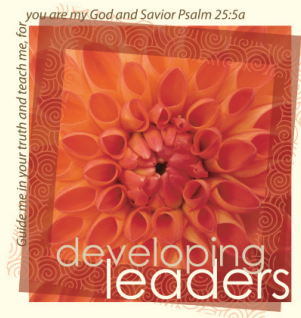


follow the leader

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are my God and Savior. Psalm 25:5a

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Develop Yourself as a Leader

There are resources on the LWML website, specifically in the Leader Development Web page, on leadership. You are in a leadership position now. How do I get better? This issue gives you a month's worth of thoughts or action items to help you to be a more effective leader in LWML.

The Leader Development Committee is seeking resources that support developing leadership qualities and mentoring relationships. If you have any questions, suggestions, or experience with these topics, we would like to hear from you! Please email depor@lwml.org and put Leader Development in the subject line so the message can be forwarded to us.

Develop Yourself as A Leader – One Month's Worth of Ideas, Thoughts, Action Items

I am in a leadership position now. What does it take to be an effective leader? Being an effective leader takes time. This issue gives you some ideas or helps on how to develop yourself to be an effective leader. You can use them just for a month, or repeat them over several months. It is all up to you!

All these ideas are from John C. Maxwell's *The Maxwell Daily Reader*. Enjoy!

- Day 1 – What one small, specific leadership step can you take today? (p. 3)
- Day 2 – Choose to be responsible for how you view your circumstances. (p. 58)
- Day 3 – What change have you been avoiding that is necessary for your organization's success? (p. 62)
- Day 4 – How can you help your followers prepare for change? (p. 90)
- Day 5 – Seek to understand what motivates your group today. (p. 119 – paraphrase)
- Day 6 – Rely on your character, not your emotions, to do the difficult tasks of leadership. (p. 122)
- Day 7 – Make a list of five areas in your life that lack discipline. Choose one area from that list and take a step of discipline to do it today. (p. 156 – paraphrase)
- Day 8 – Are you communicating vision and pursuing it with passion? (p. 196)
- Day 9 – Are you willing to be a person of integrity at ALL costs? (p. 235)
- Day 10 – Are you image-focused or integrity-focused? (Image is what people think you are. Integrity is what you really are.) (p. 242 – description paraphrased)
- Day 11 – Learn to view your problems as temporary stumbling blocks. (p. 270)
- Day 12 – Have courage and confront the person you have avoided dealing with. (p. 280)
- Day 13 – Put first things first today and neglect things that don't really matter. (p. 303)
- Day 14 – Make sure your attitude is a positive influence on your team. (p. 306)
- Day 15 – Allow your problems to motivate you toward greater creativity and strength. (p. 327)
- Day 16 – Pay attention to your intuition, and follow up when something strikes you. (p. 369)
- Day 17 – Make sure your attitude is your greatest asset—and not your greatest liability. (p. 394)
- Day 18 – Cultivate the character qualities necessary to be a successful, passionate leader. (p. 8)
- Day 19 – Set your priorities and focus on your strengths today. (p. 11)
- Day 20 – Examine the condition of your character, and make sure your words and actions match up. (p. 26)
- Day 21 – Find or rekindle your passion today to increase your intensity for success. (p. 39)
- Day 22 – How do you measure your level of commitment as a leader? (p. 57)
- Day 23 – Allow yourself to dwell only on the positive and not the negative today. (p. 80)
- Day 24 – Be willing to tackle a difficult problem today—even if it means you are likely to fail. (p. 89)
- Day 25 – Adapt your leadership style to the personalities of your people. (p. 103)
- Day 26 – Remember that a leader can delegate anything except responsibility. (p. 112)
- Day 27 – Listen with the purpose of understanding people today. Seek to gain knowledge from their experience, their perspective, and their feelings. (p. 274)

continued >

Develop Yourself as A Leader continued from pg. 1

- Day 28 – Ask those who know you best if your words and actions consistently match. (p. 348)
- Day 29 – Take responsibility for your part today and allow others to take theirs. (p. 309)
- Day 30 – What new thing outside of your comfort zone will you attempt today? (p. 308)
- Day 31 – Focus on the intangibles today. Read between the lines and look for the underlying issues. (p. 272)

The Maxwell Daily Reader, by John C. Maxwell, © 2007, published in Nashville, TN, by Thomas Nelson. Thomas Nelson is a registered trademark of Thomas Nelson, Inc.

“Servant Leadership starts with a vision and ends with a servant heart that helps people live according to that vision.” (p. 122)

-Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges, *The Servant Leader*

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10 NIV

Book Review

by Eden Keefe,
Leader Development Chairman 2009-2011

There are excellent resources on leadership outside the LWML as well. One book that I have been reading is *The Servant Leader* written by Ken Blanchard and Phil Hodges © 2003, published by J. Countryman®, a division of Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee. In it Dr. Blanchard challenges us to realize that Jesus was more than just a great spiritual leader: He modeled practical and effective leadership for organizations, people, and situations. The book takes you on a personal journey to lead like Jesus by exploring your response to His call to “Follow Me” and by putting His servant leadership point of view into action.

Isn't it comforting to know that we are not without guidance and that His guidance will be effective? “*Come all of you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me. For I am gentle and humble at heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light*” (Matt. 11:28-30).

Go ahead; read through that passage again. Consider how it speaks of the

consequences of “going it alone.” Be renewed by God's desire to guide and teach us. See how the leader serves: gently, humbly, and restfully.

If you are interested in reading more about transforming your heart, head, hands and habits, this would be an excellent resource.

Dr. Ken Blanchard and his wife, Dr. Marjorie Blanchard, run The Ken Blanchard Companies, a full-service management consulting and training company. He has co-authored *The One-*

Be renewed by God's desire to guide and teach us. See how the leader serves: gently, humbly, and restfully.

Minute Manager® with Spencer Johnson, which has sold more than ten million copies and has been translated into more than twenty-five languages. He is a sought-after author, speaker and

business consultant, and is the cofounder of the Center for FaithWalk Leadership.

Phil Hodges is cofounder and vice chairman of the Center for FaithWalk Leadership. The mission of the Center is to challenge and equip people to “lead like Jesus.” He is a management consultant and trainer in leadership and customer service programs.

The Desires of a Servant Leader

John C. Maxwell dedicates a chapter to “Servanthood” in his book *The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader* © 1999, published by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Nashville, Tennessee.

In the book Maxwell asserts that, “Servanthood is not about position or skill. It's about attitude ... the best leaders desire to serve others, not themselves.” (p. 136)

He goes on to state that “A true servant leader ...

1. Puts Others Ahead of His Own Agenda
2. Possesses the Confidence to Serve
3. Initiates Service to Others
4. Is Not Position-Conscious
5. Serves Out of Love” (pp. 136-137)

Can you cite specific examples of Christ modeling these attributes of a Servant Leader?

If you want to improve your servant-leadership skills/attitude you might try the following suggestions by Maxwell:

- Perform small acts of kindness for those around you
- Take time to get to know the people with whom you interact
- Intentionally spend a little time each day communicating and listening to the people around you – focus on them rather than the task at hand
- Make notes (mentally or written) to do something that would be beneficial for them
- Serve with a loving heart