



Christian Leaders Bible Study

Leaders Guide



Part One: Qualifications of Christian Leaders
Part Two: Priorities and Motives of Christian Leaders
Part Three: Characteristics of Christian Leaders

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Christian Leaders Bible Study Part One

Leaders Guide

Qualifications of Christian Leaders

1 Timothy 3:1-10

NOTA BENE:

Dear Leader:

Please note well that the verses in this study that refer to the qualifications for a man to serve as pastor (for example 1 Timothy 3 and 4, Titus 1 and Matthew 10), are used in this study, not to say that everyone can be a pastor, but that these words of our Eternal Father to His Church are also beneficial for all Christians to heed as they serve in positions of leadership as God gives them opportunity in His Church (and in the many other areas of life in which they serve) here on earth. Please make this very clear to those you are leading and teaching as the leader of this study.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Thank You for calling each of us to be leaders, whether it is in the corporate office or to our children, to those You place in our lives at various times and in various situations, and everywhere in between. As I study the qualifications of a Christian leader, lead me to rejoice in those areas in which I excel by Your grace and strengthen me in those areas where work still needs to be done. Equip me to be the Christian leader You would have me to be. In the precious name of Jesus I pray. Amen!

The purpose of leadership qualifications is two-fold:

1. Acts 6:3 – It provides guidelines for the local congregation or group in selecting their leaders. This verse stresses that they were full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.
2. 1 Corinthians 9:27 – Here Christian leaders are given a checkpoint for their spiritual lives.

THE DESIRE OF A LEADER (1 Timothy 3:1)

Paul says two significant things about a Christian's desire to be a leader:

1. It is OK to want to be a leader in the church, even though it seems contrary to our way of thinking that everything must be done with some show of humility, either fake or real. "If called, I will serve," we humbly say. We sometimes really want to serve for all the right reasons and that is OK.
2. With the desire there must also be the discipline to grow in our Christ-likeness.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THOSE WHO ASPIRE TO POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP

(vv. 2-10)

1. Above reproach – We must give no grounds or reasons for accusations. This is not talking about what we were before we were Christians, but how we live our lives now, especially in positions of leadership. We should not do things that will reflect in the wrong way on Jesus Christ. We do not have to be perfect, but more is expected of us. Christian Ladder Principle: “The higher I climb in spiritual leadership, the less freedom I have to do what I want to do.” (See 1 Corinthians 8:1-13.) As a leader, you will most definitely be watched more than others, but you will also have more opportunities to witness.
2. husband of one wife – you are to be a one woman man and vice versa. Live in a faithful, monogamous relationship, living in the loving relationship with each other that you have experienced in Christ’s relationship with you. Nota Bene that even though this verse talks about a man loving his wife as Christ loves the Church, both husband and wife are called upon to love each other in this way as we read in Dr. Luther’s explanation to the Sixth Commandment: “... and husband and wife love and honor each other.” Polygamy was common as Paul wrote these words. BONUS QUESTION – With Dr. Luther’s explanation in mind, do we love our spouse like Christ loved the church? (Ephesians 5:24-26)
3. Sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable – We cannot lead others until we are masters of ourselves. Self-disciplined. Knowing our own weaknesses and dealing with them. Patient. Waiting on the Lord. Using discretion.
4. Hospitable – literally a friend to a stranger.
BONUS QUESTION – How are we doing with visitors and new members not just in our LWML group, but in our congregation?
5. Able to teach -
BONUS QUESTION – These words of St. Paul to young Pastor Timothy are once again spoken in the context of the pastoral office, as are the rest of these qualifications. However, this qualification, like the rest of them, apply to all of God’s called and redeemed children. Here, St. Paul calls upon those asked to teach to know the teachings of Scripture (this would involve being immersed in them yourself) and to faithfully and winsomely communicate them to others. BONUS QUESTION – In what ways can each of us be an effective teacher? With our lives. (See Ephesians 5:1-2) With what we say and how we say it.
6. Not a drunkard – “Not addicted to much wine.” See also 1 Timothy 3:8.
7. Not violent, but gentle.
8. Not quarrelsome.
9. Not a lover of money – See 1 Timothy 6.

