and Yourself in Scripture

Moses, as the shepherd-leader of God's people, is facing an intense crisis in the middle of a dry and weary land. The people whom Moses is leading have angered God. God has said that he will not continue with them on their journey to the promised land (Ex. 33:3). Before you read the excerpts from Exodus below, try to put yourself in Moses' place. From what we see in Moses' life, he was an expressive man and leader. Try to get in touch with what he may have been experiencing in his whole heart – particularly his feelings, thoughts, and desires as he cries out to God.

Exodus 33:12-20 (NIV)

¹² Moses said to the LORD, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’ ¹³ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.”

¹⁴ The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

¹⁵ Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. ¹⁶ How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

¹⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

¹⁹ And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

Exodus 34:5-7 (NIV)

⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. ⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

How do you perceive Moses was feeling as he petitioned the Lord?

What does Moses believe distinguishes him and the people from all the other people on the earth (v. 16)?

What is Moses longing for from God?

How does God respond to Moses' utter vulnerability?

Moses' vulnerability and desperation brought him to the place of utter dependence, not going anywhere unless God went with him (v. 16). How does that impact you?

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

2 Corinthians 3:7-4:18

Commit Yourself

Reflect on a leadership crisis you have been in or are currently in.

In the midst of this crisis – at a gut level – what did/do you most need personally and as a leader?

In the preceding passages, we see the central importance of God’s glory – remember glory speaks of revealing God’s character and taking action by representing and ruling in a given situation and place. Revealing his glory requires both heart and skill.

Take a few moments to reflect on these passages seeking to create a simple succinct definition of God’s glory that is memorable to you, so that in the moment of crisis you might easily recall it:

Based on your definition, what might happen in your life and leadership – personally, relationally, and strategically – if you could consistently experience God’s glory in and through you?

How would you answer today’s reflection question – *“In a crisis, what do you need most as a leader?”*

What was significant for you today?

Prepare to Move Out

Like Moses, God has placed you as a leader among your people. Honestly express to God what you need today. Trust him to meet you. Look for the revelation of his glory, particularly his compassionate love, grace, and truth - to you, in you, through you, and around you. Now move out in the confidence of his presence in you and with your identity as his beloved child and shepherd-leader.

*The purpose of a godly leader is to experience and express God's heart
– his glory, compassion, love, grace, and truth.*

DAY 3 QUESTION:

*How might God want to use the weakness and suffering produced by crisis
in and through your life?*

WEEK 1 DAY 3 - BATTLE PREP

Awareness of God and Yourself

Give yourself permission to sit before God in the quiet for a moment.

Just as Moses got in touch with his need as shown in our Day 2 readings, seek to get in touch with your present need.

Pause and connect to your own heart – to what is emotionally going on inside you. Seek to be fully honest about whatever you are struggling with or rejoicing in. Offer whatever celebration or concern you identify to the Lord.

Now seek to open your mind and heart to the various manifestations his glory – his goodness, compassion, and comfort, which he longs to express to you today.

Encounter God and Yourself in Scripture

Suffering can be defined as the pain, distress, or hardship that we experience from living in a fallen world. In Hebrews 2:8-10, we noted the connection between the suffering of Christ and his being crowned with glory and honor. As you will see in the passage below, Paul clearly saw the same connection in his own life and in our lives.

Suffering inherently brings us to a choice: Do we own/embrace our vulnerability, willing to die to our self-will and trust Jesus OR do we resist vulnerability and do everything we can to figure things out in our own strength? Do we move toward dependence like Moses and Paul OR toward independence and control?

As you read **2 Cor. 4:5-18 (NIV)** below, mark where you see a connection between our suffering and God’s glory as revealed in the life of Christ. Consider what happens in and through us as we embrace the death of Christ.

⁵ For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶ For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. ¹² So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

¹³ It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

What does this passage reveal about God and our suffering?

Reflect on a crisis you are in or have experienced. In that situation, to what extent can you identify with Paul's experience in vv. 8-10?

