

THIS MONTH'S INSIGHT

Leadership | Ownership | Vision | Empathy

✦ From the L.O.V.E.™ Desk

Leadership is not measured by how well you perform when everything is going right. It is revealed in your willingness to pause, reflect, and continue growing. Honest self-assessment isn't about proving your worth. It's about strengthening your impact.

☁ Still Rising: Monthly Reflections

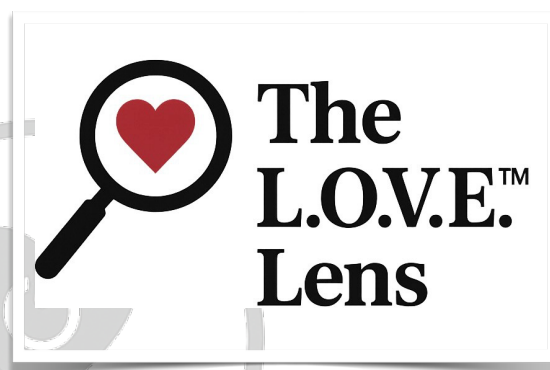
Growth begins with awareness. The strongest leaders aren't those who have mastered every pillar. They're the ones who remain willing to reflect, adjust, and intentionally become better.

💎 L.O.V.E.™ Gem

Self-awareness is where stronger leadership begins. Growth follows when you're willing to act on what you discover.

Try This:

Reflect on one area where you want to grow. Then take one intentional step this week that moves you closer to becoming the leader you aspire to be.



So... How are you doing?

Your Mid-Year Leadership Check-In

You're halfway through the year. This is a good time to pause and take inventory of your leadership.

At the beginning of the year, you may have set goals for yourself. Maybe you wanted to become a better communicator, be more intentional with your leadership, strengthen relationships, or create a more positive experience for the people you lead. Whatever those goals were, now is a good time to stop and ask yourself a simple question: **How am I doing?**

Leadership is a journey, not a destination. There are seasons when everything seems to be falling into place, and there are seasons when the demands of work and life can easily pull your attention away from the leader you set out to become. That's why taking time to reflect matters. Reflection isn't about criticizing yourself. It's about becoming more aware of where you are today, recognizing what's working well, identifying where you may need to make adjustments, and intentionally deciding how you want to lead during the second half of the year.

This month's newsletter is a little different. Instead of reading another leadership article, I invite you to spend a few minutes investing in yourself. Answer each statement honestly. There are no right or wrong answers.



This month's challenge invites you to reflect on your leadership with honesty, grace, and purpose.

Before you focus on what needs improvement, take a moment to acknowledge what you're already doing well.

Then, look at your lowest-scoring pillar with the same honesty, grace, and encouragement you would offer a trusted friend. Don't use this assessment to criticize yourself. Use it to identify one area where a small, intentional change can help you grow.

Growth isn't about being perfect. It's about being willing to keep becoming better.

This Challenge:

Encourages leaders to evaluate themselves with honesty while extending themselves the same grace they would offer someone they care about.

Helps shift the focus from self-criticism to intentional growth by recognizing both strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Reminds leaders that meaningful growth doesn't come from perfection. It comes from small, consistent actions taken with purpose.

The goal isn't perfection. The goal is greater awareness because awareness is often the first step toward meaningful growth.

Let's begin.

This brief reflection is intended to increase self-awareness and encourage intentional growth and should not be considered a comprehensive leadership assessment.

Rate yourself on a scale of 1–5

Leadership Check-In Rating Scale

5 – Consistently

This describes me almost all the time. It is a natural and regular part of how I lead.

4 – Usually

This describes me most of the time, although there are occasions when I could be more intentional.

3 – Sometimes

I demonstrate this inconsistently. There are opportunities for improvement.

2 – Rarely

I know this is an area where I need to be more intentional and practice it more consistently.

1 – Never or Almost Never

This is not currently a consistent part of my leadership, and it represents a significant opportunity for growth.

Leadership

____ I provide clear direction when others are uncertain.

____ My actions consistently model the expectations I set for others.

____ People know what I stand for because they see it in how I lead.

Ownership

____ I take responsibility for both successes and setbacks.

____ When something doesn't go as planned, I first ask what I could have done differently.

____ I follow through on my commitments.

L.O.V.E.™ Reflection Questions

1. Leadership:

Where has your leadership made the greatest positive impact this year, and where could you lead with greater consistency?

2. Ownership:

When challenges arise, do you focus more on assigning responsibility or identifying what you can do differently?

3. Vision:

Does your daily leadership reflect the future you're trying to build, or are you simply responding to what's in front of you?

4. Empathy:

Who on your team, in your family, or in your community may need more understanding, encouragement, or support from you right now?

5. L.O.V.E.™ in Action:

Based on your assessment, what is one intentional change you will make over the next 90 days to strengthen the way you lead, communicate, and serve others?

"One must look objectively at their words and behaviors from within to determine if and what changes must be made."

– Simone Daniels

Author, *Rise Up, Stand Tall: Be Better*
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Vision

___ I help others understand the purpose of the work they do.

___ I make decisions with both immediate needs and long-term impact in mind.

___ I regularly communicate where we're going and why it matters.

Empathy

___ I listen to understand, not just to respond.

___ I consider how my decisions affect the people I lead.

___ I actively seek to understand different perspectives before making decisions.

Your Leadership Snapshot

Leadership ___ /15

Ownership ___ /15

Vision ___ /15

Empathy ___ /15

- Which pillar received your highest score?
- Which pillar received your lowest score?

Now that you've completed the assessment, pat yourself on the back for taking the first step toward greater self-awareness.

Every leader has strengths. Every leader has opportunities to grow. The key is knowing the difference and choosing to act.

As you move into the second half of the year, don't try to improve everything at once. Focus on one area where you can make meaningful progress. Small, consistent actions often create the greatest impact over time.

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

— Galatians 5:13 (NIV)

Leadership rooted in L.O.V.E.™ creates a legacy worth leaving behind.