

## session 11 study guide

# knowing where to go

## the gift of leadership and the gift of administration

### dig

What qualities make someone a good leader? What traits make someone gifted at administration? Do leaders need to love the limelight? Must administrators thrive on paperwork? In this study we will look at these two related spiritual gifts.

#### the gift of leadership

“And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly . . . he who leads, with diligence” (Romans 12:6,8, *NASB*).

Many times when we hear the word “leader,” we think of an authority figure standing above everyone else, directing people in the way they should go. You may think of a leader as someone who has an outgoing personality or the ability to speak well in front of groups. But these qualities do not always make a person a good leader. Even if you are shy and timid, you may have real leadership ability. Perhaps you are a leader but you’ve never realized it!

1. Think back over the various leaders you have encountered in your life. Who was one leader that stands out in your mind as exemplary? Why? What made him or her memorable and worthy of your attention?

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The literal definition of a leader is one who “stands before” others. This means that the gift of leadership is the special ability from God to set goals and then lead others to work together to carry out those goals for the glory of God.

To help shatter some of our misconceptions about what it means to be a leader, let’s take a look at Timothy. Timothy was a follower of Jesus who frequently traveled with the apostle Paul on his missionary journeys. At a young age, Timothy took over the leadership of the church of Ephesus at Paul’s request.

Although this young man was not particularly experienced, Paul saw leadership qualities within Timothy that let him know he would be capable of such a task. In Philippians 2, Paul says about Timothy, “I have no one else like him . . . [he] has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel” (vv. 20,22).

2. In Paul’s letters to Timothy, he writes to encourage Timothy in his task. Read the following verses from Paul’s letters. After each verse, find the advice that Paul gives to Timothy concerning leadership.

1 Timothy 4:12

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1 Timothy 6:14

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2 Timothy 2:22-26

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2 Timothy 4:6-7

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3. Jesus Christ gives us a perfect model of leadership. From what you know of the life of Jesus, can you recall specific times when Jesus used the gift of leadership?

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Jesus appointed, trained and led 12 apostles who, after His death, became the leaders of the Early Church (see Acts 4:37; 9:27). During Christ's time with these apostles, He taught them many things, including leadership.

4. According to Mark 10, two of Christ's apostles, James and John, asked Him an interesting question. Read Mark 10:35-41. What was their question?

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5. Why do you think they asked this question? What was their motivation?

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6. Let's see how Jesus responded to their question. Read Mark 10:42-45. What point is Jesus trying to make in these verses?

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7. What should the words "leader" and "servant" mean to a Christian?

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8. How does this differ from how the world views these roles?

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### the gift of administration

“God has appointed in the church . . . administrators” (1 Corinthians 12:28, *RSV*). The gift of administration is very similar to the gift of leadership. The difference is that leadership is defined by what a person is, while administration is defined by what he or she does.

The Greek word Paul used that is translated “administrators” refers to a helmsman or pilot (captain) who steers a ship through rocks and sandbars to safe harbor. The gift of administration is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ that helps them to clearly understand the present and future goals of a group.

1. People with the gift of administration are able to plan workable ways to reach these goals. How does this differ from the gift of leadership?

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Open up the Old Testament to Exodus 18. In this chapter in the Bible, we read that Moses and the Israelites have escaped from their slavery in Egypt and are on their way to the land of Canaan. Jethro, a priest and Moses’ father-in-law, visits Moses and gives him some valuable advice to aid his ministry to the Israelites. Read Exodus 18:13-27.

2. What was the problem that Jethro foresaw with the way Moses was running things?

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3. What advice did Jethro give to Moses?

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4. How did this advice affect the life and work of Moses?

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5. How does this passage demonstrate Jethro's gift of administration and not a gift of leadership?

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6. How could someone with this gift benefit . . .

Your youth group?

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Your church?

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7. Can a leader also have the gift of administration? Explain.

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8. What positive steps should the leader take if he or she doesn't have the gift of administration?

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**reflect**

1. What should you do if you sense or are told you have leadership or administrative abilities, but are also timid and shy?

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2. Why is it that we often do not associate the term “leader” with “servant”?

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3. How can we put into practice Jesus’ command that “whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant” (Mark 10:43)?

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4. In what ways was Jesus a leader to His disciples?

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5. In what way was He a leader to the crowds?

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6. In what way was He a leader to His enemies?

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7. Leaders and administrators have a lot of responsibility. How can you pray for the leaders and administrators in your youth group, church, family, school, community and world?

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### meditation



Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.  
Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

HEBREWS 11:7