

Leadership Tips 101

April 2013

Who Takes Care of You... the Leader?

As a leader, you are probably always looking out for everyone else... your officers, new members of your group, older members of your group and more. But who takes care of you?

A leader needs to prepare herself for taking care of her flock. So it is important to make sure you are “growing” yourself as you lead. If you are encouraging your ladies to spend more time in Bible study, then you need to be taking more time to read God’s word. If you urge your women to be active in other church events, then you also need to be involved. If you want your women to discover and develop their gifts, then you too need to be aware of your own gifts.

Here are some ways to make sure you, as a leader, are in tune with yourself, with God and with others.

 **ALONE TIME** – Take time to be alone, to pray for your women’s ministry, to study God’s word, to listen to God so you can know what He expects of you as a leader.

 **DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS** – Attend statewide workshops and conferences that offer seminars for church leaders. Our West Virginia Baptist Convention has a yearly event each February for church leaders. Our American Baptist Women’s Ministries of West Virginia hosts a conference every year in June (it used to be at Alderson-Broadus College, but has recently moved to Parchment Valley Conference Center) where workshops are offered for leaders of women’s ministries. American Baptist Women’s Ministries (national) also hosts a conference each year, which offers many ways to enhance your women’s ministry. Information on any of

these can be found on the convention website: www.wvbc.org or by calling the West Virginia Baptist Convention office at 800.879.9822.

 **STAY CURRENT** – Be sure your local president receives a copy of *Women, Word and Works* which gives you practical programs and ideas in five areas of ministry to be used at your women’s meetings. It is published by the Resource Team four times a year and one copy is free to every local church. If you are not currently receiving it, contact Rose Marie Durig or the convention office. You can also look back through older editions of *Details* to find more leadership ideas. And *SEASONS* keeps you informed of what is happening among our West Virginia women. Keep yourself fresh on what is new in women’s ministry.

 **RELATIONSHIPS** – How are you at building relationships? Do you tend to stay in a small circle of friends or are you able to easily enter into conversation with anyone? Do you have a group of

friends on whom you can rely when you need a shoulder? Do you seek out others who might seem to be off by themselves at a meeting or event to make them feel welcome and included? Check your relationship status to make sure it is effective.

 **SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH** – Make sure you look after yourself. If you are experiencing pain, share it with one of your friends. Make sure you include joy in your daily schedule. Get enough rest so you have the energy you need; maintain a healthy diet; develop an exercise routine. Practice one or more of the spiritual disciplines.

