

Leadership in the Church

Follow the Savior's Example As a Leader

Leader should study the life of the Savior and strive to lead as He led (see 3 Nephi 27:27). The following instructions can help leaders follow His example.

Love and Obey God

The Savior loved and obeyed His Father (see Matthew 26:39; John 5: 19 & 30, 3 Nep. 9:15; 18:27). Leaders in the Church should put God first in their lives, loving Him and submitting to His will.

Love Others

Jesus ministered personally to people, lifting the downtrodden, giving hope to the discouraged, and seeking out the lost. By His words and actions, He showed people that He loved, understood, and appreciated them. (See Luke 19:1-10; John 10:14; 3 Nephi 17: 5-23.) He recognized the divine nature and eternal worth of each person. Even when calling people to repentance, He condemned sin without condemning the sinner (see John 8:3-11; 3 Nephi 9:13-14, 20-22; D&C 1:31-32).

Like Jesus, Church leaders should love the people they serve, showing care and concern for each person (see 1 Corinthians 13:1-2; Moroni 7:44-48).

Prepare Spiritually and Serve Diligently

Jesus prepared Himself spiritually for His earthly mission (see JST Mt. 4:1-2; see also Mt. 14:23). As Church leaders prepare themselves spiritually by drawing close to the Lord through prayer, scripture study, and obedience to His commandments, they are better able to bless the people they serve.

The Savior was diligent in fulfilling His earthly mission. He emphasized the importance of this for Church leaders when He admonished, "Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence" (D&C 107:99; see also D&C 105:10).

Build Unity

Jesus emphasized the need for unity (see Jn. 17:6-11, 20-23; 3 Nep. 11: 28-30). In a latter-day revelation He said, "If ye are not one ye are not mine" (D&C 38:27). Leaders should seek to build unity among themselves and among the members they serve.

Delegate Responsibility and Ensure Accountability

The Savior recognized the potential of others and called them to help in the work of His kingdom (see Mt. 10:1; 3 Nep 11;18-22). Leaders should help others grow by giving them meaningful assignments and callings.

Leaders cannot and should not attempt to do everything themselves. Counselors, clerks, secretaries, and **others** are called to help. Leaders are more effective when they delegate responsibilities to those who serve with them.

Effective delegation includes the following steps:

1. **Clearly outline the assignment in your own mind.**
2. Prayerfully determine who should be given the assignment.
3. Meet with the person to explain the assignment and its purpose. Explain the time and other limits within which the assignment should be completed. Ensure that the person understands the assignment and the accountability for it. Allow the person to help develop the plans to carry out the assignment.
4. Allow the person to complete the assignment. Provide assistance, advice, and encouragement as needed.
5. Periodically ask the person to report on the assignment. Do not expect perfection; be willing to accept the person's best efforts. Give special attention to the good things he or she has achieved. If necessary, help redirect or renew efforts to complete the assignment.

Communicate Effectively

Successful communication requires listening attentively to others as the Savior did. Listening with full and sincere attention also helps convey a leader's love and concern.