

# Who am I to Be a Leader?

By Gretchen Willis

**Opening:** Leadership has been described as being *an influencer*. In what ways have you been influential in your home, in your community, and in your church?

Sometimes, out of fear, we resist what God's Word reveals to us about being a leader, whether it is to step into the role of leadership, or to be at peace with someone else who has been chosen to lead us. A common expression states: "God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called." How has this saying been evident in your life?

Scripture reveals that our heavenly Father has a way of inviting His people to step outside of their comfort zone so as to grow them into His image.

**Prayer:** Dear heavenly Father, You are in control of everything, including me. You see past my sinful nature and call me to do Your good works. Help me to serve You with a willing heart and joyful spirit. Open my eyes to Your glory, Your provision, and Your wisdom. Open my heart to be courageous and humble, always glorifying Your name. In Jesus' most holy name. Amen.

Read **Exodus 3:1–14 and 4:1–17**.

How would you describe Moses' attitude about serving God?

How did Moses respond when God appeared to Him, commanding him to serve His people?

What are some excuses we give to God when He is calling us to serve Him?

Read **Joshua 1:1–9**.

As Joshua was called to lead the Israelites after Moses' death, what advice and reassurances did God give him?

What part does God play in our decisions as we serve Him, according to His will?

Read **2 Samuel 7:8–17**.

What does God promise David, the ruler of the Israelites?

Read **2 Samuel 7:18–21**.

How does David feel about being the newly anointed King? Can you think of a time when the Holy Spirit, working through God's Word, led you to act, even though you still had personal doubts? How did it turn out?

Read **Psalms 76:10; Exodus 9:16; and Exodus 14:4**.

Why does God allow wicked leaders to come to power? How can we act under the guidance of these leaders?

Read **Matthew 14:22–33**.

After Jesus first spoke to the disciples in the boat, how did Peter respond? What might have been going through his mind? What caused Peter to sink?

It's not uncommon to lose focus on God because of the distractions that surround us. In what ways do these distractions cloud His message of provision for us and give rise to doubt? How can we be sure that we are carrying out His will, and His example, as we lead lives of influence in our homes, communities, and churches?

How do the following references address fears that leaders may encounter?

"I don't really have any special skills." — Read **Romans 12:4–8**.

"I think I won't really make a difference to anyone." — Read **Colossians 3:23–24**.

"I'm afraid I will mess up." — Read **Jeremiah 29:11**.

"This is too big of a job to do by myself." — Read **Isaiah 40:11**.

"I am way too busy already." — Read **2 Corinthians 9:6–15**.

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, Lord, for choosing me to carry out Your will. Help me to confidently proclaim Your truth. I pray that I might imitate the humble servitude that Jesus showed to us. Bless me with friends who will serve as a mirror of Your love and guidance. Keep my heart pure, my eyes ever watchful, and my spirit humble. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Gretchen Willis, a member of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Arlington, Texas, is the Vice President of Leader Development in the Trinity Zone of the Texas District LWML. She is married to Rev. Ryan Willis and they have five beautiful children.*

