

Leadership Training By Leading!

By Naomi, 13 1/2-14 yrs.

During our teen training we took turns rotating on a weekly basis, being the kitchen & room leader. (One of us would be the kitchen leader, & another one the room leader.) Being the room leader was actually much harder for me than being the kitchen leader, as it entailed almost a fulltime job of working with people.

As Aunt Sara shared with us, we weren't really leaders, but rather deacons or overseers, but she just called us leaders to impress the seriousness of the job on us.

—At first we were rotating, one week you'd be a leader, & the next you'd be a follower, so everybody had to learn to follow & respect each other, even if, for example, someone younger was the leader. We had to learn to respect the anointing of the Lord on that person at that time.

—It's a big job, & the leader has to set the example, & can't slack off in any areas, otherwise the others will see this, & expect that they can do it too.

—I had to have lots of conviction & not want to be everybody's friend or the other children could have started getting away with things & wouldn't have respected me when I told them something. You can't just be a manpleaser. You have to train people to be faithful in little things, & call them back if they didn't do the job properly. Oftentimes it would have been much easier, & I would have much rather just cleaned up the mess myself, for example, because it was faster, & also because I didn't want to hurt their feelings or get them upset at me. I thought they wouldn't like me any more if I was always on their cases & I wouldn't be their friend any more.

—But, on the other side of the coin, you have to have wisdom & discernment & not be constantly nagging & nit-picking, & when you do have to correct somebody, to do it in love & sweetly.

—Leadership is responsibility, & a lot of work. When I was the kitchen leader often I was the last one in the kitchen at dishtime, checking the checklist & going around the whole kitchen making sure nothing was out of place & that everything had gotten done properly. At night, before I went to bed I had to go into the kitchen one more time to make sure everything was still tidy.

Being the room leader was harder, because that was a fulltime job—the room

leader was the schedule pusher for the children, always reminding them of the time & the next job, class, meal etc. If the children were late, it was actually the leader's responsibility & fault.

—Oftentimes I found out, at JJT or dishtime, for example, that it took my whole time to just go around & check on the others, & that when assigning the jobs I often couldn't give myself a job because I was too busy checking on the others. But I learned that even though I was the leader I still had to be willing to do anything & be a servant of all when the time came. For example if the floor-mopper was busy somewhere else or out of commission, I had to be willing to mop the floor, even though I was the leader, because everyone else was busy with their assigned jobs!

—We had to try to inspire the others to want to do what we wanted them to do, & try to make even the most mundane tasks exciting.

—We were definitely no authorities on our subjects, & we were really just learning & having a little taste of what leadership is all about. We were encouraged to always go to our leaders & overseers & ask if we had any questions about anything. But on the other hand we also learned not to be so lazy & just go running to our overseers whenever something came up, but to have a good connection with the Lord ourselves, & try to pray & thereby come up with a solution.

—I know that this whole experience taught me a lot, & gave me a much greater love & understanding for our overseers, because I could relate to them a little bit more, having had a chance to experience a little bit of what they've had to go through every day for years! I just had a little taste for a little over a month, but they have a much bigger responsibility than I had, & they've had it for years! GB'MI Love, Naomi (written after she had returned to the field)

INITIATIVE, LOVE, HUMILITY— QUALITIES NEEDED FOR LEADERSHIP!

From Heaven (age 13):

I learned many interesting things this week being a leader. The first thing that happened was that suddenly I couldn't lean on Uncle Mark or Auntie Sara to tell us who does which kitchen jobs, who does which room jobs, who's on this, who's on that. Suddenly

I realised that I had to be the real sample of pressing in. I had to dole out all the room cleanup jobs & so on. At first I made a few mistakes because I was just going along with the normal run of things & suddenly I remembered that I was the one who was supposed to figure who did a certain job. I ended up having to do it real quick myself because I had forgotten! The first point is that you can't lean on others when you're the leader. It really shakes you up & makes you more alert!—You have to really get ahold of the Lord!

Another thing I learned is that in leadership I really have to have an eye for what needs to be done & have real initiative.—Seeing that this needs to be cleaned up & that needs to be cleaned up, & seeing who is most available & who should be able to do it. I also have to have love & humility to be willing to listen to other people's suggestions.

Also I'm learning love in how I tell people things, like how to tell them that they failed in a certain job.—Not "So-&-so, you didn't do it right!" out instead, "Do you think in the future, you could please try to do such-&-such or do better, & clean up this better & straighten that & have more of a mind for this & that?" I had trials, & Naomi said she did too, trials with correcting people & telling them that they didn't do it right, or having to call people back, or having to have people go back & straighten their shoes or something—all little things that are so important! It was hard to tell girls even older than me to do things, or to tell people my same age to do things, or even to tell the younger kids to do things! But you can't just sacrifice the standard to want to be everybody's friend & keep them all happy with you!

"Everybody has influence—your life is bound to affect others! 'No man is an island! Everybody's influencing somebody—even when you seem to be all alone! 'For none of us liveth to himself, & no man dieth to himself.' (Ro. 14:7) Whether we live or die, we have some effect on others & the World.—You're either going to pull people up to your level or drag them down to yours—one or the other! It's up to you!" (New Life!—New Love!:129)

Another lesson is in humility.—Sometimes I've had to realise in correcting people that I have done the same thing many times. So I had to often tell people "I know I've done it wrong too, but could you please

try to do better. I know sometimes I do it too, so let's just work together & try to work at it so we can please the Lord!"—To confess to yourself that you do wrong too is important! I also need to share part of the workload & not just go bossing other people around to do things.

