



THE INNER ARCHITECTURE OF A SPIRITUAL LEADER

Participant Guide | North American Singles Conference • September 4, 2026

The quality of our leadership eventually reveals the quality of the life underneath it.

BIG IDEA: A spiritual leader is first a disciple of Jesus—someone increasingly formed by Jesus—who uses whatever influence God has given them to help others become mature disciples of Jesus.

Scripture Anchors

Mark 1:9–13 • Mark 10:35–45 • Matthew 28:18–20 • John 13:1–17 • 1 Corinthians 3:5–17 • Ephesians 4:11–16 • 1 Timothy 3:1–7 • Titus 1:5–9 • Galatians 4:19

The Privilege—and the Stakes

- Disciple-making gives us the privilege of participating in what God is building in another human life.
- That is the beautiful mathematics of disciple-making: God can multiply one faithful life far beyond what that life ever gets to see.
- You never graduate from being a disciple so that you can become a leader. Spiritual leadership is one expression of discipleship.
- Eventually, what is inside the leader finds its way into the discipleship environment.
- The question is not whether there is something in us that still needs to change. There is. The question is whether we will keep letting Jesus disciple it.

Jesus Trains the Leader

- Before Jesus entrusts these men with greater leadership, he keeps training the leader inside of them.
- Jesus is not frightened by unfinished leaders.
- The question is not whether there is something in you that still needs to change. The question is whether you will keep letting Jesus train it.
- A spiritual leader is first a disciple of Jesus—someone increasingly formed by Jesus—who uses whatever influence God has given them to help others become mature disciples of Jesus.

Foundation: Jesus Christ

- You are a builder. You are not the foundation.
- You do not have to build everything. You simply have to build faithfully on what Jesus has already laid.

Identity: Who Am I Before I Lead?

- You cannot consistently train people into freedom if you need them to validate you.
- Secure leaders have enormous capacity to give themselves away.
- What am I trying to get from this person that I need to receive somewhere healthier—from God, trusted relationships, or a settled understanding of who I am?

Character: Is the Disciple Still Being Trained?

- Your gift may create an opportunity. Your character determines what happens to people once you have it.
- Our leadership cannot sustainably outrun our own discipleship.
- Jesus does not merely forgive who we have been. He forms who we are becoming.
- What happened in me?
- What is it like to be led by me?
- What kind of disciple is my way of training producing?

Relationships: What Kind of Disciple Is My Leadership Producing?

- Security does not make Jesus self-important. Security frees Jesus to serve.
- Your inner architecture eventually becomes somebody else's discipleship environment.
- One of the greatest compliments a spiritual leader can receive is not, "I could not have done this without you." It is, "You helped me discover that God could use me too."

Purpose: Make Disciples Who Mature and Multiply

- Matthew 28 gives us the mission: make disciples. Ephesians 4 shows us the direction: equip disciples toward maturity and ministry.
- Who am I intentionally helping become capable of doing what I currently do?
- The goal of a spiritual leader is not indispensability. It is mature disciples who can help make and mature other disciples.
- The kingdom does not expand because a few gifted people become extraordinary. It expands when ordinary disciples become equipped to help other ordinary disciples follow Jesus.

Choose One Building Practice for 30 Days

- Identity — Before leadership: What do I need to remember about who I am before I enter this room?
- Presence — During leadership: What is happening in me right now?
- Reflection — After leadership: What was it like to be led or disciplined by me today?
- Disciple-making — Over time: Who is becoming more like Jesus through my investment—and who are they learning to help?

I do not want you leaving here impressed by a sermon. I want you leaving with one experiment in becoming. You might be surprised by the leader who begins emerging.

What I Want to Remember

The Architecture We Are After

- The goal of spiritual leadership is that the architecture of our lives increasingly takes the shape of Jesus.
- Not because we learned better leadership techniques. Because we have been with him.
- That is the architecture we are after.
- Follow Jesus. Be formed by Jesus. Help others follow Jesus. Equip them to help others follow Jesus.
- The Master Builder is not finished.
- What is Jesus trying to form in me right now—and what might happen to the people I disciple if I let him?
- Build carefully. Disciple humbly. Equip generously. Build people, not platforms. And above all, keep building on Christ.
- Do not leave merely trying to lead harder. Keep following Jesus. Let him keep forming the person from whom your disciple-making flows.

My 30-Day Experiment

Practice I will choose: _____

Person who will help me reflect: _____

First faithful step: _____

Prayer / Next Step
