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**INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES**  
**Institute in the Foundations of Church Leadership**  
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**WOMEN AS LEADERS**

Session 7

**INTRODUCTION**

Throughout our time together we have talk about serving the Lord. God has given us some rules about how we should serve and worship Him. This session will focus on the things God has said women may and may not do to serve Him.

**I. WHAT WOMEN MAY DO**

- A. Pray (1 Corinthians 11:5; Luke 2:36-38)
  - 1. Pray all the time.
  - 2. Pray for the needs of others.
  - 3. Pray for the needs of your family.
  - 4. Pray for your church leaders.
  - 5. Pray for your country's leaders.
  
- B. Praise
  - 1. Praise and worship the Lord with music. (1 Chronicles 25:1; Psalm 68:24-26)
  - 2. Praise the Lord in your prayers.
  - 3. Praise the Lord in your heart, soul, and mind.
  - 4. Praise God in all circumstances.
  
- C. Tell everyone (men, women, and children) about Jesus. (Mark 5:25-34; John 20:17; John 4:28-30, 39-42)
  - Do not quarrel with those who will not listen to God's word. Instead, gently share with them, and pray for them. (2 Timothy 2:23-26)
  
- D. Raise your children to honor and love the Lord
  - 1. Mothers have the great honor of raising the next generation of great leaders (men and women) in the church.
    - a. Hannah honored the Lord when she dedicated Samuel into the Lord's service. (1 Samuel 1:2-11, 26; 1 Samuel 3:19)
    - b. Lois raised her daughter Eunice to be a faith-filled woman. Lois (grandmother) and Eunice (mother) both raised Timothy to serve the Lord, even though Timothy's father was not a believer. (2 Timothy 1:5-6; Acts 16:1)
  - 2. Men also have a responsibility to raise children who love God. (Ephesians 6:4)
    - a. Men are to be the spiritual leader in the home. (Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:4-8; Ephesians 6:4)
    - b. Men should lovingly discipline their children. (Hebrews 12:9-11)

- E. Share your home with other people
  - 1. Women are usually the ones who do the things that make a person feel welcome (something to drink, a meal, a smile).
- F. Be a “mom” to those who do not have one.
  - 1. Care for people who are not part of your family.
  - 2. If you have children, invite other children into your home.
  - 3. If you do not have children, spend time with children to talk with them. Let them know they are special people.
- G. Do the little things in the church and among the believers that need to be done.
  - 1. In the church:
    - a. Do the floors need to be swept?
    - b. Does the pulpit need to be dusted?
    - c. Does someone need to straighten the chairs or benches?
  - 2. Among the church members and people who don’t come to church:
    - a. Does someone need a meal?
    - b. Does someone need a person to help with their sick children?
    - c. Does someone with a really large family need help washing the laundry?
    - d. Does someone need some encouragement?
- H. Guide and manage your home (1 Timothy 5:14; Titus 2:5)

## II. WOMEN AS LEADERS

- Every woman has some kind of leadership ability.
- A. Ministry Leaders
  - 1. Ministry leaders focus on the possibilities
    - a. They are creative.
    - b. They think about long-term goals.
    - c. They make it possible for others to help them accomplish the task or goal.
  - 2. Ministry leaders are passionate about what God has asked them to do.
    - a. They can not stop thinking about what is going to happen next.
    - b. They continuously look for ways to do things better.
    - c. They are excited about what God is doing in the lives of others, as well as their own life.
  - 3. Ministry leaders are committed to doing what God has asked them to do.
    - a. They keep doing the work, even when it’s hard
      - i. Ministry leaders don’t fail; they learn from the experience.
      - ii. When they make a mistake, they ask God and the person(s) for forgiveness, and try again.
  - 4. Ministry leaders develop good leadership skills
    - a. They listen to the question, think about what was said, then answer.
    - b. They work hard to have good relationships with all people.

- c. They are self-controlled.
- d. They love what they do.
- e. They are not afraid to say, “I don’t know. Let me get back to you.” Then, find out an answer by talking with their pastor, reading the Bible, and praying for wisdom.
- f. They have team meetings to discuss what is going to happen, ask for ideas, and add the suggestions that will make the ministry better.

B. Helper Leaders

- a. They are excited about what is going to happen, and do all they can to help the leader.
- b. They are good listeners, and share their excitement and concerns with the leader.
- c. They look for ways to help the leader before being told what to do. (e.g. If the dishes need to be washed, they just do it.)
- d. They are willing to do a little bit of the teaching, especially if they have been gifted in that area. (e.g. You play an instrument and sing, but the leader does not, so you lead the music.)

C. Quiet Leaders

- 1. Some leaders do not like to be the person standing in front of a group of people. They lead by serving. They may help a child learn how to tie their shoe, help a teenager learn how to cook, or help someone who is sick.
- 2. They are the person who sees someone who is struggling, so they come along beside them with encouragement, wisdom, and knowledge, all wrapped in a loving heart.
- 3. They are growing in their leadership skills, and may one day be a helper leader, then a ministry leader.

D. Use your leadership gifts only with the full knowledge and support of your pastor

- 1. Meet with your pastor on a regular basis to let him know what you are planning.
  - a. Have a humble heart, and be willing to change your plans as your pastor gives you advice.
  - b. Share what you would like to do (the event—develop a women’s ministry, start a prayer team, start a music class for children, plan a youth dinner, etc).
  - c. Share the reason you would like to do what you are planning (what the spiritual need is that will be met).
  - d. Share when and where the event will happen.
  - e. After the event, talk with your pastor about what people learned about God, and what you learned about God.
- 2. If something goes wrong, tell your pastor immediately.

E. If you are married, use your leadership gifts only with the full knowledge and support of your husband.

- 1. Women leaders in ministry must be careful not to forget about their first God-given responsibility: their family (husband, children, and home).

2. Share with your husband what is happening in the ministry God has called you to lead.
3. Ask your husband to pray for you.
4. Before you accept a leadership position, talk with your husband. You both need to agree that your husband is the leader of your home, and if he feels there is a problem, you will listen to his concerns, and graciously make the changes needed to honor your God, your husband, and your family.

### III. WHAT WOMEN MAY NOT DO

- A. Pastor/Overseer/Elder/Bishop (same position)  
(1 Corinthians 11:5; 14:34-35; 1 Timothy 2:11-15)
  1. Scripture is very clear that women should not teach from the position of pastor. During the New Testament times, some women did prophesy, but it was never from the position of a pastor.
  2. In the Old Testament time, there were no women priests.
  3. In the New Testament time, there were no women apostles, elders, deacons, pastors, or women who wrote Scripture.

**Note:** For more information on why women may not be pastors, see Dr. Steve Van Horn's lecture notes on "Qualifications of Leadership," Basic Lecture 4.

### CONCLUSION

All girls and women are leaders. When a little girl teaches her friend how to play a new game, she is being a leader. When a young teenager helps lead the music at church, she is being a leader. When a woman counsels with another woman who is hurting, she is a leader. When you accept a ministry responsibility, with fear and trembling, you are a leader.

The type of leader you become needs to reflect the character of our God who created you. He gave and will give you the experiences and skills you need to become the leader He needs you to be. The most important character trait you need to have as a leader is a loving, servant's heart that seeks God's wisdom and guidance in every area of your life and ministry.

You are valuable!  
 You have a purpose!  
 You have a ministry!

Blessings to you ladies as you lead throughout all the seasons of your life!