10. Must manage his own household well. From your own experience and from verses 4-5 of our text, what would be included? *“He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?”*
11. Not be a recent convert
 - A. Strengths of a new Christian in this regard – Excited, ready to dive in head first, etc.
 - B. Weakness of a new Christian in this regard – Does not know the Word, little or no credibility yet within the congregation, etc.
12. Well thought of by outsiders – Worthy of respect, dignified, even among non-Christians seen as a person of character and integrity.
13. Not double-tongued, saying one thing and meaning something else.
14. Not greedy for dishonest gain – embezzlement, not doing something for the wrong reasons.
15. Hold the mystery (the deep truths) of the faith with a clear conscience – Having a pure, clear confession of the Christian faith.
16. Be tested first – Example: an insurance company has said that no one should be able to be involved in children’s ministry of any kind for the first year they are a member of the congregation so they can be tested. Some churches and groups have the rule that you must be a member of the group for a year before you can hold office. This is done with this whole testing idea in mind.

BRAINSTORM CHARACTERISTICS THAT ARE MOST DESIRABLE IN A LEADER

1. Brainstorm with the whole group and make a list of the characteristics that are most desirable in a leader.

Here are some possibilities:

Obedient to God’s Word	Optimistic	Pragmatic
Delegates responsibility	Well-organized	Enthusiastic
Committed to growth	Person of prayer	Good motivator
Person of vision	Industrious	Hard working
Has a servant’s heart	Generous	Edifying
Works with people	Faithful	Has integrity
Sets expectations	Sincere	Disciplined
Puts best construction on everything	Patient	Open to new ideas

2. Come to a consensus on the five most important characteristics for any leader, from the list you have generated.

3. Now make a list of the five most important characteristics of a Christian leader.

4. Has your list changed? If yes, how has it changed and why has it changed?

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING POSITIVE

1. Christianity demands ultimate optimism concerning what God can accomplish in our lives. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13). See also Romans 8:28, 38-39; Matthew 17:20; John 14:12-13; Ephesians 3:20-21.

2. It lays the foundation for success because positive people:
 - A. Overcome inferiority complexes.

 - B. Listen to new ideas and evaluate them carefully.

 - C. See opportunities and seize them.

 - D. Welcome challenging problems.

 - E. Overcome problems.

Here is a positive way to see “problems.” How does each of these words help us see our problems in a more positive light?

Predictors – They predict what will happen to us. No problem leaves us the same.

We are better or worse, stronger or weaker, after having dealt with the problem.

Reminders – They humble us; remind us of our need for God.

Opportunities – Problems get us moving and open up doors.

Blessings – They teach us much and we are blessed.

Lessons – We learn from them.

Everywhere – We can’t stay away from them.

Messages – It is often in the form of a problem that we sense something is happening in our life. Example: A friend about 40 years of age whose eyesight was beginning to fail. That was the problem that took her to the doctor. They then discovered a brain aneurysm, dealt with it in surgery, and after many months of recovery, she will be back almost to “normal.”

Solvable – We can deal with them and solve them. The example here would be of

problems and their solution in mathematics. We know the problem. We have been taught how to solve them and as we put those teachings to work on the problem we get the answer.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for equipping each and every one of us for service and leadership in Your kingdom, no matter what our task may be. We pray for Your guidance as we serve humbly and intentionally, following the example set forth by Your Son, our Savior, who humbly served on earth while desiring to do Your will, even to the cross. Guide us and lead us as we serve wholeheartedly, as working for the Lord, not for man. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BIBLE VERSES FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Timothy 3

Qualifications for Overseers

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Qualifications for Deacons

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Christian Leaders Bible Study Part Two Leaders Guide

Priorities and Motives of Christian Leaders

NOTA BENE:

Dear Leader:

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OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, As we consider the priorities and motives of a Christian leader, help us to take a long, hard look at the priorities and motivations that make us tick as Your dear children. When they are messed up, lead us to repent of those sins and restore to us a right spirit as we continue to serve others and You as You first served us. Amen.