It really helped me to pity Auntie Sara & Uncle Mark for when they have to tell us things & how to do things. If the child or teen has the wrong attitude towards your correction or towards what you said, it makes you think "Boy, now I know how it feels when I had a wrong attitude when so-&-so corrected me for something!" You never know the job until you're in it yourself. It helped me to pity our leaders! Sometimes I found myself correcting people for things I know I've been corrected for, but that sometimes I didn't really take. So it helps me to realise how right our overseers are & how they feel when they have to correct me & so on.

Sometimes before I used to think it might be kind of interesting or fun to be a leader, although people have told me many times, that it is a big job, but you just don't really grasp things until you actually have to do them. It all boils down to that Letter "So You Want To Be a Leader".



From Leah:

Manners Is a Good Sample!

We've been working on manners. I was really thankful to hear that you thought that we did pretty good the other night at the table with Grandpa. Of course, I must admit, I was especially on my best behavior because Grandpa was there, but I'm really trying to learn to be like that all the time & at every meal with everybody, because someday I might have to leave & I won't have Grandpa & Mama there to check my manners, or even Auntie Sara. It's really important that we learn good manners because it's also

a good sample in leadership because if a leader doesn't have good manners or has real poor habits or bad diet or likes the wrong things, then it will lead the sheep astray.

Followership & Time Planning!

With the new structure of the two teen leaders, I think I've been learning much more to respect them & learning how to be a good follower. That's something that's really needed in learning to be a shepherd, as we've read so many times in the Word—in order to be a good shepherd, you need to learn how to be a good follower. It's really good training.

We have so much to do & it's a good sample to me how Auntie Sara really evaluates her time & counts man-hours, sees where we can fit more in. It's a real sample to me & I know it's a real job of any leader, to learn how to evaluate time & organise it, which I am learning in my personal diary too. I've been learning how to count man-hours (or how much time a job takes)—I was never so interested in that, but here it's so important & it's so well done. Everyone counts up how much money things cost, how much time, especially how much time (how many man-hours) a job takes.

I'm also learning to see things in advance, & be able to get more done because I'm now the laundry deacon, where I have to have more foresight—to see where I can save time, how I can save water, etc. & how I can pump people power, & how to get more done in less time. I'm doing lunch at the same time as laundry, or doing kitchen cleanup.

SEEING WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE HEAVEN'S GIRL!

From Ruth (12 yrs.):

I had a dream which really changed my life! I woke up & I just lay stunned on my bed, just thinking about it & trying to get all the lessons from it. This is what I learned:

I've always wanted to be Heaven's Girl & for a while I was envious thinking someone else would be! I was always thinking, "Oh, she's probably going to be Heaven's Girl!" & I always wanted to be.

In the beginning of the dream we heard Antichrist soldiers were coming & I helped everyone flee, then packed my bags, & said, "Bye-bye everybody, I'm going off to the Tribulation!" But at the end of the dream I was running for my life from the soldiers, just like in a Heaven's Girl episode, & it just made me realise how much that she would have to go through, all the pain & all the suffering & sadness & everything, & it just

changed me completely! I don't want to be Heaven's Girl unless the Lord wants me to be!

That was the main lesson I learned, that I shouldn't be envious of being Heaven's Girl because it's really not the most glorious or the most inspiring or the most fun job or anything like that! In fact, it's really taxing, & it's really lots of danger & lots of pain & suffering & sadness, so it's not just a job to desire so much!

It just changed my life not to desire or even want or even think about wanting to be Heaven's Girl. Also I shouldn't be proud of being in the Tribulation, thinking the Tribulation is such a marvellous, wonderful terrific time! I know it is going to be because the Lord is really going to help us & give us powers & inspiring things, but I shouldn't think of it as such a glorious wonderful opportunity. I shouldn't be proud of going into the Tribulation like I was in the dream: "Ok everybody, bye! I'm going into the Tribulation!" I also learned about really having conviction & not being wishy-washy. I need to be watchful & prayerful & to stay on the alert so that it doesn't all hit me by surprise.

PLANNING A BIRTHDAY FELLOWSHIP!

From David (Age 11):

It was interesting to make & plan another birthday party. We called it Fellowship, because it's not a birthday party where you just throw a big party & worship the cake & ice cream, so we called it a Birthday Fellowship. I learned from this that anything you do, but especially in this case at Birthday Fellowships, should be all to the glory of God. The thing you're trying to impress on the kids & everybody at Birthday Fellowship is that the Lord has kept them through another year & protected them & given us lots of wonderful victories, & what you're striving to do is make a witness or testimony!—Make a commitment for your next year in your birthday verse & prayer. As we were teaching the teen girls especially how to do it, I got to learn too.—How to organise the Word Games (Act. Book IV), the cake, the theme of the fellowship, servers, etc. & how to keep people interested & participating. (Note: Our Birthday Theme was "Heaven's Children", so the games & dress-up costumes all had to do with Spirit Helpers & Heaven.—The cake was Grandpa's Heavenly Mansion, & baked & decorated by the teens!)