

The Heart Solution to Student Engagement

BITs Story Frame

Mt 22:37 | Heart → Soul → Mind | Purpose → Passion → Perception

Heart — Purpose (Why)	Soul — Passion (What)	Mind — Perception (How)
<i>Love what Father loves; engage the heart around a worthy cause</i>	<i>Align your will with your heart; co-labor from calling</i>	<i>Understand the process; see Father's vision clearly</i>

Round 1 Purpose of My Heart

Mt 22:37 — Love the Lord your God with all your heart

I Story Personal Narrative — *In this place, doing this thing, I felt like this...*

A few years ago I sat in the back of a seventh-grade classroom watching a gifted teacher work — organized, articulate, deeply prepared. Every student was quiet. Not one was asleep. And not one was genuinely engaged.

At the break I asked one student — a sharp kid named Marcus — what he thought of the lesson. He shrugged.

"It's fine. I just do what I need to do to get the grade."

That answer stayed with me. Fine. Just doing what I need to do. That is the sound of a heart that has no idea why it is in that chair.

You Story Connect with the Principal — *Have you ever... You know when...*

Have you ever walked your hallways on a Monday morning and looked into the faces coming through your doors — and wondered where the curiosity, initiative, and enthusiasm went?

You know what it felt like when you started in education. There was something burning in you — a sense that these students were meant for something specific. You saw purpose in faces before you knew their names. You still do, on the good days.

What if every educator in your building could operate from that same clarity — every day?

Clear Point Suddenly I Realized... — *Lesson — Hook — Ear Candy*

Gallup's Student Poll tracks what every principal already knows in her bones: roughly half of elementary students are engaged. By high school that number has fallen off a cliff — at precisely the moment when identity, purpose, and calling should be taking shape.

Suddenly I realized: the engagement crisis begins with an unanswered question every child carries into the building every morning:

Does anyone here see who I actually am — and why I am here?

Matthew 22:37 gives Christian education its actual framework. Heart first. Everything else follows. The heart is where purpose lives — Father writes it there before a child is born. The role of a Kingdom educator

is not primarily to transfer information. It is to reflect that purpose back until the student can see it for themselves.

They Common Enemy — *They will tell you...*

They will tell you the answer is more rigor. Better data. Improved accountability systems. Differentiated instruction. The education industry will sell you every one of these things — and most of them are not wrong. They just are not reaching the right problem.

The real enemy is the assumption that if you get the curriculum right, the engagement follows. It does not. You cannot curriculum your way out of a heart problem. A student disconnected from purpose will perform. They will comply. They will graduate. And they will leave your building not knowing why they are here. We are graduating disconnected people — servants instead of sons.

Sound Bite Stack

"A school that educates the mind without engaging the heart is a factory for servants."

"The #1 goal of education is to engage hearts."

"Banquets instead of breadcrumbs."

Declaration #1: I am a Kingdom educator who sees Father's purpose written in my students — before they can see it themselves.

Round 2 Passion of My Will

Jn 5:19 — The Son does what He sees the Father doing

I Story Personal Narrative — *In this place, doing this thing, I felt like this...*

I once sat with a teacher named Sarah who had taught for seventeen years. She was technically excellent — her test scores were strong, her classroom was orderly, her lesson plans were meticulous. But she was burning out.

I asked her: what was the thread that pulled you into education in the first place? She was quiet for a long moment. Then she said,

"I wanted to be the person who saw the kids nobody else saw."

She had been so focused on executing curriculum that she had stopped doing the one thing she came to do. When she reconnected with that — when she put it in writing and brought it into her classroom as a commission rather than a job description — something changed. Her students noticed before she told a single one of them.

You Story Connect with the Principal — *Have you ever... You know when...*

Have you ever walked into a classroom and felt the difference? You know when a teacher is fully collaborating — there is no rubric needed. The energy is different. The students lean in. The teacher is not performing a lesson; she is on a mission.

You know what it feels like when your own will is aligned with your calling. The work does not deplete you the same way. You stay late not because you have to but because you want to. That is passion of the will. And it is reproducible. It can be cultivated — intentionally — in every educator on your staff.

Clear Point Suddenly I Realized... — Lesson — Hook — Ear Candy

The soul is the seat of the will. And the will, when it is aligned with the heart, produces passion — not performance anxiety. John 5:19 is the model: the Son does what He sees the Father doing. Not what the standard requires. Not what the evaluation rubric measures. What the Father is doing.

Suddenly I realized: the teachers who burn out are almost always teachers who are performing what the institution requires rather than co-laboring from what Father called them to do. The fix is not a better self-care regimen. It is prophetic clarity about their own commission.

A teacher who knows why she is in that classroom — not professionally but prophetically — does not experience it as a job. She experiences it as a commission. She is not managing student behavior. She is tending hearts Father entrusted to her. The difference in posture is total, and students feel it immediately.

They Common Enemy — They will tell you...