PRIORITIES FOR THE CHRISTIAN LEADER

The two questions we need to answer:

1. What am I doing? (What are my priorities? How do I spend my time and my energy, both inwardly and outwardly?)
2. Why am I doing it? (What are my motives? Why do I do what I do?)

If you have your priorities straight (if you know what comes first) then it will be much easier to realize your goals.

Pareto Principle: “If your priorities are right, 20% of the effort will give you 80% of the results.” In other words, it is not how hard you work, but how smart you work.

Example: Forty-five years ago my parents thought it would be a good idea for me to take piano lessons. They wanted me to be a good piano player so they had me go to lessons every week and practice every day for at least 30 minutes. Forty-five years ago I thought it was a pretty poor idea for me to take piano lessons. My parents’ priorities were for me to learn how to play the piano. My priorities were to spend time outside playing. What were the results? After a few years of lessons and fighting about practicing, they gave up on their dream for me and I don’t know how to play the piano, for which I am incredibly sad even to this day. If their priorities would have been my priorities, I would have practiced the scales, I would have learned what notes on the page would correspond to what keys on the piano, and I would be able to play the piano for you today.

If my priorities would have been “right,” putting in 20% of the efforts would have given me 80% of the results and I would have fulfilled a dream I have to this day. What does God’s Word say would be some priorities for a Christian leader?

Priority 1: Discipline yourself for godliness. (Godliness = holy living, the Christian life, growth in faith and relationship with Christ.) Read 1 Timothy 4:7-16.

How is this done?

Verse 7 - Have nothing to do with false teaching (anything that does not affirm Christ). Have nothing to do with that which is not from God.

Verse 9 – Put your hope, your trust, your confidence in the living God, not in yourself, not in programs, etc.

Verse 12 – Be an example; your example will give you respect and credibility in the church. You cannot rely on your age, your charisma, your family name, your lineage, how long you have been here.

Verse 13 – Read Scriptures, exhort (warn, advise, encourage), teach.

Verse 14 – Use your spiritual gifts.

Romans 12

Ephesians 4

Verse 16 – Persevere. Right priorities + Perseverance = Success

What are the results?

Verse 15 – People will take notice. They will see your progress.

Verse 16 – It will keep you in the faith God has given and it will lead others to Christ.

Priority 2: Involve others to help you in the work of ministry. Read Acts 6:1-4.

Why is this necessary and important?

How is this done?

Verse 2 – Recognize you have to limit yourself – you cannot do everything.

Verse 3 – Decide who you want to involve and how many. Look at their qualifications. Are they “full of the Spirit and of wisdom”? Ask them and give them responsibility.

What are the results?

Verse 4 – You have the time to do what you are supposed to be doing.

Priority 3: Equip (give the tools to) people to do ministry. Read Matthew 10:1-42.

How is this done?

Verse 1 – Give authority.

Verses 2-42 – Give specific and clear instruction. Remember, the disciples have been living with Jesus and observing His ministry. Jesus did not just tell them what to do, He showed them. The Shepherd leads the sheep. He doesn't just advise us about the pitfalls that we may encounter. He points us in the right direction.

What are the results?

Reproduction – those who are equipped can then reach and teach others.

MOTIVES AND THE CHRISTIAN LEADER

For Christians, the priority question cannot be separated from the motive question. Jesus clearly taught that the right motives were more important than the right moves. This is why He often had conflicts with the religious leaders of His day. They were concerned with actions and He was concerned with attitudes.

1. The evidence of wrong motives. Read 1 Timothy 6:3-5.

Verse 3 – Does not agree with instruction of Christ; teaches false doctrines.

Verse 4 – It is conceited and understands nothing; i.e., blinded by pride and likes to stir up trouble which causes division. Does not proclaim Christ (servanthood) in words or actions.

