



Week 1
THE PULSE

Our human bodies are amazing. There are so many different and very important organs in our bodies, but one in particular is the difference between life and death. As I was thinking about this devotional and worship, I realized that it all starts with the heart of a person. A beating heart or lack thereof is how we know if someone is dead or alive. A *pulse* is defined as a *regular or rhythmical beating of the heart*. A good, healthy pulse is the difference between health and a deathbed, or success and failure.

Over the next several weeks we will talk about a number of things. In order for the words you will read and say in the next few weeks to really take root and develop growth, I believe it takes a teachable heart. Teachable—that's one of the big things in life.

Have you ever met a guy or girl who was so into him- or herself that nothing else and no one else mattered? You know the big ego! Egos generally aren't teachable. Years ago my piano teacher shared with me the importance of not getting "the big head." At the time I was young and thought, *Why is he wasting my piano lesson telling me this?* But I have learned that the words he shared with me that afternoon are true.

It doesn't matter who you are or what age you are. There will always be people in life that you will answer to. Don't be so into yourself, accept what those above you have to say, and be humbled by the opportunities you've been given. That will get you much further than being a know-it-all who has to have everything your way.

The second thing you'll need is a loving heart. Ministry is about loving people. It took me a number of years to understand this. We have to love people: the people we like and even the people that rub us the wrong way.

We generally associate love with hearts. If you have a hardened heart because of grudges that have built up, love is not going to be what spills out of your heart. I can genuinely say that loving others really is what ministry is about. The Bible teaches us that the greatest commandment is to love one another as we love ourselves.

I want to always do my best—not so I can get a pat on the back, but because I want people to be touched by God's love. Anything I can do to help share that love and make it seem tangible and real to them is my goal. I love leading worship. I love finding new ways, methods, and strategies to better lead people into God's presence. My heart in all of this is to see people grow closer to God through worship.

Worship is communication: people speaking and singing to God. *Leading* worship is also communication. The things we say, our body language, example, and ability all speak to people to communicate why and how we worship God.

If we took a stethoscope to your heart, what would it tell us? To take a pulse is to judge someone's mood or views. Where is your heart? What are your motives?

READ IT:

Psalms 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalms 86:10-12

For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God. Teach me Your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify Your name forever.

Psalms 119:10-11

I seek You with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands. I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.

LIVE IT:

Make a list of the reasons why you enjoy leading worship. Be honest. Is it because you'll be on stage in front of your friends? Is it because you want to help people connect with their Creator, the true and living God? You may have two or ten reasons, but write them down and then pray. Pray that God would align your heart with His.

SPEAK IT:

What does it mean to have a love for people?

Who is someone you know that is a good example of loving people? What characteristics does this person have?

How can you grow in your heart of worship?