They will tell you teacher burnout is a workload problem. More planning periods. Better pay. Smaller class sizes. Wellness programs. And again — none of those are wrong. But a teacher who is co-laboring from a clear calling can carry loads that would break someone who is just doing their job.

The real enemy is the performance treadmill: a system that measures teacher output without ever asking what Father called that teacher to produce. We have professional development. We have instructional coaching. We have everything except prophetic insight into a calling. You can lead participation through policy and protocol — but passion only happens when the will is aligned with the heart.

Sound Bite Stack

"Teachers who co-labor with Father for their students are the single most powerful engagement force a school can deploy."

"You can explain the process. You can lead participation through policy and protocol. But engagement, creativity, and initiative only happen when the heart knows the why."

"Excitement. Enthusiasm. Peace. That is what clear direction does to the soul."

Declaration #2: I am a Kingdom educator whose will is aligned with Father's heart — I lead a staff who co-labor from their calling, not from their contract.

Round 3 Perception of My Mind

Jn 15:15 — I have made known to you everything I heard from my Father

I Story Personal Narrative — In this place, doing this thing, I felt like this...

I worked with a principal once who had all the right systems in place. Data walls. PBIS. Professional learning communities. Curriculum maps aligned to state standards. Every best practice from every conference she had attended.

The school ran smoothly. But she told me something that stopped me cold:

"I know how to run a school. I have no idea where we are actually going."

She had all the process and none of the vision. And without a shared sense of Kingdom purpose for their specific community, the well-run machinery was running in circles. Good strategy. No revelation.

You Story Connect with the Principal — *Have you ever... You know when...*

Have you ever had a moment of sudden clarity — where everything aligned and you knew exactly what to do next? You know the difference between that and the feeling of working hard inside a fog.

You know when your staff is genuinely on the same page — there is unity, agility, a shared language. The meetings are shorter. The decisions feel right. The culture has coherence. What if that clarity came not from a strategic planning retreat, but from hearing directly what Father is actually building in your school right now?

Clear Point Suddenly I Realized... — *Lesson — Hook — Ear Candy*

John 15:15 is the mind's invitation: I no longer call you servants who don't know what their master is doing — I call you friends, for I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father.

Suddenly I realized: the mind's job is not to generate vision. It is to receive it, understand it, and steward it. The perception of the mind is sound when it is downstream of the heart and the will — when it is processing what Father has already spoken rather than generating strategy from the outside in.

Big-picture vision. Sound values. Co-laboring — being on the same page with Father. Righteousness — the settled sense that what you are doing is in sync with Father, not just effective. This is what an educated mind looks like inside a Kingdom school. And it produces a culture where educators follow the Lamb: agile, responsive, faith-led rather than formula-dependent.

They Common Enemy — *They will tell you...*

They will tell you that vision is built in boardrooms. That culture follows strategy. That if you get the right metrics on the right dashboard, clarity will follow. The consulting industry has built entire revenue streams on this assumption.

The enemy here is the closed loop: a school that generates its own vision from its own assessment of its own data — with no upward connection to what Father is building in that specific community at this specific moment. Good strategy. No revelation. And students know the difference between a school that is following a plan and a school that is following the Lamb.

Sound Bite Stack

"My mind justifies what my heart desires and my will pursues."

"Sons follow the Lamb — they are agile. They do not need a five-year plan to know what Father is doing today."

"I am on the same page with Father. That is righteousness."

Declaration #3: I am a Kingdom educator whose mind is renewed —

I see Father's business, I understand the process, and I lead with Living Words.