2. The nature (qualities/characteristics) of wrong motives.

1 Timothy 6:4 – Pride.

1 Timothy 6:5b – Desire for personal gain.

3. The nature of right motives.

1 Timothy 1:5 – Purity of heart, a good conscience, a sincere faith.

4. The result of wrong motives. Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10.

Verse 9 – Causes us to fall into temptation/into a snare.

1 Timothy 3:7

2 Timothy 2:26

Verse 9 – Foolish and harmful desires “plunge” us into ruin and despair.

Verse 10 – “Wandered away from the faith” and causes much grief.

CONCLUSION

1. The leader whose motives are right, but whose priorities are wrong, will demonstrate God’s love but frustrate God’s work.
2. The leader whose priorities are right, but motives are wrong, will be able to do only what is possible for man.
3. The leader whose motives are right and priorities are right will demonstrate God’s love and will also develop God’s work.

FOR DISCUSSION AS TIME PERMITS

What other priorities (other than the ones listed above) do you see that are important for a Christian leader?

Our Family – we do not want to neglect our family because of our work for the church. Our family is God’s gift to us and it has priority over the work of the church. If our family is being neglected, our priorities are not right and we will set a poor example for others who see our work in the church.

Issues of the Day – we need to keep up with the issues of the day so that we better minister to those dealing with those issues. We need to know what is going on outside the church walls so that we can be prepared to respond.

Commitment – we need to be committed to doing what we have agreed to do in whatever leadership roles or positions we have. If I have taken on the task, I need to be ready to work at it and do what it is that I have promised or agreed to do as the Lord strengthens me.

Priorities: As leaders, what excuses do we use for not adhering to the three priorities listed above? For example, not enough time, it is easier to do it myself, etc.

Motives: Discuss further the relationship between motives and priorities.

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, As I think of the ways in which You have equipped me to be a leader and the opportunities You have given to me to lead, I thank You and pray that through the working of the Holy Spirit in my life through the Means of Grace, that You would mold and shape me into the leader that You would have me to be. Feed me, dear Father, with Your wisdom and Your understanding for my good and the good of all I serve. I pray that You would bless me, dear Father, so that I may be a blessing to those You put in my life and those I will touch through my leadership. I pray this in the precious name of my crucified and risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen!!

BIBLE VERSES FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Timothy 4:7-16

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Romans 12

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Ephesians 4

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Acts 6:1-4

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Matthew 10

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise

the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. As you enter the house, greet it. And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town. "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household."

1 Timothy 6:3-5

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

1 Timothy 6:4

he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions ...

1 Timothy 6:5

and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

1 Timothy 1:5

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

1 Timothy 6:9-10

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

1 Timothy 3:7

Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

2 Timothy 2:26

and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Christian Leaders Bible Study Part Three

Leaders Guide

Characteristics of Christian Leaders

NOTA BENE:

Dear Leader:

Please note well that the verses in this study that refer to the qualifications for a man to serve as pastor (for example 1 Timothy 3 and 4, Titus 1 and Matthew 10), are used in this study, not to say that everyone can be a pastor, but that these words of our Eternal Father to His Church are also beneficial for all Christians to heed as they serve in positions of leadership as God gives them opportunity in His Church (and in the many other area of life in which they serve) here on earth. Please make this very clear to those you are leading and teaching as the leader of this study.

OPENING PRAYER

Suggestions would be to pray for the leaders in your LWML group, zone, district, and national; your congregation, district, synod, community, schools, city, state, our nation, and world.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS

Discuss the following leadership characteristics with insights found in the corresponding Bible verses.

1. Christian leaders walk with Jesus Christ as Savior and intentionally surrender to Him as Lord.
 - A. John 1:12 and 3:3, 16 – Becoming children of God – spiritual birth – God's gift: His Son.
 - B. Romans 10:9-10 – Belief and confession.
 - C. James 4:7-8 – Submit to God.
2. Christian leaders are distinguished by certain qualifications.
 - A. 1 Timothy 3:1-7 – Covered in the Christian Leaders Bible Study Part One.
 - B. Titus 1:6-9 – Discuss the list of attributes found here.
3. Christian leaders are grounded in the Bible and believe it is the Word of God.
 - A. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – Origin and usefulness of Scripture.
 - B. Hebrews 4:12 – Word of God is living and active, sharper than a double-edged sword.
 - C. Ephesians 6:17 – Word of God is our sword in the armor of God.

