

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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What to Do ...

Fall is a time of transition for national LWML committees. They met for the first time in late October 2013, spending time reviewing the LWML Mission Statement, Primary Targets, and committee objectives. Then they came up with a plan to accomplish their goals for the biennium. It was a daunting task!

When you are faced with important tasks, big responsibilities, or weighty decisions, how do you proceed?

In 2011 Donna Pyle shared a two-part Bible study with national leaders based on 2 Chronicles 20. The first part was titled "What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do." It begins 17 years into the reign of King Jehoshaphat as he faces a vast army approaching. What does he do? Rally the troops? Seek allies? Prepare for battle? No.

Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD (verses 3-4). So, in essence, he did gather the troops – the prayer warriors – and they sought God's help. King Jehoshaphat lays the situation out before God and in verse 12 admits he doesn't know what to do. For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you (verse 12b). And God answers, encouraging them through a Levite, And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's'" (verse 15).

The second part is titled "What to Do When It's Time to Move?" That's right. God still required them to take up their battle positions, stand firm, and see the deliverance the Lord would give them. After



hearing this, the people responded by worshipping and praising the Lord. The next morning they set out singing and praising God. What do you think happens next? Check out verses 22-26.

And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another. When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the horde, and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped.

One cannot begin to imagine their amazement and relief, but the job was not yet finished.

When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found among them, in great numbers, goods, clothing, and precious things, which they took for themselves until they could carry no more. They were three days in taking the spoil, it was so much. On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, for there they blessed the LORD. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Beracah to this day.

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What to Do ...

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Be especially mindful of the response of God's people in verses 27-28: *Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies. They came to Jerusalem with harps and lyres and trumpets, to the house of the LORD.*

What lessons can you learn from this portion of Scripture? As you face tasks, responsibilities, and decisions that may seem overwhelming, rely on our faithful God.

- Start by going to Him.
- Rally your prayer warriors!
- Give the situation to God.
- Listen for His guidance.
- Praise and worship Him.
- Go forward.
- Praise and worship Him.
- Stand firm.
- Let Him strengthen and encourage you.
- See what He will do.
- Praise and worship Him.

About the Author

By God's grace, Donna Pyle has a passion for studying and teaching from His life-giving Word. Since launching Artesian Ministries in 2007, Donna has authored 23 Bible studies and traveled throughout the United States and internationally to speak and teach from Scripture. Donna enjoys blogging about faith-based issues on the Artesian Ministries' blog and is active on Facebook and Twitter where she uses our social-media-driven age to spread God's soul-saving message.

*Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever
(2 Chronicles 20:21c).*

The Planning Zone a revision of ZOOM

A newly-formatted resource, *The Planning Zone*, is now available as a free download on the "Developing Leaders" Web page, <http://www.lwml.org/developing-leaders> or for a small fee from the LWML Catalog. It has a wealth of information for leaders. Check out the Table of Contents:

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Organizational Goals
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LWML Resources

To find, read, save, and print FREE downloadable LWML resources from the Leader Development Committee go to <http://www.lwml.org/developing-leaders> or order them for a small fee from the LWML Catalog.