

# The TEAM Leader

*Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. Psalm 31:3*

Vol. II No. 3 - Published by the LWML Leader Development Committee - July 2006

**We have very exciting news!** The Leader Development Department now has our very own link on the LWML Web site. Go to <http://www.lwml.org>, find where it says, **For quick links to special features, pull down here.** Go to the Leader Development link where you will find resources to help you. New items will be posted periodically, and *The TEAM Leader* newsletter is available, for you to print, use and share with others.

One of our objectives is that women are competent and comfortable in leadership roles. What are you doing to help LWML women become more competent and comfortable in their leadership roles?

Please let us know if we can assist you in any way. We would also love for you to share ideas with us. E-mail our committee at [lwml@lwml.org](mailto:lwml@lwml.org) and put Leader Development in the subject box so the message can be forwarded to us.

God's blessings from the Leader Development Committee!

## Directives for Zone Leader Development Chairman or Vice President of Servant Resources

1. Pray regularly for the zone president and other leaders and members of the zone.
2. Attend or report to meetings of the zone executive committee or board of directors as directed.
3. Attend zone events such as rallies and retreats.
4. Encourage and promote the organization of LWML groups in zone congregations who do not have an active group.
5. Research and share with societies ways to gain and maintain active members.
6. Encourage involvement of society members in zone events through attendance and/or participation.
7. Maintain a zone Personnel Resource Form file, gathering information that can be forwarded to the district vice president of servant resources.
8. Maintain an enthusiastic, cooperative, joyful spirit.
9. Keep files in good order to be given to successor.

(Information taken from ZOOM, Zone Officer Orientation Manual, Published by the LWML—Code #75202)

## Product Promotion

### *Here I Am Lord*

*Now I'm a leader and I need help!* This workshop for Christian leaders offers valuable information for any person who occupies a leadership role. This package includes a Bible study, sketches, and various presentations related to the topic of planning and leading a meaningful meeting. A suggested workshop schedule is included, as well as sample publicity materials. Order *Here I Am Lord*, Code #59902 from the LWML Office.

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## Guidance for LWML Leaders

### Keep Your Cool When God Answers

Rhoda was praying with the other disciples for Peter, who had been imprisoned, when she heard a knock on the door. Opening the door, she found Peter himself! Rhoda was so excited, she forgot her manners and leaving Peter stranded on the doorstep, ran upstairs to tell the others "Peter is here!" She was so excited about the miracle, she forgot the person (Acts 12).

When God answers our prayers for new society members, we may lose our heads in the excitement of the moment, leaving bewildered newcomers standing at the door. They won't understand why we are so excited. They will just want to enter. Of course, God will answer our prayers. When that moment arrives, we need to remember our prayers were for the people, not merely the miracle. When newcomers arrive have a place and materials ready for them, so they know they were expected, and welcome.

## Biblical Leadership

Biblical Leadership is NOT...

\*\*Biblical Leadership is NOT maintaining the status quo because of apathy or fear of change. Some are viewed as “good leaders” because they resist change and don’t “rock the boat.” Even though we should never change merely for the sake of change, a Biblical leader needs to be willing to take risks and embrace change for the sake of the Gospel mission. Sometimes God brings new circumstances into our lives and Biblical leaders help people to recognize the need to adapt to new mission challenges. Sadly, those who prevent change and protect the status quo are wrongly viewed as good leaders.

\*\* Biblical Leadership is NOT about power, popularity, control or manipulation. Some are viewed as good leaders if they have a charismatic personality that excites people and motivates them. In addition, such charismatic individuals are viewed as even greater leaders if they are to convince people with one’s personality or power. When this happens people end up following the earthly leader and NOT following Christ! Biblical leaders do not point to themselves nor do they manipulate people into doing things their way. Instead, Biblical leaders point people to Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to motivate people through the Gospel.



Biblical Leadership IS...

1. Biblical leaders give people the big picture of God’s mission.
  - a. Christians must be nurtured by Christ through Word and Sacraments.
  - b. Christians must have a passion for the salvation of those who do not trust in Jesus as their Savior. We are nurtured so that we can bring Christ to others.
2. Biblical leaders are examples of being Christ-like servants. Biblical leaders don’t give orders from on high while not “getting their hands dirty” in the trenches. Biblical leaders demonstrate love and service through their words and actions, and then encourage others to follow.
3. Biblical leaders encourage people to do what is RIGHT – “right” being defined as God’s will revealed in Holy Scripture. We are not concerned about worldly success at the expense of God’s Truth. Bringing more people and money into the Church means nothing if we have compromised God’s Word in the process. Biblical leaders don’t make decisions based on what works or what will result in worldly success and popularity. Instead, Biblical leaders encourage others to be obedient to God’s will even if it means trial and persecution in this world.

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

Scripture: *May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen* (Hebrews 13:20-21).

Do you remember playing “Follow the Leader” with your friends? The object of the game is to do whatever the leader does. If the leader jumps, you jump; if he skips, you skip; if he holds up his hand, you hold up your hands, etc. When you play “Follow the Leader,” it is important to keep your eyes on the leader at all times.

So, how does this relate to us as Christians and especially as Christian leaders? Christ is our Leader and we strive to follow Him and His example. From Scripture we learn ideas and methods that will strengthen our skills and abilities as leaders. Christ will *equip you with everything good for doing his will...*

Following a leader is not always easy, for some of the tasks of the leader are quite difficult. However, being a leader is even more challenging when we strive to lead in the way of Christ. As Christian leaders, let us look briefly at some of the leadership skills and qualities of our Leader and learn from Him.

First, Jesus was in a close relationship with His heavenly Father and was totally committed to doing His Father’s will. We, too, need to have a close relationship with our heavenly Father. Through study of Scripture, prayer, and faith we come to that close relationship. Commitment to God’s will is strengthened as we grow in our faith. These qualities help us to be Christ’s leaders. Jesus came as a servant. He came to serve, not to be served. We, too, are servant leaders. We serve God and His people, carrying out His will with love and care, just as Christ did.

There are many other skills and qualities of leadership that we can learn from Christ. We must keep our eyes focused on Him; let us always, “Follow the Leader,” our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Dear Lord, may we always follow your leadership and lead as your servant. Amen.

Hymn: “Christ be my Leader” LW #365

(Taken from ZOOM, Zone Officer Orientation Manual, Published by the LWML—Code #75202)