4. Christian leaders apply their knowledge and practice obedience.
 - A. James 1:22 – Be doers and not only hearers of the Word.
 - B. John 14:21 – The one who loves God will obey Him.
 - C. 2 Corinthians 10:5 – Honor God in one's thoughts.
5. Christian leaders exercise faith. They move beyond intellectual belief to dependency on God.
 - A. Hebrews 11:1, 6 – Definition of faith and its necessity to please God.
 - B. 2 Corinthians 4:18 and 5:7 – Walk by faith, not by sight.
 - C. Matthew 8:5-13 – The faith of the Roman centurion.
 - D. Proverbs 3:5-6 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
6. Christian leaders communicate with God.
 - A. Matthew 6:9-13 – The Lord's Prayer.
 - B. Mark 11:24, James 1:5-8 – Pray with confidence.
 - C. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Philippians 4:6-7 – Pray without ceasing and with thanksgiving.
 - D. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Romans 8:28 – Interpret circumstances through an eternal lens.
 - E. James 4:2 – Pray specifically.
 - F. Ephesians 6:18 – Pray for all the saints.
7. Christian leaders are faithful stewards and exercise their spiritual gifts.
 - A. Matthew 25:14-30 – Parable of the talents.
 - B. Luke 12:48 – To whom much is given, much will be demanded.
 - C. 1 Corinthians 12:7, 1 Peter 4:10 – Use one's gifts to serve others for the common good.
 - D. Malachi 3:8-10 – Robbing God of tithes and offerings.
8. Christian leaders accept responsibilities as a leader and servant. They are available, humble, and willing to be used by God for His glory.
 - A. Isaiah 6:8 – Whom shall we send, and who will go for us?
 - B. Mark 10:43-45 – Christ's definition of greatness is service.

- C. Philippians 2:3-17 – Christ-like humility.
9. Christian leaders are relationally oriented. They are approachable, consistent, and considerate. They demonstrate and articulate the value and relevance of God's Word to their lives.
 - A. Mark 1:14-18 – Calling of the first disciples.
 - B. John 4:4-26 – Jesus and the woman at the well.
 - C. Ephesians 4:15, 29 – Speaking the truth in love; being edifying in speech.
 10. Christian leaders regularly fellowship and worship with other believers.
 - A. Hebrews 10:24-25 – Meeting and encouragement.
 - B. Proverbs 27:17 – Iron sharpens iron.
 - C. Galatians 6:2 – Bear each other's burdens.
 - D. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 – Two are better than one – a cord of three strands.
 11. Christian leaders possess a heart for evangelism and a vision for disciple-making.
 - A. Matthew 28:16-20 – The Great Commission.
 - B. 1 Peter 3:15 – Always be prepared to answer others.
 - C. 2 Timothy 2:2 - Train the trainer.
 12. Christian leaders are consistent in walking with the Lord and applying His principles.
 - A. Hebrews 5:14 – Constant use of the Word enables us to distinguish good from evil.
 - B. Romans 12:1-2 – Not conforming to the world and distinguishing what God's will is.
 - C. Galatians 5:22-26, 2 Peter 1:5-9 – Fruit of the Spirit/attributes of effective Christians.
 13. Christian leaders are committed to continual growth in their new life in Christ.
 - A. Galatians 2:20-21 – New life in Christ.
 - B. 1 Timothy 4:8 – Importance of spiritual training.
 - C. Hebrews 5:11 – 6:3 – Moving beyond elementary spiritual teaching.
 - D. 2 Corinthians 3:18, 1 Peter 1:6-7 – Sanctification is a process.
 14. Christian leaders love others.
 - A. 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 – Importance and attributes of love.

B. 1 Peter 4:8 – Love covers over a multitude of sins.

CLOSING PRAYER

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge -- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:14-19 NIV).



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