



A Servant Leader Bible Study Leader Guide

You have become an LWML leader in your group, zone, district, or national. This is an honorable position, one of great importance. In this study, you will be shown three important aspects of being a servant leader.

The Servant Leader

1. You are a leader. Ask yourself this question: Why am I an LWML leader?

Answers will vary.

You can answer this question in a variety of ways. Perhaps you are a leader because you have put your time in and have worked your way up the ladder to this position of leadership. Maybe you feel that you deserve to be in this position or that no one else could ever serve in this position as well as you can. Or maybe others have said to you that you should be a leader.

These all might be true statements. However, they tell you how you arrived at this position of leadership, but they do not tell you *why* you are in this position. You are a leader because God chose you to lead your organization at this time.

2. Read Esther 4:1–17. In verse 14, what does Mordecai tell Esther about being in the position of Queen of Persia?

God had raised up Esther for the purpose of speaking up for the people of Israel in this critical time when they were threatened.

3. What might be the purpose that God has for raising you up to your position of leadership?

Answers will vary.

As a woman who has been placed by God in this position of leadership, the purpose you are given is to serve others. You are in this position to be a servant leader.

4. Read Psalm 27:8. Who does the servant leader seek?

The servant leader will seek the face of the Lord, the will of the Lord. She will follow the Lord's will for her leadership.

5. Read Proverbs 3:5. As a servant leader, who do you follow? Why would you not want to *lean on your own understanding*?

You are to follow the Lord in your life. If you follow your own understanding, your sinful nature will lead you away from the direction the Lord would guide you.

Three Important Aspects of Being a Servant Leader

As a servant leader in the LWML, God has placed you in this position to lead the women of your group, zone, district, or national. As a servant leader, there are three important things for you to remember. We will learn about them from God's Word.

A. Do not try to do everything yourself.

6. Read Exodus 18:13–24. The Lord had placed Moses into the position of leadership over the people of Israel. He had faithfully led them out of Egypt to Mt. Sinai. There the people of Israel camped. It was there that his father-in-law, Jethro, came to him with his wife and children. What was Moses doing from morning to evening?

Moses was sitting in judgment over all the cases among the people of Israel. He was working from morning to night.

7. As Jethro watched Moses at work, what conclusion did Jethro come to about what Moses was doing?

Moses would overwork himself. We would call that “burning his candle at both ends.” He would soon be unable to lead the people at all.

8. What does Jethro suggest to Moses that he should do in order to lead and serve the people of Israel?

Moses should select other qualified people to help him with the case load. He would give them authority to act. This would help him serve and lead the people.

There is the temptation of a leader to think to herself:

“I am serving the Lord; therefore, I must do all these things.”

“No one can do it like me.”

“It is quicker and more efficient if I just do this myself.”

A servant leader will understand that:

- a. You are not called to do everything yourself.
- b. The Lord has surrounded you with qualified women and men who are also called by God to serve in the LWML.
- c. You should let others serve. Do not take away their joy of serving by trying to do everything yourself.

B. Be willing to delegate.

9. Read Acts 6:1–7. What complaint was put forward?

The Hellenists felt that they were being overlooked or neglected in the daily distribution.

10. What was the response by the Apostles?

Rather than arguing about the situation, the Apostles decided to delegate the job to other qualified leaders.

11. What were the requirements that they had for choosing the men to serve?

After spending time in prayer, they chose men who were of good reputation, filled with the Holy Spirit, and who had wisdom to act in this situation.

A servant leader is willing to delegate responsibilities to those around her. She will follow the guidance of the Early Church in selecting people to serve. She will pray, search, train, and let others serve.

A servant leader prayerfully sees the need to delegate to others. She prays about the situation. She prays that the Lord will open her heart and mind to see others who can fill the needed positions.

She will then openly search for those whom the Lord would have serve at that time. She does not always return to the same people that are asked again and again. She seeks others who may not have been in positions of leadership.

After the servant leader has worked through the process of prayerfully reaching out to others to join her in serving in the LWML, she will ensure that they are properly trained in their position. (You will find information about the various offices and boards at lwml.org.)

Then the servant leader will step back and allow the women to serve. Remember what was said in the last section. The servant leader does not try to do all the work herself. She will allow others to use their abilities in service.

C. Face difficult situations with prayer.

12. Read 1 Samuel 2:22–25. Eli was the priest of Israel. His sons were also serving as priests of Israel. Unfortunately, his sons did not act in a God-pleasing fashion. Instead, they followed their sinful natures. When did Eli finally talk with his sons?

Eli waited until the situation with his sons had gotten out of hand before he actually talked to them about what they were doing and how wrong their behavior was for a priest and a child of God.

13. Did this discussion change the situation? How did their behavior effect their leadership?

The discussion had no effect on Eli's sons. They had become hardened in their actions and did not see the need to change how they were acting. Their leadership was severely hampered to the point that they were actually leading the people of Israel into sinful actions.

14. What can a servant leader learn from this situation?

While it may be uncomfortable or difficult to talk with a member of the LWML board about their behavior or lack of leadership, it is important to not wait too long to address the situation. The longer the servant leader allows a situation to continue, the more difficult it will become to change the behavior.

When a difficult situation develops on an LWML board (be it group, zone, district, or national), it is important to follow these steps in addressing the difficulty. The servant leaders will:

- Pray for guidance before speaking or acting;
- Ask for assistance from the pastor or pastoral counselor and other members of the board in order to gain direction for the discussion;
- Lovingly discuss the situation with the person;
- Offer solutions to correct the situation; and
- Follow up with the person to ensure that changes are being made.

Summary

As an LWML servant leader, you are serving the Lord while serving the women of your group, zone, district, or national. Remember that you should:

1. Not try to do everything yourself. Do not overload yourself.
2. Surround yourself with qualified women and men, delegating duties to them and allowing them to serve.
3. Face difficult situations in a timely fashion, always surrounding it with prayer and love.

Prayer

Lord God, You have made me a leader in the LWML. I pray that You will send Your Holy Spirit to lead and guide me as a servant leader. I ask that You would show me those women and men whom You would have serve You at this time. Should difficult situations arise, help me to face them in a timely fashion, in a way that will benefit the LWML and all those involved. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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