In that situation, to what extent did you experience the death of Christ – submitting to suffering, dying to your own fallen reactions, crucifying your flesh?

How might suffering bring forth God's glory in and through you (vv. 7-18)?

When that happens, what is the potential impact on those around you? Those you lead?

What is the potential impact in your life now and into eternity?

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

Romans 5:1-11

Matt. 5:11-16

Commit Yourself

In your current crisis, what is the key element of not losing heart?

How does this impact the way you view your weaknesses and failures?

If you were to live and lead out of the perspective reflected in this passage, how might you respond differently to pressure/crisis?

How might those you lead be impacted?

How would you answer today's reflection question – *“How might God want to use the weakness and suffering produced by crisis in and through your life?”*

What was significant for you today?

Prepare to Move Out

Before you move out into your day, take some time to pray. Thank God for the ways he longs to shine through your “cracks” and weaknesses. Considering how his glory shines through your weaknesses, offer up to him whatever this realization stirs in your heart.

Now move out in the truth that God has not called you to perfection in your flesh. Rather, he has called you to be available to him and dependent upon his grace. He has and will equip you for whatever work or deed he calls you to. Now move out in freedom knowing that God can use even your failures to reveal his glory to those whom you lead.

WEEK 1 TEAM MEETING:

*The purpose of a godly leader is to experience and express God's heart
– his glory, compassion, love, grace, and truth.*

Before Your Meeting:

- Read over the team meeting agenda and write your answers to the discussion questions.
- Be sure to review the gray boxes from each Battle Prep and answer the Team Meeting gray box question.
- Review the “Guidelines for Effective Team Meetings” on pages 5-6.

Week 1 Team Meeting Objectives:

- Briefly check in to see how each team member is coming into the meeting.
- Discuss Guidelines for Effective Team Meetings (pp. 5-6).
- Review and explore God's purpose for a godly leader.
- Draw out each person's answers to the daily reflection questions.

Heart Check (10-15 min)

Each person should give a short check-in of how they are emotionally coming into today's meeting. Try to use 2-3 “feeling words” (content, happy, frustrated, angry, confused, challenged, etc.) that describe how you are in this moment. Why use feeling words? The battle is for *your* heart. And although feelings are not meant to govern you, they are “lights and signals” on the dashboard of your life that can protect you or point toward deeper, God-given desires. You will gain more insight on this next week. For now, simply try to identify what you are feeling. Group members should ask any needed questions for clarity. Briefly pray for the person if they are struggling. You will learn how to take this exercise further in future materials and meetings.

It can be tempting to spend a lot of time discussing what is happening in our lives. However, our goal is to apply truths we are grappling with to everyday life. During your discussion time, seek to *apply* the weekly question and Battle Prep concepts to the issues that you are facing.

Main Discussion (60 min)

Before proceeding with the main discussion, quickly verify that all have read the “Guidelines for Effective Team Meetings” on pages 5 and 6 and discuss the following questions.

Any questions or concerns regarding the guidelines on pages 5 and 6?

How will we hold each other accountable to these?

Review your daily gray boxes including your answers to the daily reflection questions. What was most significant from your Battle Preps (BPs) this week? This may come from your gray box answers from the Battle Prep that most impacted you or it might be a theme you see running across what you gained from all the BPs this week.

Review the daily questions from this week:

QUESTIONS REVIEW

The purpose of a godly leader is to experience and express God’s heart – his glory, compassion, love, grace, and truth.

DAY 1 QUESTION: *What is your purpose as a human being?*

DAY 2 QUESTION: *In crisis, what do you need most as a leader?*

DAY 3 QUESTION: *How might God want to use the weakness and suffering produced by crisis in and through your life?*

As you look back on this week, how did you answer the above three questions, and how do those answers influence your view of the purpose of a leader?

What role does suffering play in to the way we reveal and reflect the heart of God?

How then might you respond differently in the way that you lead?

Wrap-up (10 min)

Each person shares in two to three words how you experienced this meeting.

- Did you experience anything negative or painful that you need to discuss further or offline?
- What was most positive?

Close in prayer.