Conclusion — Sons Can Engage

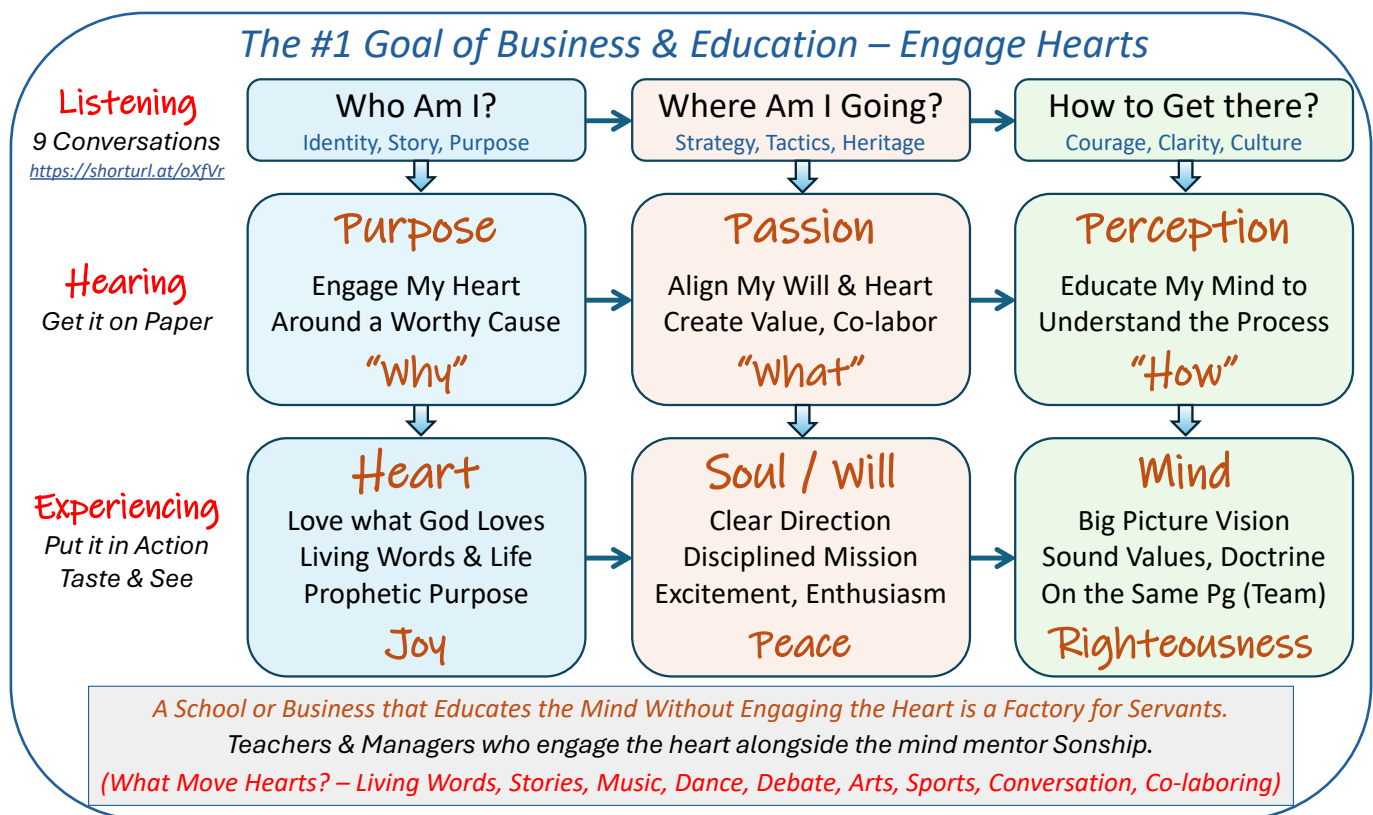
Heart, Will, and Mind — It's Love!

The three rounds we just walked through — Purpose of the Heart, Passion of the Will, Perception of the Mind — are not a program to implement. They are a description of what it looks like when sons and daughters show up fully engaged in what Father is doing.

And this is the heart of what Christian education is actually for.

Sons can engage — heart, will, and mind. Not because we engineered the right conditions. Because it is love. And love is what Father put in every student in your building before they ever walked through your door.

Intro Video - <https://youtu.be/k-jmiKK7gT0>



Here Is How It Works in Practice

1. I am listening — 9 Conversations in the Council

The foundation is face-to-face conversation with Father. Not devotional reading. Not prayer as performance. Actual Council sessions where educators — and students — bring specific questions and receive specific answers. The heart engages around a worthy cause, and Father's heart for these specific students is the worthiest cause in your building. This is where purpose is heard.

2. I can take the notes — Get purpose in writing with clarity

The act of writing down what Father shows you is not a journaling exercise. It moves purpose from impression to commission. Teachers who get their calling in writing relate to their classroom differently.

Students who articulate their own purpose in writing — even once — carry it differently. Something is sealed when it is spoken and then written. Hearing becomes clarity. Clarity becomes initiative.

3. I can do what Father is doing — Stay within the desires He wrote in my heart

This is co-laboring. Not doing what the standard requires. Not performing what the evaluation measures. Doing what Father is doing — and staying within the desires He specifically wrote in your heart before you were born. That is where engagement lives. That is where burnout ends. That is where a school of 550 students stops being a factory and starts being an Ecclesia — a community of sons and daughters with shared Kingdom purpose.

"The engaged heart reproduces itself — from the principal's office to the classroom teacher to the student who will do the same for their peers."

Final Declaration: Sons can engage — heart, will, and mind. It's love. We are listening. We are writing it down. We are doing what Father is doing. That is the school worth building. And Father already wrote it in your heart.

Decrees – I Am Father's Son, Chosen and Called

I Can Engage my Heart, Will, & Mind with Father's Heart – Connection!

- 1) I can listen to 9 Conversations in the Council
- 2) I can take the notes and get purpose in writing with Clarity
- 3) I can do what Father is doing, **Experience** the desires he wrote in my heart

I have a Weapons that are not of this World (2Cor 10:3-5)

I have a seat in Heaven's Courts (Warfare), Council (Conversations)

→ I have Stories of Transformations (Proofs)