

25 WAYS TO BE A BETTER LEADER

1. Remember your goal, and the goal of all participants in the groups, is to honor God and His Word. The souls of your kids—the souls of all kids—are on the line as the Pied Pipers try to lead them away from God.
2. Do not be afraid to exercise your role as leader.
3. Do not *over*-exercise your role as leader, becoming a tyrant.
4. Start and end each meeting with prayer.
5. Encourage members of your group to all clasp hands for prayer. This contributes to a feeling of unified hearts and minds, as well as not being in the fight alone.
6. Get everyone's email address and prepare a group list.
7. Email the group a minimum of 24 hours prior to each meeting as a reminder of where, when, and what's on the agenda.
8. Prepare an agenda for each meeting and distribute to each member.
9. Except when a member states at the outset that an important call is expected, there should be no use of cell phones for communication during meetings.
10. Don't let the discussions get sidetracked unless something new and important has just surfaced.
11. Establish clear roles and responsibilities for each member of the group.
12. Realize life happens—sometimes members may be unable to fulfill the task they said they would do.
13. Keep everyone in the group as active as each is able—make each one feel needed and respected. Put aside your “I” and “my” for “we.”
14. Watch for indicators that may be a sign of trouble: tightly folded arms, eye-rolling, monopolizing of discussions by one party, harsh or bitter attitudes that will lead to divisiveness. Don't let it simmer. Address the problem openly, and solve it.
15. Expect some members may want to change from the task they originally accepted to a different one. As more is learned about the various problem areas, new interests may arise. Sometimes “you don't know what you don't know” until you learn a little more.
16. Pay strict attention to time constraints. Limit reports to a specific amount of time. If there is going to be need for a projector and screen, HDMI link to a TV, or other audio/visual requirements, insist on knowing exactly what is needed prior to the meeting, and be sure everything is there and ready to go.
17. After Agenda items are completed have time for open discussion. Encourage new thoughts, ways to accomplish something, new problem areas discovered.
18. General criticism can be helpful when done with a desire to help. Personal criticism can be hurtful. Insist anyone with a personal criticism come to you privately rather than express it openly in the group meeting.

19. Not all members may agree about God's will in certain areas. Keep discussions general in nature when necessary to be kind and God-pleasing, rather than accusatory.
20. Have supplementary material available for use by group members. This could include book, videos, copies of articles, etc.
21. Keep in mind it is most probable that none of the members of the group, including yourself, have ever challenged anyone or anything before this. It is a daunting task, and you have little or no experience. It will be "learning on the job" for all of you. Keep focused on the reason you have started this endeavor. Continually ask for God's help in all you do.
22. Give each group member a little of your time outside the actual meeting. It's a small thing to do, but your undivided attention for even just a minute has the potential of a big reward. A LinkedIn post gave great insight: "When I talk to managers I get the feeling that they are important. When I talk to leaders I get the feeling that I am important."
23. Encourage everyone to bring in new members—discourage a feeling of exclusivity.
24. When the group reaches a large enough number of active participants—ten or twelve—you may want to consider breaking off into splinter groups that have more directed objectives. Examples: A group may want to cover one subject (evolution) for all grades. A group may want to cover all subjects for one specific grade or grade range. A group may want to focus exclusively on what current law is and how to change it.
25. When there are several splinter groups, get all groups together on a regular basis to compare notes, successes, and failures.



*“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous;
be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13).*